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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 7 FEBRUARY, 2009

No 1686

Huge cash boost for valued voluntary association

£10,000 grant gives us a sporting chance

The future of one of Arran's volunteer associations looks a little brighter this week with news that it could soon receive a substantial grant to help pay for urgent maintenance work.

Arran Sports Association stands to get £10,000 from the Scottish government to help maintain the sports complex at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

At a meeting of Arran Community Council last Tuesday night the councillors voted to give the entire sum to the association.

'Real struggle'

'It's wonderful to be given this money,' said Ian Small, chairman of the Arran Sports Association. 'It has been a real struggle in past years to get funds for the association, so a lump sum like this is fantastic.'

'We are well aware that the scheme still has to get approval from the Scottish government but if we do get the cash we will hopefully use it to fund the resurfacing of the Astro turf.'

The community council had been appointed to take part in a Scottish government pilot scheme which would ultimately devolve more power to community councils.

Under the scheme the Arran Community Council received a grant of £10,000 to be used in a way that will be beneficial to the people of Arran.

Report by
JENNIFER LYON

Campbell Laing, chairman of the community council travelled to Glasgow yesterday (Thursday) to meet with Scottish government representatives.

If the government accept the nomination of Arran Sports Association for the £10,000 then they should receive the funds very soon.

'This is a tremendous bonus for the Sports Association and a morale boost for the committee,' said treasurer, Kenny Morrison. 'We must thank the Scottish government for providing the funding and Arran Community Council for choosing our project.'

The Ormidale Sports ground and pavilion is the base for a number of island sports teams including Arran junior and senior rugby clubs, Arran Junior Football Club, Brodick Football Club and Arran Junior Hockey Club.

It is also the base each year for the annual rugby sevens tournament and the Brodick Highland Games.

'We probably do more for the people of Arran across the whole board than any other island based organisation,' said Ian.

The Arran Sports Association was formed in 1992 by a group of local sports enthusiasts for



Arran Sports Association directors, Andy Ingham, Steve and Judy Draycott and Kenny Morrison, for whom this grant is a lifeline. b06asa01

the purpose of building and maintaining a modern sports complex for the island.

After four years of negotiations, the Queen opened the facilities at Ormidale Park in Brodick in August 1997 at Brodick Highland Games.

The association is faced with huge running costs each year

— a £2,600 grass cutting bill and £11,000 overdraft as well as having to replace 1,000 square metres of turf and soil on the grass pitch.

'The battle to maintain Ormidale Park is never-ending,' said Kenny. 'The cost of renovating the grass pitch last June was £12,000 and we have at present

three areas which require funding.'

'While we are extremely grateful to be considered for this money, the grant will not be sufficient to cover the total cost of resurfacing the Astro turf and we will be using some of our own cash to make up the deficit.'

Woman falls to her death on Goat Fell

A 65-year-old Glasgow woman fell to her death on Goat Fell last Sunday.

Jean Gibson had been walking from Goat Fell summit towards North Goat Fell with a male companion. At 2.25pm she apparently lost her footing while traversing Stacach Ridge and fell about 500 feet on to the east side of the ridge.

Her companion telephoned the emergency services on 999 and police alerted the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

Helicopters

Seventeen AMRT members were quickly mobilised and made their way up Glen Sannox. At the same time two helicopters were scrambled, Strathclyde Police Air Support helicopter from Glasgow Airport and a Sea King from HMS Gannet in Prestwick.

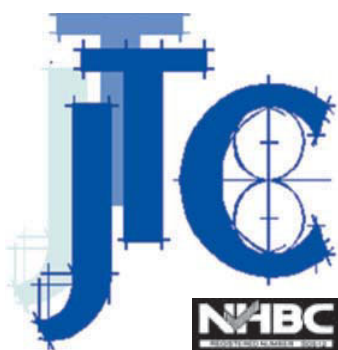
The dead woman's companion was found at about 4pm by the police helicopter.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'The delay in locating the man was caused because when he gave his position he was unsure and thought he was further down near The Saddle.'

The victim was located by the Sea King Search and Rescue helicopter crew which uplifted her and took her to Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock.

Ms Gibson was pronounced dead on arrival at Crosshouse at 5.20pm.

The couple had been staying in a friend's cottage in Corrie.



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Lisa and Scott are musicians of the year



Lisa Duncan and Scott McMurray: Arran's Young Musicians of the Year.

Lisa Duncan and Scott McMurray were named Arran's young musicians of the year at a special competition at Arran High School last week.

Lisa and Scott will now attend the large mainland competition that encompasses the whole of North Ayrshire.

Those performing in the competition included Lisa Duncan (singing), Thomas McMaster (singing), John Tilbury (xylophone), Mark Sherwood (saxophone), and Scott McMurray (violin).

Patrick McMaster, an S6 pupil at the school said: 'Five fifth and sixth year pupils competed on Wednesday evening for an instrumental winner and a vocal winner. All five gave fine performances and the adjudicator, Mr Keith Hamilton, who examines for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, complimented all five on their fine musical performances.'

The North Ayrshire finals of the competition take place on Wednesday February 18 for singers and on February 25 for instrumentalists.

Housing turned down

A planning application for seven houses on the site of Brodick Nursery Gardens has been turned down by North Ayrshire Council planning committee. It

was refused on Tuesday on the grounds that it would represent over development of the site resulting in a significant loss of trees from an area protected by a Tree Preservation Order which would be 'detrimental to visual amenity and the character of the area'.

Objections

Objections from Arran Civic Trust and the Arran Community Council also referred to

over development.

On July 21, 2004, planning permission was granted for the erection of a tea-room on the east side of the nursery and permission was also granted for a house for the owners of the nursery in the northern part of the site. Neither has been built yet.

A Tree Preservation Order on the site was confirmed in September 2008.

Police files

Drinking in public

A young Dougarie man and a young Lamlash teenager were reported for drinking in public last Friday night. On Saturday night a 31-year-old Lamlash man was given a £40 ASBO ticket for drinking in public in Shore Road, Brodick.

Brodick vandalism

Wood panelling was pulled from the outside wall at the Inspirations of Arran shop in Brodick last Thursday night. Police are appealing for information.

Lamlash crash

A car driven by a 75-year-old Arran man crashed at Monamore Bridge, Lamlash at 7.20pm last Friday. No other vehicle was involved but the car sustained extensive damage. The driver did not require medical treatment.

Faulty vehicles

Vehicle Defect Forms were given to three local drivers last week.

On Friday night one was issued to a driver with faulty lights on his car on the String Road.

The following night a local driver was also given a form in Brodick for having faulty number plates. Later on Saturday night a driver was stopped in Whiting Bay and issued with a form for having faulty lights.

Drunk in charge

A young Whiting Bay man was arrested in the early hours of Sunday morning near to the Co-op in Brodick and charged with being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle.

In premises without permission

A 15-year-old Lamlash youth was reported for being in a premises where he was not permitted access, near to Bilislands shop in Brodick at 5.50pm last Saturday.

A police spokesman said: 'He was found in a position where it could be reasonably assumed that he had the intention of theft.'

Golf cart fuel theft

Fuel to the value of £60 was removed from four golf carts at Whiting Bay Golf Club between Monday, January 26 and Sunday, February 1. Club committee member John Pennycott said: 'I took a cart out on Sunday and got as far as the fifth tee when it spluttered out of petrol. When I went back down the hill to get another one it was clear that fuel had been taken out of all four carts.'

Police enquiries are continuing.

Information day for carers

A carers information day is being held at Montrose House in Brodick on Tuesday February 10 from 11.30am to 1pm.

The event shall begin with a talk by Graham Hart – the dementia services co-ordinator for North Ayrshire – and will be followed by an introduction to the Princess Royal Carers Trust.

Volunteers from the Alzheimer's Scotland dementia helpline and other key NHS staff will be there. All welcome.



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Community councillor remains defiant over poster campaign

It will take a hole lot more to stop my roads protest

Ian Small remains defiant after being ordered to take down his signs warning of the poor state of Arran roads.

The Brodick community councillor recently had an accident in his van after hitting a pothole in Lamlash, costing him more than £1,000 in repairs.

Last Friday morning Ian attached signs to council-owned posts in Brodick, Shiskine, Lamlash and Whiting Bay. He had these signs specially made in the same style as the BEAR signs that warn of defects on mainland roads. He also put a large sign up opposite the entrance to Brodick pier.

He told the *Banner*: 'I expect to be told to take the other signs down but they can't touch this one. It's in the grounds of the Douglas Hotel and I have permission from the owner Sean Henry.'

Approval

As the first ferry left on Friday morning he was busy attaching the warning signs to the frame. A lot of motorists slowed down to look and tooted their approval.

He said: 'I can't believe the support and response from the public. People have asked what they can do to help and I just tell them to phone the two numbers on the signs and report road defects. I will phone the council and police each day and report a different serious pothole.'

In Saturday's mail Ian received a letter by recorded delivery from North Ayrshire Council headed 'Illegal signage'.

It said: 'I note that you are erecting signs attached to various items of street furniture around the island.'

By HOWARD DRIVER

'If you fail to remove these signs by Wednesday February 4, 2009 we will remove them and recharge all costs involved to you.'

He sent a letter back immediately saying that the signs would be removed on Monday and pointing out that the council should act consistently by ensuring that other illegal signs put on their poles by political parties and people advertising local sales are also removed.

He said: 'To my knowledge many signs erected by organisations remain on street furniture for weeks.'

On Monday the signs were taken off council-owned posts and re-sited on new wooden posts close by.

On Wednesday Ian said: 'I reported a serious pothole outside the Heritage Museum on Friday and nothing has been done.' The *Banner* checked this pothole on Wednesday and found it to be five inches deep and about two feet across and right in line for the nearside wheel of any traffic.

Community council chairman Campbell Laing said: 'The community council recognises the poor state of Arran roads but we cannot condone taking illegal action. In this economic climate getting more funding will be difficult.'

A spokesman for NAC said: 'Roads nationwide have suffered recently with one of the worst winters on record. This has made it extremely difficult to carry out long-lasting repairs. The Lamlash council offices received three calls from the public regards road defects on Friday, all from one individual.'



Ian Small erecting his road warning sign at the pier early on Friday morning. b06ian01

Man charged over road death of widow

A driver has been charged with knocking down and killing a widow who was on a cycling trip in memory of her late husband.

Nicholas Underdown, aged 28, is accused of causing Elspeth Kelman's death by careless driving on the A841 Brodick to Corrie road on Arran last August.

Mrs Kelman, aged 59, a former teacher of Glasgow, was on the annual bike ride with two of her three sons in memory of her husband Ronald, who died in 1994 aged 56.

Underdown, chief reporter of the Arran Voice newspaper, made no plea or declaration at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court last Thursday and was released on bail pending further investigation.

Twenty will be limit outside schools

Twenty miles an hour speed limits will soon be in effect outside all Arran schools.

Last April council workers put up posts 100 metres each side of every school.

Now the signs with flashing lights will be up on the posts and running by next month. The delay has been put down to the difficulty in getting the required electronics in place. Councillor Margie Currie told the Arran Community Council that the signs would finally be working in March.

She said: 'Arran is the last part of North Ayrshire to have these 20 miles per hour signs. The schools here are all within fairly fast stretches of road although they are already in a 30 mph limit.'

'The stretches affected are all quite short and I think drivers will be happy to reduce their speed for a short while. I believe that the lights will only be activated for about 40 minutes morning and night.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'There will soon be this system outside all Arran schools. During specific times in the morning and afternoon the signs will be activated.'

'For that period the designated areas either side of the school entrance will be subject to a 20mph limit. There will be four lights flashing for that time.'

'It means we will be able to take down some of the other warning signs and rationalise the street furniture.'

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Pupils from Arran High School enjoyed a fun filled ski trip to Valloire, a small town situated in the Galibier Pass in the French Alps. b06ski01NO

High School News



Battlefield Trip Planned

History teacher Mr Sanderson is planning a five day trip to the battlefields of Belgium or Ypres to be precise. He wants to show his S3 to S6 pupils the trench systems, war cemeteries and other memorials of the First World War

battles that were fought there. Mr Sanderson said: 'The pupils will be able to see the reality of what they learnt about the First World War and the nature of war first hand.' The trip is to take place some time in the October holidays but the organising of it has already begun with history pupils having been given let-

ters outlining his plans. More information will soon be available to those interested.

Hannah McMurray S4
Senior French Class 'allez a Paris'
 The higher French class will spend their mid-term break on a four day trip to Paris starting

on February 9. They will be accompanied by Mrs Gregg and Mr Garraway.

The plan is to have two action-packed days exploring the sights and sampling French culture.

They will be staying in a youth hostel in the outskirts of the city and hope to visit all the major sights such as *La Tour Eiffel et L'arc de Triomphe*, to name but a few.

They also hope to experience some everyday French life by visiting 'boulangeries' and various 'magasins', as well eavesdropping on passing conversations simply to see what they understand!

Ben Young of S6 said: 'I'm looking forward to the chance to get some first hand experience of French life, as well as a deeper understanding of their culture. It should be fun.'

Patrick McMaster S6
Ski trip to Valloire

On Saturday December 27, 38 pupils left Arran for the High School's third skiing and snowboarding trip to Valloire, a small town situated in the Galibier Pass in the French Alps.

This pass, famous thanks to the Tour de France, is the natural frontier between the south and the north of the Alps.

Around this mystical area you can admire great summits, such as the Aiguilles d'Arves. In the wintertime, Valloire's 150 kilometres of ski area offers great skiing conditions and thanks to its 350 snow-cansons, we are always guaranteed great snow and have never been disappointed.

The pupils were accompanied by Mr and Mrs Auld, Mr Barr and Miss McGhee.

During the week, the group enjoyed skiing or snowboarding lessons from the French ski school - *Ecole du Ski Francais*.

Different après-ski activities were also organised for us each night of the week. We were kept busy with activities like ice-skating, ten-pin bowling; the town trail quiz, karaoke and discos.

We even joined in with Valloire's own mini Hogmanay street party, not quite in league with Edinburgh's Prince Street, but it was still absolutely amazing.

At the end of the week our ski instructors presented us all with awards to recognise our achievements.

Pupils and staff returned to Arran on the evening of Sunday January 4, ready for the new term on the Monday and were talking of little else than their trip to Valloire.

Julie Hutchison said: 'Out of the three years I have been to Valloire, the third was definitely the best - what a great way to end my six years at Arran High.'

The trip was arranged by Mr Barr and it was thoroughly enjoyed by both pupils and staff. Mr Barr has already started to arrange Valloire 2010 and has started to take names and deposits.

So, any of next year's senior pupils (S4, S5 and S6) who want to join in the fun, need to speak to him soon. Many pupils who went this year hope to return next year.

More pictures of our trip can be viewed on our school web site, www.arran.n-ayrshire.sch.uk in the gallery section.

Ashley Pattison and Katie Millar S6.

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Gibson attacks opposition parties for throwing out budget

Following last Wednesday's vote in the Scottish Parliament which saw Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green MSPs combine to oppose the Scottish Government's Budget Bill, Cunninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson condemned the irresponsibility of opposition MSPs in voting down an increase in funding and investment at a time of recession.

He said: 'Last Wednesday was a sorry day for Arran, Ayrshire and Scotland. It beggars belief that at a time of recession and when stability is required the opposition parties voted against a Budget they agreed 99.7percent of.'

'North Ayrshire Council alone will lose £14.872 million in Scottish Government grant, equivalent to a 32.6percent increase in council tax revenue or £373.25 extra on a Band D property.'

Inflationary

'As it was not approved, this means Scotland will have the same budget as last year, without a single extra penny to meet inflationary pressures or improve services, invest in infrastructure and retain jobs at a time of recession. Of the £1.8 billion in additional expenditure for 2009/10 threatened, North Ayrshire's share is an estimated £47.24 million.'

'Ayrshire and Arran Health Board will lose £17.4 million in additional direct funding and the announcement of its financial allocation for 2009-10, scheduled for Monday 2 February has had to be postponed.'

'The abolition of rates for 3,075 North Ayrshire small businesses, saving them an average of £1,360 per annum and reductions for 658 more of up to £1,870 each, cannot now progress.'

'Unless a new Budget Bill is passed, 35,000 public sector jobs will be lost, business rates and council tax will rocket.'

A new Budget Bill is scheduled to be agreed on this week.

Help needed for Arran youth cabin

The Arran Youth Foundation (AYF) is appealing for help.

Last September the organisation took delivery of the portable cabin that had been a temporary hairdressing salon for Jimmi the Barber for a couple of years. The plan was to site it behind Brodick Library and make it into a youth drop-in centre for the young people of Arran.

Foundation secretary Lexie Andrade said: 'We are in the last stages of legalities in order to open the cabin for the young folk of Arran to enjoy.'

'However, we need storage units for tuck and cleaning equipment etc. Two or three kitchen base units plus a taller larder-type unit would suffice. If any of your readers are in the process of having a new kitchen fitted and getting rid of old units that are in reasonable condition, we could use them.'

Finished

The cabin is now in situ and the youngsters have nearly finished painting the inside.

Lexie added: 'We are looking for volunteer helpers and don't have an opening date yet. Ultimately we want to be open seven days a week but if we can achieve one or two nights a week to start with it will be good.'

'The long-term aim is to get funding to build a purpose-built youth centre with full time youth workers.'

Later in the month they will be doing further groundwork around the cabin to meet planning criteria.

Anyone who can help, either as volunteers or with kitchen units should telephone Lexie on 07742091791.



The Arran Youth Foundation cabin being uplifted from Jimmi the Barber's in September before being sited behind Brodick Library. b06cab01



Members of the Arran Music and Drama Club at the annual jumble sale on Saturday afternoon in Brodick Hall. b06amd01

Club's desperate search for a pianist

The Arran Music and Drama Club are desperately looking for a rehearsal pianist for their production of 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas'.

At the club's annual jumble sale on Saturday that was organised to raise much-needed funds for the upcoming production, club member Lynda Davidson spoke of their plight.

'We are getting pretty desperate now as we really need to start working with the music,' she said.

'We have had a few rehearsals now where we have been working through the libretti (words) with the full cast and we have had a lot of new faces coming along enthusiastically to join us too and we want to

keep focused and keep them also interested in the club.

'We would welcome any help at this time even if it is only temporarily until we can sort something out.'

If there are any pianists out there who can help please come along to rehearsals at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall on Thursday evening.

Bird quiz answers

Mrs Lorna Macdonald of Brodick won a special bird quiz organised to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. In total £50 was raised for orang-utans in Indonesia and Malaysia

Answers to the quiz were: duck, puffin, grouse, sandpiper, kittiwake, yellowhammer, red kite, blue tit, bald eagle, magpie, cuckoo, ruff, bunting, jay, stonechat, swallow, swift, knot, eider and redstart.

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The Burns season on Arran is drawing to a close. Many local villages and clubs have pushed the boat out to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns and last week saw another two Burns suppers.

On Tuesday night Arran Rotary Club held its 12th Burns supper in the comfort of the Glenloy suite at Auchrannie.

Allan Nicol addressed the haggis in fine theatrical style and Charles Currie gave the

Immortal Memory. George McCormack toasted the lassies and Karen Augier replied on behalf of the lassies.

Mairi Christie, vice president of the club, said that as this year celebrates the 250th anniversary of Burns' birth, the evening was going to be very special.

As she introduced the speakers for the evening she pointed out that they all had links to farming at some point in their lives.

'I think this is very appropri-

ate as Robert Burns was first and foremost a farmer,' she said.

To finish of the evening the guests were treated to a selection of Burns Songs from the Ain't Misbehavin' musical group. A particularly welcome sight was that of their conductor Moira Starks, back in harness after a serious illness.

In Kildonan the southenders held a really family Burns supper in the village hall on Saturday night.



Karen Augier gave the reply from the lassies at the Rotary Burns supper. b06gle02



Allan Nicol addresses the haggis at Kildonan Burns supper. b06ki101



The Brodick Lads in Kildonan, Ally Hume and Murray Boal. b06ki102

The guests were of all ages, from the young folk to the not-quite-so-young. It was the 16th Kildonan Burns supper and the second time it had been held in the hall.

For 14 of those years the Brodick Lads, otherwise known as Murray Boal and Ally Hume, piped in the haggis which

was carried from the kitchen by Katrina MacDonald. Allan Nicol addressed the haggis and Russell Cheshire gave the Selkirk Grace.

Highlights of another successful evening were a self-composed song by David Thomas and a first public performance by Mark Brown's pupils, the

fiddle trio of Alastair Yates, Isobelle Adamson and Christine MacLeod.

Andrew Yates gave the Immortal Memory and other speakers were John McDonald, Ronnie Mann, and Liz Kennedy with songs by Laura Selkirk and more piping from the Brodick Lads.

St Brides Ladies enjoy a successful Scottish night

Friends joined the St Brides Ladies last Monday to enjoy a traditional Scottish evening in Brodick.

Many of the customary events of a Burns Supper were included during the evening.

The Reverend Angus Adamson, Brian Boal, and Alistair Hume carried out the traditional start to any Burns night and they were followed by a traditional meal.

The entertainment was pro-

vided by a superb group of ladies called Topagon who delighted the audience with a selection of Gaelic songs.

Liz Lawrie read two poems by W D Cocker with great expertise and humour.

Alex Dale and Stewart Lambie provided music in a very nostalgic manner with their 'moothies'.

Alex Lawrie supplied the background music for the evening, which was greatly

appreciated. The vote of thanks was given by the Reverend Jack Paterson who mentioned everybody who had been involved in the success of the evening.

In a witty and comprehensive address he expressed the thoughts of everybody present.

A superb evening was brought to a close in the customary fashion by singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

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Arran High lose out in Big Green Challenge

Pupils from Arran High School were sadly unsuccessful in their attempts to win the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Big Green Challenge last week.

A team of pupils from Sandwick Junior High School in Shetland won the grand final after beating Portree High School to the title.

Portree narrowly defeated Arran in the first semi-final.

Katy Simmons, Ealana Swinton-Boyle and Eilidh McLeod travelled to the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh on Friday from Arran with teachers Janet Logan and Heather Gough.

Teams from 24 schools across the Highlands and Islands battled it out in debates on renewable energy since last October.

The grand prize for the winners is a trip to visit renewables projects in Iceland and for the runners-up a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall.

William Roe, chairman of HIE chaired the judging panel.

He said: 'Both teachers and pupils have learnt a great deal about energy and power from taking part in these debates. Most of all we have learnt about the energy and power of young people and how much events like the Big Green Challenge can generate these forces for the benefit of us all.'

Industry Experts

The event was hosted by BBC broadcaster Cathy MacDonald and judged by industry experts Jason Ormiston of Scottish Renewables, Amanda Bryan from Scottish Natural Heritage, environmental journalist Bruce Whitehead and Mr Roe.

Jason Ormiston said: 'We were looking for good debating skills and an excellent grasp of the challenges facing our planet and the role that renewable energy can play as part of the solution.'

'It was a tough decision as all



Katy Simmons, Eilidh McLeod, and Ealana Swinton-Boyle travelled to Holyrood on Friday to take part in the Big Green Challenge. They are pictured from left to right with host Cathy MacDonald, teachers Heather Gough and Janet Logan, Kenneth Gibson MSP, and William Roe, chairman of HIE. Picture courtesy of Lewis J Houghton.

of the finalists were exemplary and it was personally a salutary reminder that we have an obligation to face down the great environmental challenges of our time so that the children and young adults of today do not have to pay for the mistakes of yesterday.'

While the judges deliberated their decision, Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson gave the pu-

pils a tour of the parliament.

Mr Gibson said: 'I want to pass on my commiserations to Arran High School, who I believe will come back stronger next year. I was very impressed by the high standard of debating from Arran High School and all the schools.'

'Not only have these young people put a massive effort into researching renewable energy

but their public speaking was outstanding too. This might not be the last time we see them in the Scottish parliament.'

Mr Gibson added that it is important to involve local people in the renewables debate and the Big Green Challenge raises awareness of the significant role renewable energy is playing in economic growth and community development.

Village hall 200 club winners

These are the winners of the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall 200 Club January Draw:
1 Number 55 Lillian Brown, 2 Number 129 David McLeod.

Clubhouse throws out a welcome to all

While many licensed premises on Arran seem to be closing their doors Whiting Bay Golf Club is opening their door even wider.

The clubhouse is regularly open to members, but on Friday nights the committee is now encouraging more people to make their way up Golf Course Road. The licensed clubhouse

will be open to non-members and social members on Friday nights to listen to local musicians playing folk music and even to take part in the weekly quiz night.

The plan is to offer folk music in relaxed surroundings from 6pm up until 9pm when the general knowledge quiz starts.

Non-members can be signed

in by members. The club is looking to recruit more social members to take advantage of the comfortable lounge and licensed bar.

Whiting Bay golf clubhouse is also available for any individuals or organizations who would like to stage a charity fundraising event. Anyone interested should contact the

entertainments secretary Johnnie Kelso on 700241.

Forthcoming events are a bingo night on Saturday February 21 when Ninna Crisp will be raising funds for breast cancer charity. This will be followed by another event on Saturday March 28 when John Ferguson is raising money for Northend Football Club.



A gathering of folk musicians entertained at Whiting Bay golf clubhouse last Friday evening.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER**Grant will be going to a worthwhile cause**

It looks as though Arran Sports Association is going to get a massive boost with a £10,000 grant.

This money is coming from the Scottish government as part of a pilot scheme involving two community councils. The scheme is intended to devolve more power to community councils and Arran was one of two areas in Scotland selected for this pilot.

Arran Community Council was offered £10,000 and tasked with the challenge of finding a project or projects that would benefit as much of the community as possible.

This was not as easy as it first seemed. Through the pages of the *Banner*, chairman Campbell Laing outlined the scheme and asked for suggestions from the people of Arran for suitable projects that would benefit from this funding.

The response was considerable and over the following weeks he received almost 30 applications from a wide range of organisations, each making out a case to take part in the scheme. Community councillors carefully considered all these applications at two meetings.

It was recognised that all applications had some kind of merit but none seemed to quite fit the bill.

Until finally, and with some degree of relief, they alighted on a letter from Kenny Morrison, treasurer of Arran Sports Association. It clearly laid out the aims of the association, the benefits to the community and the range of financial difficulties faced by the organisation.

This was the ideal answer. Granting all the money to a specific project of the sports association would be of benefit to a wide range of islanders of all ages. The association was formed in 1992 and Arran's first modern sports complex was officially opened at Ormidale Park in 1997.

Many organisations use the facilities and the association is run by a small group of committed and tireless volunteers.

Other groups that applied for this pilot scheme will no doubt be disappointed, but a great many Arran people, especially youngsters, will gain from this Scottish government grant.

Arran's bird recorder Jim Cassels has recently returned from a holiday in New Zealand.

In his *Banner* Bird Notes column this week he details some of the fascinating bird species that he encountered 'down under'.

One interesting point that he makes is the impact that the arrival of man had on the fauna of the islands. When European settlers began to arrive in New Zealand in the 1840s they found a bird paradise but within a few years the influence of humans and the mammals they introduced such as rats and stoats was devastating.

With no predators to trouble them, many birds were unafraid of man and this was to be their undoing. More than 60 species became extinct in a short time. As readers will see from Jim's notes on page 13 this week, there are still many beautiful and odd-looking birds, but it is a clear example of the lasting and harmful environmental impact that mankind can wreak on his surroundings.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)

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.

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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.net

Letters to the Editor**Bankruptcy is crazy**

Sir,
To all but the HM Revenue and Customs department, it is as Kenneth Gibson MSP says in *Banner* issue 1684 'absolutely crazy to bankrupt a company over a £180,000 unpaid tax bill', especially when, from your report on January 24 it appears that they have paid it off and they are the main private employer on Arran.

Yet less than a month ago HMRC were severely censured by the parliamentary ombudsman for doing the very same thing to another Scottish firm.

They hounded the managing director of an Aberdeen based recruitment company into bankruptcy even though he had paid up.

The parliamentary ombudsman said this was due to a desire to defend their position and not to admit their error.

You would think that HMRC would have rethought their procedure but they seem intent

on toughening it out.

Outrage may yet correct them.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
Drovers Lane
Penrith

Warm welcome can't be faulted

Sir,
Having read another much justified comment about N and A S Anderson's letter in the *Banner* lamenting the fact that Arran's charity shop wasn't open over the Christmas/ New Year period, I must write to say that I am a visitor to Arran who also happens to live in Lincolnshire.

I feel the very warm, friendly and obliging residents of Arran may have had their view of visitors from my county spoiled.

So please be assured that we don't all come to Arran expecting you all to rush around

pandering to our every whim and please do have your own

well-deserved break from your charity shop.

We love our times on Arran and cannot the fault the welcome we receive.

Yours,
Janet Heath
Lincolnshire

PS: There are at least four charity shops for the Andersons to use within 10 miles of their home village.

Spirit of hope for Britain

Sir,
Councillor Margie Currie writes under the heading 'Spirit of Hope for Britain' (Issue 1685).

The article fails to reflect the optimism in the heading and concludes 'We must all live in hope but I can't quite see the equivalent of the Obama bounce in this country'.

We at the Arran, Justice, Peace and Environment Group live with the realistic hope that there

can be a real Obama bounce in this country.

We refer to Obama's declared dream of a world without nuclear weapons and their intention to stop the development of new nuclear weapons.

This calls into serious question the British government's proposals to replace the Trident System (at an estimated cost of some £20 billion).

Apart from any moral or economic objection, the Trident system is politically dependent on systems to be developed in the US!

We, the undersigned, are hoping for a realistic bounce for peace as opposed to the current and ever present possibility of a bounce into oblivion.

Yours,
Helen Knight, John G Webster, Tessa Smith, Colin Turbett, Gus Smith, Noel Colford, Shelagh Collins, Mary Hanna and Keith Robertson.

Arran Justice, Peace and Environment Group



Donald Bilsland originally from Brodick was married to Lisa Fyfe in Wemyss Bay on Saturday December 6. Donald is a commercial diver and Lisa works for an estate agent. The couple have set up home in Largs.

PS: would you love tickets for Valentine's Day film?

To celebrate Valentine's Day, the most romantic day of the year, Andrew Goodwin from Filmobile Scotland has two sets of two tickets to give away for the film *PS I Love You*.

The film is being shown as a part of a pre-Valentine's Day special on Friday, February 13 at Arran High School in Lamlash.

Simple

To win two tickets just answer this simple question: Who is the patron saint of love?

If you think you know the answer then simply send it to us with your name and address to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or you can post it to The Arran Banner, The Douglas Centre, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ.

The competition closes on Wednesday afternoon at 4pm.

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Minister to consider forest consultation

Scottish environment minister Michael Russell said he is very keen to see all the new ideas and proposals put forward in the forest climate change consultation which ended on January 27.

Arran Community Council discussed the consultation document at their monthly meeting last Tuesday and broadly supported the aims of the Forestry Commission. Welcoming the responses, Mr Russell added: 'Climate change is the biggest threat facing the planet.'

'It is right that we explore new and innovative ways to make our national forests work harder to reduce the impact that climate change has on us all. I am very pleased that so much interest has been shown and that many individuals, organisations and businesses have taken the time to respond to the consultation.'

'It is now my job to consider these carefully. I shall do so particularly where the submissions argue from a factual basis and eschew the nonsense and scaremongering that has been a feature of the political responses.'

'In all my discussions there has been a general consensus that we need to find new and practical ways of maximising the use of our forests in the fight against climate change. Finding practical solutions is now the goal and I will consider very seriously all the ideas submitted.' Scottish forestry is playing its part in helping to tackle climate change. With trees naturally locking up carbon, they have a significant role to play. The use of wood as a fuel will also help reduce harmful greenhouse emissions and the Commission is working hard to promote woodfuel developments across the country.

As of Monday January 26 there had been 220 responses to the consultation and this is expected to rise by the closing date. A decision on a way forward is expected in March or April.



Two ladies at a needlecraft workshop. b06sti02



Shaun the Sheep and Gromit at the textile and creative hobby show. b06sti01

Win free tickets to textile and hobby show

The Banner has six pairs of tickets to give away for the Creative Stitches & Hobbycrafts Show.

It is the UK's leading contemporary textile and creative hobby show and will be held at the SECC, Glasgow from Thursday March 5 to Sunday March 8.

There will be a life-sized knitted display, Shaun the Sheep and The Great British PicKnit,

featuring knitted goodies – far too good to eat.

Traditional

With thousands of modern materials alongside traditional supplies, stitching enthusiasts and beginners will find everything they need from more than 150 exhibitors.

Visit the hands-on areas to try out new products, be inspired and get involved with work-

shops and lively demonstrations.

Sewing, cardmaking, papercraft, quilting, origami, weaving and jewellery making are just some of the demonstrations on offer daily.

Ideas

Leave Creative Stitches & Hobbycrafts Show with something in your hand and ideas in your head.

To be in with the chance of winning one of the six pairs

of tickets to the show simply answer this question: Which famous sheep is featured in the life-sized knitted display?

Please send your answer together with your name and contact details to Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ or email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Survey by national trust fails to discover a single bird

Ptarmigans may have vanished from Arran

Fears have been expressed this week that the ptarmigan, one of Scotland's most iconic birds, has completely vanished from Arran.

Less than 30 years ago, Goat Fell and three other peaks that dominate the island were home to 28 ptarmigans.

But a National Trust for Scotland survey carried out last year failed to find any ptarmigans on Arran's mountains prompting fears that the bird is no longer breeding here.

Rangers from the centre at Brodick Castle studied areas on the mountainous estate in spring and summer last year.

Head ranger Kate Sampson said: 'At one point we had 15 rangers distributed at five metre intervals across the mountain-side and yet all we found was one feather and a little pile

of ptarmigan droppings. We have had reports of two casual sightings of the bird but we do believe that the bird is in decline.'

Arran used to be the most southerly breeding population but the findings suggest that this could now be Ben Lomond.

Difficult

'It's very difficult to know why the birds have disappeared,' said Kate. 'It could be because of climate change, or a change in habitat or it could simply be due to a cyclical breeding habit that sometimes sees the numbers fall dramatically.'

She added: 'We hope that more birds will be seen on Arran in the future and we would ask anyone walking on Arran's hills to get in touch with us

if they see a ptarmigan. This information is essential if we are to get to grips with what is going on with our ptarmigan.'

Findings

The findings of the recent survey are a measure of what is happening across Scotland where ptarmigan numbers have fallen considerably.

Mr Lindsay Mackinlay, nature adviser at the NTS, said: 'Ptarmigan were found to be breeding on most of our mountains, which is good news. Ben

Lomond and Goat Fell are excellent places to see if changing weather patterns will affect the ptarmigan. If predictions about climate change are correct, it is possible that the birds may disappear from Ben Lomond in coming years.'

Ptarmigan blend easily into their mountainous background and with their seasonally changing plumage are hard to spot.

They look very similar to red grouse and in winter their plumage is mainly white.



A recent survey suggests that ptarmigan may have vanished from Arran.

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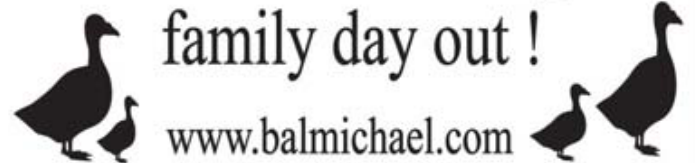
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The P7 boys singing a song they wrote themselves called 'Rabbie's Lassies'. b06soc11



Murdina Currie, Elinor Kinnaird and Janet Gilmour. b06soc03

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Thursday 12th February - Evening Performance 7.30pm
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 Doors open 30min before screening - Admission prices: Adults £5, Children (12yrs and under) £4
 Payment at the door on the day

Homecoming celebrations at Shiskine Primary School

The children at Shiskine Primary School held a special coffee afternoon in honour of the Homecoming Year on Friday.

Parents, grandparents and friends of the school gathered to hear the youngsters perform special Robert Burns inspired songs, poems and dances. Mrs Lillian Tod welcomed the guests as headteacher Mrs Irene Markham is currently off ill.

She said: 'This afternoon has been organised to celebrate the year of the Homecoming and to raise funds for the RNLI.

It is very important for us to support local volunteers who can be called out at any time.

'In preparation for this afternoon all the children learnt about the life of Robert Burns and

did individual class projects on Scotland. They learnt about the country's geography, history and culture and I hope they all enjoyed it.'

Homecoming Scotland 2009 has been organised by the Scottish government to celebrate the country's contributions to the world.

The event includes the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth.

'Throughout this year we hope to be able to welcome, at anytime, people back from abroad who attended the school,' said Mrs Tod. 'We want them to share their experiences with the children as well as see how the school has changed.'

Through donations alone on Friday afternoon Shiskine School raised £218 for the RNLI.



Molly McNiven from P1 takes part in the Scottish country dancing. b06soc08



Lewis Fotheringham came along with mum and dad to watch his big brother performing. b06soc06



Iain Clarke from P7 welcomed the guests by piping them through the front door. b06soc01



Stewart Fotheringham from Shiskine with little Stewart. b06soc05



Youngsters from P1 prepare to go on stage. b06soc07



Gina Brooks with Yvonne Snowdon admiring the children's art work on the school walls. b06soc04



Lesley Elliott and her mum Maureen MacDonald. b06soc02



Preparing to bring in the haggis to an expectant crowd of parents are flag carriers Freddy Liley and Gordon Bloy, piper Morgan Bell and chef Euan Kinniburgh. b06nur08

Shiskine Nursery group hold Burns lunch in village hall

Speakers as young as nine were a feature of the Shiskine Burns Supper two weeks ago and last Thursday the children of Shiskine Nursery group went one better.

The 11 children, all aged just three or four years old, celebrated the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth with a Burns lunch in the village hall last Thursday.

The youngsters entertained their parents and all ate traditional fare of haggis, neeps and tatties, washed down with Scotland's other national drink, Irn Bru.

The haggis was piped in by Morgan Bell with a set of toy pipes and carried by chef Euan Kinniburgh.

They were accompanied round the hall by flag bearers Freddy Liley and Gordon Bloy. Lewis Fotheringham addressed the haggis, helped out by his father Stewart, and George Andrew gave the Selkirk Grace with a microphone almost as big as himself.

Haggis lunches were served up in the kitchen by Robbie Crawford ably assisted by other adult helpers. This was followed by cheese and biscuits supplied by Gordon Kinniburgh, and shortbread and tablet.

James McArthur made a wee speech of what he knew about Robert Burns and Donald Currie proposed a toast. Erin McNiven sang a song, then all the children gave an exhibition of Scottish dancing.

Finally, Alex Stewart made a speech of thanks and the parents gave resounding applause for the marvellous efforts of the children and organisers.

Nursery group organiser Barbara Crawford said: 'They all enjoyed performing for their parents and at least they have learned a bit about Robert Burns.'

Shiskine Nursery group meets in the village hall from 9.30am to 12.15pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Gordon Kinniburgh was one of many adults helping to serve the food. b06nur04



Lewis Fotheringham standing on a chair and addressing the haggis watched by his father Stewart and nursery organiser Barbara Crawford. b06nur02



Robbie Crawford in the kitchen, serving up haggis for the children and parents. b06nur05



George Andrew giving the Selkirk Grace with a microphone almost as big as himself. b06nur03



Lewis Fotheringham and Donald Currie get stuck into their haggis, neeps and tatties. b06nur06



Morgan Bell 'piping' in the haggis which is carried by 'chef' Euan Kinniburgh. b06nur07

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, February 4, 1989

Test case

An Arran girl is taking the Secretary of State to court.

In a test case backed by local MP Brian Wilson, she is seeking an application for a judicial review over the government's right to stop her benefits even though she does not have a YTS position.

The petition was lodged this week in the Court of Session, Edinburgh on behalf of Alison Jane Martin of Carraig Mhor, Lamlash.

We spoke to Alison at her home but she said she would prefer not to talk about it and put us in touch with her solicitor who was unavailable for comment.

The background to the case concerns the government's decision to stop benefits to 16 and 17-year-olds who did not have a YTS post by September.

No jobs chopped

If you venture up the Ross Road these days you will find that the view is changing.

Last autumn we described how the Forestry Commission was planning to 'open up' the view.

Tree growth had cut out glimpses of Holy Isle and according to a landscape plan selective felling was about to begin.

This is now well under way with staff of the Forestry Commission doing all the felling themselves.

This is the first large scale tree cutting done by the Commission staff on the island although it cannot be classed as harvesting as the trees are both too young and inaccessible to be of any use.

In fact it has all been sold as firewood.

The harvesting on top of Lamlash hill has been contracted out to Stewart Lambie.

Busy summer ahead?

Bookings for the summer holiday season are flooding in and anyone wanting a self catering house on Arran during July and August will have to be quick to find a place.

The Tourist Office tell us that their telephone enquiries are up 76 per cent on last year and their letter enquiries are up 20 per cent.

Self catering in particular is well booked up and tourist officer Charles Currie wishes he had more properties on his books to offer people.

'Things at the moment are looking good for the members and we would urge anybody who has a letting property to consider joining the Tourist Board,' he said. 'I feel that people who are not members of the Tourist Board are living off the backs of people who are.'



Bob McCallum of Lamlash was made honorary president of the Lamlash Burns Club at their annual supper last week. b06twe02



Anne Rundle died this week after a long illness. She was the lady responsible for giving so much pleasure to visitors at Brodick Castle by donating her 'Dolls Home' to them. In the five years that the house has sat in the Castle tearoom, it must have become known to every resident. b06twe01



Much brighter and more welcoming than it has ever been before is the ferry waiting room at Ardrossan. The person responsible for this is Douglas Boyd who has leased the already existing café part of the building. In these times of frequent ferry disruptions because of wild weather, his hot teas and coffees as well as sausage rolls and newspapers are most welcome. b06twe03

Farewell Adam

Leaving Arran this week after 13 years as a gardener at Brodick Castle are Adam Murrie and his wife Jacki.

And all the poorer for his departure will be the Arran Labour Party.

Although Mrs Murrie was a member of the local Conservative party, Adam has been the secretary of the local Labour party since the death of Bill Wallace five years ago.

While Arran may be an island, Adam knows it is no political backwater.

During his time here his work has led him to meet Neil Kinnock, Donald Dewar, Tony Benn and shadow chancellor John Smith.

'I think I've helped to make Cunninghame Councillors and the Labour party more aware than ever of the problems on Arran,' he said. 'An awful lot of them thought Arran was a holiday place, with loads of money and everyone was permanently on holiday.'

Tourist Office grows

The Tourist Office is breeding.

This summer it will have a branch office in Lochranza in either the tearoom opposite the pier or in the CalMac shed.

Its main purpose will be to help and advise visitors arriving or leaving on the Lochranza to Claonaig ferry.



Robin Irving fells trees at the top of Lamlash hill. b06twe04



Bird Notes from New Zealand

- by Jim Cassels

New Zealand is notable for its geographic isolation, situated about 2000 km southeast of Australia across the Tasman Sea.

Originally part of the southern super-continent 'Gondwana', New Zealand separated from this landmass between 130 and 85 million years ago.

During this long isolation, New Zealand developed a distinctive fauna dominated by birds.

For someone with my interests, it was a 'must see' place to visit and in September 2008 that came to past.

Before man arrived, there were only two mammal species in New Zealand, two small bats.

Unlike most bats, which catch their prey in the air, the short-tailed bat, in the absence of ground mammal predators, adapted to ground hunting, and is one of the few bats in the world which spends large amounts of time on the forest floor, using its folded wings as 'front limbs' for scrambling around.

With the exception of these mammals, birds ruled.

In an island environment isolated from the rest of the world for more than 80 million years, and free of mammal predators, a number of birds became flightless.

Each of them filled different ecological functions: moa and kakapo as forest browsers, takahe as grass eaters, and kiwi as ground insect eaters - roles taken by mammals in other ecosystems.

Many of the birds were un-

fraid of humans, a common characteristic resulting from the absence of predators, which became deadly when human hunters and other mammals like rats and stoats arrived.

And arrive they did. Firstly, Polynesian settlers who probably came as early as the tenth century then, after Captain Cook arrived on October 6, 1769 came the European settlers from the 1840s. The arrival of humans and the mammals they introduced had a major impact on this bird kingdom. Over 60 species became extinct, including the giant moa that stood 3.6m high and the New Zealand eagle with a wingspan of 3m.

At present, there are 65 native species of extant land and freshwater birds of which 57 per cent are endemic and are found no where else in the world.

Birds like the world famous kiwi and the weka; parrots like

the nocturnal flightless kakapo, the alpine parrot and its relative the kaka. Then there are nectar eaters like the beautiful tui and the well named bellbird; the endangered tieke; and birds like the royal albatross, the black-billed gull and the fiordland crested penguin.

These were among the exotic named birds that we saw and enjoyed in New Zealand.

As well as these unique birds there were astonishingly many familiar birds in New Zealand and these will feature in the second article on the birds of the country.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



A majestic looking fiordland crested penguin.



The beautiful plumage of the flightless kakapo.



The flightless, grass eating takahe.



The paradise shell duck.

b06par01NO



The well-named bell bird.

BANNER FORUM

We want to hear your views. Contact us at

WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK

The Ormidale

Brodick 01770 302293

HOME COOKED BAR MEALS

Served daily 6pm - 9pm and 12.30pm - 2pm at weekends
Beer Garden Children Welcome

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Fri - Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)
Sat - Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)
Sun - Folk Session
Tues - Pop Music Quiz - 10pm
Thur - General Knowledge Quiz - 10pm

Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

The Coffee Pot

Golf Course Rd
Whiting Bay
Tel: 700393

Paintings & Prints by Sheila Findlay on display ~ Eat alfresco in our seafront garden ~

Delicious Snacks & Light Meals
Homebaking always available

CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY - OPENING HOURS
10am - 5pm. Last food orders 4pm

It pays to advertise in the **ARRAN BANNER**

BANNER**WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park 11am - 4pm
Trout fishing Loch Garbad, Bank
Hawk Walks Lamlash
Fitness Assessments, Gym Induction, Personal Training Auchrannie Spa & Gym

SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Highland Dancing Lesson Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Over 21s Disco Ormidale, 10pm

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY

Alcoholics Anonymous St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games Arran High School 1 - 4pm

MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY

Senior Fitness Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Core Strength Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm
Circuit Training Auchrannie Spa, 7.00 - 7.20pm
Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
AB Attack KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Indoor Cricket Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
St Brides Ladies - Speaker Jim Cassels Church Hall, 7.30pm

TUESDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Senior Fitness Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.30am
Lochranza Swimming Club Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Legs Bums & Tums Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 6.45pm
Army Cadets Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Rotary Club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Pulmonary Rehab Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Open Music Session Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Indoor Bowling Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Indoor Bowling Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Toddler Group Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Body Conditioning Class KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Country Dancing Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Shapers Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm

WEDNESDAY 11th FEBRUARY

Mixed Hockey Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Core Strength Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Circuit Training Auchrannie, 6pm
Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy 10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group Village Hall 10am - 12pm

THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY

Senior Fitness Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am
Senior Aerobics Auchrannie 9.30 - 10.30am
Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club Hall, 2pm
Outdoor Run Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Aerobics Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Coffee Morning St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Table Tennis Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Lamlash Cubs Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing Lamlash Church Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Brodick Toddler Group Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Brodick Bridge Club Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Indoor Bowling Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp Ormidale Park 7pm

FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning 10am - 12pm
Aquafizz Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
Circuit Training Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Quiz Night Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Arran Ceilidh Dancers Corrie Hall, 8pm

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY

Quiz Night Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm

**To appear in Whats On telephone the
 Arran Banner 01770 302142**





DRIVE TIMES

BANNER

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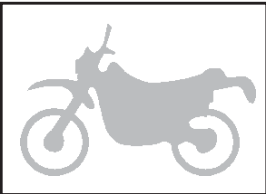
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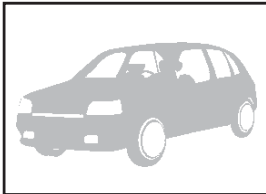
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PUBLIC NOTICES



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GRASS CUTTING SCHEME

The Council's Grass Cutting Scheme limited to grass and hedge cutting only will recommence on Monday 6 April 2009. Details of the scheme are given on the application forms, which will be available at all Housing Offices and First Stop Shops within North Ayrshire. The forms will be available from Monday 9 February 2009 and are also available by writing to the address given below.

Application forms should be completed and signed by a Council Officer, Home Help Organiser or Social Worker and returned to the address given below or the nearest Housing Office or First Stop Shop no later than Friday 20 February 2009.

Inclusion on the scheme will be restricted to the first 625 qualifying applications and will be dealt with in date of receipt order on a "First Come First Served Basis". Those not allocated a place will be placed on a waiting list to be considered when vacancies arise.

North Ayrshire Council, Grass Cutting Scheme, Montgomerie House, 2A Byrehill Drive, West Byrehill Ind Est, Kilwinning KA13 6HN

Ian Snodgrass
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



Kenneth Gibson MSP

Surgeries will be held on the following dates, venues and times.

No appointment necessary

Monday 9th February	Pirmill Village Hall	11.30-12.30
	Whiting Bay Village Hall	13.30-14.30
	Brodick Health Centre	15.30-16.30
Monday 9th March	Kildonan Village Hall	11.30-12.30
	Shiskine Village Hall	13.15-14.15
	Lamlash Fire Station	15.15-16.15

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office: 15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL
 Tel: 01294 833 687 Fax: 01294 835 662
 Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

The Annual General Meeting of

Kildonan Village Hall & Improvements Committee

Will take place on Monday 9th February 2009 7.30pm prompt

At Kildonan Village Hall
 SC016974

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

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70 hours per week on a week on/week off basis
Broddick, Isle of Arran

You will be responsible for carrying out hourly fire patrols, checking mooring ropes, gangway, safety nets and securing ropes. In this role you will also be responsible for any unauthorised person/s on board, call out of ship's crew when required, maintaining mess and engine rooms, and complying with all instructions as listed in the night order book.

Port Assistant£15,974 Ref 247-SB
40 hours per week
Broddick, Isle of Arran

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels. You will be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills.

For both roles you are expected to have a flexible approach to working as the shift pattern will be variable and dependant on local circumstances. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care. Being able to commute to Broddick ferry terminal on a daily basis is essential.

If you are interested in either of the above positions, please respond by sending your CV quoting the relevant reference number no later than 28th February 2009.

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
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t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk**PROPERTY SERVICES****Temporary Grass Cutting Scheme
Chargehand Gardeners* for 30 weeks** Ref: NAY0307£17,470 - £19,125
37 hours per week**Temporary Gardeners* (2 posts)
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42 hours per week**Temporary Grass Cutting*
Scheme Gardeners for 30 weeks (March - October)** Ref: NAY0311£13,776 - £15,065
37 hours per week**Temporary Cleansing Operatives*
(2 posts) for 26 weeks (April - October)** Ref: NAY0313£13,776 - £15,065
37 hours per week**Temporary Cemeteries Labourer*
for 26 Weeks (April-October)** Ref: NAY0318£13,776 - £15,065
37 hours per week

*All positions are based on Isle of Arran

Interested? To find out more and apply on-line go to north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk and enter the job reference number.Closing date for completed applications is
Friday 13 February 2009We are an equal opportunities employer, so please
inform us of any special needs that you may have.**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE
FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**

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

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

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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**S.C. Gibbs, Dougarie Estate,
Isle of Arran, KA27 8EB****EXPERIENCED JOINERS
& HGV DRIVER
REQUIRED****Required****John Thomson Construction Ltd**
Tel: (01770) 600 242**Isle of Arran Outdoor & Walking Festival**The 2009 Festival Organising Committee would like to invite
tenders for the positions of**Marketing & Events Co-ordinator
Activity Co-ordinator**The Festival will take place from 18-21 September. Applicants
are welcome to submit tender documents for either or
both positions.Notes of interest must be submitted by email or letter by
Monday 16th February 2009 to:**Angela Elliott-Walker,
Secretary, Isle of Arran Outdoor and Walking Festival
Glenartney Hotel, Mayish Road, Broddick, KA27 8BX
info@glenartney-arran.co.uk**Completed tenders must be received by 12 noon,
Friday 20th February 2009.**BANNER BANNER
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

Arran Business Services

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MISCELLANEOUS

UPHOLSTERY FABRIC, new, top quality, diamond patterned, 8 metres, £10 p.m. ono. Tel 810607

NEW laminator £10. Tel 600217. QUANTITY of sandstone Tel 302550

ELECTRIC paper shredder £6. Tel 600217

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TREADMILL. Good con, non-powered £15 Tel 830365 / 07818260388

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UPRIGHT DYSON £25. Tel 700725 eve or w/e

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01770 303746 The Douglas Centre, Brodick

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Get your garden ready for Spring!

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Card No. Expiry Date.....Signature.....

Name.....

Address.....

Tel.....



DEATHS

MACKECHNIE - SHEENA

With deep sorrow Hazel announces the loss of her dearly loved mother.

Sheena served as Post Mistress for Pirmill since her return to the island in 2003.

She will be sorely missed by daughter Hazel, grandsons David, Daryl, and Lee, sisters Lys, Anna, Kitty, Tessa, Christine, Flo, brother Robert and their families in Canada. Also by Jay Ferguson and all of her friends, acquaintances and her customers at Pirmill Store whom Sheena served faithfully.

For funeral arrangements please contact Paul Stevenson, Funeral Director on 01294 607001.

Lord's Supper
Corrie Church 12pm. Including Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Pirmill 10.15am.
Shiskine 12pm.
A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 8 February
(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
Shiskine 11am
Brodict 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
Rev David Karoon
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH
Sunday 8 February
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 8 February
Holy Communion.
11am
Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 11 February
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 8 February
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 8 February
11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodict
Evening Service, 7pm
5 Glen Road.
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 11 February
7pm
Rev. D.Macleod
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict.
Sunday 8 February
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship and Word
Speaker: Rev Alan Thompson
Everyone welcome

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RIVERS-MARIE

Chris and Pip would like to thank family and friends for the flowers, cards and kind messages of sympathy. We would also like to thank the staff at Montrose House

for their devoted care and attention to Mum, Doctors and staff at Shiskine Surgery,

The Rev Angus Adamson for a beautiful service, David Hendry for funeral

arrangements and to our friends on the mainland for providing accommodation and food following the service.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Minister
Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited
Sunday 8 February
Brodict Church 10.30am.
Including Sacrament of the

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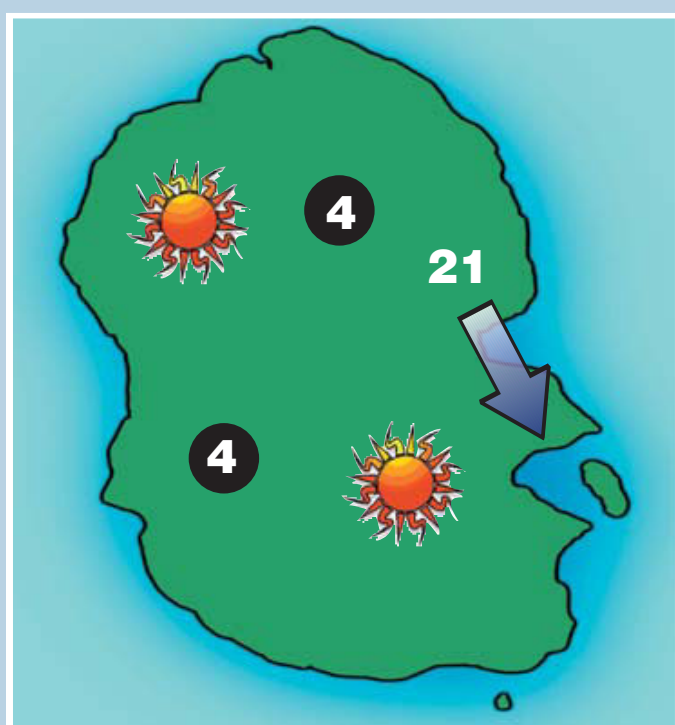
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, February 7 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Sat	0318 0.7 0953 2.8	1548 0.5 2252 2.8
Sun	0418 0.5 1056 3.0	1644 0.2 2349 3.0
Mon	0509 0.3 1148 3.2	1732 0.0 **** **
Tues	0036 3.1 0556 0.2	1231 3.4 1815 -0.1
Wed	0119 3.1 0637 0.1	1314 3.4 1854 -0.1
Thur	0159 3.1 0716 0.1	1352 3.5 1931 0.0
Fri	0235 3.1 0755 0.1	1429 3.5 2009 0.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Lamlash)

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodict Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



Weather

Saturday, February 7

Sunshine throughout the day but still feeling cold with winds of up to 21mph.
Maximum Temp 4°C.

Sunday, February 8

Sleet and showers throughout the day.
Maximum Temp 4°C.

Monday and Tuesday

Showers dying out, remaining cold 5°C

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Ardrossan/ Brodict - Rough
Claonaig/ Lochranza - Rough



Tough tackling for two Arran girls. b06rug03



The group of Arran, Carrick and Cumnock girls. b06rug01



Training in the winter sunshine. b06rug02

Arran girls develop skills at Cumnock training day

After a rocky boat journey on Sunday, January 25 the Arran girls rugby team travelled to Cumnock for a training day.

Ten Arran girls joined about 50 Carrick and Cumnock girls to develop their rugby skills. They were split into four mixed groups and rotated around different stations, covering passing, tackling, kicking and a mini game of touch rugby.

The day was rounded off by playing some games, although by that time they were all cold and hungry and were glad to be welcomed into the clubhouse for soup and sandwiches.

The girls all had a great day and are looking forward to the next planned day in April.



Arran Golfers Association

Winter League 2008/2009
Fourth round results from Lamlash Golf Club on Sunday February 1.
The fourth round got underway at the first time of asking on an amazingly dry but cold morning.

The course was in excellent condition considering the weather it has had to face and all was set for a great day of golf.

First out were the hosts Lamlash against old foes Brodick. Dougie and Jim got Lamlash off to a perfect start with a victory over Sam and Stud but the other games didn't go quite according to plan for the home side, with the only other half point coming from Iain Murchie and Pigeon against Dougie Robertson and Jasper. Lamlash lost the

match overall by the score of 2½ matches to 1½, this was the first time in recent years Lamlash had lost their home game and with it possibly any hope of winning the league as well.

Second game was Machrie against Shiskine. Machrie's settled mix of youth and experience were hard to beat and they came out on top with a great victory by three matches to one, keeping their title hopes intact.

Last off were Whiting Bay and Corrie with Whiting Bay getting a boost after Lamlash's loss they took the game to Corrie and came away with the three points by the score of 2½ games to 1½.

After the games everyone gathered for soup and sandwiches in the clubhouse and to reflect on the days results.

With Lamlash losing Brodick's game against Corrie is now a very important match. If Brodick can manage a victory they could be hard to stop going into the last round of matches with a home tie against Whiting Bay possibly deciding the outcome of the winter league trophy.

A match report on that game

plus league table will be printed in advance of March's final round matches.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 1, Whiting Bay had a narrow win over Corrie in the Winter League at Lamlash Golf Clubby 2½ points to 1½.

Fixtures: Sunday February 8, Winter Cup Round 5. Sunday February 15, friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash Golf Club.

Brodick Golf Club

Men's: Sweep Sunday February 1, nine played, CSS 66.

1 Robert McCrae (7)65, 2 Chris Pattenden (11)69. There were two magic twos from Brian Smith and Chris Pattenden.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 27, Winter Cup. 1 Marc Blair 67 BIH, 2 Hugh McClelland 67, 3 Brian Sherwood 69. Scratch Brian Sherwood 73.
Fixtures: Tuesday February 10, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday January 29, 15-hole medal. 1 Jim Stewart 63-12=51, 2 Neil Mitchell 68-13=55. There was a magic two from Colin Richardson at the 16th.

Saturday January 31, Glen Burn Cup. 1 Billy O'Connor 84-20=64, 2 Colin Richardson 86-16=70, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 82-8=74.

There was a magic two from Billy O'Connor at the 16th.

Fixtures: (Weather permitting) Sunday February 8, Stableford 9.30am and 11am starts.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday January 31, Stableford. 1 B Sherwood 39, 2 C Pattenden 38, 3 D Price 36.

Monday February 2, Monday cup. 1 B Sherwood 64-6=58, 2 D Craford 76-11=65 BIH, 3 A Cumming 77-12=65.

Fixtures: Saturday February 7, Winter Cup, tee-off at noon. Monday February 9, Monday Cup, tee-off at noon. Saturday February 14, AGA Winter League, Corrie v Brodick at Whiting Bay Golf Club 9am start.

Evans brothers meet in McLean Salver final

Two Lamlash brothers contested the final of the Jack McLean Memorial Salver at Lamlash Golf Club on Friday January 23.

Eight local players with the best net scores from the Lamlash Open traditionally play for the salver in a knockout competition.

After the knockout stages, brothers Euan and Matthew Evans were facing each other in the final.

Euan had to give five shots to his brother with his handicap of five, compared to Matthew's handicap of 10.

After a close fought game, Euan won two and one to lift the McLean Salver. Thanks go to the match referee Alan Winship.

This is believed to be the first time that two brothers have contested the final of this competition.

Cricket club set for annual dinner

Sannox Cricket Club is holding its annual dinner and award ceremony at the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday, February 21.

The guest speaker this year is Bill McLaughlin from Whiting Bay who once played for Yorkshire County Cricket Club and counts Brian Close among former teammates.

There will also be musical entertainment as well as a raffle and a quiz before the presentation of Player of the Year award.

All are welcome to attend. There is a bus (for an extra £5 per person) running to and from Brodick (6.30pm) stopping Lamlash (6.45pm) and Whiting Bay (7pm) leaving Kildonan at noon.

SCOTTISH FIELD

February 2009
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Exciting win for Arran's young rugby team

Arran's under 16s boys rugby team defeated Clydebank 35-10 in an exciting game on the mainland last Sunday.

This was the first game the team has played in 2009 as recent league matches have been postponed due to poor weather conditions.

Right from the kick off Arran were pinned down in their own 22 for nearly the whole of the first quarter.

Looking a little ragged from not having played together for a while and with cold fingers, they courageously defended their try line time and time again, eventually driving the opposition over the half way line from where fast hands

and a great little move released Andrew Earle through Clydebank's last line of defence to score the first try of the match. This was converted by Sam Tattersfield to go 7-0 into the lead.

This lead was soon whittled away as Clydebank came straight back at Arran with a well worked try of their own, though the conversion was unsuccessful leaving Arran still in front by 7-5 at half time.

It hadn't been the best rugby so far but as the second half got underway and Arran had the wind on their backs, they started using the ball more effectively and within a few minutes Matthew Evans ran in

Arran's second try, again successfully converted by Sam.

Clydebank again came back strongly and their pack forced it's way over Arran's try line for their second score.

This was strongly disputed by Arran as being held up and the referee acknowledged the try after the match as a mistake.

Territory

With still nothing in the score at 14-10 Arran really turned on the stile for the last quarter. Kicking with the wind, Arran where gaining all of the territory and with most of the game now being played in the oppositions half it was only a matter of time before Robert Taylor sprinted down his wing

for Arran's third try.

A wide conversion was again successfully driven through the posts by Sam to make it 21-10.

The lads where now playing confidently, running good lines and offloading quickly in the tackles.

This quickly set up Matthew for his second score between the posts, which Sam drop kicked for the conversion, 28-10.

Arran didn't let up and piled the pressure on even more, releasing Andrew to crash over the line for his second try, making the final score 35-10 with Sam's 100 per cent kicking total intact.



Arran's under 16s boys rugby team, from left to right: Back - Neil Hunter, Peter Sell, Jack Barbour, Shaun Higgins, Andrew Earle, Euan Bulger, Robert Taylor, Sam Tattersfield, Stuart MacMaster, Matthew Evans, Robbie Bayne, Kieron MacMaster, Ryan Boal. Front - Iain Bayne, Donald McEachern, Charlie Boal, Scott Currie, Liam Boal, and Babbies McNeil.

Coach Gerard Tattersfield said: 'The team voted Andrew Earle as Man of the Match and the match ball was kindly sponsored by John Thomson Construction Ltd. The whole team of 19 lads had worked and tackled hard for the whole match, knitting together well in the second half and making all their training pay off with a well deserved win.'

Riding Club enjoy New Year ride



The riders stopped at the castle where staff served them sherry and fruitcake.

Horse riders from across Arran gathered at Cladach, Brodick on Sunday for the annual New Year Ride.

Organised by the Arran Riding Club, the event was scheduled to take place in early January but poor weather forced the club to cancel at the last minute.

Sunday was a chilly but dry morning so 17 members rode through Brodick Castle gardens as part of their route which took them in a loop around the Country Park trails. Their first stop was the castle where staff served sherry and fruit cake to fortify the adults and fruit juice to the younger contingent.

Bar Eden the team to beat

With just eight weeks of the pool league to go, the team from the Bar Eden are sitting very comfortably at the top with 36 points.

Results from Thursday January 29: Cameronia 9 Corrie 3 (gallon), Bar Eden (G) 9 PHT 3, Catacol 6 Drift Inn 6 (G), PT1934 8 Kildonan 4 (G).

The next matches to be played on Thursday February 12 are: Cameronia v PT1934, Kildonan v Corrie, PHT v Catacol and Bar Eden v Drift Out.

The Arran Open Pool Competition will now take place on Sunday March 8.

	P	W	D	L	Pts	GoB
Bar Eden	12	12	0	0	36	8
Drift Out	12	7	2	3	23	7
PT1932	12	6	2	4	20	6
Corrie	12	6	1	5	19	7
Cameronia	12	5	2	5	17	7
PHT	12	4	1	7	13	4
Catacol	12	3	2	7	11	6
Kildonan	12	0	0	12	0	3

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday February 2: N/S 1 J Barclay and E Paul +4170, 2 J Maclure and A McKelvie +3740, 3 H Boyd and J Murchie +3550. E/W: 1 A Bilsland and T Martin -1520, 2 P Adamson and E McConnell -1620, 3 J and J Beattie -2510.

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