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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 28 JANUARY, 2012

No 1843 57p

Island hotel claims loss of £10,000 because of ferry cancellations

'We did everything we could to minimise the impact' – CalMac

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Island businesses are losing much needed out of season trade due to the ongoing ferry cancellations, according to one of Arran's largest hotels.

The Auchrannie Resort in Brodick has been increasing its marketing over the past few months to boost visitor numbers to Arran in the winter.

But last weekend's ferry chaos resulted in 12 people cancelling room bookings and many people staying for one night rather than two or three.

There were no boats between Brodick and Ardrrossan on Saturday and Sunday due to adverse weather conditions.

On Sunday the MV Isle of Arran didn't depart Brodick until 1.40pm and went to Wemyss Bay instead of its usual port.

Richard Small, general manager of the Auchrannie, said the ferry cancellations are having a huge effect on the hotel.

'We keep detailed records of the numbers of room cancellations that have resulted from cancelled sailings,' Mr Small told The Banner.

'In the past year we have seen a 900 per cent increase in lost bookings due to the ferry cancellations.

'I don't think I have to point out that this has a huge effect on the business but it means we've lost at least £10,000.'

Emphasise

Mr Small was keen to emphasise that the incident last weekend was just a continuation of a worrying trend.

He said: 'This is not a one-off incident. We are seeing more and more bookings being cancelled because people don't want to risk the trip to Arran.'

'Many people have opted to stay elsewhere as the ferry service just isn't good enough.'

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Ferry services to and from Arran over the weekend were badly hit by atrocious weather conditions, with no services at all on Saturday and only two on Sunday.



The MV Isle of Arran berthed at Wemyss Bay on Sunday afternoon. It is the first time in a generation that the island's ferry has sailed to the Clyde port.

Photo by Kevin McGroarty.

'Conditions at Ardrrossan were to blame, but thanks to the smaller MV Isle of Arran being on the route while MV Caledonian Isles was in the dry dock for her annual refit, we were able to use Wemyss

Bay and clear the backlog of traffic.

'Weather conditions were such that Gourock was not an option.'

He added: 'We are grateful for the patience and under-

standing of customers at this time but are sure they will recognise that the weather conditions were particularly bad and that we did everything we could to minimise the impact.'

Police appeal for missing yachtsman

Strathclyde Police have launched an appeal for any information about missing yachtsman Brian Michael Martin, aged 54.

He is described as being last seen at Lochranza jetty at 12pm on Wednesday 18 January.

Police say that Mr Martin is of slim build, five feet 10 inches tall, with receding brown hair, green eyes, goatee beard and a scar on the left side of his chin.

Anyone with sightings of the man or information is asked to contact Lamlash Police Station on 01770 303812 or Saltcoats Police Station on 01294 404500.

Major refit for Arran ferry

The MV Caledonian Isles returned to service on Monday morning after a two and a half week refit.

The ship received a £600,000 overhaul while in the Garvel Dry Dock in Gourock that included:

- Both main engine turbochargers overhauled
- Boiler for crew and passenger area heating replaced
- Stern ramp removed and main hinge pins replaced
- Observation lounge refurbished
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Council intervention to save Lamlash houses welcomed

As reported in last week's Banner, the project for 56 new homes in Lamlash that had been in jeopardy has been saved by the intervention of North Ayrshire Council.

Ardrossan and Arran Councillor, Peter McNamara, welcomed the news that the Benlister South Lamlash Housing Project has been saved by a decision of the Labour Executive on North Ayrshire Council.

The project will provide 40 affordable rented houses and 16 shared equity homes at the site for the local community. Councillor McNamara said:

'Had the Labour Executive not stepped in, these valuable homes could easily have been lost to Arran. I congratulate the NAC Housing Department and its staff on the excellent work they have done to save this project.'

Thanks

'Thanks also go to the Irvine Housing Association for its rapid response to this opportunity.'

'It will now deliver 40 affordable rented homes for the island of Arran and another 16 new shared-equity homes, a total of 56 new homes in all.'

Police have concerns about under-age drinking on the island

Local police have expressed concerns about under-age drinking on the island.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'There is more clandestine drinking by youngsters in open places in villages, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights.'

'I would like the support of parents to make sure they know where their children are at weekends. It is against the law for someone to buy alcohol for under-age persons and it is against the law to drink in public.'

'We will be focussing on this behaviour, particularly at weekends.'



Fallen tree blocks road on Lamlash Hill

Fallen trees on Lamlash Hill and Brodick Hill have become a fairly common occurrence and a hazard to island motorists.

Heavy rainfall and high winds have weakened tree roots causing several to suddenly drop.

This tree fell across the road on Lamlash

Hill last Saturday afternoon, creating a temporary traffic jam.

Luckily, local joiner Neil Young was in the queue of vehicles and had saws to hand in his van. The tree was quickly cut into manageable pieces and the road cleared by members of the public.

02_b04tree01

Fruitless search for missing yachtsman

The Arran lifeboat The Boys Brigade launched twice in 24 hours to assist in the search for a missing yachtsman last week.

The yacht Cena had been found adrift and abandoned midway between The Cock of Arran and Skipness point on Wednesday afternoon.

Lochranza resident Terry Crawley reported that the lone sailor had moored his yacht on the village pontoon

for four days and appeared to have engine trouble, before leaving on the engine at mid-day Wednesday.

Personal items were found on board and it was feared that the yachtsman was missing overboard.

Launched

The Boys Brigade lifeboat was called out by Clyde Coastguard and launched at 3.36pm, carrying out a thorough search of the area.

In worsening conditions the search was stood down for the night and the crew again paged at 8.35am on Thursday. After further searches the crew was changed and the lifeboat refuelled at Lochranza at 12.30pm.

At 2pm Coastguards called off the search in the belief that everything that could be done had been done. Police have informed the missing man's next of kin.

Historic sailing from Brodick to Wemyss Bay

The MV Isle of Arran made, what was believed to be, a historic crossing from Brodick to Wemyss Bay on Sunday afternoon.

The island's car ferry service has made only one or two other similar crossings to Wemyss Bay, with the last one taking place in 1982.

Local steamer dreamer Kenny Morrison travelled on the boat from Brodick.

He said: 'I was really just planning a trip to Ardrossan on the MV Isle of Arran but when I heard we were going to Wemyss Bay my face just lit up.'

He told The Banner that in the summer of 1980 the Glen Sannox sailed at 1810 each Saturday from Wemyss Bay to Brodick in a bid to ease the load of the Clansman at Ardrossan.

But a car ferry has very rarely sailed from Brodick to Wemyss Bay.

Kenny said: 'Many sailings have come from Wemyss Bay to Brodick but I think only a handful at most have ever done the reverse sailing to Wemyss Bay.'

If anyone has any more information on crossings between Brodick and Wemyss Bay, please get in touch.

Community Council

Arran Community council meets on Tuesday 31 January at 7.30pm in Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.

The agenda will include the first step towards a campaign to eliminate Japanese Knotweed in the wake of the talk by Stuart Brabs of the Ayrshire Rivers Trust at the last meeting.

All parties interested should attend and this will be item one on the agenda. Other items are the revival of the Benlister housing project and RET. All Arran folk are welcome and contributions can be made through the chair.

The Community Council website (www.arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk) is up and running and contributions on any subject relevant to Arran are welcome.



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Public meeting to hear health care plans for Arran

Members of the public are invited to an open meeting to find out about health care plans on Arran.

The meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 February in Brodick Hall. Local doctors and other senior clinicians and managers from NHS Ayrshire and Arran will be taking part in a panel discussion about health care.

The panel members will include Arran GPs Dr Greg Hamill and Dr Malcolm Kerr, Dr Crawford McGuffie, Associate Medical Director, Dr David Price, chair of Public Reference Group and non-executive Director of Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, Jean Hendry, Health Care Manager and Mary McGinn, Associate Nurse Director.

Arran residents are invited to go along and find out more about the progress being made reviewing health care on Arran.

Susie has a new home with Liam

Susie has found a new home.

In last week's Banner we published a plea for a caring home for the three-and-a-half year old Labrador/collie cross whose owner had taken on a full time job and did not feel able to take care of her properly.

Now young Liam Bremner of Whiting Bay is looking after her. Eight-year-old Liam and his dad Dan went round to Tony Black's house in Lamlash to meet Susie.

Tony said: 'They took to each other straight away, but I suggested they go home and sleep on it. Dan and Liam came back the next day and picked her up.'



Brother and sister Iain and Fiona Clarke at Fiona's army passing out parade. b04cla01

Fiona and Iain are making their mark in the world

Two young people from Arran are making their mark in the world.

Eighteen-year-old Fiona Clarke and her brother Iain (14) have both been seen regularly performing at island events for years. Fiona is perhaps best known for her highland dancing, while Iain has piped at a host of functions as well as being a member of the Isle of Arran Pipe Band.

Fiona has followed in her mother Liz and father John's footsteps. She is now a serving soldier with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing

Corps, based at Birmingham University, where she is doing an Honours Degree in Nursing.

Her mum Liz said: 'After that she can go and serve anywhere in the world. She says that she can't imagine doing anything else.'

Fiona is staying on campus with other army, navy and air force students – they get regular room and uniform inspections and don't get university holidays.

Liz added: 'She has already done 14 weeks basic training at Pirbright Army Training Centre. She's done six-mile hikes with a 40kg pack and live weapons tests – John and I worried more because we have both been through it ourselves.'

Brother Iain is about to sit his Grade eight piano and already has Grade five distinction in clarinet and saxophone. Dad John added: 'He also sings in the bath!'

Iain plays at church services around the island and is piping at three Burns suppers on Arran. He gained a scholarship at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and started tuition in piano and saxophone in September.

Liz said: 'Iain goes away every weekend and comes home absolutely shattered. He has just won a Beethoven competition at RCS and plans to stay on for another two years and hopefully get a degree in music.'

It all started when John Clarke began to teach his daughter piano when she was seven, and took both her and her brother to Grade six. Fiona went on to Diana Hamilton for piano tuition and Lucy Cartledge for flute and saxophone, while Angus Adamson took Iain under his wing for piping tuition.

Liz added: 'We are so lucky to have such expertise here at hand.'

Cancelled ferry sailings create turmoil for weekend's events

Almost two days without a ferry to the island caused disruption to some Arran events over the weekend.

The scheduled investiture of Margaret MacKenzie with an MBE had to be called off on Saturday. Margaret had been due to receive her gong from John Duncan, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, in a ceremony at Kildonan Hotel on Saturday afternoon.

With no ferry sailings at all on Saturday, friends and relatives, as well as the Lord Lieutenant, were unable to come from the mainland so a disappointed Margaret will have to wait for a re-arranged ceremony.

Lamlash Burns Club annual

supper in the golf clubhouse suffered a considerable depletion of numbers. In particular, three of the principals, Jock Kelso, Neil Arthur and Willie Robertson, were stranded on the mainland.

They had all been taking part in the Partick Burns Supper on Friday night. In a revised programme, Allan

Nicol, Gordon Kinniburgh and Ally Hume all stepped in to save the day.

And of course, there were no papers on Saturday or Sunday, a fact that seemed to cause so much distress to some islanders.

One newsagent even put a sign on the shop door saying 'don't shoot the messenger!'

Missing church hall key sought

A key was borrowed for Brodick Church Hall some months ago and has not been returned.

Could anyone who has used it in the past please check to see if you can find it and return it to Brodick Post Office.

It has a squishy teddy bear key ring, so it shouldn't be too hard to find in a coat pocket or the bottom of a bag. Many thanks.

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Colin Hunter addressing the haggis, watched by Stewart Lambie. 02_b04bur04



Colin Hunter toasting the haggis. 02_b04bur01

Lamlash Burns Club salutes The Bard

Lamlash Burns Club annual Burns supper was held in the golf clubhouse last Saturday night. Some last minute changes had to be made to the key speakers due to the non-sailing of the ferry and a number

of principal guests being stranded on the mainland.

Retiring chairman Allan Nicol had to stay in the chair for the evening. Young Findlay Murchie gave a recitation of To a Louse and Stewart Lambie said Grace. The haggis was carried in by Stuart Cree, led by piper Ally Hume. Colin Hunter of Corrie addressed the haggis with aplomb and the company enjoyed a first class meal.

Alastair Nicholson gave The Immortal Memory and Paraig McKay and Alistair Paul entertained on fiddles.



Lamlash Burns Club chairman Allan Nicol. 02_b04bur03

Jake Kerr recited Tam O'Shanter and Gordon Kiniburgh stepped in to Toast the Lassies.

The evening was rounded off with a vote of thanks from Jim Lees.



Stuart Cree and Ally Hume bringing in the haggis. 02_b04bur02

Just a Minute for Legion

The first social meeting of the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion for 2012 will take place in the McLaren Hotel, Brodick at 2pm on Thursday 2 February. The entertainment will be George McCormack's 'Just a Minute'. All are welcome.

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Foster parents sought for Arran

Angela has fostered 13 children over the last three and a half years – one of 76 foster carers across North Ayrshire who do so much to support vulnerable youngsters.

She is now encouraging others in the area to step up as part of February's Fostering Xtra campaign.

Currently

There are currently 31 foster carers in the Arran, Three Towns and Garnock Valley area.

Angela said: 'You genuinely see a difference in the kids

you foster – even within six weeks or so. It really makes it really rewarding and fulfilling.

'I wouldn't pretend that it is easy, it isn't, particularly with teenagers. However, we wanted to give something back after our own kids were old enough.

'You have to be thick skinned and be willing to give up a lot of your time. But it is great to see that difference that you can make, to give a child support at a time when they really need it.

'It is important to remember that these young people didn't choose to be in the situations they are. There is sometimes a stigma there that shouldn't exist.'

Complex Needs

Fostering Xtra cares for young people aged 10 and over who have had unsettled pasts or have complex needs which make them more challenging to care for.

Justine Young, of North Ayrshire Council's Family Placement Service, said: 'Ordinarily these children would

have been accommodated in residential units, but we know that children generally have better futures if they experience life with a real family, and that's where people like Angela and others like her come in.

'Our foster carers really do a wonderful job and really get a lot out of the care they provide.'

Financial Support

As well as financial support, foster carers benefit from important training and ongoing support from North Ayrshire Council as well as a close relationship from other fosterers who often meet up to discuss issues.

If you are interested in becoming a Foster Carer for young people aged 10 and over, are fit and healthy and are ready to help make a difference, call the Family Placement Team on 01294 311505 or email adfos@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Whiting Bay SWRI

The ladies of Whiting Bay SWRI got the New Year off to a good start when the usual committee meeting was followed by their annual party.

The main activity for the night was 'fun hat making' using only newspaper and paper clips – but with a few more colourful papers to add the glam factor.

Some amazing creations were produced but no milliners need worry about loss of trade!

All members were hostesses for the night so the evening ended with a delicious buffet supper and a 'Secret Santa' gift.

Many thanks too to Kildonan institute for their hospitality on January 17.

The next meeting on Wednesday 1 February will take the form of a cookery demonstration but may be changed. The competition is for an Ecclefechan tart.



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Islanders to join RSPB's Big Garden Bird Watch

Arran's residents are being urged to take part in the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' this weekend - Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 January.

This is the time to stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species.

Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK took part in this valuable exercise.

Jim Cassels, bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society, is encouraging participants not only to send their records to RSPB but also

to send the results to him and as last year he will collate and share the Arran results that he receives.

Jim said: 'People who enjoy their garden birds should not only take part in the RSPB weekend but consider joining the British Trust for Ornithology's 'Garden BirdWatch'.

'It is not just one weekend but every week. Observations collected by BTO Garden Birdwatchers are analysed and published in leading journals. 'BTO Garden Birdwatchers have charted the decline of the House Sparrow, the rise of the Woodpigeon, have discovered that urban birds get up later than

their rural counterparts, have alerted conservationists to the impact of an emerging disease in Greenfinches and much more.'

He added: 'On Arran there are currently nine homes taking part in this straightforward enjoyable yet valuable exercise.'

For more information on the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch visit www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch/ or phone 0300 456 8330.

Please send all your garden bird sightings to Jim Cassels at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email him at james.cassels@virgin.net

New marketing initiative launched for Arran businesses

A new marketing initiative has been launched for Arran businesses that will allow them to be associated with Scotland's pre-eminent self-catering holiday lettings agency.

Cottages & Castles has over 650 properties on its portfolio and recently launched its highly interactive website www.cottages-and-castles.co.uk with unparalleled search functions to make it easy for users to find their ideal area and holiday.

The website has split Scotland up into distinct regions

including Arran, and the company is now inviting local businesses to be associated with them by listing details alongside holiday property in the area and thus providing holiday makers with suggestions on local activities, attractions, eating out and events.

Arran has been chosen as the first region to launch the initiative due to the strong commercial collaboration within the local economy and the understanding of the benefits of a cohesive business community.

Lucy Wallace, who runs a walking and wildlife watching business on the island, said: 'Joining forces to promote activities and businesses on Arran to visitors is a fantastic opportunity and I'm look forward to hearing more from Cottages & Castles at next week's open-day event.'

The firm will host an Open Day for prospective businesses and clients to speak to professionals from the company.

The event will be held on Tuesday 31 January at the Auchrannie Resort, Brodick from 9am.

Young chef Susie does the island proud

Susie Mowatt put up a great performance at the district finals of the Rotary Club's Young Chef competition in South Lanarkshire College, East Kilbride last Wednesday.

Arran High School principal home economics teacher Lucy Urquhart-Dixon said: 'Susie was preparing and cooking from 4pm to 6pm.

'The judges were very impressed with what she did, but she just ran out of time.'

Bill Roberts of Arran Rotary added: 'She did the island proud; had Susie finished I think she could have won.'

'Her Shepherd's Pie was simply delicious.'



Susie Mowatt practising her competition dishes in the Douglas Hotel kitchen under the watchful eyes of manager Pascal van den Broek and head chef Greg Russell. 01_b04cook01

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Ferry disruptions sinking our local businesses

Ferry disruptions are nothing new on Arran – they've been happening for generations.

Some people might even question why something that is such a regular occurrence should be appearing once again on our front page.

But this time it's a different story.

This time it's not just a story about the effect of travel disruption on residents or the chaotic bread and newspaper supplies to the island.

This is a story that shows the ferry disruptions could be having a really disastrous effect on Arran's economy.

The Auchrannie Resort is claiming to have lost at least £10,000 after hotel guests were forced into cancelling bookings, as they could not make it to the island.

In the past year the resort has recorded a 900 per cent increase in bookings lost due to ferry cancellations – a seriously worrying trend.

And as many have pointed out the winter is far from over.

Many of Arran's businesses are struggling to keep their heads above water.

The economic recession has taken three years to hit the island – but boy has it arrived!

Arran's residents are struggling financially because of the high cost of living here.

But more worryingly, those who visit the island are also struggling and may be thinking twice about holidaying here.

People don't have money to spend on weeklong breaks to the island anymore.

One person told us that he knew of a couple who holidayed regularly on the island but have now decided to head north instead as the risk of getting stuck or not making it to the island at all was too much to bare.

Many others told us they would never to return to the island after the disruptions at New Year – not a good advert for any holiday destination.

As someone rightly wrote on facebook on Sunday - after two days of disruptions - there's a big stretch of sea between us and the mainland, which means we sometimes have to deal with the consequences of being completely cut off.

Yes it's frustrating when our plans are interrupted by bad weather but it is a small price to pay to live somewhere so unique.

However, it may be a small price to pay for those of us who live here but for those relying on incoming trade to keep their businesses afloat it is a much, much bigger problem.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.' (Romans 13:10)

press policy

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

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

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

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

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



Ferry fun and games

Sir,
I have been following your coverage of all the ferry fun and games thanks to Mother Nature in recent weeks as I work on Arran but live in Ardrossan.

After the linkspan at Ardrossan was damaged as you know we ended up in Gourrock on the Wednesday after New Year.

At no point has it been mentioned that Ardrossan has a second linkspan as formerly used for the Belfast freight service.

To my knowledge it is maintained in working order by Lochshore engineering (the same folk that maintain the main ferry linkspan).

Now the question is why wasn't it used that day?

The main problem as we all know is taking that sharp right into Winton Pier in anything more than a force six wind.

You can access the other pier in a force eight easily.

From memory, when the marina was getting planned and built Clydeport tried to persuade CalMac to use the Belfast linkspan as it is far better in bad weather as it is a straight access but the usual politics about terminal access prevented this.

Perhaps now the questions should be asked, or just go along with the master plan and relocate to Hunterston as has been talked about for over 20 odd years.

To add further, I am not your typical moaner.

My late father was chief engineer on the tug at Ardrossan as well as sailing in and out regularly throughout his career in the Merchant Navy and other family members have worked at the port so I do know the area and how bad the winds can be.

Yours,
Alan Deans
Ardrossan

Young enterprise

Sir,
While the youth of today are often criticised, it is encouraging to hear of three enter-

prising young people.

Ten-year-old Ross Dobson and his cousins Connor and Caitlin Brown (10 and eight-years-old) decided to entertain their families on Christmas Day.

As a result of their performance they raised the sum of £23.35 which they have kindly donated to Save the Children.

The committee wishes to congratulate them on their initiative and thank them for their generosity. Well done.

Yours,
J Robertson
Save the Children
committee

Silence of the deer

Sir,
I would like to tell your readers something about Chris Stone.

We came to Arran 34 years ago. Chris was a respected roofer for many hotels and households alike, but after 27 years doing the job he loved and enjoying the people he worked for and the friends he made, he had to retire through ill health.

But still seven years on he sits at home and now longs for the spring to come so he can sit in the conservatory to watch the owls nest in the garden and the many birds of prey including the hen harrier that hunts in the field in front of the house. It is amazing as the voles and mice scurry across the grass the birds come out of nowhere to pick them up.

Chris said last year for the first time there was something missing.

We always knew when autumn and winter was upon us; the roar of the deer told us, but last year thanks to man it is no more.

Yours,
Jean Stone
Shiskine

Simulated exercise

Sir,
In relation to last week's front page article in the Banner which covered the forthcoming exercise at Brodick Castle, may I detail some important clarifications.

The headline last week

stated 'Fire and explosion to rip through Brodick Castle'. From resultant communications to the National Trust for Scotland, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and comments made on the Arran Banner's own Facebook page it is evident that some people have misinterpreted the article to believe that a serious incident with the potential for damage had already occurred or was imminent at Brodick Castle.

It is important to clarify that this will be a simulated exercise which has been the subject of many months careful planning and preparation by the Fire Service, The National Trust for Scotland and the other partners who will be taking part.

The purpose of the exercise scenario is twofold. Firstly, to test the ability of the emergency services (and some partners in the voluntary service) to react to a large-scale incident within an important site of significant historical value and importance. Secondly, this is an opportunity for the National Trust for Scotland to practice their own procedures for responding to a significant incident within Brodick Castle to minimise the impact this would have to the property and the collection.

It is important to stress the scenario planned for March will be carried out with the utmost care and sensitivity to the historical importance of the site.

All activity within the building during the exercise has been fully assessed and agreed by the organisers and the Trust. Similarly, the aspect of the exercise which will simulate a partial building collapse will be carried out using simulated materials with no potential to cause damage to the property.

Far from 'co-ordinating a fire and explosion' within the castle, we will co-ordinate a simulated exercise which will be closely and sensitively controlled and supervised.

The result will be beneficial to most of the island's emergency responders, and will assist the National Trust

for Scotland to have the best possible emergency procedures to preserve and protect this beautiful building and its contents for future generations to enjoy.

Yours,
Murdo Henderson
Group Commander
ARDS and Volunteer
Management
Strathclyde Fire
and Rescue

Closure of Craigielea Care Home

Sir,
Our family have owned 'Craigielea', Whiting Bay for over 22 years and have been following the articles and letters published in The Arran Banner over the past few weeks with a keen interest.

As we have no involvement in the 'care home business', we would not like to speculate on its demise.

For the record, however, we received a letter from Mrs Judith Waterland (co-owner of the business with her husband Mr E Waterland) dated 27 July 2011 in which she states, 'I am writing to let you know that we have give (sic) notice to North Ayrshire Council, that we are to close the Home'.

On 22 September, Mrs Waterland wrote to us again informing us, 'this week the Inspection team have lifted the enforcement order'.

Therefore, you can imagine that it came as a great shock to us, as it must have done to the residents of Craigielea, to receive another letter dated 23 November 2011, stating that the care home was to close within 10 days.

Whoever is at fault has cost Mr and Mrs Waterland their livelihood, made the loyal and dedicated employees redundant, forced the residents out of their home, and cost us thousands of pounds in unpaid rent, as we now learn from Mrs Waterland that they are to seek bankruptcy.

Could this not have all been avoided?

Yours,
F Lefley
Yorkshire

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Scottish Opera is coming back to Arran



Soprano Anita Watson will be singing in Brodick Hall. b04opr01

Four talented young singers will perform in Brodick Hall

Scottish Opera is coming back to Arran.

A cast of four talented young singers will be performing a brand new work, Dance 'til the Sun Sets, by composer Gareth Williams as Opera Highlights takes to the road.

Among venues such as Mull, Largs and Castle Douglas, the singers will be coming to Brodick Hall on Saturday 11 February with a concert starting at 7.30pm.

Gareth Williams is Scottish Opera's first ever composer in residence and is a lecturer at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Derek Clark, Scottish Opera's head of music, is in charge of selecting the programme.

He said: 'It's great to be able to include a new piece of

work in the Opera Highlights programme, particularly as Gareth has worked closely with the singers on revising the piece. It's been an exciting challenge for them and will make a real treat for audiences.'

Arias and Ensembles

Other works will be arias and ensembles from well-known operas including Bizet's Carmen, Mozart's Don Giovanni and Puccini's Madame Butterfly, as well as a sprinkling of lesser-known works from the likes of Rimsky-Korsakov's Sadko and Britten's Paul Bunyan.

The singers are baritone Marcus Farnsworth, soprano Anita Watson, mezzo-soprano Rosie Aldridge and tenor Robert Anthony Gardiner.



Tenor Robert Anthony Gardiner. b04opr02

Accompanying them on piano for the five-week tour will be Susannah Wapshott. Tickets are available from The Book and Card Centre in Brodick.

Film making club starts in Brodick

Arran Youth Foundations is to launch a new after-school film-making club on a Wednesday afternoon - and young people who attend are in with a chance of winning a £50 cash prize, thanks to the generosity of the Auchrannie! The group, who already run successful Friday night activities in Brodick Church Hall, are expanding to meet demand, and youth work project manager Graeme Johnston hopes for a good turnout for the first session

on Wednesday 1 February between 4.30pm and 6.30pm at the church hall.

'We bought the young people a video camera a few months back and we've had great fun mucking about with it, but I thought it was time we used it with a bit more purpose,' said Graeme.

Challenge

'I've set them a challenge of getting into small teams and making a short film about Arran. The Auchrannie have very kindly offered a £50

prize to the team who come up with the best entry, so we are incredibly grateful to them for that.

'All the usual suspects will be coming along but I really want to emphasise that anyone is welcome.'

He added: 'Any high school pupil is welcome, even if they've never been to the Friday group before. Just pop in on a Wednesday afternoon - we'll be putting some burgers on too, so don't worry about missing your dinner!'

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Third team, The Enterprising Megaminds. 01_b04ent04

Enterprising minds of the children at Arran High School

Following on from the success of a similar event last year, on Friday 20 January all S1 pupils were involved in an 'Enterprise Day' hosted by Arran High School and jointly organised with Auchrannie and Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

The theme was 'Tourism' where the challenge 'to promote Arran tourism with a new Festival or Event' was set by Richard Small, General Manager of Auchrannie. Pupils were split into seven teams, each led by a business advisor from Auchrannie or the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and assisted by a senior pupil.

One group was also led by local Youth Worker, Graeme Johnston. Pupils had to consider how they could encourage more visitors in the quieter months on Arran in order to promote the island as an all year round destination for a range of tourists.

Following brainstorming in the morning, each team had to agree on an appropriate choice of festival or event. It was then up to each group to develop appropriate marketing materials including an eye catching logo, marketing poster, presentation and rationale for their choice.

In the afternoon, groups then had to present their ideas to Dragons' Den style judges in the form of Linda Johnston and David Johnston of Auchrannie. Following seven

very individual, entertaining and well-prepared presentations with ideas ranging from treasure hunt events to sporting spectaculars, bronze, silver and gold medals sponsored by Auchrannie were awarded.

In first place was Team 3, the Funny Freaks, with 'Arran's First Comedy Festival'. Led by Richard Small and facilitated by Chantal Smith (S6) the team consisted of Adam Brown, Matthew McAllister, Lee Smith, Belle Gibson, Isla Hill and Emily Hodkinson.

In second place was Team 2, Arran's Big 4, and their 'Extreme Sporting Festival'. Led by Holly Beedie, Reception Manager of Auchrannie and facilitated by Catherine McEachern (S5) the team was Joel Armitage, Scott MacKay, Kirsty Crawford,

Emily Devine, Tilly Ford and Laura Shaw.

In third place was Team 6, the Enterprising Megaminds, and their 'Winter Wonders of Arran' concept which focused on fun indoor and outdoor events around the island. Led by Gill Cameron of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and facilitated by Mollie Hodkinson (S5) the team was Jack Fraser, Tom Mowatt, Katie Murchie, Anna O'Donnelly, Charley Weir and Lori Young.

Emerging Approach

Stewart McLauchlan, PT Business Education/Computing teacher, said: 'The S1 Enterprise Day is now part of the school's emerging approach to Curriculum for Excellence and Auchrannie and Visit Arran's strengthening industry links with the school, provid-

ing pupils with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and experiences to build foundations for learning, life and work.

'The curriculum is fully enriched when the local business community as in the case of Auchrannie and Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, engage with the school providing staff, time and resources to bring the world of work into the education setting. On review of evaluation forms completed by every S1 pupil at the end of the day, it was clear our pupils most enjoyed working with and learning from their business advisors. Working together it is hoped that we can enrich our curriculum and provide a broader general education, learning from each other for the benefit of all.'



The Dragons' Den-style judges, David Johnston and Linda Johnston of Auchrannie. 01_b04ent01

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Winning Enterprise team, The Funny Freaks. 01_b04ent02



Youth worker Graeme Johnston leading one of the groups. b04ent05



Second placed team, Arran's Big 4. 01_b04ent03

Lochranza Choir begin weekly rehearsals

Lochranza Choir's 2012 season begins in the Village Hall on Monday 30 January when the weekly rehearsals resume at 7.30pm under the direction, as usual, of Diana Hamilton.

The layout of the season will be different from the norm, having the main concert in early December with the focus very much on the building just a few hundred yards along the road where Lochranza Church, this year, is marking its Tercentenary and has invited the Choir to take part in the celebrations.

To announce its participation in a resounding manner, as many as possible of its members will pack the area in front of the pulpit during the service on Easter Sunday and sing the chorus Hallelujah from Messiah.

And by doing so, may just manage to raise the old roof

a few inches. The December concert will have a seasonal feel to it with Christmas music in the programme in addition to a sizeable chunk of Messiah and a delightful fleet-footed Missa Brevis by

Mozart.

Intending new members of the Choir should come along to the Hall on Monday at around 7.15pm.

Existing members should pop their copy of Messiah, if they have one, in their rucksack.

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Rave reviews for Lochranza village panto

'Waking the Warrior' – a Christmas pantomime with a difference

A village pantomime performed by a superb cast of local residents has received rave reviews from audience members.

Lochranza Village Hall was packed out last Saturday night (January 14) for 'Waking the Warrior', a Christmas pantomime.

Written by Isla Blair and Charlie MacFarlane with additional material by Juggins and Muggins a.k.a Eric Dunn and Tom Buchan, the story centred around the efforts of the evil witch 'Morag the Torag' to cancel Christmas.

However, two determined



Eric Dunn as Juggins.

Lochranza weans, Shona and Elly, were not going to let that happen.

They enlisted the help of various Lochranza inhabitants – animal and human – to successfully thwart Morag's intentions.

Morag was played brilliantly by Betty Buchanan who captured the humour of her character perfectly.

At one stage, needing a prompt, she brought the prompter into the conversation without turning hair, much to the delight of the audience.

She was helped by her bumbling henchmen Eric Dunn and Tom Buchan who carried

the comedy throughout their performance.

The two plucky weans were played by Anna O'Donnelly and Meagan Bennet.

And special mention must be made of Fairy Della played by Katherine O'Donnelly who had more lines and stage time than anyone else and was absolutely superb to watch.

She carried off her part without a hitch, even when she had to kiss her love interest Rowan Berry, played in true panto tradition by Natalie Innes.

Memorable

Without a doubt however, the most memorable moment of the whole night was provided by young Oisean Gold who sang a stunning rendition of 'Walking in the Air' in his crystal clear voice.

A three-minute standing ovation followed his solo and there were more than a few tears shed in the audience for this wonderfully talented child.

The leading players were well supported by an enthusiastic cast who all entered into the spirit of the performance and provided a memorable night.



'Waking the Warrior' has received rave reviews from the audience.



The story centred on the efforts of the evil witch 'Morag the Torag' to cancel Christmas.



The two sheep Jessie and Bessie played by Fiona Crawford and Marion Gentleman with Fairy Della (Katherine O'Donnelly).



Andy Quin as one of the four Glens – Glen Shurig.



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Bookings close Saturday 31st March 2012

(John worked in Kalimpong for 8 years in the seventies)

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, February 1, 1992

Axe on Corrie Croft

Corrie Croft Outdoor Centre is under threat of closure. School parties visit Corrie Croft from all over Strathclyde but because of its remote location few islanders will have been there.

Alistair Pratt has been in charge since 1975 and runs the courses with his deputy Nigel Marshall.

Relief from Iona

MV Iona is due to take over as relief vessel from MV Isle of Arran in the next few days while our ferry goes to Gourock for her annual overhaul.

Election canvassing

The General Election campaign began on Arran on Thursday when Conservative PPC Edith Clarkson started canvassing in Brodick.

Timber barge trial

In two weeks the Forestry Commission will begin shipping logs off the island by timber barge as an experiment. The barge owned by the Glenlight Shipping Company will carry as much timber as 25 lorries.

New ferry built in Norfolk

The new Arran ferry will not be built in Scotland. Richards Shipyard in Lowestoft has won the £12million contract for the 85-metre ferry.

Wrestlers for Lamlash

PRS Promotions of Peterborough plan to bring a group of wrestlers to the island for a display this spring. The probable venue will be Lamlash Community Centre.

Brodick crossing

On Tuesday night the Community Council discussed the issue of bad parking in Brodick.

A survey is to be conducted to see whether a pedestrian crossing should be made at the busiest part of the village.

Ferry launch date

The new Lochranza to Claonaig ferry, at present under construction at the James Miller Yard in St Monans, Fife, is due to be launched on Thursday 20 February.

Beavers Promise

Brodick Beavers held their first enrolment on 23 January when 15 very proud boys made their Promise to the Scout Commissioner Iain Lambert.

David's recipes

David Richards was chef at Brodick castle in 1988 and 1989 and won the award of National Student Chef of the Year.

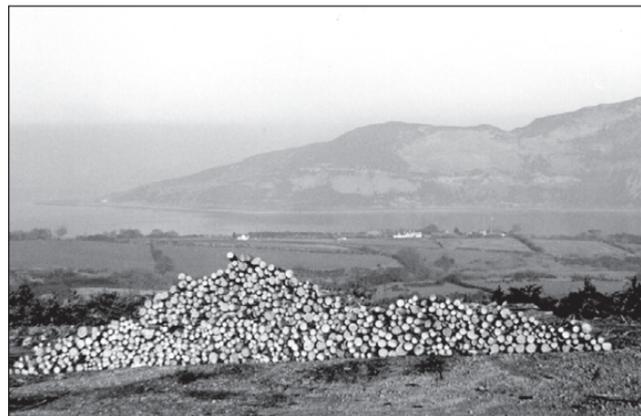
He now works on cruise ships in the Caribbean and has just published a useful booklet of simple down-to-earth recipes.



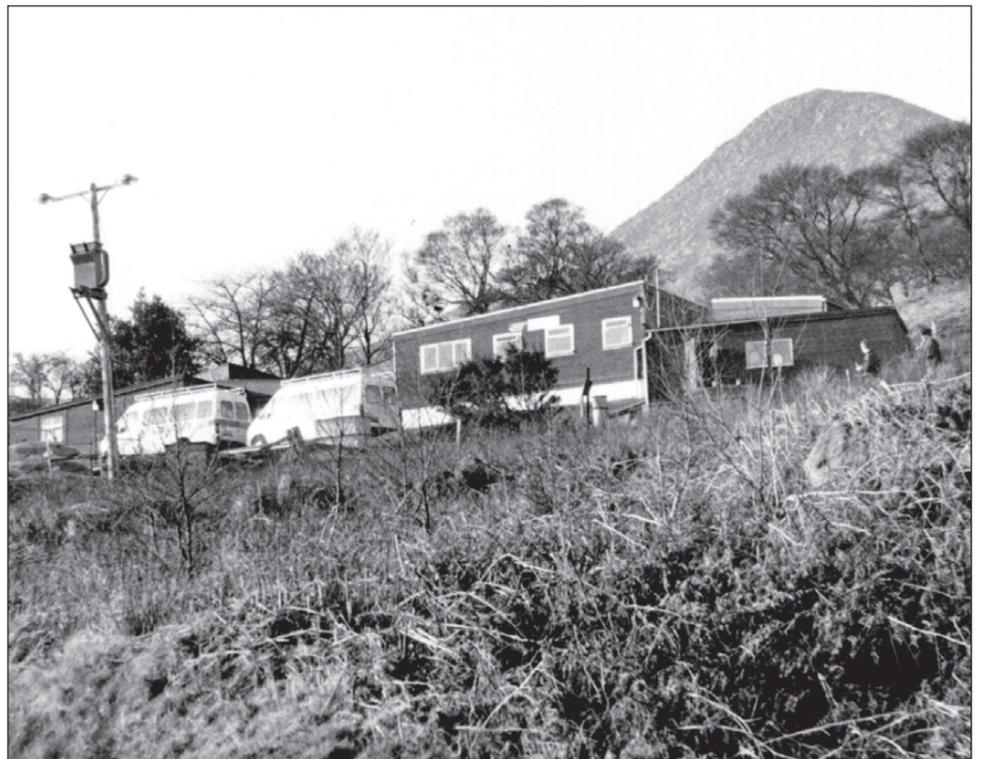
Corrie Croft instructors Willie White, Alistair Pratt and Nigel Marshall. b04twe01



Chef David Richards has a new recipe book published. b04twe03



Logs stacked on the forestry road above Whiting Bay awaiting shipment on the new timber barge. b04twe04



Corrie Croft Outdoor Centre facing the axe. b04twe02

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Last week Archie was playing in Sandbraes Park in Whiting Bay. First correct answers came from Mark in Glasgow, Cara from Shiskine and doggie pal Shep from Crewe who said: 'Why is Archie playing with my Frisbee?' This week he is sitting on the pavement, but where would you find those palm trees?

If you think you know then post your answer on the website **www.arranbanner.co.uk**
 Or email us at: **editor@arranbanner.co.uk**

One week left to nominate community heroes

'These are the people who make this area such a wonderful place to live, work and visit'

With just one week left to submit your nominations for the North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2012 it is time to look back at last year's success stories.

First Ever

On June 17 2011, the first ever Awards for Young Citizen, Citizen, Arts and Culture, Sport and Community Group of the year were made by Provost Pat McPhee at a glittering ceremony held in the Seamill Hydro.

After a tense build up, the Provost announced the five winners - Lisa Heenan, Jim Montgomerie, Art In Mind, Jim Heaney and Oasis New Start Duke of Edinburgh Award Group.

Each Award winner was picked from a high quality shortlist of nominations made by communities the length and breadth of North Ayrshire. Their talent, commitment and dedication along with the impact they make on their local communities was clear to see and made the first ever North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards a very special night.

Recognition

There are many more individuals and groups who continue to work tirelessly in our communities and deserve recognition and a moment in the limelight.

However, you only have until 12noon on Friday, 3 February to make sure that

the people who deserve to be recognised at the Civic Pride Awards do so.

Celebrate

The Awards aim to celebrate all that's great about North Ayrshire by showcasing the area's best asset - its people.

It couldn't be easier to nominate your local hero. Just visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk and click on the Provost Civic Pride Award page or simply fill in the nomination form on this page.

All you have to do is give the reasons why you think the person/group should be considered for an award (in 500 words or less) and return it to: Communications Team, Chief Executive's Service, North Ayrshire Council,



Last year's winners at the awards ceremony with Provost Pat McPhee, centre, and Sarah Hay and Jan McGregor, second and third from left, representing Arran's winners, Art in Mind. b04art01

Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE.

Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Pat McPhee, said: 'The first Civic Awards Dinner was a wonderful occasion that recognised the work of local people and groups throughout North Ayrshire's communities. These are the people who make this area such a wonderful place to live, work and visit.'

Difference

'Over the last few weeks people have let us know how much of a difference the groups and individuals make to their communities each and every day.'

Busy time for Whiting Bay SWRI

The ladies of Whiting Bay SWRI have had a very busy December.

The monthly meetings have been a chance to use a variety of icings to decorate gingerbreads and to create table-centres with oasis and greenery.

Plans were finalised for the village party before a festive supper. Winner of the bauble competition was Elizabeth McCormack.

Hostesses were Janis Gallacher and Janet Mair.

On 11 December Whiting Bay Hall was the venue for the annual children's Christmas party with games, food, and the always important visit from Santa with his bag of presents for all the children from newborns to P7.

Rural members would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped our small group make the party, we hope, a success.

So a heartfelt thanks goes to the people who helped set up on Friday and Saturday, provided the equipment for

music, donated food, helped with the games, cleared the Lesser Hall, hoovered, washed dishes and when they saw anything needing done, were quick to quietly step in and help.

We would like to say an extra special thanks to Rachel Armitage who spent the whole evening at the microphone leading the games and dancing. She played a very important part in making the party go with a swing.

Thank You

Also a massive thank you to Bev at Bay News who for several years has been Santa's elf, sourcing the gifts for the man in red to bring.

Last but by no means least, can we thank the young ones of the village. No matter how much work the adults put into preparing for a party, its your enthusiastic but well-mannered, cheery participation that makes it all worthwhile.

And we've all agreed that it was worthwhile!

Best wishes for 2012 from all in Whiting Bay SWRI.

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Oscars?

Fancy dress party and disco - Sat 25th Feb
Dress code: Red Carpet Glamour, Film Stars, Film Characters...or a film prop!
Prize for the best dressed
9.30pm - Late

Tickets on sale: 860444
£5 per person

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Saturday 28 January

Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Teddy Bears Picnic
Kids Family Quiz
Bingo Night
Burns Supper
Kinloch Burns Supper
ShopArran January sale

Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran high School, 10am
Playbarn Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm
Lochranza Hall, 7pm
Kinloch, 7pm
Broddick hall 11am - 4pm

Sunday 29 January

Alcoholics Anonymous
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Teddy Bears Picnic
Pool Final Knockout Competition

Church Hall, Broddick, 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm
PHT, 3pm

Monday 30 January

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Citizens Advice
Breath Walk Class
Table Tennis
Hatha Yoga
Activity Time
Come Dance With Me - LeRoc Modern Jive
Scottish Country Dancing for Beginners and Improvers
Yoga
Arran Junior Football
Circuit Training
Quiz
Lamlash Bridge Club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
High School sports Hall - Seniors, 7.30pm - 9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 10am - 2pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Arran High School, 6pm - 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
High School, 6pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7pm
Auchrannie Spa Gym, 6pm - 7pm
The Shurig at Bar Eden, 8.30pm
Lamlash golf Clubhouse, 7pm

Tuesday 31 January

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Junior Hockey Club - 8yrs up

Kinloch, 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Broddick Church Hall, 2pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 10am-2pm
Kildonan Hall, - 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6pm - 7pm



Melody Movement, Ballet Class-2 ½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class- 2 ½ yrs up
Youth Club
Scottish Country Dancing
Winter Bowls
Zumba fitness class
Rowan Singers
WeightWatchers
Community Council Meeting

Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Broddick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Broddick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Arran High School, 6.30 - 7.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

Wednesday 1 February

Hockey
Tae KwonDo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Felt Making Class
Senior Badminton
Museum Archives & Genealogy Service
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents and little ones
Kids Games
Circuit Training
Dog Training
AYF Film-making Club
Whiting Bay SWRI
Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm games hall
KA Leisure Kids - 6.30pm - 7.30pm Adult's 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
Shipfield Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
9.30am - 10.30am Auchrannie studio
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Broddick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Lesser Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12 noon

Thursday 2 February

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Coffee Morning
General Knowledge Quiz
Broddick Embroidery Club
Broddick Bridge Club
Winter Bowls
Arran Music and Drama Club Rehearsals
The wee blether
Zumba fitness class
Garden Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7 - 9pm
St Molios Church, 10.30am - 12pm
Kinloch Bar, 9pm
Broddick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Broddick Golf Club, 7pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Broddick Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Village Hall, 12pm - 1.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30 - 7.30pm
Ranger Centre, Broddick Castle with guest speaker Colin Totty

Friday 3 February

Senior Badminton
Quiz
Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Rock Disco
Arran Youth Foundations
Kids Party Games
WeightWatchers
Arran Ceilidh Group
Quiz Night
Arran Visual Arts AGM

Auchrannie Sports Hall, 2pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Church Hall, Broddick, 7pm - 9pm
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm - 10pm
Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 8pm

Saturday 4 February

Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Teddy Bears Picnic
Kids Family Quiz
Coffee Afternoon

Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran High School, 10am
Playbarn Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Kinloch Hotel, 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 5 February

Alcoholics Anonymous
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Teddy Bears Picnic

Church Hall, Broddick, 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm

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Sheep grazing on a tasty bale of silage at Derneneach last week. 02_b04shp01

Arran livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 1348 store cattle, 169 cast cows, 3071 store sheep and cast rams and ewes at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday 11 January.

Cattle prices:

Charolais cross bullocks £760, 214p Creagraineach, Simmental cross bullocks £710, 208p Creagraineach, Charolais cross heifers £720, 208p Creagraineach, Simmental cross cast cows £985, 136p Bellevue.

Sheep prices:

Cross hogs £52 Sheddock, Cross ewes £60 Marganaish, £56 Sheddock, Blackface ewes £62 Glenkiln, Cast tups £85 West Glensheraig, £50 Ceither Gaoithe.

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White bathroom suite £50 ono; Single white bed VGC £25; Shower Enclosure £20; Two Electric Showers £20 each. Tel: 01770 302178

Set of bunk beds with mattresses. VGC. £100 buyer collects. Tel: 700232

Peugeot 106, 1.1 Petrol, Y Plate, Good Runner £250 ono Tel: 01770 700427

Two Julian Bowen pine 'Barcelona' double beds with 'sweet dreams' non-allergenic mattresses. As new. £230 each.

AEG favorit dishwasher, £175.00; Beko small Fridge £45.00. Good condition Phone 01770 302845

£30 AND UNDER

Computer screen 17inch flat, Samsung sync master 152v. As new £20. Tel: 01770 600654

Gent's Footjoy Golf Shoes- Soft-joy Black Leather, metal spikes, NEW, size 8 - £20 Tel: 01770 600752

Glass and wood retail display unit with lighting - £30. buyer uplifts. Arran Graphics, The Pier, Brodick, Tel: 01770 303699

Band saw Blades various sizes. Tel: 01770 600238

White tricity Princess Electric Cooker for sale, 4 hob rings, Grill and Oven. Wall mounted, extractor fan included £30. Tel: 01770 302331

Modern Teak Computer Trolley. Very good condition, Dell Keyboard/Mouse and HP printer deskjet 960c with ink cartridges. Tel: 01770 302504

Harman/Karon Subwoofer with speakers £15 Tel: 01770 302504

WANTED

VHS or BETA-MAX tapes wanted, precertification (pre 1984 only) Tel: 01770 700629 Mobile: 07983624634

Washing Machine minimum of 6kg drum please Tel: 01770 302331

Single folding bed Tel: 01770 600166

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Babies wooden traditional style cot. Free to good home. Suit visiting grandchildren. Tel: 01770 302659

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

Arran Pool League singles draw

The second round of the Arran singles competition is to be played on or by Sunday 12 February. Best of three games. Draw as follows:

J Ferguson (Drift) or D Thomson (Eden) v P McKinnon (Catacol) at Mac's Bar, R Buchan (Mac's Bar) v B Lewis (Catacol) at PHT, L Wilson (Drift) v E Picken (PT1934) at Bar Eden, J Ainsworth (Whiting Bay Golf Club) v N McMaster (PT1934) at Kildonan, N Lemmon (Mac's) or S Weir (Catacol) v I McDonald (Mac's) at Drift Inn, A Jeffrey (Catacol) v J Copper-wheat (Drift) at Mac's Bar, A Picken (PT1934) v K Jackson (Bar Eden) at Kildonan, D Bell (Catacol) v J Picken (PT1934) at Mac's Bar.

Winners to phone PHT on 600418 with result.

Bridge results

Brodick Bridge Club

The results for Thursday 19 January were as follows: N/S 1 Jan Beattie and Morag Gardner -570, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Jean Murchie -940, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan -1320.

E/W 1 Eendy McNiven and Roddie Thompson +3220, 2 Trisha Martin and Douglas Hamilton +2390, 3 Helen Boyd and Liz Paul +2340.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results for Monday 23 January were as follows: N/S 1 T Martin and A Bilsland +2240, 2 J and M Dick +2140, 3 R and P Thompson +1870.

E/W 1 J McLure and A McKelvie +310, 2 P Adamson and E McConnell -110, 3 h Boyd and J Murchie -960.

Doubles darts at Mac's Bar

A mixed doubles darts competition is being held tonight (January 27) is Mac's Bar, Brodick.

The tournament will kick off at 7.30pm.

Please come along alone or with a partner and names will be drawn out of a hat.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(In full communion with the church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting bay
Sunday 29 January
Holy Communion, 11.00am
Rev'd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar. Followed by coffee and sandwich lunch, the "Building the Vision" meeting, with Mrs Elaine Garman.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill 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 29 January
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Corrie Church, 12noon
Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am at Pirmill
Shiskine Church 12noon
A service of worship will also be held in Montrose house at 1.30pm

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Morning Mass, 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC14005)
Sunday 29 January
Worship will be conducted by the Minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson,
At 10.30am.
Tea and Coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
All most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 29 January
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
11am Morning worship
Tea/Coffee after the service
Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday at 7.30pm.
For details telephone 860 232
Everyone very welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
'A faith to proclaim - a fellowship to share'
Sunday 29 January
Kilmory 10am
Mrs Mairi Duff
Lamlash 11.30am
Mr Ian Watt
In both churches:
All Welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 29 January
Shiskine 11am
Mr Lachie McLeod
Brodick 7pm
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)
Sunday 29 January
Morning service 11am
Trust housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
Prayer meeting
Wednesday 3rd January 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All Welcome

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER
CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY:
There will be Taize worship on
Thursday 2 February
at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Episcopal Church.
ALL WELCOME

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS QUAKERS
No meeting on
Sunday 29 January

DEATH

ELIZABETH STEWART KERR (MacEWAN)
1913 - 2012
On 20th January 2012, Betty, Beloved wife of Charles, mother of Hazel, Donald and Elizabeth, and a much loved Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MURCHIE-NAN
Jack, Laura, Lorraine and Alison would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the support and kindness received on the loss of Nan. Thanks also for the flowers, sympathy cards, letters and phone calls. These were very much appreciated.

PERSONAL

Mrs Mary Fenton would like to thank most sincerely all who sent beautiful flowers, get well cards, letters and visitors during her stay in hospital. Your many kind thoughts were very appreciated.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NURSERY REGISTRATION WEEK

30 January 2012 - 3 February 2012 for pre-school and ante-pre-school children (Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2008 and 28 February 2010)
Registration for all local authority nurseries and partner provider centres in North Ayrshire will take place in the week beginning 30 January 2012.
Parents wishing to register their children for nursery education should apply directly to the nursery of their choice. Birth certificates should be produced at the time of registration.
Please note that North Ayrshire Council operates an Admissions Policy which clearly describes priorities.
All local authority nursery provision and partner provider centres in Arran are listed below and parents are requested to contact the nursery of their choice to confirm the most suitable time to register.

LOCAL AUTHORITY NURSERY SCHOOLS & CLASSES AND COMMUNITY NURSERIES

Corrie Primary Nursery Class, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP
Tel: 01770-810244

Kilmory Primary Nursery Class, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ
Tel: 01770-870262

Lamlash Primary Nursery Class, MacKelvie Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NP
Tel: 01770-600527

Pirmill Primary Nursery Class, Pirmill, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP
Tel: 01770-850226

Shiskine Primary Nursery Class, Shiskine, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP
Tel: 01770-860207

PRIVATE & VOLUNTARY SECTOR NURSERIES AND PLAYGROUPS

Brodick Nursery, Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DL
Tel: 01770-302065

Whiting Bay Nursery, c/o The Pillar Box, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran KA27 8RE
Tel: 01770-700588

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MACHRIE BAY GOLF CLUB

Enquiries are invited for the tearoom contract for 2012

Please contact the secretary on 840310 machriebayclubsec@googlegmail.com for details

AGM (Brodick Branch) Conservative & Unionist Association

Saturday 18th February 2012
2.30pm Brodick Library
All Welcome

Arran Visual Arts Annual General Meeting
Friday 3rd February
in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick at 8pm
(Members please note change of time)
Speaker - David Wedge
Refreshments
All most welcome
STOP PRESS extra day for Richard LeClere stained glass workshop 26.2.2012
Phone Alison on 303607 if interested.

A NOTICE TO ANGELA CHALMERS
COURT REFERENCE NUMBER AW92/11 AND AW93/11
Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley has applied to Paisley Sheriff Court for both Guardianship and Intervention Orders in relation to Alexander Chalmers formerly of Johnstone, Renfrewshire. If the said Angela Chalmers, whose present whereabouts are unknown but who was believed to be at one time resident on Arran, wishes to enter the proceedings, she should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk, Paisley Sheriff Court, St James Street, Paisley, 0141-887-5291, from whom a copy of the Applications can be obtained and, if so advised, to lodge answers within 21 days of this date and to appear or be represented within Paisley Sheriff Court on 10th February, 2012 at 9.30 a.m.
Dorothy Briggs, Senior Solicitor, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, Solicitor for the Applicant

Renfrewshire Council www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Golfers raise cash for Arran rescue team

Shiskine Golf Club members raised a total of £900 at a charity casino night with the money being donated to Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

Recent results: Ladies 12 Hole Medal Thursday 19 January, 14 played. Silver 1 Sally Brookes 60-12=48, 2 Elizabeth Kelso 61-11=50. Scratch Jenni Turnbull 59. Bronze 1 Esther Henderson 68-19=49, 2 Lesley Murray 69-14=55

Well done Sally and Happy Birthday Viv!

Sunday 22 January, Ryder Cup table after Sunday's games:

Blackwaterfoot 19 points
Torbeg 18 points
Shiskine 15 points
Kilpatrick 14 points

Fixtures: Thursday 2 February, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10.30am tee-off. Saturday 28 January, Gents 18 Hole Medal, 12 noon tee-off. Sunday 29 January, Gents 12 Hole Medal, 1pm tee-off.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results: Sunday 22 January. Six braved the strong wind and heavy showers in the Sunday sweep from the yellow tees. Nicol Auld (1) 64, Wolfi Kroner (16) 66, Graeme Crichton (12) 71. Nicol won scratch with 65 and there were Magic twos from Nicol and Jamie MacPherson.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 January, Bogey competition from the yellow tees. Usual draws at 9am and 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 17 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Campbell Laining 31pts BIH, 2 Brian Sherwood 31, 3 Steph Hill 29pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday 31 January, Winter Cup tee-off 12noon. Saturday 4 February, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12noon. Tuesday 7 February, Winter Cup, tee-off 12noon.

Brodict Golf Club

The Clochendichter on Sunday 22 January was postponed due to the recurrence of the monsoon overnight on Saturday.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 January - Clochendichter singles, shotgun start at 10.30am.

Sunday 5 February: AGA Duncan Trophy. There will be a sweep at Brodict, open draws at 9am and 12noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 21 January, non-counting rounds, 7 played. 1 J McConnachie 79-4=75, 2 J McGovern 84-7=77. There was one magic two from Stephen Beardsley.

Monday 23 January, 14 played. 1 P Bremner 65-9=56, 2 A Smith 65-7=58, 3 J McGovern 65-2=63. best scratch P Bremner 65. No twos recorded.

Excellent scoring in conditions.

Fixtures: Saturday 28 January, stableford at 8.30am and 12noon if course is playable.

Monday 30 January, Monday Cup, 12 noon start if course is playable.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 12 January, 15-Hole Medal. 1 Mark Wren 56-8=48, 2 Colin Richardson 62-12=50. There were twos from Colin Richardson and Ian Bremner.

Sunday 15 January, Glenburn Cup, CSS 63. 1 Alan Winship 78-13=65, 2 Todd

Jameson 72-5=67, 3 David Ross 89-21=68. There were twos from Lee Girbow, Andy Smith and Ian Bremner. Best scratch Lee Girbow 72 BIH over Todd Jameson. Thursday 19 January, 15-Hole Medal. 1 Ian Parker 69-16=53 BIH, 2 Ian Bremner 58-5=53, 3 Mark Wren 63-8=55 BIH over Jim Young 65-10=55. There were no twos. Sunday 22 January, Back 9 Holes Twice, 10 played. 1 Todd Jameson 65-5=60, 2 Alan Smith 72-10=62. Best Scratch Todd Jameson 65. There were twos from Todd Jameson at the 5th and 15th.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 January, Winter Stableford 9.30am and 12 noon starts. Thursday 2 February, 15-Hole Medal - make up own groups.

Arran Golfers Association

Sunday 5 February, Winter League/Duncan Trophy, fourth round at Machrie Bay GC.

Machrie v Whiting Bay at 8.30am, Lamlash v Corrie at



Shiskine Golf Club captain Liz Kerr handing a cheque for £900 to Darryl Urquhart-Dixon for Arran Mountain Rescue Team. The money was raised at the club's charity casino night in November. b04golf01

9.20am, Brodict v Shiskine at 11.50am. Please leave results and team sheets for Dougie to collect.

All Southend crunch in Arran Pool League knockout final

The final of the Arran Knockout Pool Shield will be played between Kildonan and PT1934, making it an all Southend crunch.

The match will be in the PHT, starting at 3pm on Sunday.

The final of the Salver competition for first round losers will also be in the PHT between the Bar Eden and Drift Inn.

Results from the second legs of the semi-finals:
PT1934 6 Whiting Bay Golf Club 4, Kildonan 6 Catacol Bay 4, Bar Eden 9 Mac's Bar 1, Drift Inn 6 PHT 5.

The Arran Open will be played in Mac's Bar at 2.30pm on Sunday 5 February.

Next week's league fixtures are:

PHT v Mac's Bar, Drift Inn v Catacol, PT1934 v Whiting Bay Golf Club, Bar Eden v Kildonan.

 **Arran**
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