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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 31 JANUARY 2015

No 1998 60p

# Warning issued as conmen target bank customers

Four members of the public targeted by fraudsters and defrauded of thousands of pounds



**REPORT**

by JENNIFER LYON  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Police have issued a serious warning to people on Arran after four people were targeted by conmen and defrauded of thousands of pounds.

Three separate frauds were reported by residents on Arran in the past two weeks.

Between Monday 19 January and Thursday 22 January, four unsuspecting members of the public were targeted by fraudsters in three separate incidents and

have since been defrauded of thousands of pounds by criminals obtaining their bank account information or bank card and PIN details.

Each victim, a man, aged 29 years, and three women, aged 54, 63 and 69 years, have had thousands of pounds taken from their accounts; on one occasion a five figure sum has been stolen.

Detective Inspector William McDicken, Ayrshire CID, said: 'They do not appear to be targeting a particular type of person – but seem to be skilled at

convincing the victims that they are genuine bank officials and in obtaining the necessary bank account or PIN details.

'These people are heartless and have no regard for how this is going to affect those involved.

'On each occasion the person who calls is female and speaks confidently in a Scottish accent that can not be described as being from a particular region.

'They convince the person that their account has been compromised in some way before duping them into

revealing personal account information.'

He added: 'We are working closely with the people and the bank concerned to try to identify those responsible for these crimes.

'In the meantime we would ask that people be on their guard and follow the safety advice listed below.'

**Safety advice:**

Banks will never legitimately ask anyone for their PIN, either over the phone or face to face, even if you call them. Nor will banks send couriers to uplift bank cards.

If anyone calls you asking for this information don't give it.

Take a note of any name that the caller uses or any phone number they provide you with as these can be helpful to police enquiries.

Then contact your bank using the telephone number on your statements or account information and advise them what has happened.

It is important not to call back using the number the caller has left with you as this will simply reconnect you with the criminal or an accomplice.

Sergeant Allen Dodds of Lamlash police station added: 'If you think either yourself or a relative have been a victim of this scam, you should contact your bank to check that all is in order with your accounts and report it to local police if you find that you have been targeted.'

'Anyone with any information which might help police enquiries is urged to contact police via the non emergency number 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 where details can be given in confidence.'



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# Businesses offer support for community land project

A community group is to launch a crowd-funding campaign today (Friday) to help raise vital cash to run its ambitious farmland project.

The group, Arran Community Land Initiative, a registered charity, bought the 80 acres of disused farmland near Whiting Bay in December 2014 for a range of community projects including a community garden and nature trails.

The group plans to trans-

form the land to benefit the community and already has the backing of a number of island businesses including a generous pledge from one of the island's most popular attractions, Arran Distillery, which is kick-starting the campaign and hopes its generosity will encourage other businesses and private donations.

Treasurer Juliette Walsh said: 'It would be wonderful to expand the fantastic

produce here on Arran with further fresh home-grown produce.

### Self-sufficient

'By introducing crops, orchards, allotments and community growing spaces to these fields the group hopes to help the island become more self-sufficient and give locals and visitors the chance to consume more fresh rather than imported fruit and vegetables.'

The crowd-funding cam-

paign launches online today on Indiegogo, with a target of raising £6,000.

A number of individuals and island businesses have chipped in with fantastic contributions to the campaign and include The Douglas Hotel, Altachorvie island Retreat, Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Arran Graphics, Mark Bunnan bushcraft expert, Andy Surridge photographer, Henry Murdo native tree ex-

pert, Roots of Arran Forest School Leaders, the Arran Bike Club, the Community of Arran Seabed Trust and the Brodick Castle Ranger Service.

### Recreational

The planned recreational facilities on the site include nature walks, camping pods and mountain bike trails as well as community gardens.

The land will also be used for delivering a variety of education courses including

qualifications in land-based skills such as horticulture and as a space for outdoor learning for Arran schoolchildren and visiting groups.

Their crowd-funding campaign is part of a pilot initiative by Highlands & Islands Enterprise which has contracted Scottish company Hot Tap Media Ltd to offer consultation and support to between three and four community groups in the region.

## Second vessel's late start criticised

The second vessel ferry service to Arran will not begin until April 30, three weeks after Easter, much to the dismay of passengers.

A number of disgruntled residents contacted The Banner this week claiming that the late start is 'unacceptable'.

One Shiskine man said: 'Now that we have RET the boats are busier than ever but they're not giving us two boats at Easter time.'

'It's just crazy. Just think how hard it is going to be to get on and off the island.'

Robert Waine, chairman of the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, said it had been lobbying CalMac for an earlier start and later finish for many months.

But when the new timetable was released last week it confirmed that the MV Isle of Arran will not return until the end of April.

'Of course, the difficulty comes down to funding,' said Mr Waine.

'CalMac need to get the funding to run the second vessel for longer and that has not been forthcoming this year.'

'The MV Isle of Arran is also the relief vessel for the CalMac fleet and as a result of refits there is no second vessel available to run over the Easter period.'

### Demand

He added: 'The benefits of RET are clear for all to see but the demand on the ferries has to be managed properly.'

Kenneth Gibson MSP told The Banner it was frustrating that with RET's introduction the island would not have a two ferry service for Easter.

### Disappointing

He said: 'As it was Transport Scotland that raised this as a distinct possibility for this year, given long term plans for a two ferry service all year round, it is particularly disappointing.'

'Nevertheless along with Councillor John Bruce and the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee I will continue to lobby by both Transport Scotland and the Minister for Transport and the Islands Derek Mackay MSP, who will visit Arran on Sunday, for a pre-Easter two ferry service, if a vessel can be procured.'



Kenneth Bone of the Arran Trust presents the cheque to youngsters from the AHS Mountain Bike Club. 20\_bike01

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## Mountain biking trail gets funding go ahead

A generous grant from the Arran Trust has enabled the Arran High School Mountain Bike Club to kickstart plans for trails on the island.

The £7,662 award was presented to pupils by chairman Kenneth Bone on Friday afternoon.

The money will be used to pay Architrail to design 'pump tracks' and skills trails that can be used by anyone on the island.

Teacher Robert McNeice said that the pupils are 'incredibly grateful' as without this money, the project could not progress.

The club has been working closely with active schools co-ordinator Archie McNicol to form the club.

Phil Saxena and his world-renowned mountain bike trail design team Architrail are currently working on Glasgow's commonwealth legacy site at Cuningar loop.

The company began site surveys on Monday and the pupils held a public consultation event in the High School last night (Thursday).

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# Island prepares for a motorhome invasion

A campsite is expanding to meet the increasing number of motorhomes and caravans expected to visit Arran because of new cheap ferry fares.

It will cost just £30.20 return to bring a six metre caravan or motorhome to the island with the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) summer ferry sailing fares, leading to a big increase in numbers as the high fares previously made it prohibitive to bring large vehicles.

Bridgend Caravan and Campsite near Shiskine has already seen an increase in visitors since the introduction of RET last October and they are expecting a bumper year.

The campsite has been run for the past 11 years by Robin Bell and his wife Christine as a retirement project. It opened in May 2004 with a capacity of five touring motorhomes/caravans and 10 tents. A log cabin toilet and shower block was added two years later.

Now the site has been given planning permission to expand to provide eight hard stands, three soft stands, 14 electric hook ups and a second log cabin. The road surface will also be improved and a turning circle created for caravans.

Robin said they had caravans and motorhomes bookings in November and over the Christmas and New Year holidays which they have never had before.

'Visitors are now coming from just across the water as the RET fares make it more cost effective than driving all the way to the Lake District,'

he said.

They have also already seen an upturn in bookings for February, May and July.

Now the site is seeking a licence from the council to be able to accept all campers and caravanners, as they are presently restricted to members of the Camping and Caravanning Club.

But as Robin explained: 'As we are getting well known, with many campers returning year after year, and the extra numbers envisaged coming to the island, we need to provide extra facilities to meet those requirements and to attain the standards we endeavour to reach and maintain.

'We find it increasingly difficult to keep to members only because the site is now clearly marked on the large OS maps used by walkers and cyclists. They often arrive late in the afternoon tired and hungry and it is a long trek up to Lochranza or down to Kildonan for the nearest sites with facilities.

'Residents of the Shiskine Valley send campers to us regularly. We are a campsite and should therefore be able



Robin is planning a second log cabin beside the one behind him. 20\_b05camp01

to take any campers. We are the only campsite on the west side of the island, and we are a small site which many true campers prefer. This year we have found, on a couple of occasions, Lochranza and Kildonan campsites have referred people to us as they have been full. There is a definite need for more capacity on the island for motorhomes and caravans.'

Robin said he was not surprised there was concern about the extra number of campers who may come to the island due to the RET pricing on the ferries, as well

as the dumping of chemical toilet waste in open spaces.

'Right or wrongly we do allow motorhomes, who are wild camping, to use the chemical toilet facilities for a small charge. We would like to promote this with a sign at the gate, as many do camp along the west coast. Most campers are responsible but, of course, it is the small minority which could spoil it for everybody.'

However, he said it was a misnomer that people with motorhomes did not spend money on the island.

'They may bring provisions with them but there will always be things they need to pick up at the local shops and many will go for two or three meals out during their stay. If people can afford a motorhome, it goes without saying that they are likely to have a degree of disposable income.'

## Illegal deer shooting investigated

Police are investigating the shooting of a stag in the hills above Lochranza last week.

The animal was left badly injured after a shot to the head.

Charles Fforde of Arran Estates and a group of stalkers discovered the animal on Thursday morning. It had a 2:2 rifle pellet wound that had shattered its eye socket and part of the skull.

'The animal was clearly in a pain,' said Mr Fforde. 'It had already been earmarked for the annual deer cull so it was put out of its misery but if we hadn't found it, then it would have had a long lingering and very painful death. It is illegal for the red deer on Arran to be shot without permission from the landowner.'

Anyone with any information about this incident or with suspicions about deer poaching should contact the police on 101 or telephone Arran Estates on 302203.

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# Arran arts project gets cash boost for 'Scots' workshops

An arts project is celebrating being awarded nearly £7,500 this week.

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust will use the cash to provide creative workshops in schools to celebrate the 'Scots vocabulary' and its links with local culture and heritage.

The money has been secured from Awards for All Scotland, a partnership between SportsScotland and Big Lottery Fund.

Six primary schools on the island are taking part in the project which involves drama and visual arts as well as video, photography and sound recording.

Digital artist Ed O'Donnell and drama teacher Sarah Cook are behind it and have already started working with three schools - Lamlash, Shiskine and Kilmory.

Ed said the idea was to give

the children a broader vocabulary of Scots words to produce original illustrated stories. At the end of the project in the autumn, a DVD will be produced with content from each of the schools involved.

He said the project had been one year in development and along with the Awards for All money, they had secured support from North Ayrshire Council and 'in time' assistance from the trust.

It is just one of 140 community groups sharing National Lottery funding worth more than £1 million from Awards For All Scotland which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000 to projects that bring communities together to enjoy a range of activities.

The Arran group, established in 1989, has over the years run play and poetry competitions in Scots and promoted the Scots language

and commissioned new music. The latest project has been awarded £7,494.

An Awards for All spokesperson said: 'The funding we have announced will help communities across Scotland set up and develop projects run for and by local people. What is clear is the smallest amount of funding can often make the biggest difference to people's lives. All of these grants are a great way to show the variety of projects that can be funded through Awards for All.'

Katy Clark MP said: 'I'm delighted the trust has gained this financial support to develop young people's interests and skills in the arts via an interesting method of hands on experience.

'Arran is alive with culture and heritage and I'm sure these workshops will take it to an even higher level. I offer my heartiest congratulations to trust on their lottery success.'



## Elusive white deer spotted

This fascinating picture of a beautiful rare white deer might seem like something straight out of a CS Lewis adventure.

But it was taken by a Lamlash-based photographer when she almost came face to face with the stuff of legends.

Local photographer Jackie Newman photographed the deer last Thursday.

Legend has it on Arran that if a white stag is seen then a member of the ruling family, the Hamilton clan, has died.

## Arran livestock sales

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 1,402 store cattle, 161 cast cows and bulls.

There were also 3,876 store and breeding sheep at their recent sale in Stirling.

Store cattle: Craigview

(Limousin cross heifer) £1,030, 181.30p; Glenkilm (Aberdeen Angus cross bulls) £790, 232.00p; Glenkilm (Aberdeen Angus cross heifers) £770, 212.00p.

Cows: Craigview (Limousin cross) £835, 117.00p; Auchenhew (Aberdeen Angus cross) £675, 118.00p.

Store hogs: Ceithir Gaoithe (Texel cross) £70; Drumla (Texel cross) £64.50; Whin (Texel cross) £46.00. Ceithir Gaoithe (Easycare) £64.50. Craigview (Mule) £70. Craigview (Black Face) £54; Ceithir Gaoithe (Black Face) £53.

Ewes and Tups: Glenkilm (Cheviot) tup £78.50; Bridge (Cheviot) tup £59.00. Glenkilm (Black Face) tup £63.50. Craigview (Black Face) ewes £56.50.

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# £1.5m double contract brings new fleet of buses to Arran

‘The buses offer exceptionally low CO2 emissions which is great for everyone who lives and visits Arran’

Contracts worth more than £1.5 million were expected to be approved today (Friday) to bring a new fleet of buses to Arran.

The buses, to be leased to Stagecoach West, will enable the bus network on the island to be fully accessible for the first time in its history.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport will seek approval from members at a meeting in Glasgow today to commit £1,562,972 for the purchase of 12 new buses which will be low-floor and fully wheelchair accessible. They will also have low CO2 emissions.

By January next year, EU

legislation has decreed that all bus service operators are required to run vehicles capable of allowing access for all users in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

A paper going to SPT's operations committee for consideration outlines a recommendation to award two contracts for the manufacture of the buses.

One for eight Wrightbus Streetlites, featuring hybrid-type technology that greatly reduces carbon emissions, helping protect the island's environment will be built at the company's factory in Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

And four slightly smaller

Optare Solos, to be built in North Yorkshire, will be mainly used for easy access to Arran Hospital, specific school journeys and more remote pick up points. All the buses will be fitted with seatbelts.

### Contract

The Banner first revealed news about the new buses last August when Western Stagecoach was awarded the £3.5 million contract to run the island's bus services for the next five years.

It is understood the buses will be brought into service as they come off the production lines.

Councillor John Bruce,



The smaller Optare Solos should be well suited to Arran's roads.



A contract for the Wrightbus Streetlite is expected to be approved.

SPT elected member for North Ayrshire, said: ‘I am delighted SPT is adding to its long history of serving Arran by recommending further substantial commitment to the island, particularly at a time when public sector finances are under enormous pressure.’

‘SPT's expertise lies in identifying the best transport solutions for passengers within tight budgets. In this case the cost of delivering bus services on the island has been vastly reduced by their innovative approach to buying and leasing the vehicles.’

‘What's more, the buses offer exceptionally low CO2 emissions which is great for everyone who lives and visits Arran.’

The investment in these new buses comes after the completion of a programme

of road improvement works by North Ayrshire Council to which SPT has also contributed £180,000 of capital funding.

### Benefit

Passengers are also to benefit from shelters with real-time bus information, smart ticketing and an improved MyBus service.

Councillor Bruce added: ‘Travel by bus on this island is vital.’

‘It enables access to education, employment and healthcare, as well as the chance to enjoy social and leisure activities.’

‘As these new buses are modern vehicles accessible for all, I have no doubt this investment will enhance the quality of life for many people on Arran and that more islanders and visitors will now choose bus as their main mode of transport.’

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**Path clearing in Whiting Bay**

Whiting Bay and District Improvements Association is planning a path clearing work party on Sunday 8 February.

The group hopes the weather is good and that lots of people will go along and lend a hand.

The main focus will be 'Barn Brae', which runs from Sandbraes park beside the 'oceanic' bus shelter, up to Knockenkelly Farm.

Organisers say this is a great time of year to tackle it, as there is lots of undergrowth needing cut back, so volunteers should take loppers or secateurs with them. They should also wear protective clothing, gloves and sturdy footwear as it may be muddy. If you live in or enjoy visiting Whiting Bay, please go along and help.

Whiting Bay, with its boats, tubs and bus shelters, is a village to be proud of because of the willingness of its residents to lend a hand and 'get stuck in'.

Interested parties should meet in Sandbraes park at 10.30am. The next meeting of Whiting Bay and District Improvements Association is on Wednesday 11 February at 7pm in the lesser hall.

# UK Government funding secured for Brodick harbour

**£350,000 from Coastal Community Fund**

The Scottish secretary Alistair Carmichael has welcomed news that Brodick is one of several coastal towns and villages across Scotland to benefit from £9.58m of UK government funding through the Coastal Communities Fund.

The announcement, made on Monday on a visit to Rothesay by chief secretary to the treasury Danny Alexander, has seen £350,000 given to the Brodick harbour project.

Communities from Stranraer to Shetland will receive funding for projects to improve the local economy,



The money from the Coastal Community Fund will go towards the new Brodick harbour project. 20\_b05cally01

tourism, transport and the natural environment, creating hundreds of jobs.

The Secretary of State said: 'I warmly welcome the chief secretary's announcement.

'These projects are stand-out examples of the ambition, creation and innovation which exists within Scotland's coastal communities.

'This grant is great news for Arran and underlines what

the Coastal Communities Fund is all about.

'On so many occasions the best ideas for improving lives, creating jobs and boosting the economy in coastal communities come from the people who live there. The plans to regenerate Brodick Harbour are a prime example of this.

'Today's substantial funding provided by the UK Govern-

ment highlights our support to ensure this community led idea becomes reality.'

The grant to North Ayrshire Council will contribute to the wider regeneration of Brodick Harbour, will make Arran an even more accessible destination and create employment opportunities in the tourism sector through an estimated increase in visitor numbers and expenditure.

**Council shortlisted for prestigious UK awards**

North Ayrshire Council has been shortlisted as the only Scottish finalist in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards in the category of most improved council.

This achievement has seen the council beat off strong competition from other local authorities across the UK, particularly as this year saw the organisers receive the biggest number of entrants in the history of the awards.

The council's award submission highlights the scale of improvements made despite external pressures including reduced budgets and increased demand on services.

Key improvements have been in work with community planning partners and the private sector, a renewed focus on support for businesses, a transformation in the provision of health and social care and innovative approaches to encourage young people to broaden their horizons, all helping to make an efficient and effective modern council.

Commenting on the achievement, council leader Willie Gibson said: 'This is great news for both the council and the people of North Ayrshire. Reaching this stage in the awards process demonstrates not only our ongoing commitment to improving council services to meet the needs of our community but also shows that we are striving to go beyond the expectations of those we serve.' Finalists will find out if they have won a coveted LGC award at a ceremony in March.

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# Hunter brothers tie up rope deal for a year

‘In a high performance boat like a 49er having the best kit is crucial for us to achieve our goals’

Up and coming 49er sailors Rory and Neil Hunter are the latest recipients of the Marlow Ropes Award, which will give the Lamash brothers free rope for a year.

The Marlow Ropes Award was introduced in 2002 with the aim of rewarding Britain’s most promising young sailors for their determination, focus and talent.

The sailing siblings from Arran have spent the last three months training alongside the Olympic Podium Potential Squad and given their 49er potential and recent performances the brothers earned selection to the British team in January.

‘We were both absolutely delighted to have won the Marlow Ropes Award only days after our selection for the Podium Potential Squad,’ said 17-year-old helm Rory.

‘We feel we have won the award from the results we have gained over the past season and from displaying a high amount of dedication and commitment during our time training alongside the Podium Potential Squad.

‘The award will be a huge benefit to our campaign over the next season as we will be able to fit out our boat with

top quality rope. In the 49er class, halyards and control lines come under high loads in the windier conditions, making top quality rope absolutely key to ensure a successful day racing with no breakages.’

Over the past 18 months the duo has recorded some impressive results including the 49er National Championship title in August, finishing second overall at the RYA National Ranking Series in November and the season highlight coming at the ISAF Santander World Championships where the brothers posted 36th overall and 11th in the Silver fleet.

Nineteen-year-old Neil added: ‘We feel that the key ingredient to our results over the past year has been mainly a lot of hard work!’

‘We’ve spent a lot of time sailing and just learning as much as possible.

‘The learning curve is so steep, especially in a class like the 49er.’

‘Over the next 12 months our main goal is a top five at the Youth Worlds, that’s our target event this year.

‘We’ve got a lot of sailing planned between now and then, with events throughout

Europe and we’re going to Miami later this week.

The Marlow award entitles the brothers to free Marlow rope for a year, which Rory says will be invaluable as they prepare for their inaugural season as British Sailing Team members.

‘The award will help us massively,’ he said. ‘In a high performance boat like a 49er having the best kit is crucial for us to achieve our goals.’

Barrie Edgington, British Sailing Team Podium Potential Squad Manager, added: ‘Rory and Neil are rare examples of sailors who have taken a slightly more independent tack to campaigning and making the case for support from the World Class Programme.

‘In doing so their professional approach combined with achieving measurable international and national results has got them noticed and rewarded both by officially joining the British Sailing Team and being nominated for the prestigious Marlow Ropes Award.

‘If they keep up the level of commitment to their 49er sailing and goals, I am sure they will continue to excel and achieve higher things.’



Neil Hunter, left, Paul Honess, Marlow sales director and Rory Hunter, collecting the Marlow Ropes Award at the 2015 London Boat Show.



The Marlow award entitles the brothers to free Marlow rope for a year, which Rory says will be invaluable as they prepare for their inaugural season as British Sailing Team members.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Don't let the con men succeed

Older people have savings, time and trust; three reasons why fraudsters will prey relentlessly on them.

So it may be unsurprising that con men have targeted Arran, with its high proportion of elderly people, in the past few weeks.

They are vulnerable and often alone in the house without a voice of reason or second opinion.

They are often grateful that the 'nice person' has time to talk to them.

It has also been found that women are twice as likely to be the victims of financial abuse than men, possibly because many women of that generation left money matters to their 'other half'.

They are especially vulnerable after major stress in their life - particularly such as the loss of a spouse, change of housing or health problems.

There are two particular scams doing the rounds at the moment.

One is where a vulnerable person is coerced into transferring money into a 'safe' account.

The other is Courier fraud, where a courier - pretending to be from police or the bank comes to the person's house to collect cash or bankcards.

Often they say that the bank cards have been used fraudulently and they must give them to the police along with the pin number.

The fraudster is always slick, professional and the call has an urgent tone.

They are fast, efficient and take the person unawares.

It is easy to repeat the warning not to give anyone - even if they say they are from the bank or police - important bank details.

But when someone at the end of the phone has access to a person's most recent transactions, as well as numerous other pieces of information about their financial history, it is easy to be taken in.

When living somewhere such as Arran it is also sadly a little too easy to be blasé about the threat posed by these con artists.

But it is not just the old and vulnerable that are at risk from these fraudsters.

With the most recent spate of frauds the con men have targeted people on the island with internet banking - not the elderly and frail, but people who would normally be considered to be quite knowledgeable about the threats of the cyber world.

So be very careful if anyone calls purporting to be from the bank.

Remember, no one will ever ask for a PIN number even if they are genuinely calling from the bank - if they do, call the police.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28)

### 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 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



### Contempt for holiday home owners

Sir,  
Kenneth Gibson MSP clearly holds anyone who has a holiday home on Arran with contempt judging by his response to James Gilmour.

As a matter of fact, we spend a lot of time, together with family and friends, throughout the year at our holiday home and contribute a great deal to the local economy.

We pay 90 per cent council tax and only use a fraction of the services and amenities compared to full-time residents.

We always buy our provisions from the Co-Op on Arran and local shops (unlike some residents who prefer to support Asda on the mainland).

No doubt when Mr Gibson visits the tax payer picks up the tab for his expenses.

It may well be that with RET some people on the island will think that day trippers are preferable to holiday home owners.

However, if holiday home owners were made to feel unwelcome I'm sure the Arran economy would suffer.

Over the years we have contributed a great deal to local businesses through good times and bad and I think it's rather nasty to imply that we are detrimental to the island.

Furthermore, surely Mr Gilmour is entitled to his view regardless of whether he is a permanent resident of Brodick or not.

Mr Gibson's attitude reflects the SNP in general who are starting to behave a bit too cocky and superior now.

Yours,  
**Rhona Cameron  
Kilmarnock and Cordon,  
Lamlash**

### Millions underspent

Sir,  
There is misplaced logic in the proposition by Kenneth Gibson MSP in last week's *Banner* that an Arran resident whose name, of choice, appears on an electoral reg-

ister elsewhere, is disqualified from commenting in the island newspaper on the shortcomings of the Scottish SNP government. It is the tactic of a politician in an attempt to lessen the impact of valid criticism, the bulk of which he has failed in his letter to address. In June 2014, John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, made a provisional underspend estimate of less than £300 million in respect of the Scottish budget in the 2013-2014 accounts.

When final figures were released at Holyrood in December, incidentally the day after members of the Scottish Parliament departed for the Christmas recess, the underspend was £444 million.

Of this, £165m related to education, £102m to infrastructure, £92m to justice and £17m each to rural affairs and health. The arithmetic takes the figures well beyond the £145m underspend quoted by Mr Gibson who proclaims that 'most people in Scotland welcome the prudent financial stewardship of SNP Finance Secretary John Swinney...'

This must be the same John Swinney who, some six years ago glorying on the back of a modest underspend of £31m declared 'long gone are the days when hundreds of millions of pounds of government money would be underspent each year, doing nothing to help communities around the country'.

The quoted figure of £145m does not appear anywhere in the official report laid before the Scottish Parliament in December 2014. Interestingly, at time of writing the Scottish government has not published the budget report on its own website. This record underspend comes despite repeated complaints from the SNP leadership about cuts to the Scottish budget by parsimonious Westminster.

The underspend could have gone a long way towards, for example, alleviating pressures on the NHS with the employment of staff, utilising funds to improve schools in

disadvantaged areas and providing funds to local authorities to combat the effects of the council tax freeze.

Despite serious austerity, the underspend quoted by Mr Gibson 'has been rolled over to be spent on public services in this financial year'.

The electorate in Arran should beware of following the SNP agenda which would see the Barnett formula abandoned essentially for the revenues from North Sea oil.

Full fiscal autonomy would mean Scotland raising all its own taxes including funds to cover benefits and pensions.

Yours,  
**Jamie Gilmour  
Brodick**

### Fuel explanation sought

Sir,  
Two weeks ago I submitted a letter to *The Banner*, which you kindly printed, in which I alluded to the fact that the price of unleaded fuel on Arran was 41 pence a litre more expensive than on the mainland.

Of course, there is a question that remains unanswered here; is it 'reasonable' to expect such a comparative price differential?

In order to answer that question I decided to find out the price of fuel elsewhere.

I appreciate that we live on an island, albeit a reasonably accessible one quite close to the central belt, so we have to pay a small premium to bring fuel over the sea.

The most northern and remote populated islands off the west coast of Scotland that I could find were Lewis, Tiree and Barra.

If we are being charged a fair price here, it would surely follow therefore, that the price of fuel in the most remote islands would be higher than here on Arran.

It's not...unleaded fuel at the time of writing per litre was 136p on Arran, but only 129p on Tiree, 126p on Barra and incredibly 107.9p on Lewis - they are being charged 28.1p LESS than us.

I wondered if any of your readers could actually ex-

plain why Arran pays such a premium over the most remote islands?

Yours,  
**Dave Black  
Whiting Bay**

### Bernie's thanks

Sir,  
Could I please say a big thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas lights fund at my house in Whiting Bay.

A cheque for £99 has been forwarded to Isle of Arran First Responders.

I look forward to next Christmas when we can do the same again hopefully with some new lights.

Yours,  
**Bernie Jackson  
Whiting Bay**

### Murphy returns

Sir,  
I'd like to say a very grateful thanks to the many wonderful people who were so helpful and supportive when my Jack Russell Murphy disappeared last week.

He went out at 9.30pm on Monday and reappeared on Wednesday at 6.30pm entangled in briars, suffering from hypothermia and very thirsty.

At a couple of months shy of 15-years-old, it is a miracle and I am amazed to say that by the next day he seemed much his usual alert self.

We would both again like to say thank you to everyone for their concern.

Yours,  
**Pat Adamson  
Laignent  
Blackwaterfoot**

### Snow heroes

Sir,  
I would just like to congratulate all the hard workers in the roads department on Arran.

I have just come from Lamlash to Shiskine, over the String Road today (Wednesday 21 January) with thick snow on the sides of the road yet not a drop on the surface of the road!

Well done to all involved.

Yours,  
**Cathy Davidson  
Craighill  
Lamlash**

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# Wullie and Wallace celebrate dog trial success

Two dog trials were held at Glenkiln Farm in Lamlash last week after bad weather had led to them being repeatedly postponed.

Kenneth Bone's farm at Glenkiln, Lamlash, was the site of the second and third trials and the judge for both was Willie McConnell.

The second trial was won by

Wullie Stevenson of Glenkiln and his dog Wallace with an impressive 95 points.

Geoff Brookes of Southbank Farm and Shona II were second with 93 points and Matthew McNeish of Craigview and Pip came third with 82 points and Niall McMaster of Springfield with Liz came fourth with 70 points.



Wullie Stevenson and Wallace during their winning round. 20\_b05dog04

Wullie Stevenson was also the winner of the third trial after he and Wallace gathered 93 points.

He also had the luck of coming second with his other pup Glen with Matthew and Niall were third and fourth again.

In the sweepstake which included the older dogs, Wullie and Wallace once again came out top with 95 points.

Geoff Brookes and Shona were second with 94, Wullie and Glen were third and Geoff was also fourth with Shona II.

Ten handlers and their dogs had already competed at the Arran Nursery Sheepdog trial at Birchburn, Shiskine, earlier in the month.

The judge was Alec Miller of Kildonan and the young dog section was won by Wullie Stevenson and his dog Wallace with 87 points.

Second was Matthew McNeish and Pip with 77 points and Niall McMaster and Liz were third with 68.



Geoff Brookes and Shona II successfully pen the sheep. 20\_b05dog03



Wullie Stevenson with Wallace who won the first novice event. 20\_b05dog01



George Tod and Glen compete in the older dog category. 20\_b05dog05



Niall McMaster and dog Liz try to get to grips with the crosshogs with a snowy Holy Isle in the background. 20\_b05dog02

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Arran bee group with their cheque for £2,000.

## Black bee reintroduction

A grant of £2,000 was given to the Arran Bee Group by the Arran Trust to help with its plan to introduce an intensive breeding programme for the Scottish Black Bee.

The trustees of the Arran Trust were quick to recognise that bees are essential for the ecological well-being of the island - their cross pollination supports biodiversity.

Willie McNish, secretary of the Arran Bee Group, explained that this project was in its infancy but the bees were continuing to thrive. He said: 'Eleven nucleus hives were

purchased with the assistance of a grant from the Arran Trust and brought to the island in August 2013, and with good advice from the veteran bee keepers within the Arran Bee Group we managed to bring all of our hives through the winter.

### Fortunate

'We have been fortunate in managing our colonies of bees and have taken off honey which has been excellent.

'This honey has then gone on to be sold at various locations throughout the island.'

# The future of landscape is :

## 'This island is a very beautiful place but in order to keep it that way we need to put something back'

If every visitor to Arran was to give just £1 towards looking after the island, almost a quarter of a million pounds would be available to spend annually on conservation, environment, community, heritage and more.

Since the Arran Trust began in March 2011, visitors to the island have gifted cash at many outlets raising around £30,000 to be distributed to community groups on the island. Executive director Sheila Gilmore explained that the trust funds projects which look after the striking landscapes and environment of Arran.

'This island is a very beautiful place but in order to keep it that way we need to put something back,' said Sheila. 'Tourism is vital to the island's economy and so the idea behind the trust is to help tourism and conservation work in partnership which means ensuring that the money raised goes to the places that need it the most.'

So far the trust has been able to provide valuable fund-

raising for conservation and community projects throughout Arran.

'Projects considered by the seven trustees using a scoring matrix include wildlife, paths and trails, marine, conservation, and sustainability.

'The applicants must demonstrate a clear and positive contribution to the environment, and projects should be accessible to members of the public, and benefit the local community,' explains Sheila. 'Whether you are a business owner who would like to get involved with the trust, an island visitor who would like to donate to the trust or a community group who would like to apply for funding, with your help, the trust can work alongside businesses and community groups to improve sustainable practices and aims to safeguard the future of this beautiful island.'

For more information or to request a funding application pack - contact the trust at [info@arrantrust.org](mailto:info@arrantrust.org) and full details will be forwarded.



The restoration of Old Clachan

## Old Clachan

THIS was the Arran Trust's first heritage project and involved sealing and capping the walls of one of the oldest recorded preaching houses on Arran and erecting the island's first memorial garden.

When a committee was founded to save the eighteenth century building from demoli-



Arran Coastal Way developments received a cheque for £4,680.

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# of Arran's in our hands



Church is Arran Trust's first heritage project.

## Clachan Church conservation

ion, it quickly approached the Arran Trust for funding.

George Bannatyne explains: The trust was fantastic in helping us to get initial funding and guiding us in the direction of further sources.'

He added: 'It makes a great deal of sense for the people who come and enjoy this place

to put a little bit back into conserving it for future generations.'

With this in mind, the trustees of the Clachan restoration project have devised a scheme that enables anyone who wishes to retain a connection with a place they hold dear, to do so by means of a plaque of re-

membrance.

As well as allowing relatives and friends to be remembered, part of the proceeds from the cost of each plaque goes directly to the restoration fund, ensuring that the old Clachan Preaching House will always be properly maintained for future generations to enjoy.



## Arran Coastal Way developments

A number of Arran Trust grants have been given to the Arran Access Trust which has included £3,000 to help fund the continuing development of the Arran Coastal Way.

Rachel Sedman, project coordinator, explained that they were aiming to bring the Arran Coastal Way up to the standard required to achieve Scotland's Great Trails accreditation, which could see it recognised as the finest circular coastal route in Scotland.

Rachel said: 'The money from the Arran Trust has been very important to us as it has allowed new sections of path to be created and existing sections upgraded to create a top class, 65-mile circular trail around the coast of Arran.'

'Whilst we do get the majority of our funding from other sources, the Arran Trust has been essential in providing money for smaller projects.'

'At the moment it has 100 per cent funded the upgrade of 250m of path between High Corrie and Goatfell which will be completed fairly quickly.'



Plastic bottle greenhouse enables Brodick primary school to grow its own fruit and vegetables.

## Plastic bottle greenhouse

When the pupil council at Brodick Primary School decided it wanted to build a plastic bottle greenhouse that would enable them to grow fruit and vegetables, the Arran Trust was top of its list for valuable funding.

The school children have

been collecting hundreds of plastic bottles and have also managed to rope in the help of willing parents to assist with foundations and other tasks but funding was still needed to purchase building materials.

That was where the Arran

Trust came in, supporting the school pupils in the purchase of building materials for the foundations.

### Updates

This project has not yet commenced but look out for updates in the pages of the Banner.



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# COAST welcomes Chinese visitors

The group travelled to Arran to learn from COAST about community-led environmental campaigning

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) welcomed a delegation of local government, NGO and university representatives from the Zhejiang province in China last week.

The group travelled to Scotland under the EU-China Environmental Governance Programme from Jiaxing city in South West China to learn more about public participation in environmental policy and management; and specifically to learn from COAST about community-led environmental campaigning.

After a snowy trip to visit the seals at Kildonan point, chairman Howard Wood and executive director, Andrew Binnie gave a presentation

to the group on the history of the development of COAST and the community support which has led to the continued growth and success of the charity.

The delegation was interested to learn about COAST's relationship with the Scottish government and how this dialogue has changed over the years.

Howard Wood noted that COAST has had to take the lead in driving the scientific debate which has in turn led to action on marine conservation issues, such as the No-Take-Zone and Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Furthermore, he said the strength of local support has been instrumental in COAST



The delegation from Jiaxing city in South West China with members of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust.

moving forward in its aims. Most recently he said that 'with the designation of the MPA, COAST is striving to ensure that the Scottish government will pursue a management plan which results in a total ban on the ecologically

damaging fishing methods of trawling and dredging within the boundary of the MPA'.

The afternoon was rounded off with a lively discussion where the delegation learned that unlike Scandinavia where, for decades, have bottom contacting mobile gear has been banned from between three to 12 miles offshore (and are now reaping the benefits of healthier fish stocks), Scotland removed the three-mile limit and has since had to deal with the consequences.

The Chinese representatives were intrigued to learn that Scottish communities face similar environmental challenges to their own communities in China.

Following the meeting Andrew Binnie, COAST's executive director, said: 'It is time Marine Scotland realised that Scotland's current 'laissez faire' approach to inshore fisheries management is be-



The group enjoyed a visit to see the seals in Kildonan.

coming a national embarrassment.

'Their management proposals for MPAs are a case in point.

'Coastal communities and the broader public deserve a marine environment and sustainably managed fisheries they can be proud of, particularly within areas such as the Firth of Clyde.'

The public consultation for the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is

still ongoing; the deadline for public responses is 2 February.

COAST is urging people to submit a letter to Marine Scotland outlining support for the exclusion of damaging fishing methods from the entire MPA.

For further advice on writing your response, please contact Andy Telford, Community Outreach and Administration Officer at a.telford@arrancoast.com or 600656.



COAST chairman Howard Wood gave a presentation to the group on its history, the development of COAST and the community support which has led to the continued growth and success of the charity.

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### Thank you from the Lamlash 50-50 Club

Members of Lamlash Improvements would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 50-50 Club fund this past year.

Lamlash Improvements 50-50 Club helps finance the cost of activities for the local community, such as bonfire night and the refurbishment of the Clearances Monument in the centre of the village.

A yearly payment of £20 to the 50-50 Club means half the money is used for activities and half is used to provide a monthly prize of £100 to a lucky member of the club.

Winners over the last seven months were: David Deas, David Nixon, Marion McNicol, Muriel Baxter, E McGill and Liz Millar.

One of the winners asked to remain anonymous and generously donated her £100 prize to Lamlash Improvements.

Anyone can join the 50-50 Club or is welcome to the Lamlash Improvements meetings at 7pm on the second Thursday of each month.

### Round the rurals

Corrie and Sannox SWRI met in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall for the annual Auld Year's Night Celebration on 8 January.

A good turnout of members and friends included the federation president Mairi Duff attending in her capacity as a member of Kilmory with seven other ladies from that institute.

The evening began with a generous buffet provided by the Corrie members and then Mike Bailey entertained with a selection of Scottish songs, before the president, Elma Stevenson, recited two poems.

Mike then came on for another set and finished with his own composition Lochranza, a beautiful song about the sailor's grave.

#### Raffle

During the interval there was a raffle which raised more than £100 for Scottish War Blinded.

Mari Duff gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the visitors and a very happy evening came to an end.

The next meeting on Thursday 12 February is a talk by Avril Paton on her work.

The competition is for a favourite bracelet and the hostesses are Morag Munro, Anne Pringle and Rachel Phillips.

Do go along for an interesting afternoon with a local artist of international repute.

# Do you enjoy tea, cake and company?



These tea parties are an opportunity to meet others and for some can be the only time they leave their homes.

## Then join Contact the Elderly today

The charity Contact the Elderly offers isolated people on Arran, aged 75 and over, an important social lifeline.

The charity arranges free monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups on the island with the help of volunteers within the local community.

And they are currently looking for more volunteers, drivers and hosts to start another group in the south of Arran.

The tea parties are an opportunity to meet others and for some can be the only time they leave their homes.

Margaret Oliver, west Scotland development officer said: 'How it works is those attending a tea party are collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home for the afternoon.

'The group visits a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same so

everyone gets to know one another and friendships often develop.'

She added: 'Our tea parties bring people of all ages together.

'They allow those who may be very lonely the opportunity to make friends and establish support networks and give everyone involved something to look forward to each month.'

Drivers use their own cars to collect one or two older people each month and hosts hold a tea party in their own homes just once or twice a year. Hosts must have a downstairs toilet and easy access - no more than a few steps into the house.

For more information on how to join Contact the Elderly or to become a volunteer please contact Margaret Oliver - margaret.oliver@contact-the-elderly.org.uk or 01389 605915.

### Friends look forward to new year

Following a successful annual general meeting last November, the new trustees of the Friends of Brodick Castle have been busy planning an interesting programme for the year ahead.

A day trip will be held on Friday 15 May to the House for an Art Lover, the architectural masterpiece built by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, which also has a splendid garden.

A short holiday will be held from 29 September to 2 October when the friends will stay in Peebles.

It will include visits to Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, and Traquair House, Scotland's oldest inhabited home.

Chairwoman Ann Hollingworth said: 'We are looking to recruit new members and everyone will find a friendly welcome. There is no requirement to be a member of the National Trust for Scotland.'

Anyone seeking further information should contact Ann on 840270.



SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2014



Thursday 26 March 2015, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

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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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[www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org)  
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Photographs of the evening will be featured in Scottish Field or online at scottishfield.co.uk and 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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# New album has been worth the long wait

Famed Gaelic singer Mairi MacInnes has just launched her first album in 13 years.

The long-time Arran resident unveiled her hotly anticipated album *Gràs* (Grace) at Glasgow's Tron Theatre last week ahead of a sold-out concert being held as part of the Celtic Connections festival.

## Well known

And she had some well known help when she was joined on stage at the launch by supporting vocalists Karen Matheson and Paul MacCallum.

Since becoming one of the youngest ever winners of the Royal National Mod Gold Medal in 1982, Mairi has become one of Scotland's most beloved and prolific Gaelic language singers.

Hailing from a small township on the Hebridean island of South Uist, Mairi is a native Gaelic speaker who did not learn English until she went to school. She began singing at a young age and

following her Mod win, she recorded and performed with legendary Celtic rock band Runrig. In 1989 she released her debut album *Causeway*, to widespread acclaim. She followed this success with time spent touring and recording with Mouth Music before returning to a solo career.

Mairi, who lived on Arran for many years, now lives in Lanarkshire, but still has a home on the island.

Her fans have been patiently waiting for a new album for more than 10 years, but is worth the wait.

Inspired by the tragic storms that struck South Uist in 2005 and swept away three generations of a single family, as well as pain and suffering experienced by Mairi personally throughout the past few years, *Gràs* tells the story of finding beauty and strength even in the eye of the darkest storms. Each song is the unlocking of an emotion or a memory and Mairi does what

she does best - utilising her mother tongue and the gift of her song to evoke emotion and empathise.

Some of the songs have been written by Mairi; others have been adapted from ancient Gaelic songs and prayers. Some take the form of mouth music, walking and clapping songs, and hymns. Mairi's ambition for the album is for it to serve as a vehicle for sharing ancient words and melodies, passed down through the generations, with modern audiences and thus reflect and promote the Gaelic community.

## Prominent

The album features accompaniment by a number of prominent musicians including Hamish Napier (piano and flutes), Arron Jones (guitar) and Stevie Fyvie (drums and percussion).

The album is available on Mairi's own Puffin label and is on sale at all record shops and online and via iTunes.



The cover of Mairi's new album *Gràs*.

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## Antiquarians celebrate successful year

Around 40 members of the Arran Antiquarians braved a cold, icy afternoon for the Annual General Meeting on Monday 19 January.

The society had a successful year in 2014 with 10 excellent speakers and a most enjoyable annual excursion in June to Paisley Abbey, the Museum and the Thread Mill.

The treasurer reported that the finances were healthy and chairman Tom McLeod gave his report and assured members that an equally entertaining programme was in place for 2015.

After many years as a committee member, vice-chairman and three years as chairman, Tom retired from office.

The society has much to thank him for and a presentation was made to him.

Likewise, Harry Davidson, after 17 years as secretary, and Norma Davidson for her Banner articles, were presented with gifts of the very best kind – bottles!

The committee will now be comprised of: Grace Small, president; Stewart Lambie, vice-president; Harry Davidson, chairman; Colin McKenzie, secretary; Margaret Bruce, treasurer; Ian Hendry and Elizabeth Dale.

Norval Murray retired from the committee after very many years of excellent service.

Afterwards the MacLeod/Davidson roadshow of a slides of last year's speakers and visit to Paisley entertained everyone.

The afternoon ended with the usual refreshments.

The group meet on the third Monday of each month, (excluding December) in Brodick Hall at 2pm, and the next speaker on Monday 16 February is Alison Prince of Whiting Bay with a talk entitled 'Ancient but Uncollectable'.



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# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 4 February, 1995

## People power

The people of Kildonan have stopped Cunninghame District Council's plans to give them a car park - at the eleventh hour.

With the contract awarded, and work due to start a week ago, the planning department this week withdrew its plans to convert a rural grass area, which can accommodate 50 cars if required, into a permanent car park that would have marked spaces for just 14 cars.

Councillor Tom Knox said: 'It was actually the contractor who pulled out at the last minute as he said he didn't want to proceed as he lives in the village.'

## Late night let-off

There was dismay this week amongst Arran hauliers when plans were discussed in the House of Commons to implement a budget measure which will see island contractors pay the same duty as mainland hauliers - even trucks which never leave the island.

But as the discussion lasted well into the night, MP Brian Wilson says he and other members representing island communities forced the Treasury minister to shelve the motion and rethink the whole issue.

If passed it would mean the concessionary reduced vehicle excise duty of £150 would be abolished, considerably increasing their costs.

## Curries changing

At the close of trading today (Saturday), Curries of Brodick will close for another major alteration.

The floor area will increase, the checkouts



will be repositioned, there will be automatic doors and there will be more walking space.

The shop will be closed for two weeks but manager Alastair Bilsland, always an optimist, isn't worried about the loss of revenue and believes it will be 'worth it'.

## Police warning

Police are warning islanders to be aware of a group of men from 'Strathclyde Roads' claiming to be able to tar driveways.

The council's roads engineer Geoff Norris said: 'The region will not do anything without giving you a written quotation for it.'

'And we do not go around touting for trade.' And what about the price? Is £17 per square metre a bargain?

'If it's just a drive surfacing you are talking about then it should only be about £6 - £7 per square metre, but it depends on the quality.'

## New social worker

Barbara McNeice of Shiskine has been appointed as a new part-time social work assistant to help Colin and Diana Turbett with their increasing caseload.

The Turbetts shared one job when they came to Arran some years ago, and Colin was then promoted to full time.

Now with Barbara, there are two full-time positions on the island.

Colin said: 'Our workload has increased dramatically with community care and I am pleased that it has now been recognised that more help is needed.'

## Development

There continues to be considerable interest over the proposed development at Charters Towers in Brodick and the level of likely consultation that will take place.

Celia Urquhart, who is the principal behind the development, has issued the following statement.

'The plans for CU Developments' proposed complex in the Coralynn/Charters Towers area of central Brodick should be completed by February.

'These plans have been extensively reviewed and modified over the months in response to public feedback and market research.'

## No problem here

Arran High School has a seven per cent rate of authorised absence and nearly zero unauthorised absence, according to the just published 'absence rates table'.

Head teacher Iain Murray said: 'Truancy is not a problem at Arran High School.'

**Left: Donald McKelvie addresses the haggis at the Lamlash Burns Supper held in Steamers Bar on Saturday.**

b05twe04



**Stewart Lambie pipes in the haggis which is carried with reverence by chef Maurice Appleby at Steamers Bar in Lamlash.**

b05twe03



**Above: Snow never lasts long on Arran but when it does come it can catch people unawares. At about 2pm on Friday it did just that, and people began scurrying homewards but as darkness fell there were reports of lines of cars stuck on the String Road.**

b05twe01



**Right: Arran now has a new social worker. Barbara McNeice will be working part time with Colin and Diana Turbett.**

b05twe02

# 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  
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 9am-Dusk  
 Mon, Wed & Fri 12.30-5pm Sat 10-5pm  
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
 Open all day

Bridge for beginners  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Hatha Yoga  
 Metafit  
 Lamlash Guild

Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm  
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Hall, 1.30pm - 2.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash 6pm  
 Trust Housing, Lamlash, 2pm

## Saturday 31st January

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

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

## Wednesday 4th February

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  
 Lamlash SWRI

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

## Sunday 1st February

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

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

## Thursday 5th February

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  
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals  
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm  
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Pavillon, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm  
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Auchrannie, 6pm  
 Lamlash church Hall, 4pm - 4.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.15pm - 5.45pm

## Monday 2nd February

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

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

## Tuesday 3rd February

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

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, Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm

## Friday 6th February

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

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

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 Applicants should have a proven track record in maintaining a fleet of heavy commercial vehicles and contractors plant, be highly motivated and capable of supervising others.  
 Welding and fabricating experience is also required and an LGV driving licence would be advantageous, but not essential  
 The successful applicant will be expected to move to the island and assistance in finding suitable accommodation will be given.  
**Applications in writing please enclosing CV to:**  
 John Thomson Construction Ltd, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB  
 or [mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk](mailto:mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk)  
[www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk](http://www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk)

## Public Notices

**ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP**  
**The island GP surgeries will be Closed for training from 1.00PM**  
 on  
**Tuesday 3rd February**  
 If you need to contact a doctor urgently when the surgeries are closed you should phone  
**NHS 24**  
 On  
**111**  
In an emergency please phone 999

**HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)**  
**THE CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS LIMITED (BRODICK) HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2015**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 13 January 2015 Scottish Ministers made the above named Harbour Revision Order ("the Order") under Section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act"). The Order came into force on 14 January 2015.  
 A copy of the Order and the deposited plans relating thereto may be inspected at all reasonable hours at the offices of DWF LLP, Solicitors, Dalmore House, 310 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5QR.  
 Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the ground that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the 1964 Act was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order came into force, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.  
 Dated this 30th day of January 2015.  
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**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2015**

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme, which is limited to grass and hedge cutting.  
 The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for however, we will maintain gardens to an acceptable standard. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".  
 To be eligible the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:  
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 Or  
 Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.  
 Or  
 Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA mobility (higher rate) or care (highest rate).  
 Or  
 Aged under 65 and in receipt of PIP mobility (enhanced rate) or daily living component (enhanced rate).  
 To apply contact the Council online at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme) or by telephone from Monday 2 February 2015 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken. The charge for the scheme is £61.00 including VAT.  
 Applications will close on Friday 27 February 2015. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply. The grass cutting scheme will commence on Monday 30 March and terminate Friday 2 October 2015.

**TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF TRANSPORT SERVICES**

North Ayrshire Council invites tenders for the Supply of Transport Services (Taxi/Private Hire) via the Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) advertising portal. This requirement will be advertised from the end of January 2015 and contracts will commence during March 2015 (date to be confirmed) until 30 November 2016. Please register with PCS to access the tender [www.publiccontractscotland.gov.uk](http://www.publiccontractscotland.gov.uk). Should any tenderer have queries they should contact us via the messaging function within the PCS portal.  
 This is a supplementary taxi overflow contract to service requirements not being delivered by the current contract. This will include Ad-hoc hires, longer term contracts and particular geographical areas where we do not currently have sufficient providers to meet the needs of service users.  
 Tenders (drivers and escorts where applicable) must be PVG checked for children and adults and must hold compliant vehicle documentation. Only fully compliant bids will be considered.

CRAIG HATTON  
 Executive Director (Place)



North Ayrshire Council  
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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MFI Black ash office furniture including desk, mini filing cabinet, bookcases and computer chair. Good condition £125 for all or items can be separated Tel: 860222

Ford Focus Estate - 52 reg, 98000 miles, mot until Oct 15 £400 ono - one owner Tel: 601342

### OVER £30

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 1st February**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mr John Roberts.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
Taizé worship on  
**Thursday 5th February**  
in Shiskine.  
For precise time and venue, please ring 01770-860498.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine  
Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson,  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter:  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Sunday 1st February**  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches. 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Service including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Service including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
A Service including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 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 1st February**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(continuing)  
**Sunday 1st February**  
Morning Service, 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 4th February**  
at 7pm  
5 Glen Road  
All welcome

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number SC014005)  
**Sunday 1st February**  
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am and all who love Jesus are most welcome. There will be the usual activities for young people in the Church Hall.  
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.  
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sunday mass 11am  
**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 1st February**  
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

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 1st February**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin van Rensburg  
**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**  
Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223



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Whiting Bay Golf Club  
Sunday 25 January, at the third time of asking the winter friendly between Whiting Bay and Lamlash was finally played, and it was third time lucky for Lamlash who won the match by 2 games to 0. This leaves the overall score as Whiting Bay - very little, Lamlash - lots of points! Individual sweep: 1 John O'Sullivan 40 points, 2 Todd Jameson 36 points, 3 Matt Harvey 35 points. Dan Bremner won scratch with 71 and Paul Jameson had the only magic two of the day (and, yes, they are all Lamlash members!) Many thanks to John in the clubhouse for the food and refreshments afterwards. Fixtures: Sunday 1 February, AGA Winter League at Lamlash, shotgun start at 10am.

Brodick Golf Club  
Sunday 25 January, Clochendichter. For the first time in the Clochendichter's history, the singles matches were replaced by greensomes. Judging from the comments in the clubhouse afterwards, it was a great success.  
Results: Knowe 5 Street 1, Village 5 Alma 1.  
Table is now : Knowe 11, Alma 10, Village 9, Street 6, so still all to play for in the last two fixtures.



A snowy Brodick golf course. 02\_b01gff01

Fixtures: Sunday 1 February, AGA Winter League/ Duncan Trophy at Lamlash. There will be a sweep at Brodick, with open draws at 9am and 12noon. Sunday 8 February, Brandon and Winter Cup.  
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 commence play at 10am exactly, providing fairways are clear. Please arrive in plenty of time to get to the tees.

Corrie Golf Club  
Saturday 24 January, Winter Cup, six played. 1 A McDonald 72-9=63, 2 M Elliot 83-15=68, best scratch A McDonald 72. There was one magic two from Alastair McDonald.  
Fixtures: Saturday 31 January, medal round at 8.30am and 12noon.  
Sunday 1 February, AGA

Winter League at Lamlash.  
Shiskine Golf Club  
Sunday 25 January, Ryder Cup. Results: Blackwaterfoot 6 v Torbeg 2, Kilpatrick 5.5 v Shiskine 2.5. Kilpatrick win the bonus point. Nearest the pin - 4th: J Salton, 7th: B Sherwood and 10th: Joe Faulkner. Table after four games: 1 Blackwaterfoot 19 points, 2 Kilpatrick 16.5 points, 3 Shiskine 10.5 points, 4 Torbeg 6 points.  
Fixtures: Saturday 31 January, Lochranza v Shiskine match at 1.30pm. Sunday 8 February, Ryder Cup double header, weather permitting, shotgun start at 10.30am.

**BIRTH**

**CRUICKSHANK - Stewart and Lorna**  
(Picken) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Ailsa Jean - 6lb 10.5oz on the 17th January. First grandchild for John and Phyllis.

**DEATHS**

**ANGUS - June**  
Defiantly but peacefully on Saturday, 24th January 2015 following a short illness. Beloved wife of the late Hugh, adored mother of Stephen and Ewan, mother-in-law of Karen, much loved grandma of Katie, Malcolm, Liam, Sean and Lisa. Funeral service in Lamlash Parish church on Tuesday, 3rd February at 11:30am, thereafter to Lamlash cemetery. All of her many friends most welcome. Family flowers only please.

**DEATHS**

**KIRK - James Arthur**  
of Corriegills, much loved husband, dad, grandad and great grandad passed away peacefully Saturday, 24th January 2015 at Arran War Memorial Hospital. Funeral service Thursday, 5th February, 11:30am at Brodick New Cemetery. All family and friends welcome. Family flowers only, donations to the Arran Heritage Museum.  
**SARGENT - Joyce**, 22nd January 2015 died peacefully in Arran War Memorial Hospital, aged 85 years. Much loved mother to Sarah, Mark, Louise and Helen and loving Grandma to James, Katy, Harry, Rosie, Jack, Charlotte and Eddie. Many thanks to staff at Cooriedoon, Montrose House and NAC social services for all your kindness.  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER**

**Arran Bridge Club results**

The results in Brodick on Thursday 22 January were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Anne McKelvie and Alison Bilsland, 3 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales.  
E/W 1 Maureen Cumming and Margaret McGill, 2 Fiona and David Henderson, 3 Jean Barclay and Morag Gardner.  
In Lamlash on Monday 26 January the results were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales.  
E/W 1 John Baraclough and Janette McBride, 2 Margaret McGill and Brenda Livingstone, 3 Mel and Ellie Jones.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**GOLDEN WEDDING**  
Congratulations to Kathleen and Alistair on their Golden Wedding anniversary on the 3rd February 2015.  
Love from Alistair, Stewart, Hazel and all the family.

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# Sport

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# Tokyo Olympics beckon for Hunter brothers

'It feels amazing to have the support of the British Sailing Team and access to the best facilities and support staff in the world'

Following an extraordinary season of successful racing, sailing duo Rory and Neil Hunter, from Lamlash, have been accepted into the British Sailing Team's Olympic development squad.

The Arran brothers have had possible Olympic glory in their sights for the past year and it has come a step closer this year.

The pair left the youth 29er class when Neil became too old for youth sailing and moved into the 49er Olympic class in the summer of 2013.

After a year in the class, the brothers gained an impressive string of results at various regattas over the summer of 2014 including winning

the national championships. They were then invited to train with the British Sailing Team for three months to get a feel for the team and learn the system.

On January 2, at the beginning of a camp in Weymouth, Rory and Neil were officially invited to join the Olympic development squad and will now continue their journey to Tokyo 2020 as part of the team.

#### Award

To top this off, the brothers also found out they had won the British Sailing Team's annual 'Marlow Rope Award' entitling them to a year's supply of rope from Marlow.

This award, in the past, has

been won by many of Britain's top sailors including Olympic Gold medallist Pip-pa Wilson.

The brothers were chosen for the award after the results they have gained without the support of the team and the qualities they have shown in the months of training with the squad.

Neil said: 'It feels amazing to now have the support of the British Sailing Team and access to the best facilities and support staff in the world and to receive the rope award is a huge honour and a great boost for our campaign in the coming year.'

The pair are now in the USA for the Miami Olympic Classes World Cup regatta, which will be followed by a month of training in Weymouth.

You can follow their progress on Facebook: Team Hunter 49er.



Rory and Neil have been officially invited to join the Olympic development squad and will now continue their journey to Tokyo 2020 as part of the team.



The pair are now in the USA for the Miami Olympic Classes World Cup regatta.



The Hunter brothers proudly paste the British Sailing Team logo to their 49er sail.

#### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.