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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 24 JANUARY 2015 No 1997 60p

**Hannah has her hands full with world's cutest sheep**

# Swiss sheep settle in at their new home in Scotland

Hannah Bone with one of the lambs of the Valais Blacknose flock. 20\_b04sheep03



**REPORT**

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

They are called the world's cutest sheep and now a flock are settling into their new home on Arran.

The Valais Blacknose breed is well-known for its shaggy coats and spiral horns, but it is its distinctive, incredibly dark 'black hole' faces that gives much of its appeal.

They originate from the Valais region in Switzerland and are a highly prized breed.

The flock has been brought to Arran by farmer Kenneth Bone and his wife Eleanor, who now intends to breed the sheep at their Glenkiln farm

in Lamlash.

Since arriving on the island last November, the 10 ewes, three lambs and a tup have been adapting to their new surroundings.

The couple's 16-year-old daughter, Hannah, has been drafted in to feed and generally look after them. She agrees with their tag of the world's cutest sheep.

She said: 'They are unique to our farm. They are adorable and much friendlier than all the other sheep in Scotland.'

But their 2,000km journey from southwest Switzerland was fraught with difficulties and took two months of intensive planning to arrange.

However, the story starts earlier last year when Eleanor first saw the breed in a magazine and after some further investigation decided that they would be a useful addition to the farm.

She said: 'They looked so different, have beautiful coats and were said to be very friendly.' All of which has proved to be true. Unusually, they also lamb twice a year.

As well as their black faces, they also have black knees and feet, making it look like they are wearing stripy woolen socks.

Decision made, the couple made their way to Switzerland, where their friend has a

*continued on page 5*



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# Bowling club gets cash boost for new pavilion

## Council's £2,000 grant will help build a new pavilion

An Arran club has received a £2,000 boost to build a new pavilion.

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club had applied to North Ayrshire Council for the grant aid from the community benefit fund.

It means work can now start on a new pavilion and equipment store on the site of existing storage huts and a shelter. Planning permission has already been granted.

The pavilion will be used to provide seating to protect players when it is raining and the building will also incorporate a store for club bowls, equipment and loan equipment for members of the public.

The club, which was established in 1980, has 45 members and have the only all-weather bowls facility on the island. It is contributing £9,000 to the project.

The club's Keith Thompson said: 'That is great news.'

'It is the last piece of the funding jigsaw and means work can now get underway.'

The Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenson area

committee heard that the new pavilion would replace the current structures on the site which are unfit for purpose and will improve the visual and functional environment of the club.

It followed a visit by a council funding official to the club in Blackwaterfoot last month.

She reported to the committee: 'The new pavilion will include a store that will hold equipment that members of the public can use on loan and also equipment that can be used by children and local schools.'

### Mature group

'The group has been running since 1980 and is a mature group with experience to deliver this project.'

'The new double glazed pavilion will be constructed of durable materials and will be maintained by the group.'

Members agreed to grant the application.

The club now hopes to have the work undertaken in the next few weeks ready for the start of the summer bowls season at the end of March.



## Lucky escape for Glen Rosa resident

Russell Duncan of Glen Rosa had a lucky escape last Thursday morning when the wind felled a tree very close to his home.

### No signs

Russell took his car down to Brodick at 8.20am and there were no signs at all that the tree was in any danger of falling.

But by the time he returned at 9am, the tree had fallen directly on to where his car would have been parked and narrowly missed his house.

The road to Glen Rosa was blocked for most of the day until the tree could be cut into pieces. 20\_b04tree01

## Final hurdle cleared by cycle path

A major stumbling block in the creation of a new cycle path has finally been cleared.

Members of the Brodick Country Park Joint Committee have approved plans for the creation of a new multi-user path running between Brodick and Corrie.

The new route, which will pass through the grounds of Brodick Country Park and form part of the National Cycle Network Route 73, is designed to give cyclists and walkers an alternative to using the busy A814.

Cabinet member John Bruce, who chairs the committee, said: 'There have been several sensitive issues to deliberate upon and we recognise that a decision has taken longer than we all anticipated when the idea of the multi-use pathway was first seriously mooted.'

This included ongoing concerns over the phytophthora outbreak which led to the destruction of hundreds of trees on the proposed route of the path.

Councillor Bruce added: 'I wish to thank all the members of the committee and North Ayrshire Council officers for their individual and collective contributions in the many pertinent discussions over the intervening period.'

'This is indeed a historic decision to progress the creation of the safe walking and cycle route through the park land.'

Work is expected to start later this year.

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## Pier work on schedule for start in the summer

Work should start on the new £18 million Brodick ferry terminal as planned this summer.

Owners Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) issued the tender for the harbour redevelopment works last month.

The tender was issued to six contractors which progressed through the pre-qualification process, and it is due to be returned in late March 2015.

Subject to the assessment of the received tenders and final confirmation of funding, the intention is to award the contract at the beginning of May 2015, as programmed.

This would then allow the 15-month project to start on site in June or July.

As well as a new two-berth pier, the work will involve the construction of a new ferry terminal with a linked covered walkway to the ferries. There will also be improved marshalling and parking areas and a new bus depot.

The announcement was made by the Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group which is made up of North Ayrshire Council, CMAL, Transport Scotland, Visit Arran and Taste of Arran. The group has been integral in sourcing project funding from North Ayrshire Council and SPT, to complement funding from Transport Scotland and CMAL, and allow the project to be progressed in one phase.

A spokesman said: 'The project will bring significant economic benefit to the island along with the recent implementation of Road Equivalent Tariff. The group will continue to work with the local community and businesses to ensure that these benefits are maximised, and recently met to consider wider economic development interventions on the island.'

# Tastes of Arran showcased at London Boat Show

Produce from the Isle of Arran was showcased at the London Boat Show last weekend as Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Sail Scotland celebrated Scotland's Year of Food and Drink 2015.

Event visitors were given the chance to sample a range of Scottish favourites, from whisky and craft beer to salmon and smoked mussels, to demonstrate the wide range of food and drink available across the Highlands and islands of Scotland, which is renowned as an excellent sailing destination.

Highland Food and Drink ambassadors Alastair Dobson from Taste of Arran and Virginia Sumsion of Foods from Argyll travelled to the ExCeL centre in London for the high profile boating event to talk attendees through a selection of innovative food and drink produce.

Virginia said: 'Visitors to our shores, coming from sea or land, are able to find and taste great food from Scotland's Larder wherever they land.'

'The Year of Food and Drink is giving every location in the Highlands and islands the chance to highlight what is on offer.'

'Argyll alone has a coastline longer than the entire coastline of France. Its intricate coast provides safe havens for sailors and the shellfish they can feast on. The shore can be as bountiful as the sea and experience, tradition and innovation are found amongst those bringing the produce to the table. We can't wait to show it to you - bring on 2015.'

Produce taken to the show



Highland Food and Drink ambassadors Alastair Dobson from Taste of Arran, left, and Virginia Sumsion of Foods from Argyll, right, travelled to London for the high-profile boating event.

included Arran Blue and Arran Brie cheeses from Bellevue Cheese Company, Arran flavoured cheddars from the Island Cheese Company, Arran Oaties from Wooleys of Arran and Hot Beetroot chutney from Arran Fine Foods.



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## School to host bike trail consultation

Pupils from Arran High School are hosting a public consultation event on Thursday 29 January between 7pm and 9pm to discuss their plans to develop mountain bike trails on the island.

Following on from the school Mountain Bike Clubs' attendance at the Cycling Scotland Camp in October, the pupils have been very busy working on ideas to develop mountain bike training facilities on Arran.

They were visited on Wednesday by Fiona Walker, Scottish Cycling's regional development officer, to confirm the clubs affiliation with them and to help guide their proposals for Arran.

The consultation event is open to everyone.



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The camping pods at Shore Lodge.

## More time sought to build pods

A bid is being made to extend planning permission for three new camping pods at Brodick Castle and Country Park.

Plans were approved two years ago to double the number of pods at Shore Lodge

from three to six.

Two large family pods and one smaller one are already available for hire, but planning permission for three more runs out later this month.

Now the National Trust for Scotland has applied for a five-year extension of the planning permission to allow them to be built sometime in the future.

The proposal would see three camping pods - two family and one standard - linked by new paths and two additional car parking spaces.

Shore Lodge is a 14-bed self catering hostel run by the Scottish Youth Hostels Association.

# Rowing skiffs to be built on the island

A team of amateur boat builders is attempting to create two seagoing rowing boats for Arran.

The popularity of St Ayles skiffs, a five-man seagoing rowing boat, has rocketed in Scotland in recent years.

These are being used for both leisure and competition, with teams ranging from teenagers to over 50s in male, female or mixed categories.

With help from a few others, Angus Campbell from Arran Yacht Club is attempting to build the two boats.

He said: 'The idea is to make these available to anyone wishing to have a go at rowing, perhaps racing against our other boat or even competing against other teams. The boats are made from kits and three Arran High School students are part of a construction team led by Rory Cowan, who has built similar boats before.

'We hope to form a club to attract funding, to allow people to be involved in building them if interested and then use the boats.

'No experience is necessary - just the wish to have some fun and get some exercise.'

A meeting at Arran Yacht Club in Lamlash will take place on Thursday 29 January at 7.30pm to gauge interest and plan the way forward.

Angus added: 'There will

be no commitment so come along and see what it is all about; and I promise that you will not be elected onto a committee.'

For those interested but unable to attend the meeting, email [arrancoastalrowing@hotmail.com](mailto:arrancoastalrowing@hotmail.com) or drop your name and address into one of the doctor's surgeries.

To find out more about the boats go to [www.scottish-coastalrowing.org](http://www.scottish-coastalrowing.org)

## Design a T-shirt to help land bid

Everyone likes a T-shirt with an eye-catching or funny design to wear in the summer.

Now the Arran Community Land Initiative is looking for creative, artistic, witty types to come up with a design to help promote the project.

### Funny slogan

Just think up a funny slogan - anything from growing vegetables, to saving the planet - or perhaps draw an amazing, eye-catching picture which resonates with the Whiting Bay initiative, which is planning to turn disused farmland

into a multi-use community facility.

The competition is open to all ages, but contestants will have to be quick.

Entries have to be on a single piece of A4 paper and given in to Claire and Stuart at Bay Stores by Saturday 31 January.

The winning prize will be a quality cotton T-shirt with the winning design on it, which will be used to spread the work about the initiative.

To learn more about the project go to: [www.arranland.org](http://www.arranland.org)

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Above left: Hannah with the bucket of feed which the sheep tuck into in the trough. 20\_b04sheep10

Above right: Hannah feeds the sheep the special nuts which are part of their diet. 20\_b04sheep07

Right: The sheep gather at the front of the pen at feeding time. 20\_b04sheep09



*continued from page 1*  
chalet, in search of the sheep.

Of course, nothing being simple, the people of the Valais region speak Swiss German, making communication more difficult, but thankfully their friend Linda Shoppee and her partner Ian Reid, who farms at Balmore, were able to help with the translation.

The couple travelled to Switzerland in September as that is when the sheep are brought off the mountain.

They stayed in the villages of Brig and attended four shows in the area where they saw the sheep at first hand for the first time. Eleanor knew she had to have some.

Eyebrows were raised when Kenneth intimated he was looking for 10 to 15 sheep as, in the region, that is an entire flock.

With the help of the president of the local sheep society, negotiations were conducted with what Kenneth says was 'a bit of banter' and the sheep acquired.

Sheep bought, only one small problem to overcome - how to get them to Arran.

With the only UK firm to handle such a move unavailable, Kenneth turned to a specialist Dutch company to undertake the transfer. With air conditioning, special feeding and lighting and other hi-tech equipment

the sheep were set for a first class ticket to Scotland.

But there were vet checks in Switzerland for the sheep and the farms before they could leave, blood checks on the tup and paperwork and communication in five languages - English, French, German, Swiss German and Dutch.

Kenneth admits: 'I think it is fair to say it was a challenge.'

By November the sheep had made it to Ardrossan where Kenneth picked them up and brought them 'home' to Glenkiln.

#### Sheared

There they have been settling in indoors, as they have recently been sheared and it is too cold and wet to put them outside.

While they are well used to dry cold conditions of the Swiss mountains in summer, they are not used to a climate as wet as the west of Scotland.

They will be put out when the weather heats up in March or April, but for now they are being fed hay and special sheep nuts.

Eleanor has not been disappointed by the new arrivals. She said: 'They are very, very affectionate. When you are in the pen with them they almost knock you over with excitement and even in the fields

they run towards you.'

In Switzerland they wear mountain bells round their necks and they arrived in Arran with them still on. Kenneth has removed them for now in case they cause them any discomfort since they have been sheared. However, when he took them off the adults, the lambs began following the bells, as they thought it was the sound of their mother.

Kenneth knows of only one other flock in Scotland which is in Moray and there are a couple down south.

His plan is eventually to breed them as he said: 'They are valuable and people will pay a lot for them.'

He also will offer the wool when they are sheared to any interested local weavers.

But even Kenneth has a soft spot for them as he said: 'For now they are just for our own enjoyment. They were difficult to source, difficult to import but now they are quite a sight to see.'

And he may give them a very public outing by putting them on display at the annual Farmers Show later this year.

But the next big event could be in April when it is hoped the first of the older ewes will lamb. And that will be an Arran first.

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# Historic walled garden could see a big allotment challenge

Keen gardeners are being offered the chance to grow produce on the site of an historic Arran garden.

Allotments are being considered for the lower walled garden at Brodick Castle which once produced the fruit and vegetables for the Dukes of Hamilton, their families and their guests.

Now the National Trust for Scotland wants to see the walled garden back in production and they could offer plots to local residents if there is enough interest in taking them up.

Already an area of the walled garden has been earmarked for eight to 10 allotments which would be served by reinstating the road behind Shore Lodge and creating a parking area.

Last year a community garden project was launched in the walled garden. Formed as part of the Umbrella Project by the Arran Community Voluntary Service (ACVS) it is being used to bring people together who are interested in gardening and outdoor pursuits.

The lower walled garden

was first established as a tree nursery in 1775 for the propagation of large trees such as Spruces which were planted throughout the gardens.

Later, around 1860, it replaced the upper walled garden and became the fruit and vegetable garden for the castle when the upper garden was transformed into a formal landscape.

Castle head gardener Tim Keyworth said: 'I'd love to see the walled garden thriving again and it would be great if we could get the community behind its revival by taking allotments to help improve the site.'

They would be offered at a nominal annual rent of around £120 a year.

The current open plan walled garden would be divided into sections with the National Trust greenhouses and polytunnels at one end and the community garden and allotments at the other.

Tim is also hoping to clear a third area to grow fruit and vegetables for use in the Castle tearoom and for sale to visitors.

'We have already started



Tim on the site of the proposed allotments in the lower walled garden. 20\_b04plots01

a lot of the clearing work as much of the area had been taken over by brambles and other invasive vegetation, but we want to get the site which has been somewhat neglected in recent years back into productive use.

'Given the keen interest there is in gardening at the moment I am sure there must be people on the island who would savour the chance to grow produce on such an historic site as this.'

It is hoped that the site could be cleared and the plots marked out and ready for rental in time for the start of the growing season next year.

Anyone who would be interested in hiring a plot or finding out any further information should contact Tim Keyworth at TKeyworth@nts.org.uk



The road which would be reinstated to give access to the plots. 20\_b04plots02

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# Arran's winter wonderland comes alive

Arran has had its coldest night of the year so far with a week of snow flurries and icy conditions, but the temperature is set to rise again this weekend.

Temperatures fell to at least minus 4C on Sunday night and there was no relief from the plummeting mercury for most of the week.

However the island's youngsters - and those young at heart - didn't waste an opportunity to enjoy the winter wonderland.

On Sunday the golf course at Corrie was overrun with excited children and their sledges as they took to the slopes.

Michelle Williamson, who is originally from New Zea-

land but now lives with her partner in Sannox, was there with her two young daughters: 'Oh it was so much fun!'

'I'm such a snow geek, growing up next to the beach, it's such a huge novelty for me. The kids wanted to go home yesterday but I was saying 'Not yet! Not yet!''

In Brodick there wasn't quite as much snow but the children still managed a little bit of sledging in the Ormidale Park and there were one or two fantastic snowmen spotted around the village.

Forecasters are predicting a rise in temperature today (Saturday) and a return to warmer but wetter and windier conditions this coming week.



Michelle Williamson and her daughter Isla enjoying the winter wonderland.



Kirsty and Jenny Hume proudly show off their snowman in Glen Rosa.



Andrew McKelvie of Brodick was delighted to see that his snowman survived through the night.



Jessica Sloss enjoying the icy slopes at her grandparents' Sannox farm.



Corrie Golf Club was transformed into a winter playground for crowds of youngsters.



Charles Weir and daughter Rosanna enjoying the slopes at Corrie Golf Club.



Arran's youngsters don't often get the chance for much sledging due to the Gulf Stream.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Sometimes being different is a good thing

Living on Arran can leave some of us feeling that we don't quite belong.

Not necessarily within our own community but within the wider world.

Arran is not remote enough to be classed as a Hebridean Island and we rarely feel any real affinity with our Argyll neighbours.

We may just be 55 minutes from Ardrossan, and two hours from Glasgow, but do any of us really feel like we belong with the Three Towns of Cunninghame North or with Strathclyde region as a whole.

In many ways Arran is an entity all on its own.

Even Bute and the Cumbraes have little in common with us, apart from the fact that we are all Clyde islands.

But that isn't to say that Arran isn't an important part of Scotland and the wider world.

In fact there are many people living on our little isle that have influenced things far and away.

Take Zabdi Keen and her partner Maurice Geraghty for example.

The couple from Brodick have just returned from a remarkable international mercy mission.

Zabdi and Maurice from Flying Fever, Arran's paragliding school, were challenged by Scottish inventor David Osbourne to deliver his water purifying invention the Jompy boiler to remote villages in Nepal by paraglider.

They have just returned from a three-month trip where they were teaching people to paraglide. In between times they distributed the Jompys as they flew amongst the mountains and villages of Nepal.

Everywhere they went this ingenious Scottish invention was received with interest and delight.

And one entrepreneur is now looking to sell them or even manufacture them if he can get enough interest.

The Jompy enables water to be boiled over a naked flame. Water flowing through it begins to rapidly boil, heating the coil up, which allows it to be used like a stovetop burner for cooking at the same time as purifying the water, thus reducing the risk of disease and saving fuel.

Without Arran's daring paragliders, the Jompy inventor would still be trying to find a way of delivering them to remote communities.

So next time you have a feeling that Arran doesn't quite belong in the wider world, think about the difference the people here are making.

Sometimes being different - and thinking a little differently - is a good thing.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.' (John 15:12)

### 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



### The three Rs

Sir,  
The astute observations in a recent letter to The Herald from Mr Macleod of Clynder about the Arran ferry not using Gourock barely scratch the surface of a number of real, complex and inter-related issues.

The underlying causes are best summarised as follows, the operating structure of the ferry company and the way in which the Arran community is represented in communicating with it; the reliability of the service and now the consequences of the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET).

The three Rs: representation, reliability and RET.

Representation: the operating structure of the related subsidised 'companies' is not conducive to good communication through the quagmire of management structures and committees.

In brief, Transport Scotland, authorised by Holyrood set up CMAL (the asset holders) which in turn lets the operation of the service to Caledonian Ferries Ltd. (CFL but better known as CalMac).

Resolving the Arran problem is clearly not high on anyone's agenda and attempts at representation are bogged down with no progress being made and no sign of any political will from Holyrood or Westminster to improve that.

Reliability: the Arran service operates, as it has done for more than 50 years, between Ardrossan and Brodick and has, at least in theory, a designated port of refuge at Gourock.

The MVs Isle of Arran (1982) and Caledonian Isles (1993) were both purpose-built for this route.

However, whereas in the past diversions to Gourock were, in the event of bad weather, quite normal, they are now virtually unheard of - cancellations being preferred.

CMAL owns Gourock so with a government underspend of £444m financing improvements there should not be a problem.

CMAL, however, does not own Ardrossan, the main cause for the unreliability of the service but a solution has to be found with government finance, by whatever means, to improve Arran's connectivity.

The current £18m Brodick pier project will resolve the problem of an ageing pier and ramp but without any certainty where the boat will sail to it looks like another half-baked CMAL project.

'The least reliable ferry service on the Clyde' is not the greatest slogan for Arran tourism or to help reverse a declining island population.

RET: the recent fare reducing, heavily subsidised, tourist-focused initiative, has ironically created an unintended but totally predictable consequence i.e. a perverse incentive for island residents to take advantage of the reduced fares to travel to the mainland for fuel (25p per litre cheaper) and supermarket shopping with huge savings.

This is because RET does not apply to heavy haulage consequently there is no reduction in the island's costs of essential domestic consumables, particularly food and road fuel.

The long-term effect of this on island retailers and petrol stations may take five years to come to light.

If it has the negative effect that some already predict, it will be too late to reverse.

Ironically the ill-conceived RET, which was at least partly designed to protect the rural idyll by boosting its economy, may in fact change it adversely beyond recognition.

It has been announced that the second ferry, the MV Isle of Arran, will not be available for the Arran service until 30 April while Easter falls on the weekend of Friday 3 April to Monday 6 April.

Pre-requisites of RET were a new pier (still not started) and that there would be two vessels available throughout the year, yet here we have a case where there will only be one on the first real holiday break of the year - not a good start.

Conspiracy or blunder by

our representatives not fighting the case?

But then with the recent reluctance to use Ardrossan, and if Gourock is not a real alternative, the whole issue of reputation and lack of reliability may make this all irrelevant.

Yours,  
Neil Arthur  
Kilpatrick

### Competent spending explained

Sir,  
Alleged 'Brodick resident' James Gilmour - he isn't on the electoral register so may be a holiday home owner - claimed in last week's Arran Banner that the SNP government had a financial underspend of £450 million last year and therefore should not seek further powers as it does not have the 'competence' to spend the funds it already has.

In fact the figure is £444 million. However, Mr Gilmour seems unaware that £299 million of that figure reflects variances in annually managed expenditure programmes and other non-cash accounting budgets.

Those are underspends of money over which the Scottish government has no discretion; we cannot decide that it is spent in any other way.

The underspend that we control is £145 million, which is less than 0.5 per cent of the Scottish budget, or less than two days' cash resource.

I think most people would describe that as prudent budgeting.

As John Swinney told parliament in June, every penny of that underspend in 2013/14 has been rolled over to be spent on public services in this financial year.

Incidentally, when Labour lost office in 2007 at Holyrood, it had accumulated an underspend of £1.5 billion.

In fact, over the current spending review period, we face a real-terms cut in our fiscal departmental expenditure limit budget of about 10 per cent, with our capital budget being cut by over a quarter in real terms.

Only last week Labour and Tory MPs agreed to a further £30 billion of cuts across the UK.

In relation to the oil price, the standard of living in Scotland is 99 per cent of the UK average.

The yes campaign was not predicated on oil; it is a very welcome bonus however.

I believe that most people in Scotland welcome the prudent financial stewardship of SNP Finance Secretary John Swinney, which has allowed us to do so much for Arran, even at a time of great financial challenge

Yours,  
Kenneth Gibson SNP MSP  
Dalry

### Be warned

Sir,  
I am writing to warn people that if they receive a call from someone purporting to be from the 'Visa verification department' regarding online shopping attempts, to treat it with deep suspicion and give no details away, however plausible they may be.

It was a very convincing performance and it's a good job I am as sceptical as I am because it took a visit to the bank branch to prove that it had not been a genuine call.

Yours,  
Elizabeth Ross  
Glenloig

### Great news

Sir,  
My family and household life has been put back on an even keel.

Why? Because included in the last edition of The Banner was my 'Banner' calendar. It was immediately installed in its reserved position and already contains the important things in my life for the next three months.

Thank you from a grateful reader.

Yours,  
John Fitzpatrick  
Whiting Bay and Carluke

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# Healthy outdoors celebrates £1,000 Arran Trust funding



The Arran Trust presented the healthy outdoors team with a much-needed cash injection.

Plans by the Arran Healthy Outdoors Team to set up a plant nursery in the Brodick Castle Country Park have taken a step closer this week.

The team received a welcome injection of nearly £1,000 from the Arran Trust.

The aim of the project is to establish a plant nursery so that native trees and wildflowers can be propagated, enabling the restoration of the native woodland in areas previously inundated with Rhododendron ponticum.

The Healthy Outdoors Team has already cleared the site of brambles and salmonberry near the Ranger Centre for the nursery.

However the money from the Arran Trust will pay for a digger to come and clear old root stumps and level the site;

then raised beds can be constructed.

Jo Totty, spokesman for the Arran Healthy Outdoors Team, said: 'We already have many birch and rowan seedlings, and willow cuttings ready to be planted into the raised beds in the spring.'

'In time these, and other native tree species, will be planted around Wilma's Walk and other areas in the country park and on the Goatfell property.'

'As well as trees, native wildflower species will be grown, again for use across the properties to re-establish the woodland ground flora.'

She added: 'The restoration of the woodland and its ground flora after the Rhododendron ponticum clearance will increase the variety of

wildlife able to survive in the country park.

'Far fewer bugs and beasts survive on non-native plants: 284 insects have been recorded on oak whilst none are associated with the Rhododendron ponticum.'

The idea behind the healthy outdoors team is 'conservation, exercise, well-being; healthy people and healthy places'.

Over the last couple of years the healthy outdoors team has given people opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, improve the local environment, and more importantly have fun and make new friends.

The group meets every Tuesday, from 10am to 1pm at the NTS Ranger Centre.

Tasks involve clearing vegetation, planting, some path maintenance, weeding, fencing, building raised beds, hedge laying, and many other conservation tasks. Everyone is welcome to join – just turn up, or phone for more information (302462), and feel free to invite interested family and friends.

No previous experience is needed, just wear old clothes that can get mucky, and suitable footwear (wellingtons, sturdy boots or shoes).

The organisers will provide the work gloves, tools, materials, and refreshments for a morning break.



The aim of the project is to establish a plant nursery so that native trees and wildflowers can be propagated.

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Maurice demonstrates how the Jompy works.



A Nepalese girl fills her hot water bottle from the Jompy as it cooks dinner.



Paraglider pilot Sherpa Lakpa with his Jompy.



Zabdi paraglides over Nepal with a Jompy boiler strapped to her.

# High flyin mission to

## Jompy boilers go down a s

An Arran couple have just returned from a remarkable international mercy mission.

Zabdi Keen and Maurice Geraghty from Flying Fever, Arran's paragliding school, were challenged by Scottish inventor David Osbourne to deliver his water purifying invention, the Jompy boiler, to remote villages in Nepal by paraglider.

They have just returned from a three-month trip where they were teaching people to paraglide. In between times they distributed the Jompys as they flew amongst the mountains and villages of Nepal.

And everywhere this ingenious Scottish invention was received with interest and delight. One entrepreneur is now looking to sell them or even manufacture them if he can get enough interest.

The Jompy first came to the

attention of The Banner last September when Zabdi and Maurice took delivery of 20 of the boilers from the Troon based inventor to take to Nepal.

The Jompy enables water to be boiled over a naked flame, water flowing through it begins to rapidly boil, heating the coil up, which allows it to be used like a stovetop burner for cooking at the same time as purifying the water, thus reducing the risk of disease and saving fuel.

### Challenges

However, the mission had its challenges as Zabdi explained. She said: 'Launching with a Jompy boiler attached wasn't easy as it didn't fit in the harness. I had to be very careful not to tangle the lines as I took off. Curiosity was raised among the other pilots. 'What was I carrying?' 'Was it a new ther-

mal detector that would enable me to find the rising air currents?', they asked.

'In the sky it wasn't a problem to carry, I thermalled up to the clouds, circling with the birds and other pilots.

When I landed by the lake I took the Jompy boiler into the local tea-shop. Using a length of hose pipe we siphoned water from a bucket to begin the flow and fitted the hose to one end to demonstrate how it worked.'

The Jompy consists of lightweight black aluminium metal tubing that has been bent into a flat coil, with the ends joined together side-by-side, resembling a frying pan shape. The water flows through the coil before exiting from the remaining end of the tubing.

Zabdi went on: 'We put it on the flames and waited expect-

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An expansive lake comes into view as Zabdi makes her descent.



A river guide is delighted with his Jompy.



Zabdi hands over one of the Jompys to a tea-shop owner.

# ing mercy Nepal storm in remote villages

antly. Within one minute the water started to flow out lukewarm at first then boiling hot.

'Depending on what temperature you wanted the water you could raise or lower the bucket.

'Gravity would increase the flow if you raised it higher giving cooler water.

### Hot water

'The Nepalese tea-shop girl is planning to fit it directly onto the tap and get hot water for the dishes as she is cooking the rice.

'In the mountains we gave one of the Jompys to Sherpa Lakpa, a paraglider pilot who flew as tandem passenger off of Everest with Babu and won the National Geographic Adventurer of the year 2012.

'He was very excited with the invention and can't wait to be the first to have hot showers at Ever-

est base camp. He is going to take the invention to high altitudes to test it. We demonstrated the Jompy over the high altitude stove and used it to cook the evening meal. As we did so Nepalese girl rushed to get her fluffy hot water bottle which she filled with the hot water from the Jompy.

'We gave another one to a river guide who is going to take it on his next river trip. He says they will be very useful to purify and heat water at the same time as cooking as they camp by the river.'

Zabdi said the Jompy was a great invention to use in Nepal as it would save fuel as well as purifying water.

'There is a real problem of deforestation, and whilst we were in the country there was a gas shortage and many

people had to cook their rice over a wood fire which takes around two hours. There are many power cuts during the day as each area takes their turn to have electricity. But that doesn't stop the local restaurants from competing in the amount of gaudy electric coloured lights they dangle from their roofs to try and attract customers.'

### Import

Zabdi added: 'We left one man with a sample selection of different size Jompys to see if he can create enough interest to start stocking them in local shops. If so he will import some and later hopes to manufacture them in Nepal under the guidance of David Osbourne, the inventor.'

She concluded: 'We would like to thank Etihad Airlines which gave us extra free baggage allowance to take the Jompys to Nepal.'

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## Society shows its support for Arran Seabed Trust work

The first meeting of the Arran Natural History Society for 2015 took place on Thursday 8 January, when Russell Cheshire gave an illustrated presentation about the recent work of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

Russell outlined the coastal and underwater surveys and research projects, the educational activities, and the help given to local low-impact fishermen, all of which have led to COAST being shortlist-

ed for two influential awards in the past year, and winning one of them. On top of all that COAST members and volunteers have kept an eye out for illegal fishing activities, such as scallop fishing in the Lamash no-take zone, and have reported the vessels involved.

### Discussion

This led neatly into a discussion of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA). Russell explained that this had been designated in July 2014, after huge pub-

lic support for the proposal, and comprises roughly 300 sq km around the south end of the island. Now Marine Scotland have published three alternative management plans for the area, which are out for consultation at present.

The meeting then had a detailed and well-informed debate about these proposals and their implications for the natural history of the area.

The overwhelming feeling of those present was that the plans were over-complicated, impossible to police, and gave little or no protection against the continued destruction of the seabed and associated habitats by scallop dredging and prawn trawling. It was clear that only a complete ban on these high-impact activities within the MPA was workable and acceptable, and that people should contact their MSP to show their support for that.

The next meeting of the ANHS is on Thursday 5 February at 8pm at the Ranger Centre, Brodick Country Park, when Dr Jim Cassels will talk about what is 'Beyond the Maps'.



Dr Crawford McGuffie, NHS Ayrshire and Arran's associate medical director, leads by example by getting his flu jab.

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# Urgent plea for people to be vaccinated against flu

More than 49 per cent of people in Ayrshire and Arran, who suffer from underlying health conditions, have yet to receive a free flu vaccine.

This was revealed as GP consultations for flu increased during December.

Health professionals across the country are reminding people who are 'at risk' that as the virus is now widely circulating they should get their annual flu vaccine as soon as possible.

### Complications

People with chronic conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, asthma, heart problems, diabetes, kidney

or liver disease, lowered immunities and women who are pregnant, can be hit harder by flu and suffer more serious complications, even if they are generally fit and healthy.

These groups are eligible to receive the vaccine free at their local GP surgery.

### Highlight

The figures also highlight that 50 per cent of pregnant women were still to receive the flu vaccine.

Being pregnant means women at a greater risk of becoming seriously ill from flu because a their immune system changes to help them cope with pregnancy.

At worst, a pregnant woman

could experience premature labour or miscarriage.

Dr Elvira Garcia, flu immunisation co-ordinator at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'The flu virus circulates easier in low temperatures and as winter progresses flu viruses are continuing to spread across Scotland.'

'It is vital that those who are eligible make an appointment to get the vaccination as soon as possible, and help start the new year in good health.'

'It only takes a few minutes and even if you were immunised against flu last winter it is important to receive the vaccine again, as the viruses change each season.'

## 2015 Calendars

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## ROUND THE RURALS

### SHISHINE SWRI

Chairwoman Evelyn Hamilton wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed members old and new to the first meeting of 2015 of Shiskine SWRI on Wednesday 7 January.

The guest speakers were Pat and Jim Simpson, who told the audience the history of John Anderson Graham, who founded the Dr Graham Homes in Kalimpong in India.

Dr Graham was born in 1861 and after becoming a Church of Scotland minister

he and his wife travelled to India where in 1900 he took six destitute children and placed them in the care of a housemother and teacher.

### First headmaster

Mr Simpson's grandfather was the first headmaster of the school from 1902.

Over the last 100-plus years the homes have extensively grown and now have around 1,200 children, a mix of the needy and fee paying.

Arran supports the charity in various fund raising ways and Mr Simpson said this was very appreciated as without

this money the homes would not be able to offer education to the children and support some right through college.

Competition winners. Two potato scones: 1 Elizabeth Kelso, 2 Kate MacIntosh, 3 Gina Brooks. Exhibition, a favourite pen: 1 Kate MacIntosh, 2 Elinor Kinnaird, 3 Jane Gillespie. Raffle winner: Marian Brambles.

The next meeting will be held in Shiskine Village Hall on Wednesday 4 February at 7.30pm when Diane McMullen will be giving a demonstration of line dancing.

# Charities set to benefit from Provost's Civic Pride Awards dinner

The Provost's Civic Pride Awards charity dinner will aim to build on the success of last year's event which raised more than £21,000 for two local charities.

Themed on the Oscars, this year's event is set to be the biggest and best ceremony to date as the glitz and glamour of Hollywood comes to North Ayrshire for one of the biggest dates in the area's social calendar.

The event will also raise vital funds for two charities - Cash for Kids, which provides support to the most vulnerable children within the area's communities - and the Ayrshire Hospice, which provides outstanding quality care and services.

Provost Joan Sturgeon said: 'I'm delighted we will be able to support Cash for Kids and the Ayrshire Hospice at this year's charity dinner as I know both organisations make a huge difference to the lives of many local people.'

### Vital support

'Cash for Kids provides vital support to the most vulnerable children within our communities and their efforts have helped to improve the lives of many underprivileged young people throughout North Ayrshire.'

'The Ayrshire Hospice provides an invaluable service to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families and all patients are treated with dignity and respect and are helped to live as normal a life as possible.'

Arran's residents are also being reminded that there is still time to nominate someone for one or more of the prestigious awards.

Finalists will then be selected by a special judging panel and invited to the exclusive Oscars-themed charity dinner at Seamill Hydro on March 20.

The five awards to be presented on the night are: The North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year; North Ayrshire



Provost Joan Sturgeon, right, presents a cheque to the Ayrshire Hospice after last year's awards dinner.

Young Citizen of the Year; North Ayrshire Arts & Culture Award; The Community Group Award; and North Ayrshire Sports Award.

Completed entries should be returned to: Corporate Communications Team, North Ayrshire Council,

Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 29 January at 12 noon.

To submit a nomination online for the Provost Civic Pride Awards 2015 visit [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards).

## Nomination Form

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the category/categories your nomination applies to:

North Ayrshire Community Group Award	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year Award	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Ayrshire Young Citizen of the Year (Under 25 years)	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Ayrshire Arts & Culture Award	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Ayrshire Sports Award	<input type="checkbox"/>

The nominee named has agreed to this submission and to any publicity arising from the nomination

I agree to my name being used in any publicity material arising from this submission

Your signature ..... Date .....

### Nominee's Details

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Organisation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a separate sheet of paper and tell us in 500 words or less why you feel this person/organisation should receive an award and return with this nomination form to:

**Corporate Communications Team, Chief Executive's Service  
 North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE**  
 You can also vote online at  
[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards)

**Closing Date for Nominations: 12 noon, Thursday, 29 January 2015**

Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following:  
 The information you provide to North Ayrshire Council will be used solely for the purpose of administering and promoting the Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

Thursday 26 March 2015, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

## GALA DINNER TICKETS NOW ON SALE

The inaugural awards dinner will feature a champagne reception and delicious meal, live entertainment, a silent auction and the awards themselves. Guests will also receive a goodie bag.

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Photographs of the evening will be featured in Scottish Field or online at [scottishfield.co.uk](http://scottishfield.co.uk) and [scottishruralawards.org](http://scottishruralawards.org). Photographs will be available to purchase after the event and a donation will be made from each sale to the Routes to Rural Employment charitable initiative. All proceeds from the silent auction will also go to Routes to Rural Employment.

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# Understanding birds that visit our gardens

**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
JANUARY



A lot of people get a lot of fun out of watching the birds in their garden and by sharing observations you are contributing to increasing our understanding of the birds that visit our gardens.

**This is the weekend of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch so stock up your bird feeders.**

Photos by Tony Church

Start this weekend 24-25 January.

This is the weekend of the 'RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch' so 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 and over 30 on Arran took part in this valuable exercise.

For more information or to get the form, visit the RSPB website Big Garden Birdwatch [www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch/)

But why do it once a year when you could do it throughout the year through the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) excellent Garden BirdWatch scheme and contribute even more to our understanding of garden birds?

**Information**

The BTO Garden BirdWatch, through its network of 14,000 volunteers across the UK, produces a quarterly magazine called Bird Table in which they share information including a quarterly report of trends and changes in garden bird population.

This is a summary from the article from April to June 2014: 'A very mild winter, a warm spring and settled weather in March and April meant that many birds got off to a good start to the breeding season.'

'Great and blue tit families were appearing in gardens in mid May, earlier than in recent years.'

'Species that had been uncharacteristically absent from

gardens over the winter, such as robin and dunnock, returned in force in June.'

'However, greenfinch and chaffinch numbers have stayed low throughout the season, possibly due to disease.'

Anyone who watches garden birds can get involved with the BTO Garden Bird-Watch project, which is the largest year-round survey of garden birds in the world.

Not only is the survey great fun but simple observations made by participants build up our collective understanding of garden birds and help to protect bird populations.

It is easy to join. To find out more visit: Garden Bird-Watch (GBW) | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw)

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at [james.cassels@virgin.net](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net) . I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2013'and visit: [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



**I did my Tax Return early and found inner peace.**

**31st January** is the deadline for your online Self Assessment Tax Return. If you miss it you will get a £100 penalty. So why not do it today, pay what you owe and take a load off your mind?

[gov.uk/selfassessment](http://gov.uk/selfassessment)



HM Revenue & Customs



Collared dove in Lamlash.



Birds such as the great spotted woodpecker can be seen in Arran gardens.

# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 28 January, 1995

## Danger ahead

An accident is waiting to happen at the small bridge at Birchburn, Shiskine, according to the Community Council.

Already several collisions have happened there and everyday, Sheila Johnston told the Community Council on Tuesday evening, she escorts seven children over the bridge for fear of accident.

Despite the fact that these children must also walk in the middle of the road with an obscured corner just ahead, she cannot get anyone from the roads department to come and look at it.

Sheila's remarks formed part of a discussion on the state of the island's roads.

Councillor Fergus Clarkson said he has asked the roads department to conduct a full survey, but once the needs are identified there is little guarantee that anything will be done.

## Timetable rethink

The Arran Ferry Committee met on Wednesday to attempt to find a consensus on an alternative timetable.

The idea of completely reversing the timetable was put forward by Hamish Thomson of Brodick on the basis that it would be an incentive for people to commute to work from Arran.

No consensus was reached on this, however it was agreed to push for the reinstatement of the 'lost' 7am sailing on Monday mornings.

## Village voice

To have designated car parks, or not - that is the question.

And the people of Kildonan have been asking themselves that very thing and there is agreement that the answer is no.

The biggest ever public meeting was held in Kildonan last Monday, where the public were shown Cunninghame District Council's plans for a new car park.

The villagers quickly agreed that it was not what they wanted but agreed to be constructive and conciliatory.

However, they did agree to resist any moves to alter the open space above Silver Sands.

## Castle upkeep

Around £200,000 in public funds has been committed to the upkeep of Lochranza Castle, which formed part of a recent sale by the Lady Jean Fforde along with the Earldom of Arran.

The information has been obtained by Brian Wilson MP, in a letter from the chief executive of Historic Scotland, Graeme Munro, who recalls that the castle has been under the Secretary of State's guardianship since 1956.

## New jobs welcomed

The Co-op store in Brodick will create 22 new jobs and already 70 people have applied for these.

The successful candidates will begin work three weeks before the store officially opens.

The supermarket will have 45 staff in total which includes all those employed in the present Co-op.

## Gangway returns

Foot passengers have been able to once again board and disembark the ferry at Brodick via the gangway, following a long period of work at the pier.

For many months now passengers had to use the car deck but pier manager Robbie Brown said this will happen very rarely in the future.

## Dramatic evening

This year's one act drama festival will run over four nights from the 22 February, with 12 plays being performed.

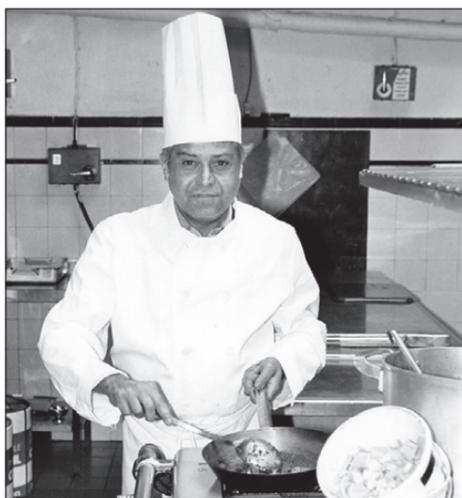
The adjudicator will be Dr Tony Paterson who is a registered Scottish Community Drama Association adjudicator.



Children crossing the Birchburn Bridge in Shiskine on the way to the primary school, indicating just how exposed they are to the dangers of busy morning traffic. b04twe03



Willing volunteers clean up in preparation for the disused St George's Church in Lamlash being used as a theatre. b04twe01



An extensive range of European, Indian and wide selection of vegetarian dishes are prepared by Mr Ravinder Khosla at The Douglas Hotel in Brodick. b04twe04



Margaret Wright gets to work inside St George's Church. The Arran Theatre and Arts Trust want to turn it into a theatre and facility for the community. b04twe02

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

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

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

## Saturday 24th January

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

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm  
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm  
 Lamash Golf Course, 7pm for 7.30pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 7pm

## Sunday 25th January

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 AA Meeting  
 Mackerel Lottery  
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome  
 Live music  
 The Douglas Hotel Wedding Fair

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm  
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 2-4pm

## Monday 26th January

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

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm  
 Arran High School, Lamash, 6.45pm  
 Whiting Bay  
 Brodick Hall, 5.30pm - 6.30pm  
 Brodick sheltered housing, 12.30pm

## Tuesday 27th January

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

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

Scottish Country Dancing  
 Hatha Yoga  
 Metafit  
 Community Council meeting

All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Hall, 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamash 6pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm

## Wednesday 28th January

Rock & Pop Bingo  
 Tae KwonDo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Yogalates  
 Aquafizz  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey  
 RunArran  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Drift Inn Quiz  
 Mixed Hockey  
 Friends of Brodick Castle  
 Dog classes  
 Coffee Morning  
 Arran Riding Club AGM

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamash, 7-8.30pm  
 Lamash, 9pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Brodick Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Brodick church Hall, 10.30-12noon  
 Arran High School, 8pm

## Thursday 29th January

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

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

## Friday 30th January

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

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm  
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 10.15am



[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



# Recruitment

## ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERS VACANCIES



### Office Assistant: Full-time, Initial 6 months contract

First point of contact at the Visitor Centre via telephone and online bookings. The applicant will provide support to the Admin and Finance Assistant.

Duties to include:

Data Entry

Mail Order duties

Answering and screening phone calls and replying to e-mails.

Applicants must be proficient in excel and word with excellent organisational and communication skills.

Able to work as part of a team.

### Retail Assistant - Seasonal Position with possible Winter hours.

Duties will include cashiering, merchandising, housekeeping, stock control/stock rotation as well as providing a friendly and informative environment for our customers.

Excellent communication skills

Able to work as part of a team.

### Cook and Catering Staff - Seasonal Position

General catering assistants.

Catering experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

Some evening and weekend work required.

Full job descriptions are available on request.

Deadline for Applications is Monday 26th January 2015

Please apply by sending your CV to :

Mrs Faye Waterlow

Visitor Centre Manager & Brand Ambassador

Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd

Lochranza

Isle of Arran

Scotland

KA27 8HJ

Tel: 01770 830 264

Fax: 01770 830 364

E-mail: [visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com](mailto:visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com)

## ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

### Part-time seasonal staff required for shop / reception / guiding.

Reasonable rates of pay and flexible hours.

Please apply in writing by 31st January to:

**Tom Macleod, Achnamara, 4 Alma Park,  
Brodict, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AT**



### auchrannie job vacancies

#### Kitchen Porter

Working between the 3 restaurants you will carry out thorough cleaning of all areas in the kitchen to support the chefs.

#### Assistant Business Development Manager

An exciting new position which will see you grow hotel revenue and maximize the hotel occupancy by engaging new and existing clients.

Full descriptions can be found at  
[www.auchranniejobs.co.uk](http://www.auchranniejobs.co.uk)  
or contact [hr@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:hr@auchrannie.co.uk)

brodict isle of arran  
[www.auchrannie.co.uk](http://www.auchrannie.co.uk)



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for Scotland  
a place for everyone

### First Gardener

Brodict Castle, Garden & Country Park,  
Isle of Arran

Salary: £21,324 rising to £22,446 after a  
successful years' service

Permanent / Full-time

Accommodation is provided with this role

Brodict Castle garden, nestling on the slopes of Brodict Bay on the island's east coast, contains a delightful woodland garden merging into the wider landscape leading to Goatfell and includes: an ornamentally-planted Victorian walled garden; Bavarian summer house; and an extensive collection of rhododendrons including the national collections of Falconera, Grandia, and Maddenia. An exciting project is also underway to revitalise the Upper Walled Garden.

The focus of this post is assisting the Head Gardener in the maintenance and enhancement of Brodict Castle's important plant collection and its plant sales, while also undertaking practical maintenance of the garden as part of the wider garden team. To be successful in this role you will have substantial experience in heritage gardening, well developed plantsmanship and demonstrable experience of team management.

For full job details and information about how to apply, go to [www.nts.org.uk/charity](http://www.nts.org.uk/charity) and click on the "work for us" tab. Closing date for all applications is 2 February 2015. Interviews are likely to take place at Brodict during the w/c 9 February 2015. Visit us at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT  
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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT  
**BANNER BANNER**  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

## CARETAKERS

Isle of Arran Heritage Museum seek a couple to take up caretaking duties, which include cleaning, gardening, and security monitoring at the Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodict. Accommodation in a one bedroom flat on the premises will be provided in lieu. This vacancy would possibly suit a mature couple with a keen interest in gardening.

Please apply in writing, by 31st January, to  
**Tom Macleod, Honorary Secretary, Isle of Arran Heritage Museum Trust, Achnamara, 4 Alma Park, Brodict, KA27 8AT**

## Brodict Early Years Centre

We currently have temporary  
vacancies for two members of staff.

An SVQ Level 2 in Early Years Care & Education, HNC Early Education & Childcare or equivalent is required.

The posts will be to June 2015 initially will the possibility of extending to June 2016. Hours will be 08:30 until 12:45, Monday to Friday during term time.

For more information or to submit an application please email **Pauline Robertson** on [pauline.arran@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.arran@gmail.com) or telephone 600341/600696

## Property

### BED-SIT IN CORRIE

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## WANTED

### House Long Term Let

Mature, working couple plus 2 small Cavalier dogs require house with secure garden from April/May.

Tel: 02476 662890 or  
email: [susanprewett@btinternet.com](mailto:susanprewett@btinternet.com)

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Ref 445-SG

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Responsible to the Skipper for maintenance of the vessel and complying with requirements of the Company Management System, car marshalling on deck, issuing travel tickets and collecting fares, counting and recording numbers boarding the vessel and ensuring that these comply with passenger certificates will fall within your remit.

Applicants should ideally possess as a minimum STCW'95: PST, PSSR, Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting, Elementary First Aid and a valid ENG1 Medical Certificate, otherwise MGN203 will be required. Possession of a Boatmasters Grade 1, and cash handling experience would be an advantage. An EDH certificate would be advantageous.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

A shift pattern will apply and this will normally consist of one week on/one week off.

Candidates should be aware that they may be allocated to a specific route, or to the Small Ferries Pool.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 445-SG no later than 30 January 2015 to: [vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk](mailto:vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk) Or by post to:

**David MacBrayne HR (UK) Ltd**

Ferry Terminal, Gourock PA19 1QP

T: 01475 650144

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# Drive Times

## Erde 102 trailer



Erde 102 trailer, used.  
Can be seen in Brodick.  
£100 o.n.o.

Tel: 01770 303592 (Arran)

# Classifieds

### UNDER £30

10 bags of Hardwood logs - large bags, delivered free £2.50per bag Tel: 07443642408

2 Recaro Monza child car seats, used, isofix, group 2 and 3 (15-36 kg). £30 each. Tel.: 01770 303592

Large collection of Paul Fagan Colorbox Minatures Silentnight sideboard/display cabinet - £30, Stained Glass table lamp - £20, Stained Glass table lamp - £10, Double buggy with hood and apron - £30, Early Learning Centre activity arch/mat-£10, Selection of Baby Toys - £20, Crazy Fit Massage Fitness Machine, £190 new, £30. Tel:01770 600694

New in box 2 Homebase Globe Wall Lights - £8 each, New in box 3 Eglo pendants (turquoise glass) - £10 each, New in box Homebase Square Downlights Glass/Chrome 10.5cm - 3 pack - £20, New in box Homebase Shower Downlight Chrome effect 8.7cm - £10, New in box Twyfords Inca taps - Single hole mixer - gold lustre - offers when seen Tel: 600238

### FREE TO UPLIFT

Fridge - Zanussi 85hx50wx60d Tel: 810249

Storage heaters. Fluorescent tube lighting including bulbs. Microwave. Toaster. Kettle. Fridge Freezer - Corrie Tel: 07580359500

### WANTED

Central heating radiators. LPG cooking appliances, oven, hob and grill. Solid fuel stove with back boiler. 8kw or above diesel generator. Copper piping Tel: 07580359500

Fridge/freezer and washing machine Tel:07805737409

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- A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

# Public Notices

## ARRAN RIDING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 28th January, 8pm  
Arran High School  
*All Welcome*



## Why is there dredging in Arran's MPA?

MPA Management Consultation ends 2nd February

## Make your voice heard!

Please respond to by visiting [arrancoast.com](http://arrancoast.com) or call 01770 600656

## EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE REGISTRATION WEEK (ISLE OF ARRAN)

Parents are advised that registration for the early learning and childcare intake in August 2015 takes place from 26 January 2015 - 30 January 2015.

Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2011 and 28 February 2013 can be registered with Local Authority Early Years establishments or Partner Pre-School Centres in North Ayrshire during this time.

Registration for all Local Authority Early Years and Partner Pre-School centres in North Ayrshire will take place in the week beginning 26 January 2015. Parents wishing to register their children for early years education should apply directly to the class/centre 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.

Further information on North Ayrshire Council's Admissions Policy and Early Years places can be found at the class/centre or on the North Ayrshire website.

All Local Authority Early Years provision and Partner Pre-School Centres in North Ayrshire are listed below and parents are requested to contact the class/centre of their choice to confirm the most suitable time to register.

### PROVISION FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

The Government has committed to providing 600 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare for eligible 2 year olds whose parents meet certain benefits criteria. If you think your 2 year old children may be entitled please phone CARIS on 0845 351 3000 or 01294 472971.

All Local Authority Early Years provision and current Partner Pre-School Centres in North Ayrshire can be found below.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY EARLY YEARS CLASSES AND EARLY YEARS CENTRES

Corrie Primary & Early Years Class, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP  
Tel: 01770 810244

Kilmory Primary & Early Years Class, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ  
Tel: 01770 870262

Lamlash Primary & Early Years Class, MacKelvie Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NP  
Tel: 01770 600527

Pirrmill Primary & Early Years Class, Pirrmill, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP  
Tel: 01770 850226

Shiskine Primary & Early Years Class, Shiskine, Isle of Arran, KA27 8EP  
Tel: 01770 860207

### PARTNER PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

Brodick Nursery, Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL  
Tel: 07903775898

(Brodick Nursery is open from 9.00am - 12.10pm or can be contacted on the above number for registrations)

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive

Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siarraidh Air a Tuath

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**01294 461554**



**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 25th January**  
 Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
 Mr John Roberts.  
 Coffee after service.  
 ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson  
 Parish Assistant:  
 Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

**Sunday 25th January**  
 Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches

10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza

Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship

Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting

12noon Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

**Sunday 25th January**

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Mrs Liz Clarke

All welcome, including amilies; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)

**Sunday 25th January**

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road Brodick

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 28th January

at 7pm

5 Glen Road

All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)

**Sunday 25th January**

Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)

Rev Ronnie Christie

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005)

**Sunday 25th January**

Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader of the Church of Scotland, at 10.30am.

All welcome.

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

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday mass 11am

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

**Sunday 25th January**

11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick

Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**DEATH**

**BOA - Agnes (née Iddon)**

Peacefully in Montrose House on Friday 16th January 2015. Agnes aged 94 years, wife of the late Andrew, much loved mum, gran, great granny, sister and aunt of the family. Funeral service in Brodick church on Friday, 23rd January at 11:30am and thereafter to Brodick new cemetery to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**HAMILTON - Archie**

Gladys, Hazel, Bob and family would like to express sincere thanks to family and friends for their sympathy and support following our loss of Archie.

Thanks also to Doctors and all staff at the Beatson and Arran War Memorial Hospitals, Arran Medical Group, District Nurses and ArCaS for all their care throughout.

We would also like to thank David and Clair Hendry for their sensitive and efficient funeral arrangements, Rev Angus Adamson for a fitting tribute to Archie, Ruth Thompson for the uplifting music and Brodick Golf Club for the welcome refreshments.

The retiral collection of over £900 has been donated equally to ArCaS, Friends of the Beatson and the RNLI.



Whiting Bay's 18th green and fairway was covered in snow on Sunday morning.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

The snowy weather saw the cancellation of the AGA Winter League match at Corrie on Saturday 17 January and the friendly with Lamlash on Sunday 18 January. The game with Lamlash will now be played at Whiting Bay on Sunday 25 January, teeing off between 10.30am and 11am in a rolling start. A good turnout of Whiting Bay members is needed to overturn the drubbing from the first game at Lamlash. Everyone is welcome.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Sunday 4 January, 12-hole medal and Winter Cup, 13 played. 1 B Sherwood 47-6=41 BIH, 2 C Laing 53-12=41, 3 J Morrison 47-5=42 BIH, scratch J Morrison 42 BIH. Magic twos from D Logan, A Napier, J Morrison, S Kerr and A Kerr.

Sunday 18 January, Ryder Cup. Results: Shiskine 2.5 v Kilpatrick 1.5, Blackwaterfoot 3.5 v Torbeg 0.5. Blackwaterfoot wins the bonus point.

Table after third game: 1 Blackwaterfoot 13 points, 2 Kilpatrick 10 points, 3 Shiskine 8 points, 4 Torbeg 4 points.

Fixtures: Saturday 24 January, 18 Hole medal, 12noon.

Sunday 25 January, Ryder Cup, 1pm.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday 15 January, Yellow Medal (nine holes). 1

Ian Bremner 38-2.5=35.5, 2 Alan Smith 41-5=36, 3 Billy O'Connor 48-9.5=38.5.

Fixtures: Sunday 25 January (postponed from 18 January) Winter Friendly v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay, 10.30am for 11am tee off times. Thursday 29 January, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Sunday 18 January, Clochendichter had to be postponed again, as the course was frozen.

Fixtures: Sunday 25 January, Clochendichter (weather permitting). Sunday 1 February, AGA Winter League at Lamlash. There will be a sweep at Brodick, with open draws at 9am and 12noon.

AGA Winter League at Lamlash. There will be a sweep at Brodick, with open draws at 9am and 12noon.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday 20 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup, Stableford. 1 Phil Betley 42 points,

2 Reuben Betley 28 points BIH, 3 Alastair MacDonald 28 points.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Fixtures: Saturday 24 January, Winter Cup (weather permitting), tee-off at 8.30am and 12noon.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Sunday 1 February, fourth round of the Winter League/Duncan Trophy at Lamlash Golf Club.

Draw: Lamlash v Brodick, Machrie Bay v Shiskine, Whiting Bay v Corrie.

All matches will start at 10am with the sounding of an air horn.

In case some of the further away tees don't hear can everyone should be ready to play at 10am exactly, providing fairways are clear.

Please arrive in plenty of time to get to the tees.



The Peggy Currie Cup teams, left to right: Michael Iutz, David Henderson, Vic Iutz, Fiona Henderson. Pat Adamson (seated), Douglas Bruce, Margaret Bruce, Douglas Hamilton and Tricia Martin.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank you**

My grateful thanks to staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital for their excellent care of Joe for six weeks.

Thanks to carers, friends and neighbours for their support, especially with transport. A special thanks to Anne for all her help and to Mary for her prayers, it worked!

Shona Noteman

**Peggy Currie Cup winners**

The Peggy Currie Cup, a team of four competition, was held by Arran Bridge Club in Lamlash on Monday 19 January.

The winners were: Tricia Martin, Margaret Bruce, Douglas Hamilton and Douglas Bruce and the runners-up: Fiona Henderson, David Henderson, Michael Iutz and Vic Iutz.

The results of the competition in Brodick on Thursday 15 January. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Michael Iutz and Vic Iutz, 2 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales, 3 Jesmay Peacock and Margaret McGill.

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# Sport

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# Last gasp victory for triumphant Arran



Kyle Barbour was swift with the ball in attack which allowed him to dodge some of the tackles but even he couldn't outrun the defence. 20\_b04rug02

## Arran 6 Wigtownshire 5

In one of the closest games of the season so far, Isle of Arran RFC managed to steal an exceptionally tight win on Saturday afternoon in the dying minutes of the game.

In a match which really could have gone either way, Wigtownshire RFC were clearly frustrated to lose the game by just one point.

And this was despite scoring the only try of the game. For much of the match Arran showed flashes of brilliance but were unable to get to the try line.

Frazer Thomson had a couple of superb interception opportunities but the Wigtownshire defence

stopped him from making any real ground.

The kicking of Lachlan Jones was rarely off target, but the opposition were up for a game of ping pong and it seemed like the ball spent a lot of the first half in the air.

The first points came from Arran after an incredibly well-timed drop goal from Lachie. (3-0)

Kyle Barbour was swift with the ball in attack which allowed him to dodge some of the tackles but even he couldn't outrun the defence.

Wigtownshire increased the pressure at this point and spent a good while camped down near the Arran line.

The home team's resist-

ance paid off as the minutes of the first half ticked by. But then, just before the half-time whistle, Wigtownshire pounced and scored the only try of the game (3-5).

The second half was a long drawn out affair with neither side managing to put points on the board.

From the start of the game it had seemed clear that this would be a low scoring encounter but it wasn't until the final five minutes that Arran grasped an opportunity to go ahead. A badly-timed blunder from Wigtownshire gifted Arran a chance to kick for goal and Iain Keen calmly slotted the



Lachlan Jones, one of the many Arran players who attacked well throughout the game but failed to cross the try line. 20\_b04rug03

ball through the posts to secure a last gasp victory - albeit by just one point.

Arran are now one point ahead of Wigtownshire in the league table, second placed overall.

This Saturday Arran travel to Lanark.

**NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING**



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



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

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.