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High School pupils Robert Ingham and Hannah Ross did a week of work experience with COAST last year when they mapped the Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam around Lamlash Bay. Photo by Arran Photography.

Arran to wage war on unwanted invaders

REPORT
 by JENNIFER LYON
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A project to clear one of nature's most destructive plants is set to begin on Arran in coming months under guidance of the Community Council.

The invasive Japanese Knotweed is a fast-growing plant, which can flourish in any kind of soil and it can be found all across the island.

At a meeting of the Community Council last week it was agreed that the foreign marauder must be dealt with before the problem becomes too big to manage.

Lamlash councillor Brenda Stewart has become an expert on the problem plant.

She told the meeting that only a professional would be able to rid the island of the knotweed completely.

'I have contacted all the island's improvement committees as well as private estates, contractors and golf clubs,' she said.

'So far they have all been delighted to hear that a plan of action is being drawn up and they are keen to be involved.'

Stuart Brabbs of the Ayrshire Rivers Trust has drawn up a plan of action.

It involves training a group of volunteers to map the areas where the plant is prevalent us-

'Japanese Knotweed must be dealt with before the problem becomes too big to manage'

ing GPS before using various methods to exterminate it.

It will take three years to clear the Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam from the mapped areas.

However Ian Small, community councillor for Brodick, believes the problem is too big for the council to tackle.

He said: 'This is an issue that has been cropping up for 25 years. It is far too big for the community council to handle.'

'We have far more important things to be getting on with.'

Bill Calderwood, who is also a Brodick Community Councillor refutes this and told the meeting that 'it is exactly the kind of project we should be leading'.

He added: 'It's a huge problem that we need to step-up and tackle.'

Japanese Knotweed was first brought to Scotland by wealthy Victorians looking for an attractive and exotic plant to brighten up their gardens.

In its native Japan, Knotweed is controlled naturally by insects and fungus.

But in Britain it has now become the most invasive, alien species currently spreading around the country.

Look out for more information in the coming weeks about the knotweed project.



Japanese Knotweed has now become the most invasive, alien species currently spreading around the country.

Stagecoach fuel scam conviction

A bus company worker has narrowly avoided jail for stealing hundreds of litres of fuel from his employer.

Iain Wright, 47, took part in the £1,000 scam at the Stagecoach depot in Brodick, with six other local men, it was claimed.

Prosecutors dropped pro-

ceedings against the other accused - though they could face trial at a later date.

Wright, formerly of Lamlash but now of Caledonian Road, Stevenston, admitted stealing diesel and selling it on in November 2010.

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court heard Wright had access to the

diesel as he was responsible for fuelling buses.

Wright was given a community payback order of 100 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to Stagecoach.

The court heard the penalties were a 'direct alternative to custody'.

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Braille packaging for Paterson Arran products

Paterson Arran is going to make a range of products with Braille on the packaging.

The company will be the first branded shortbread to feature the system and intends to have Braille packaging on all its new products.

A spokesperson for the Royal National Institute of Blind People said: 'Going food shopping can be fraught with difficulties for the blind and partially sighted.'

'RNIB welcomes the move from Paterson Arran to include Braille on food packaging. In fact, we believe that food manufacturers are missing a trick as anything that improves the labelling of food, in Braille or clear print, would benefit the UK's two million consumers living with serious sight loss.'

'We hope that other food manufacturers follow suit.'

The company produces a range of shortbread as well as oatcakes, jams and chutneys under the Arran range at the Lamlash factory.

Damaged Glenashdale bridge to be reinstated

Masonry to be returned to its original state

The bridge at Glenashdale at the south end of Whiting Bay is to be reinstated to its original condition.

Following recent damage caused by two vehicles crashing into the bridge there were concerns among local residents that the masonry would be replaced by metal railings as has previously been done on the seaward side of the bridge.

Two local drivers had crashed into the bridge, one on 10 December and another on 4 January, resulting in major damage and much of the masonry falling into the Ashdale Burn.

In a letter to Kenneth Gibson

MSP, David Lodge, Supervisory Engineer, North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We are aware of the accident damage at the bridge. I am pleased to advise that engineers from my Structural Design section have visited the site and have already put out a repair scheme for competitive tender.'

On Wednesday this week, an NAC spokesperson told the Banner: 'Murchie Sand and Gravel have been appointed as contractors.'

'The masonry will be reinstated to its original state.'

Work on the bridge is expected to start on Monday 20 February and last for one week.



The damaged Glenashdale Bridge, soon to be reinstated. 02_b06brg01

Police files Drink driving

A 49-year-old Lamlash man was stopped in the village on Thursday night 2 February and reported for alleged drink driving.

Drugs

A 21-year-old man who resides in Lamlash was found to be in possession of controlled drugs last Thursday night 2 February. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Fog lights misuse

On Saturday 4 February a 21-year-old Shiskine man was issued with a fixed penalty for improper use of fog lights.

Hut damaged

Police enquiries are continuing into damage to a builder's hut at Springbank, Brodick. Contact Lamlash Police Station.

Suspected explosives on Lamlash beach

The local Coastguard team received a call from Strathclyde Police on Monday night after a suspected explosive device was found on the beach at Lamlash.

Arran Coastguard Rescue Team investigated and found the ordnance was in fact an out of date red flare.

The team recovered the flare safely and transferred it to a safe holding area.

Petrol comes down in price

Stop press: Arran's fuel prices have just come down.

Most island garages have already invoked the five pence reduction brought about by the UK Government's fuel duty rebate announced last December and due to

be rolled out in March. On Wednesday Iain Thomson of John Thomson Construction told the Banner:

'We've already cut the price of fuel at the pump by five pence a litre.'

'It's still pretty high in com-

parison with mainland prices, but our unleaded is now £1.44 a litre and diesel £1.54 a litre.'

In an article on page four of this week's Banner we reveal that only Coll and Tiree have higher fuel prices than Arran.

Auchrannie named as one of the country's most relaxing hotels

Staff were celebrating again this week after receiving news that Tripadvisor has awarded Auchrannie House Hotel a prestigious 'Travellers Choice Award'.

The accolade recognises the hotel as one of the top desti-

nations for relaxation in the UK. Tripadvisor - the online travel review site - allows visitors to hotels, restaurants and other tourist facilities to leave reviews and ratings about their experiences for other users to read.

The annual 'Tripadvisor Travellers Choice award' winners are chosen based on real feedback from real guests left at every hotel the length and breadth of the country.

Group director Linda Johnston, speaking on news of the

award said: 'We always knew that coming to Arran and in particular Auchrannie was a recipe for relaxation and we're glad to know that contributors to the world's biggest travel review site agree with us!'

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SNP council candidate announced

The SNP have announced this week that John Bruce of Sannox will stand in May's council elections as the party's Arran Candidate.

Sitting independent Councillor Margie Currie is also believed to be standing for re-election.

John, whose family has roots on the island, has lived in Corrie since the mid-eighties and brought up his three children here.

He has worked in local government and as a secondary school teacher.

Having also run a hotel, he understands the difficulties faced by the hospitality industry on Arran.

He is now retired from teaching and lives in Corrie with his wife, Anne.

Having travelled extensively in Scandinavia, he told The Banner that he has a vision of how much better our rural and island life can be.

His main interests are education, tourism, housing and transport infrastructure - especially ferries.

He said: 'If elected, my top priority will be to promote the social and economic wellbeing of Arran and its people.'



John Bruce from Corrie has been selected to stand in the council election in May for the SNP.



Murder in Strawberry Forest, penned by Zoe Tomalin who won the Douglas Sillars Trophy for best performance in a youth play at the 2010 Drama Festival. 02_b10str02

Six plays at 2012 Drama Festival

The 2012 Isle of Arran One-Act Drama Festival will be just two nights this year.

With only six plays, it will be one of the shortest festivals for many years.

On Friday 24 February Shiskine Junior Drama Club present 'Do it yourself Frankenstein Outfit' followed by 'Bat out of Heaven' by Lamlash Junior Drama Club and 'The Real Problem' by Shiskine WRI.

On Saturday 25 February Lamlash Junior Drama Club will give 'Mr Macaroni and the Exploding Pizza Pie'. The Castaways present 'Last Tango in Little Grimley' and Shiskine Drama Club will give 'Each Evening Sees Its Close'.

'Last Tango in Little Grimley' is a comedy about a struggling theatre company trying to come up with a new idea to attract audiences.

The script details that in a bid to boost numbers, one of

the actresses agrees to show her breast on stage, which promises to be a notable first for Arran drama.

'The Real Problem' is a comedy about love and men set in an Elizabethan era pub.

It will be interesting to see which Shiskine lady plays the part of Henry VIII's late wife Anne Boleyn as the script calls for just her severed head to be on stage and speaking.

This year's adjudicator is Mr Jim Gibson of Saltcoats.

Doors open both nights at 7pm at Arran Community Theatre with curtain up at 7.30pm.

Arran passengers dumped off train

Passengers bound for Arran were dumped off a train at Ardrossan South Beach last Friday.

Around 50 passengers, most of them local residents, were forced to find a taxi or take Shanks' pony to cover the remaining mile of the journey to the ferry terminal.

Because the train was running late, they had already missed the 3.15pm ferry and

had over two hours and a long walk before the next sailing.

The 2.15pm train from Glasgow Central would normally arrive at Ardrossan Harbour at 3.09pm, giving just six minutes to catch the 3.15pm ferry.

But this train was delayed by around half an hour due to signalling problems and terminated at South Beach, two stations short of the harbour.

Ann Moynihan of Corrie said: 'It was absolutely appalling.'

'When the train got to South Beach at 3.40pm they just chucked everyone off.'

'The train then went back towards Glasgow. The announcement over the PA just told us to get off; the driver and ticket collector were in a helpless state.'

'It definitely said 'Ardrossan Harbour' on the front of the train.'

'Some of the younger folk walked off towards the harbour, but the older ones had to look for taxis. I've had a hip replacement and heart bypass; there's no way I could have walked.'

Another passenger, Sinead McKinnie of Brodick, said on Facebook: 'That's it - I've had it with ScotRail - I'm going by bus from now on!'

Some passengers waited at South Beach and were able to board the next train at 4.12pm to meet the 6pm ferry sailing back to Brodick.

A ScotRail spokeswoman said: 'We always advise customers to allow plenty of time for onward ferry connections.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused by circumstances outwith our control.'

Island pensioners exempt from new train concession rules

Arran's pensioners will be exempt from new concessionary train ticket rules introduced by SPT.

Councillor Kaye Harmon, chair of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee (SCTSJC), said that Arran's pensioners will not lose concessionary train fares during rush hour. She said: 'It was reported in last week's Banner that 'cheap rail fares for Arran's pensioners travelling to Ardrossan would be scrapped during evening rush hour'. It is correct restrictions on concessionary rail travel between 16.30 and 18.00 are being introduced to bring the Strathclyde scheme in line with the rest of the Scotrail network. However it does not apply to any rail connections that include a ferry journey, a key mode for the Arran - Ar-

drossan journey - so island residents are effectively exempt.'

The Banner also reported that SPT councillors had voted in favour of these travel changes but this was not the case. Councillor Harmon said: 'It should also be noted, as has been pointed in the past, that the SPT Board does not operate the concessionary travel scheme, nor does it make decisions on any changes.'

'That is the responsibility of the cross-party members of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee. I very much value Concessionary travel and believe that the Strathclyde scheme is hard to beat.'

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Arran fuel prices only topped by two others

The Isles of Coll and Tiree are the only two places in Scotland with more expensive fuel prices than Arran, according to recent research by *The Oban Times*.

It takes at least two and a half hours by ferry to reach the remote islands in the Inner Hebrides.

Currently on the Isle of Tiree petrol is priced at 156.0p and diesel at 161.0p while Coll is the most expensive in the country at 171.0p for both petrol and diesel.

Arran's fuel prices currently stand at 145.5p for petrol and 159.9p for diesel.

In contrast to this, Stornaway on the Isle of Lewis has prices set at just 144.9p for petrol and 155.9p for diesel.

Prices in Benbecula, Barra, Uig, and Skye are also all cheaper than Arran.

Scotland Office minister Michael Moore said he intends to get the Office of Fair Trading to launch a 'wide-ranging' investigation into the situation.

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Montrose House Care Home to gain £1.8 million

NAC agree investment in jobs, young people and the vulnerable

North Ayrshire Council has agreed to add an extra £1.8 million of additional resources to help develop the new Montrose House Care Home in Brodick in the coming year.

New building

The investment could see the new care home being built by the end of the year.

At the local authority's annual budget agreement last Wednesday it was also agreed to spend millions of pounds tackling unemployment, protecting vulnerable

people and investing in the region's young people.

The council say they are able to make this investment thanks to 'good housekeeping and prudent financial management over the last few years'.

Around £4m will be invested in the council's core priorities including parenting programmes, child protection, family centres and tackling domestic violence.

Investment of £1m will also be made in a range of schemes to stimulate eco-

nomical activity and job opportunities across North Ayrshire.

Mentoring

An extra £800,000 has been allocated to the capital investment programme and £300,000 has been set aside for mentoring vulnerable children, supporting educational attainment and developing excellence among young people.

The council living wage has been increased to £7.20 per hour and more funding will go to the Older People

Change Fund.

Speaking after the Council approved its budget for 2012/13, leader of the council David O'Neill, said: 'By approving this budget today, we are investing in the most pressing areas of need in North Ayrshire.'

'We will make this investment despite facing a funding shortfall of £23.3m over the next three years and a poor grant settlement compared with some wealthier authorities.'

'Our staff have worked

incredibly hard and have responded positively to the challenges of the last few years and this has allowed us to invest in the Council's priority areas of job creation, early intervention and prevention.

'It is clear that next few years will continue to be challenging.'

'However, I am confident that we can continue to show the right attitude while providing quality frontline services to the people of North Ayrshire.'

Tough task ahead for Civic Pride Award judges

Judges are this week locked behind closed doors as they search for the stars of our local communities among the dozens of nominations put forward for this year's North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

Shortlist

The chairmen of North Ayrshire Council's four other Local Area Committees have joined Provost Pat McPhee and award sponsors for the unenviable task of sorting through the nominations to decide which of the deserving local champions will be shortlisted for the prestigious awards on 23 March.

Committed

Arran's residents have been nominating the committed individuals and dedicated groups who have made a real difference to the day-to-day



The chairmen of North Ayrshire Council's four other Local Area Committees have joined Provost Pat McPhee to judge the Civic Pride Awards.

lives of those on the island for the Civic Pride Awards.

Now, Provost McPhee and Councillors Robert Barr,

Alan Hill, John Ferguson and Anthony Gurney must whittle down the stack of nominations to create a shortlist of

three finalists in each of the five categories.

Sponsors representatives, Billy Baird of Marley Con-

tract Services and Elaine Gibson of ANCHO, will assist the judges in their respective categories.

Tough task

Provost Pat McPhee acknowledged that she and her fellow judges have a tough task ahead.

She said: 'Dedicated community groups and committed individuals make North Ayrshire the wonderful place that it is.'

'I am delighted to see so many local people appreciate the lengths they go to in order to enrich the lives of those around them and that people have taken the time to nominate them for the Civic Pride Awards.'

'We now have the very difficult job of creating a shortlist - it is going to be an almost impossible task!'



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Corrie pupils embrace London 2012 Olympic spirit

The pupils of Corrie Primary School are embracing the spirit of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

They have based all their topic work on the Olympics and are trying to live by the Olympic and Paralympic values by joining the 'Get Set' Olympic network.

Teacher Jane Boyle explained: 'As an introduction to the topic we looked at the Olympic mascots. The six older children wrote a newspaper article about the mascots Wenlock and Mandeville - we felt that the majority of the general public didn't know much about them or their significance. It was very kind of the Banner to choose a winner, Trefor Goronwy, to publish in this edition of the local newspaper.'

Trefor is the winner

All the entries were of a very high standard, but the Banner staff felt that Trefor's was the winner and we are delighted to publish the following extract.

'Wenlock and Mandeville are the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic mascots.

'The mascots were revealed on 19 May 2010 and have been going round the world meeting athletes and making friends. They are animations thought up by the Olympic committee and have a lot of detail.

'The gold and silver one is Wenlock, the Olympic mascot, and the blue and silver is Mandeville, the Paralympic mascot.

Wenlock is made from British steel and he has the 2012 Olympic symbol on his chest with arrows pointing to it

representing all the countries coming to the Olympics. His eye is a camera lens so he can capture everything he sees and learn quickly and the shape of his eye symbolises the shape of the Olympic stadium roof.

'The three points on his head represent the podium and he has five friendship bracelets in the colour of the Olympic rings. He has a taxi light on his head with the letter W for Wenlock.

Inspired by Much Wenlock 'His name was inspired by Much Wenlock in Shropshire, where the Wenlock Olympia games in 1850 which also inspired the modern Olympic games.

Mandeville is the Paralympic mascot and his name came from Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury. It is a hospital where people came after the war.

'Ludwig Guttman, the man who ran the hospital, decided to make a games in 1948 for all the disabled people in the hospital. It then got bigger and was held in Rome in 1960 after the Olympics; it then became the Paralympics.

'Mandeville has the arrows pointing to the Paralympic symbol and he is blue and silver. He is streamlined and as a result it helps him to be as fast as the wind. He has a wristwatch with 0:20:12 on it and he always wants to beat



Olympic story winner Trefor Goronwy of Corrie. b06tref01

his own best record.

'The prongs on his head represent the Agitos the Paralympic symbol and are also in the three Paralympic colours. He has a camera lens eye and a taxi light with an M on it for Mandeville.

The Olympic committee asked Michael Morpurgo to write a story about them. It

was a huge success and was turned into a short film that you can watch on YouTube. It is really getting the children involved.

There is a downside to these wonderful creatures; if you want them to come to a school or a community event it costs £850 raising to £1,720 if they require an overnight

stay and £2,450 for a trip to Scotland or Ireland and maybe more for a trip to Arran. If you found the mascots confusing the Olympic symbol is also confusing; if you look closely the four shapes read out 2012.'

Information from Wikipedia and learning from class topic. Trefor Goronwy (reporter).



London 2012 Olympic mascots Wenlock and Mandeville. b06mas02

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It can even be wet in summer on Arran. Isabella Reid, Megan McNicol, Jessica Reid and Erin McNiven enjoy splashing in the mud at the Arran Show in August 2008. 02_b44far02

Arran looks back on wettest year on record

We may have just enjoyed a short spell of cold dry weather, but that cannot disguise the fact Arran has endured the wettest year on record.

Farmer Alastair McKenzie of The Knowe Farm said: 'I have kept records here for 23 years and 2011 is the wettest year I have had with 101 inches.'

Springs bubbling up

Alastair takes readings at 8am every morning and added: 'Out of this year we had four days with more than two inches of rain and 14 days with more than one inch of rain. We had 226 days with rain, leaving only 139 dry days.'

'We've got springs bubbling up where we've never seen them in living memory;

getting out and about to do fieldwork is impossible.'

Highest

According to figures collated by Tony Smith of Whiting Bay, the total rainfall he measured in 2011 was 90 inches, the highest figure for 46 years.

That is how long Tony's records go back since he began measuring precipitation on the island in 1965. He says that the previous highest figure was 85.4 inches, recorded both in 1990 and 1992.

Tony said: 'During this period the lowest total was 46.7 inches in 1969. You will recall that The Banner printed a two-page article entitled 'Rain, rain, rain' on 19 January 1991 and I suggested that there seemed to be a marked

trend towards wetter conditions.'

The overall yearly average from 1965 to 2011 was 67.3 inches, but from 1965 to 1977 it was 58.5 inches while from 2004 to 2011 it was 70.6 inches.

Tony added: 'I don't have comparable pre-1965 data, but these figures suggest that we were having a comparatively dry period about 40 years ago.'

'And that the last 30 or so years' totals perhaps reflect what might be considered as normal Arran rainfall.'

Looking at individual months, the lowest October figure was 2.5 inches in 1973 and the highest 14.4 inches in 2011. The lowest December rainfall was 2.1 inches in

1968, and the highest 15.0 inches, again in 2011.

Tony said: 'These figures relate to the Lamlash/Whiting Bay area. Annual totals for Brodick would be around 10 inches more, higher still on the hills. Machrie and Shiskine figures may be up to 15 inches less, and Kildonan perhaps 10 inches less.'

'Most Arran residents will be able to recall long runs of wet days, but just recently we have had 51 consecutive days with some rainfall, from 23 November to 11 January.'

'Unfortunately I have not retained any systematic notes of this feature for past years but I'm pretty certain this must be a record, unless someone, perhaps in the Brodick area, can beat it.'

Island hotels urged to be covered by proper TV licence

TV Licensing Scotland is reminding hotels and guesthouses on Arran to make sure they are correctly licensed before the first major holiday breaks of the year.

As with other businesses, a valid TV Licence must cover all hotels and guesthouses where customers or staff are watching or recording TV programmes as they are broadcast.

The good news for managers and owners is that a single licence covers the first 15 rooms on any one site.

For the vast majority this means they only need to pay £145.50 for a year, the same amount as a private house.

For those hotels and guesthouses that have more than 15 accommodation units, there is an additional fee for every five extra units.

TV Licensing enquiry officers will be out visiting unlicensed premises throughout February, and anyone found watching television illegally risks a court prosecution and

fine of up to £1,000 per offence, plus costs.

Officers use a database of almost 30 million UK addresses to identify premises where they suspect people are using TV illegally.

During the past two years TV Licensing caught more than 2,700 businesses not covered by a valid licence.

Martin Couchman, deputy chief executive of the British Hospitality Association, said: 'With families making the most of the half term holiday, and couples booking romantic weekend breaks away, February is a busy time for hotel and guest house owners.'

'That's why it is really important to get organised as soon as possible, and make sure you are correctly licensed, rather than risk a fine of up to £1,000. We know that most people want to stay within the law, and it is important to ensure you are covered for the coming weeks and months ahead.'

What's Murray been digging?

People may have spotted Murray Boal's digger on the Roots of Arran Community Woodland site this week and wondered what he's up to?

Well, the charity received a grant from the Arran Trust to put in a new path and pond on the site.

Much replanting has been done over the last 10 years by Roots volunteers, however, the site nearest to Brodick is completely inaccessible due to forestry clearfell timber strewn like giant matchsticks across the land.

Once the path is put in place, volunteers will plant up the borders with native ash, rowan, blackthorn and so on in order to firm up the soil and continue to establish this deciduous woodland.

The pond will be monitored over the next year and the flow-rate adjusted so that it becomes a haven for wildlife and can be used by local school groups for environmental studies.

In spring this year the group

hopes to hold a public consultation organised by the

Forestry Commission in order to get a better idea of what locals want for this community woodland space, whether it's more paths or more features...in the meantime, why not get involved in supporting this environmental group now.

Two of the group's Forest School Leaders are holding a birch broom-making day on Sunday 12 February. So if you think it's time to sweep those leaves off the grass or to clean the patio maybe an environmentally sourced and lovingly hand-made birch broom is what you need. (Kids might prefer to fly theirs!)

Meet at viewpoint car park between Brodick and Lamlash at 12noon with stout footwear and a packed lunch. The walk to the site is one mile along a fairly steep track.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Islanders sought to marshal 'bike and hike' charity event

Local people are being urged to volunteer to help during a 'Bike and Hike' event this summer to raise £10,000 for Diabetes UK.

It will be the sixth year this event has been held on Arran and the last five events have completely funded a diabetes educational camp for local children with the condition.

Diabetes UK is the leading charity for over 3.5million people in this country with diabetes and helps to fund research as well as campaigning and helping people living with the condition.

Last year the event raised £8,000 towards Diabetes UK and organisers hope this year will be even bigger.

Organiser Ian Caird said: 'On 16 June we are challenging people to cycle the 55 miles around Arran before climbing the island's highest peak, Goatfell.'

'We already have large numbers of people signed up to take part in this challenge but we desperately need local people to help marshal the event and help at water stations.'

Two static 'pit stops' will be located at Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza.

Ten-mile markers will also be placed around the island at various points to give the cyclists an idea of how far they have come.

The local Mountain Rescue Team have already kindly agreed for their base toilet facilities to be available throughout the day.

For more information and to volunteer your services on the day please call Laura Hemming on 07920145407.



North Sannox picnic area, the site of Arran's Hoofed Lady Festival. 02_b06lad01

Arran's Hoofed Lady Festival set for Sannox

An unusual new event is being planned for Arran this Spring.

Ghostly past

Called The Hoofed Lady Festival, it promises to be something a little out of the ordinary. It is scheduled to take place at North Sannox picnic area, and takes its name from the legend of The Hoofed Woman as originally published on page 281 of The Book of Arran and more recently on page 10 of the Banner 29 October 2011 as part of a feature on Arran's ghostly past.

This event running from 13 to 16 April is said to be 'a weekend-long celebration of Arran's history, culture and outstanding natural beauty, fused with contemporary Scotland-wide music and arts'.

Attractions planned are a main stage with an array of performers, 'village pub' on site hosting ceilidhs, quizzes and traditional music, a tea

tent and various local food and craft stalls as well as a campsite.

The Hoofed Woman of Arran in fable allegedly appeared to a young girl who was sent to look after cattle in a remote shieling or hut in the upper part of Glen Iorsa on Arran in the 18th century.

A strange woman came to the door of the shieling one night seeking shelter and the girl reluctantly let her in.

Her sheepdog was very wary of the woman, and only when the crone was stretched out asleep did the young girl notice to her horror a black hoof showing from under the bedclothes.

The girl and dog escaped and took to their heels down the hill with the sinister hoofed woman in close pursuit.

When she reached her father's house the girl just managed to bar the door but her dog was left outside. In the morning the poor dog was found mangled to pieces with

not a hair left on him.

Such legends are rife on Arran, and we featured seven similarly terrifying tales in the Banner last Halloween.

We trust that no dogs will get mangled nor girls chased in terror by this modern ver-

sion of the Hoofed Lady, and wonder just who will be the lucky local lady cast in the role of the sinister cloven-hoofed old crone.

More details of the festival are promised in the near future.

Arran SNP look to the year ahead

The convenor of the local SNP party is 'looking forward to the year ahead' following the party's AGM last Sunday.

Malcolm Kerr addressed the meeting and said: 'Our immediate priority is the NAC local government elections in May this year, now less than three months away.'

'Our Arran based prospective candidate is John Bruce who is joining Councillor Tony Gurney in contesting the Ardrossan and Arran four-member ward.'

'There is a realistic possibility of the SNP becoming the largest party group in North Ayrshire Council.'

He added: 'After that, all eyes will be on the 2014 Independence Referendum.'

At the AGM, Arran's SNP members elected the following office-bearers for 2012:

convenor Malcolm Kerr, vice-convenor Jim Lees, secretary Anne Bruce, treasurer Penny Brass and political education officer Jim Lees.

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Saturday 11th February

Valentines Dinner 7.30pm
3 course meal plus glass of fizz £22.50
Call reservations on 860 444

Sunday 12th February

Jazz Café 2pm until 4pm
live in the lounge

Sunday 12th February

6 Nations Rugby Live on the BIG screen
Wales V Scotland 3pm

Friday 17th February

Darts competition & raffle 8.30-11pm
in the public bar, all welcome

Saturday 25th February

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Invasive non-native species: attack of the aliens

There is a war going on in the parks, gardens, ponds, rivers and greenhouses of Britain.

And this week, Arran joined that fight. At stake is the future of the country's native flora and fauna.

This time it's not just under threat from the usual foes – urbanisation and deforestation – but from the 2,000-plus non-native species of animals and plants that are estimated to have found their way here.

Not all are deadly invaders. Some non-natives, such as the horse chestnut which originates in Asia, even become pillars of the community; but some can wreak havoc, crowding out precious native species, spreading parasites, stealing food sources and blanketing waterways, choking the life out of native aquatic plants with their tendrils.

A war is now being waged here on Arran against the marauding Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, both of which have taken over large tracts of land on the island. Some may question why such action is needed but this problem plant has been left to grow and occupy large areas of land untracked for 20 years.

If left for another 20 years, there will be parts of Arran where no native vegetation can be found but these invaders will be growing in abundance.

Last year Arran was declared a designated safe haven for red squirrels. The intention is to protect the red squirrels from being overwhelmed by the grey species.

The problem with knotweed is that we will only succeed in ridding the island of it when people on the mainland stop throwing it away on to beaches and rivers.

The plant came here originally because its spores were washed up on our beaches.

Educating the entire country about the deadly effect of transporting these plants is the only way to stop them spreading further. And this is the point where we all pitch in. Stuart Brabbs of the Ayrshire Rivers Trust is co-ordinating a full attack on Japanese Knotweed with the island's community council. In the coming months volunteers will be trained to collect data and map where these plants are found on Arran. Once mapped a full-scale assault will be mounted to exterminate the knotweed and balsam but it will take at least three years to kill one plant.

This is a very important project and one that needs the help of many people. So, really, it's over to us all to help eradicate these invasive non-native species for good.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.' (2 Corinthians 8:9)

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.co.uk

Letters to the Editor



Pirnmill School Burns Supper

Sir,
I would like to thank all those who contributed to the children's opening Centenary Event – the Burns Supper held on Wednesday 25 January.

We had support from parents, school staff, Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall and Isle of Arran Distillery staff to set up a beautifully decorated room and provide excellent service for our guests.

Alongside the children, we were wonderfully entertained by Campbell Laing, Jo Hunter, Sheila Gilmore, Mairi Farquhar and Nikki and Andy Surridge with the Reverend Angus Adamson and Miss Crisp making a splendid entrance with the Haggis.

Many thanks to the organisations above, the Arran Society of Glasgow, local businesses, staff, pupils and friends of Pirnmill Primary School for making our children's Burns Supper a wonderful start to the Centenary Year.

Thank you all so much.
Yours,
Hazel Gardiner
Head Teacher
Pirnmill Primary School and Nursery Class

Praise for rail and ferry

Sir,
A few weeks ago, due to a gas leak in the area between Glasgow Central and Paisley Gilmour Street, the 2.15pm train that connects with the 3.15pm sailing from Brodick was cancelled at short notice at around 2.10pm.

Travellers who were going on to Largs, Ayr and Ardrossan service were advised to use the Paisley Canal Street train and then make their way to Gilmour Street.

However, myself and several others travelling to Arran called at the duty manager's office in Central Station and were very efficiently escorted into two private hire cars, paid for by Network Rail.

Network Rail made Caledonian MacBrayne aware of this

travel arrangement.

CalMac staff at Ardrossan contacted myself at 3pm to establish our whereabouts and we were advised that the 3.15pm sailing would be held in order for us to travel.

I would like to thank both Network Rail and Caledonian MacBrayne for their efficiency and swiftness in which this was dealt with resulting in several very happy travellers getting to Arran at the time they had planned.

Yours,
Elaine Higgins
Lamlash

Why no airstrip?

Sir,
One solution to the disruption caused by the lack of ferries is to provide an airstrip or heli-pad for just such an event.

This emergency arises every so often, but nothing's been done about it.

Some years ago there were proposals for an airstrip in the south-west of the island, but these lapsed.

Other islands smaller than Arran have long since provided themselves with airstrips. The Isles of Scilly began their helicopter service in the early 1960s, and the remote isle of Foula, population 40, built their own airstrip over 30 years ago.

'Don't put all your eggs in one basket' is a wise old saying. The basket here is the ferry service and its vagaries.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers Lane
Penrith

Care funding

Sir,
May I reiterate that the Care Inspectorate – the independent body that enforces standards of care – awarded Craigelea (Care Home) improved grades in August 2011 which were sufficient for it to lift its brief (six week) embargo on new residents.

So what exactly were the regulations agreed by the Care Inspectorate preventing any new residents being admitted to Craigelea that the Council were obliged to

follow? (see comment made by the Leader of the Council on front page of last week's Banner)

What exactly does Mr O'Neill mean by 'It is our duty to make the best use of public money to fund the highest quality of care possible'? This seems to suggest that it is the Council's duty to see that funding for care on the island is directed to the Council's new-build home in Brodick. Therefore it was probably in the Council's best interests for Craigelea to close.

The ban on new residents by the Council in February 2010, when the Care and Support was passed as adequate by the Care Commission, caused Craigelea to operate at only 70percent capacity. What business can sustain that?

The council continues to side-step answering straightforward questions which has raised many people's suspicions as to its motives.

Yours,
Fran Hadden
Alma
Whiting Bay

Vanessa's Tesco backpack

Sir,
On Saturday 28 January, 21 volunteers made their way to the Tesco store in Irvine for a day of bag packing to raise funds for the Vanessa Riddle Appeal.

Despite the store being quieter than usual (apparently due to the Kilmarnock-Ayr football match!), an amazing £1,831 was achieved. With additional donations given to Ann Reid from Arran locals, a total of £2,050 was raised for Vanessa. Ann would like to thank all her wonderful friends and family who assisted with the bag pack and also the generous locals who have given money to her and online at Vanessa's JustGiving page. Connie and Chris Riddle are overwhelmed by the support given to them from the Arran people. Please continue to support the Vanessa Appeal events that have yet to happen on the Island: Kirsty Smith's Zumba

Party on Sunday 12 February, Sophie Marriot's dance for Vanessa in Brodick Hall on Saturday 10 March and Matt Johnstone in Calmac's Brodick office is also running a 10k for Vanessa on 10 March.

Yours,
Ann Reid
Clauchlands Farm
Lamlash

Drama Festival

Sir,
The Isle of Arran Drama Association One-Act Festival is fast approaching.

We have a brand new web site for you all to check up on the latest news, forthcoming events and the programme for the Festival. Visit us at www.iorda.org

Enjoy.
Yours,
Allan Nicol
Association Chairman

Webcam woes

Sir,
You are probably aware but just to inform you the webcam has been stuck for several days now and I am really missing watching the activity and weather in Brodick. Yours,
Brian Laycock
Halifax
West Yorkshire

Missing the webcam

Sir,
It makes my day when I can use your webcam every working day to see Arran, unfortunately, it seems to be frozen (like the weather.) My family and I have been coming to Corrie, the first week in April, every year for the past 11 years. I would be lost if I didn't have your webcam and the Arran Property webcam.

Yours,
William Little
Edinburgh

Editor's note: We are pleased to report that our webcam is now fully operational again. Thank you for all of your letters and e-mails. It's good to know the service is valued so highly.

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With just days to go until Valentine's Day – the festival of love and romance – we thought we'd bring you the perfect places to spend some quality time with your true love.

Whether you are thinking about getting down on one knee or you just want to give your partner a night to remember – Arran has many wonderful places to get the juices flowing.

The history of Valentine's Day and its patron saint is shrouded in mystery.

But we do know that February has long been a month of romance.

St Valentine's Day, as we call it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

One legend states that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century

in Rome.

When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers.

Valentine, realising the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Legend has it that Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself.

While in prison, it is believed that he fell in love with a young girl who visited him during his imprisonment.

Before his death, it is told that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine', an expression that is still used today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legend is murky, the stories certainly emphasise his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and most importantly, romantic figure.

It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Treating your partner to beautiful flowers or a romantic dinner by candlelight is one of the best ways to say 'I love you' on Valentine's Day.

Eleanor's Flowers has a wonderful selection of Valentine's bouquet that can be personalised to suit that special person in your life. Arran is a great place to eat out at any time of the year.

With many wonderful restaurants you are sure to find that special place to enjoy a romantic evening and perhaps the perfect location to ask that special question!

On this page are just a few of the many great eating establishments that are providing special Valentine's menus for you to choose from.

Whatever you do on February 14, make sure you spend it with someone you love.

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Silage judge Bob Mitchell makes one or two points. 02_b06cow04

Clauchlands

Arran farm comes out top in South West Scotland Grassland Society's 2011 Silage Competition

REPORT
by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Alex and Stuart Reid in the dairy class and overall championship is therefore outstanding.

The Reid family farm at Clauchlands in Lamash has won the South West Scotland Grassland Society's 2011 Silage Competition.

Incredibly, it follows a similar Arran win in 2010 by Neil and David Henderson at Kilpatrick.

Preserving summer grass as silage for winter livestock feed has become the main method of feeding animals, especially in the west of the country with higher rainfall and fewer dry days making hay almost a thing of the past.

In March last year the Banner featured Neil and David receiving the BP Nutrition Forage Trophy for best silage in the beef and sheep category for 2010.

And this is the first time a farm on Arran has been overall champion in the 39th year of the competition.

A test sample of silage was taken at Clauchlands last July and subsequently analysed by Auchincruive College. It was shown to have a D value of 77, 31.0 dry matter, crude protein 16.9 and 12.3ME.

2011 was a very unfavourable season for silage-making and there was intense competition from several farms on the mainland with excellent quality silages.

Clauchlands was short-listed for this excellent sample, and on Friday 27 January the Banner accompanied this year's judge, Bob Mitchell of Cupar in Fife, on an inspection visit of the farm.

The win by father and son Bob Mitchell spent two

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To claim this offer, complete the below application form and, along with an up to date passport sized photograph, take it along to the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Oban, any time in February, 2012. You can also post your application, photo and a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to Merlin Entertainments, to Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll PA37 1SE.



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Photocopied application forms will not be accepted. Only one annual pass per application form can be claimed.



Some of the Clauchlands Holstein calves enjoying comfortable straw bedding. 02_b06cow06

clinches 2011 silage championship

hours with Alex and Stuart examining the silage clamps, feeding practices, hygiene, livestock management and effluent disposal.

Stuart said: 'We expected to cut on 10 May, but the chemical analysis was right so we took a first cut on 29 April. We took a second cut in the second week in June and a third in third week of August.'

'In total we will have made about 3,300 tonnes of silage.' In addition to the three cuts they make about 600 tonnes of whole crop silage with Spring wheat undersown with Italian red clover. The Clauchlands herd runs to 225 Holstein cows in milk, 30 dry cows and 170 followers.

After being wintered inside, the cows are out at pasture from the end of March to mid October.

The success of Clauchlands

and other Ayrshire farms was said to be largely due to the few days sunny weather in late April-early May.

Judge Bob Mitchell said: 'It is becoming more and more difficult to separate leading silage entries now that management of clamps, effluent and utilisation have become uniformly good. I could find very few faults at Clauchlands.'

Clauchlands now goes through to the Scottish national silage championship against farms from Central, North and North-East.

Kilpatrick made it a double for Arran and followed up last year's success by coming second in the 2011 beef and sheep class.

David Henderson said: 'We weren't expecting this; to be there again is quite an achievement.'



Some of the Clauchlands Holsteins tucking in to some prizewinning silage. 02_b06cow03



Alex and Stuart Reid and Bob Mitchell on top of one of the silage clamps. 02_b06cow02



Alex Reid points to the clean silage face. 02_b06cow05



Judge Bob Mitchell, Stuart and Alex Reid, with Holy Isle in the background. 02_b06cow01

Brodict Bridge Club

The results of Brodict Bridge Club on Thursday 2 February were: N/S 1 Roddie Thompson and Eendy McNiven +1260, 2 Isabel McArthur and Elizabeth McKellar +120, 3 Jean Murchie and Brenda Livingstone +50.

E/W 1 Maureen Cummings and Jennifer McArthur +1680, 2 Trisha Martin and Douglas Hamilton +1370, 3 Janette McBride and Peter Thompson +1040.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results of the tournament on Monday 6 February were as follows: N/S J McBride and J Wales +2700, 2 A McConnell and P Adamson +900, 3 J and M Dick +610.

E/w 1 B Livingstone and M Gardiner +1960, 2 E Sillars and M MacGill +1730, 3 J McLure and A McKelvie +1610.

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Arran beasts entered in Oban Highland Cattle Spring Show

Southend farmers Mike and June Taylor have entered two beasts in the 121st annual Spring Show and Sale of the Highland Cattle Society in Oban next Sunday 12 February.

The livestock judging takes place on Sunday and all cattle are to be sold in the ring the following day, Monday 13 February.

Mike and June of Dippenhead Farm run Highland Cattle at home and also in the fields of Brodick Country Park.

Their entries are a pedigree

white yearling bull in class 6 and a yellow yearling heifer in class 13. The heifer, called Beate 6th of Glentyne, is described as being 'good natured and easy to handle'.

There are 162 cattle entered in the show and sale, and one of the highest prices in recent Spring Sales was £14,000 guineas for a bull in 2009.

Television viewers may recall that BBC Countryfile presenter Adam Henson bought a Highland bull for 2,400 guineas for his Cotswold Farm Park at this Oban sale last year.

Guild host charity coffee morning

The Lamlash Guild will be holding their annual coffee morning in aid of Erskine Hospice this week.

The event will take place on

Wednesday 15 February between 10.15am and noon in Lamlash Church Hall.

Please come along and support this worthy cause.

Farming down the years with Arran branch of Union

When the Arran branch of the National Farmers Union of Scotland celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1995, the group compiled a small booklet detailing the history of the organisation.

A copy has just come into our hands and it gives a fascinating insight into the changes in the rural landscape and communities on Arran.

The retail price for milk in 1920 is quoted as being eight old pence for a quart. A resolution was passed by the Union in 1922 asking Bute County Council to prohibit the use of Arran roads as a motorcycle track. In the same year, the Shiskine branch of the Union approached Bute Council about 'the deplorable state of the Shiskine roads'.

In 1926, freight and farriers' charges and pier dues were of concern to the Branch as freight from Glasgow via Brodick cost two shillings and sixpence a ton more than freight from Glasgow via Pirmill.

In 1940, farmers were unhappy with the price being offered by Arran butchers for lambs. After a meeting with Mr Donald Watson and Mr Adam Miller it was agreed that the price would be one shilling and one penny a pound for lamb and 10 old pence a pound for beef.



A farming scene from February 1984 with Willie Stewart of Craigdhu helping out John Stewart with oat threshing at Craigend, Kildonan. b05farm01

In 1948, the committee supported an approach from D S Bannatyne requesting help for the granting of a road licence for haulage between Blackwaterfoot and Brodick, because other hauliers claimed that there were ample vehicles already on the road. Support was granted in view of this splendid service to the community.

Petrol on Arran in 1950 was three shillings and eight old pence a gallon (3.9 pence

a litre!). In the early 1950s young men were still being called up for National Service, causing a shortage of farm labour.

In 1959 Donald McNiven was appointed as Arran representative on the Red Deer Commission and a campaign for inclusion into the Crofters County began. A ticket for the dinner dance cost 15 shillings. It was brought to notice in June 1966 that tinkers were asking widely differing rates

for thinning turnips and it was agreed that a rate of two shillings for 100 yards should be set. During 1968 about 20 farms agreed to install bulk milk tanks. Wild mink were reported in some parts of the island, and the banning of Dieldrin sheep dips had caused a noticeable increase in maggots.

The little book goes on to detail the steady and interesting changes to rural life on Arran up to 1995.

Scottish Opera coming back to Arran

Scottish Opera is coming back to Arran.

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

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

Gareth Williams is Scottish

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

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

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

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



Rosie Aldridge, mezzo-soprano. b06ope01



Marcus Farnsworth. b06ope02

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Brodick to Wemyss Bay sailing goes down in history

MV Isle of Arran's sailing only the eighth recorded car ferry crossing between Brodick and Wemyss Bay

On 22 January this year the MV Isle of Arran made, what was believed to be, a historic crossing from Brodick to Wemyss Bay.

Here, ferry enthusiast Kenny Morrison, explores the history of car ferry sailings from Brodick to the Clyde port.

In the summer of 1980, the Ardrossan – Brodick ferry service was being maintained by MV Clansman (1964) but with a car carrying capacity for only 60 vehicles, she was having difficulty in coping with all the vehicle traffic and back-up sailings were urgently required.

At this time, Arran's first dedicated car ferry MV Glen Sannox was employed on CalMac's Clyde cruising roster around the firth and she was eminently suitable to provide such sailings.

Her normal Friday cruise from mid-May to the middle of August was to Tarbert

(Loch Fyne) but on five peak Fridays she would sail only as far as Tighnabruich with all her passengers disembarking at Largs on the return journey.

The 'Sannox' could then sail on to Ardrossan and provide a 1700 sailing to Brodick and an 1810 Brodick to Wemyss Bay crossing where she remained overnight.

Help out

Every Saturday she would help out on the Rothesay run until 1530 when she left Wemyss Bay for Brodick, then Ardrossan before back to Brodick and then on to Gourock at 2130.

She was then in position for her Sunday cruise.

In 1981 she carried out the same Saturday timetable but the 'streaker' MV Jupiter did the Friday sailings.

On 21 August – the day of Bute Highland Games – she sailed only from Wemyss Bay to Brodick return.

In 1983 Saturday sailings by



Wemyss Bay could be used more often in the future as a refuge port if Arran has two smaller ferries instead of the MV Caledonian Isles.

the Jupiter were only made on an 'as required' basis and these occurred on only six days, the last of which on 13 August returned to Wemyss Bay and then Gourock.

1984 saw the introduction of the new MV Isle of Arran to the Ardrossan – Brodick run and with an increased capacity for 80 cars, back-up sailings were no longer required.

Therefore the MV Isle of Arran's sailing on 22 January this year was only the eighth recorded car ferry crossing between Brodick and We-

myss Bay – and may even be the last. However, should the proposal contained in the recent Scottish Government's Ferry Review that two small ferries be placed on the Arran route, then Wemyss Bay may just become an alternative 'port of refuge' in addition to Gourock.

Coincidentally the 'Sannox' and the 'Clansman' were both sold for further service across the Red Sea taking pilgrims on part of their journey to Mecca as opposed to taking pilgrims over to Ardrossan!

Corrie Film Club

Cria Cuervos (Raise Ravens) Spain 1975
Cert 12A

Corrie Film Club's February offering is a powerful anti-Franco allegory by renowned director, Carlos Saura.

One of the screen's most impressive performances by a child is given by Ana Torrent in this film about fear, bad faith and patriarchal suppression in fascist Spain, made during the last years of Franco's regime in the mid 1970s.

In *Cria Cuervos* (*Raise Ravens*), she plays a sensitive eight-year-old orphan, also called Ana, but the time and place are Madrid as the Franco Regime is on its last legs.

Ana merges the real and the imaginary as she scrutinises her family after the death

of her father, a philandering army officer, and her mother (the director's then partner, Geraldine Chaplin), whom he has destroyed and becomes obsessed with trying to kill her father.

Indeed, Ana believes she has poisoned her detestable father and the title refers to the old saying: 'Raise ravens and they'll peck your eyes out.'

Cria Cuervos is a quiet, haunting film, eloquent in its hints and silences, shot, as it was, at a time when Spanish directors still had to cloak their criticism of Franco in allegory and metaphor.

This unsettling, moving and, at times, funny film can be seen this Sunday evening in Corrie and Sannox Hall.

All welcome.



The MV Glen Sannox is pictured berthing at Wemyss Bay on August 25, 1984.



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Arran's most common garden bird, the chaffinch. b06bir01



The blackbird, one of 26 species seen in the Arran garden birdwatch. b06bir04

Chaffinch tops the Arran garden birds list again

Island bird recorder Jim Cassels reports that the humble Chaffinch appears to be Arran's ubiquitous garden bird.

The last weekend in January was the weekend of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch.

Jim said: 'Thirty-one households on Arran not only took part in this survey of garden birds but shared their results with me. A similar number had taken part in 2011.

'One bird was present in all gardens in both years, the Chaffinch.

'Indeed the top five birds in terms of the number of gardens seen in were the same both years namely Chaffinch, Robin, Blue Tit, Blackbird and Great Tit.

In both years 26 species were seen.

'In 2012 while the following were not recorded: Siskin, Jackdaw, Yellowhammer, Common Gull and Treecreeper; new ones were added including Buzzard, Herring Gull, Grey Heron, Woodcock and Barn Owl.

'By far the largest total of birds seen was Chaffinch with 331 in 2011 and 343 in 2012.

'The second largest total was the gregarious House Sparrow with 148 in 2011 and 124 in 2012 in only around half of the gardens.

'From 2011 to 2012 here was an increase in the number of the following species: Coal Tit from 37 to 98, Starling from eight to 82 and Green-

finch from 45 to 66, although 42 of these were recorded in one garden. On the other hand there was a decrease from 2011 to 2012 for Song Thrush from 10 to five.

'Familiar birds like Wren and Starling were only recorded in around one in five gardens.

While the information is interesting too much should not be read into the samples from two years.

'If anyone would like a copy of the complete collated data for Arran for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, please get in touch with me. This survey was over one weekend in the year.

'There is a garden bird watch that you can join that encourages people to record their garden bird sightings throughout the year, the British Trust for Ornithology Garden BirdWatch (GBW).

To find out more about the BTO Garden BirdWatch visit the website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>.

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

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2010 and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk.



The robin, in second place. b06bir02



The great tit, in fifth place. b06bir03

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Shiskine SWRI enjoys jewellery talk

On Wednesday 1 February our President Jerry Arthur welcomed us all to the monthly meeting.

About 40 members in total were present which was absolutely great to see and long may it continue.

The speaker for the evening was Assja Baumgartner who gave us a very interesting talk on jewellery.

She began by explaining how jewellery was first

founded with a selection of photos being shown via a power point presentation. Following on from that she then told us how she became inspired with her creations of jewellery and techniques which we all found very interesting and intriguing too.

She also went onto explain her aspirations with regard to her jewellery making too, so keep a careful look out for her creative designs.

Competition of an Edible Necklace 1st Jean Lammie and 2nd Elizabeth Kelso, Exhibition of Favourite Locket 1st Marion Brambles and joint 2nd Eunice Williamson and Kate Henderson and the raffle was won by Eunice Williamson.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 7 March which will be our AGM and will include a Members' Evening. YR

Got a story for The Arran Banner? Call our reporters on 01770 302142.

St Brides Church Scots night a success

St Brides Church Brodick celebrated its 'Scots Night' on Monday 23 January.

The well-decorated hall and pleasant background music provided by Alex Lawrie set the atmosphere for the evening.

According to tradition the haggis, carried by Brian

Boal, was piped in by Alistair Hume. Thereafter, the Address to the Haggis was delivered in fine style by Stewart Lambie. Following the Selkirk Grace by Jean Hunter, the large company enjoyed a traditional Burns Supper prepared by the ladies and served by the gentlemen.

Some fine entertainment followed by Arranach with fiddlers Carol Harwood and Al Paul, and Nick Bulloss on guitar.

Their spirited performance produced much clapping and foot tapping. Between their two spells of playing the company was entertained by

Sharleen, alias Liz Lawrie, who delivered a very humorous recitation called Sharleen's Star Turn by Janet Paisley.

The evening concluded with a comprehensive vote of thanks by Rev Angus Adamson and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, February 15, 1992

Sport for all

Within two years, the Ormidale Park in Brodick could be converted into three purpose-made full sized games pitches plus a 400-metre running track.

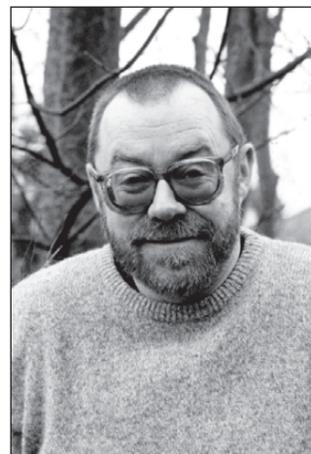
The Arran Sports Association is leasing the land from Brodick Golf Club.

At present golfers play the first three holes in the Park but they have always generously allowed it to be used for a variety of field activities.

An SNP councillor?

District elections will take place on May 7 this year and so far two candidates have been nominated to replace retiring Independent councillor, Evelyn Sillars.

John Sillars has been declared for the Labour Party and Mike Lunan has been selected for the SNP.



Mike Lunan has been selected to represent the SNP at the district council elections in May. b06twe03

Star turn for Charles

Tourism manager Charles Currie, formerly a radio presenter with Westsound, was the guest of Lou Grant on the radio station this week.

Frequently interviewed on tourism matters, this time he was simply being interviewed about himself and choosing his favourite pieces of music.

Re-admission

The Arran Football Association has been re-admitted in to the SAFA.

We reported a few months back that they had been suspended after failing to pay off fines imposed after letters went unanswered.

It now transpires that the letters were wrongly addressed and were delivered to the wrong person.



Malcolm Kerr, left, was the other contender to stand for the SNP in the district elections. b06twe04

Stand-by vessel

The MV Iona, at present standing in while the Isle of Arran is being overhauled, will become the stand-by vessel when the new ferry comes in to service in summer 1993.

The present stand-by, the MV Pioneer, is to be disposed of which presumably means sold.

Rugby success

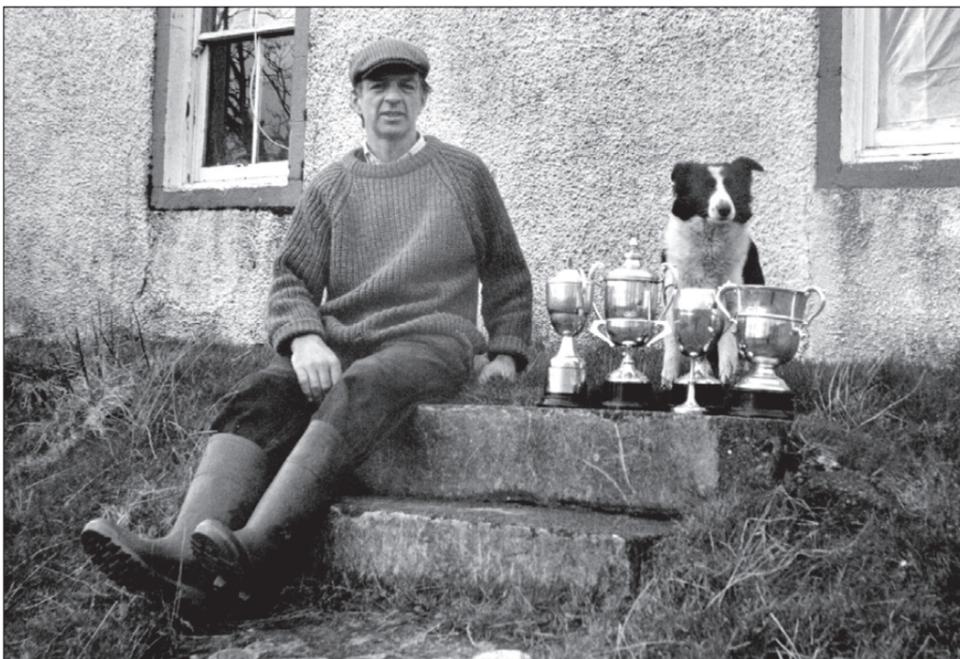
Isle of Arran RFC defeated Craigelea 38-0 on Saturday at Lamlash.

There were tries from J Sheridan, J Morrison, A Dobson, P Jameson, S Crawford and C Marriott. Jimmy Morrison also converted five tries.

This Saturday (February 15) the team are going on tour to Dublin – oh dear!



Volunteer fireman, John Robertson of Shiskine, was presented with a 20 year service medal by Deputy Strathclyde Firemaster Hector Robbie at the Kinloch Hotel last Wednesday. b06twe02



Geoff Brookes with his dog Nell has been consistently most successful in the series of nursery dog trials held this winter, which are now complete. b06twe01

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Last week Archie was sitting in the road at the entrance of the track to the fish farm at Kings Cross. Nobody managed to guess correctly, with some thinking he was at Cnoc na Dail or Machrie forestry track. This week he is on another track, but what is that sign behind him and where does the track lead? 02_b06arc02

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If you think you know then post your answer on the website **www.arranbanner.co.uk**
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Whats On

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Saturday 11 February

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

Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am – 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm – 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm – 5pm
Arran high School, 10am
Playbarn Auchrannie, 2pm – 3pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm – 6pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 12 February

Alcoholics Anonymous
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Teddy Bears Picnic
Corrie Film Club
Roots of Arran (Birch Broom making)

Church Hall, Brodict 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm – 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm – 5pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm – 3pm
Corrie/Sannox Hall at 8pm
Brodict/lamlash view point carpark 12pm

Monday 13 February

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

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

Tuesday 14 February

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Junior Hockey Club – 8yrs up
Melody Movement, Ballet Class-2 ½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class- 2 ½ yrs up
Youth Club
Scottish Country Dancing
Winter Bowls
Zumba Fitness Class
Rowan Singers
Weight Watchers
Scottish Country Dancing

Kinloch 11am- 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm-9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall – 2pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10am-2pm
Kildonan Hall – 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6pm-7pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio 2pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm – 8pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm
Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
St Molios, Church Hall, 7pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm - all welcome

Wednesday 15 February

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Senior Badminton
Museum Archives & Genealogy Service
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents and little ones
Kids Games
Circuit Training
Dog Training
AYF Film Making Club
Lamlash Guild Coffee Morning in aid of Erskine Hospice
Lochranza Village Group
Friends of the Castle – Campbell Lang
Elderly Forum

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm-8pm games hall
KA Leisure Kids, 6.30pm-7.30pm Adults 7.30pm- 8.30pm
Lamlash church Hall 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
High School Games Hall 8pm – 9pm
10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3.30pm
9.30am – 10.30am Auchrannie studio
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45am – 10.30am
Auchrannie dance studio 10.45am
The Playbarn Auchrannie 5pm – 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Games Hall 6pm – 7pm
Whiting Bay Hall 1pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30pm-6.30pm
10.15-12noon
Lochranza Hall 7pm
Castle Tearoom at 2.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion 11am-1pm all welcome

Thursday 16 February

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Coffee Morning
General Knowledge Quiz
Brodict Embroidery Club
Brodict Bridge Club
Winter Bowls
Arran Music and Drama Club Rehearsals
Zumba Fitness Club
Unison AGM

Ormidale Hotel 9pm
Hall 2pm
Youth cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
St Molios Church 10.30am – 12pm
Kinloch Bar 9pm
Brodict Library 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Brodict Golf Club 7pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall 7pm – 9pm
Brodict Hall 7.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
Council Offices 5pm all members welcome

Friday 17 February

Arran Ceilidh group
Senior Badminton
Quiz
Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Rock Disco
Arran Youth Foundations
Kids Paty Games
Weight Watchers
Quiz Night

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

Saturday 18 February

Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Teddy Bears Picnic
Kids Family Quiz
Arran music society Concert
Donald MacKenzie Darts

Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am – 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm – 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm – 5pm
Arran high School 10am
Playbarn Auchrannie 2pm – 3pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie 5pm – 6pm
Brodict Hall 1.30pm
Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 19 February

Alcoholics Anonymous
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Teddy Bears Picnic

Church Hall, Brodict 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall 3pm – 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool 4pm – 5pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie 2pm – 3pm

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Recruitment

Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd are looking to recruit café staff, starting in March, for their busy 2012 Season.



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Closing date will be Monday 12th February 2012.

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Public Notices

Public Meeting

Ferries Review Consultation

Wednesday 22nd February, 7.30pm in Brodick Hall

Arran Community and Voluntary Service invites you to come along and let your views be known to the Community Council and the Ferry Committee, to help provide informed responses to the Scottish Government on the current consultation.

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(Closing date 23 Feb 2012)



Apprentice Greenkeeper

Whiting Bay Golf Club is seeking to appoint an apprentice greenkeeper to start in March.

Letters of application should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary and sent by post to the Club or by email to info@whitingbaygolf.com, to arrive by Saturday 25th Feb.



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Kenneth Gibson MSP

will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 13 February	
Corrie & Sannox Village Hall	11.30-12.30
Whiting Bay Hall	13.30-14.30
ACVS Lamalsh	15.00-16.00
Monday 12 March	
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall	11.30-12.30
Shiskine Village Hall	13.30-14.30
Brodick Health Centre	15.30-16.30

No appointment necessary

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

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Golf

Brodie Golf Club

Wednesday 1 February, 17 played for the Wednesday Cup and Dorothy and Walter Bainbridge Salver in perfect albeit cold conditions. Before I go into the story of the Competition I have been asked to point out, that there's more than one Dick in Whiting Bay. Every third Sunday of the month during winter there is a concurrent stroke and Stableford competition. So you would anticipate that everybody would be au fait with the idea that two competitions could be run at the same time. However, one septuagenarian who used to be paid for thinking moaned all the way round that it was a flawed concept and it would all end in disaster. Its got to be said that it did for some. Stylish Gordon Sillars showed great aplomb for several holes until he realised that he was a bloke, and therefore, could not do multi-tasking and forgot to fill in his scorecard for the last eight holes. Eric Thompson won the silverware easily with 42 Stableford points. In the concurrent Stroke-play competition, its no surprise to learn than Eric won. Steady Jim Green was second, a fact entirely missed by yours truly who awarded second place to the third place man Dougie Robertson. Once the results and the money were sorted out they were confirmed as:- 1 Eric Thompson 59, 2 Jim Green 61, 3 Dougie Robertson 63. I would like to point out in my defence that I was thrown out of Arran High at 15 and am thick. There was a rollover on the two and Harry Davidson and Charlie O'Neil had one each. League Table of Best Five Rounds as of 1 February 2012. 1 Jim Green 314, 2 Dougie Robertson 315, 3 Eric Thompson, 4 Bryce Walker 317. LH. Sunday 5 February, Sweep, 16 played. 1 B Jenkins 39 pts, 2 R McCrae 38 pts, 3 J Armit 38 pts. There were six twos from G Hendry, A Dobson, B Jenkins, D Hendry, D McKinnie and D Robertson. Fixtures: Sunday 12 February, Brandon, open draws at 9am and 12 noon. Sunday 19 February, Clochendichter.



The prizewinners, from left to right, are: Brenda Livingstone, Heather Raeside, Margaret Roxburgh, Aileen Latona, Liz Lawrie, Ann Hart and Fiona Crawford.



Ladies captain, Elizabeth McKellar, presents Heather Raeside with the trophy for the Bronze Championship.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 2 February, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10 played. Silver: 1 and Scratch L Kerr 88-17=71, 2 A Anderson 92-17=75. Bronze: 1 E Henderson 110-36=74, 2 L Murray 100-25=75.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

The AGA Winter League fixture at Machrie due to be played on Sunday 5 February was postponed because of the weather and will now be played on Saturday 11 February

starting at 8.30am.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 February, Winter Cup Round 5.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday 6 February, Monday Cup, 18 played off yellow tees. 1 Steve Wood 77-20=57, 2 Paul Bremner 63-4=59, 3 Bob Rooney 73-13=61 BIH J McConnachie. There were magic twos from Len Hartley, Jim McConnachie. Best scratch Paul Bremner 63. Fixtures: Saturday 11 February, AGA Winter League at Machrie - weather permitting. Saturday 11 February, sweep at 8.30am and 12noon from yellow tees. Monday 13 February, Monday Cup, 12noon start.

Arran Golfers

Association

Winter league/Duncan Trophy 2011/2012, fourth round. Due to last weekend's cancellation, the fourth round games at Machrie Bay Golf Club will now be played on Saturday 11 February. Draw: Machrie v Whiting Bay at 8.30am, Lamlash v Corrie at 9.20am, Brodie v Shiskine at 11.50am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 31 January, Winter Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 63, 2 David Price 65, 3 Mark Sherwood 69. Scratch Brian Sherwood 69. Fixtures: Tuesday 14 February, Winter Cup, tee-off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 5 February, Sweep, non-

Brodie ladies celebrate season's end

Forty ladies from Brodie Golf Club gathered in the clubhouse on Friday 3 February for their annual prizegiving dinner.

They enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by Trish Spence before a quiz provided by two of the members taxed their memories while providing some hilarity.

This was followed by the annual prizegiving.

The trophy winners for 2011 were as follows: Winter Trophy - Ann Hart, Coronation Fours - Fiona Crawford and Carole Stewart, Club trophy - Aileen Latona, St Elmo Cup - Carole Stewart, Medal Final - Elizabeth Lawrie, Wilkie Trophy - Ann Hart, Club Championship - Gwen McNicol, Bronze Championship - Heather Raeside, Stronach Cup - Carole Stewart and Heather Raeside, Centenary Quaich - Fiona Crawford, Wright Trophy - Ann Hart, SLGA Brooch - Heather Raeside, Hendry Trophy - Brenda Livingstone, McKechnie Trophy - Carole Stewart, Helen's Vases - Elizabeth Lawrie and Margaret Roxburgh, LGU Brooch - Margaret Roxburgh, Thistle Brooch - Gege Kroner, Legion Trophy - Fiona Crawford, Scratch Cup - Brenda Livingstone, LGU Silver Medal - Brenda Livingstone, LGU Broze Medal - Gege Kroner, Birdie Tree - Kay Kitson, Par Tree and Eclectic - Lesley Murray and Joyce Taylor Trophy - Ann Hart.

counting. 1 Douglas Macfarlane 63-2=61, 2 Todd Jameson 67-5=62. Best Scratch Douglas Macfarlane 63. Twos from Douglas Macfarlane at the 7th and 12th. Fixtures: Sunday 12 February, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12 noon starts. Thursday 16 February, 15-Hole Medal.

DEATHS

COLIN ROSS DAVIDSON

Our dear son, who passed away on 6 February 2012 in Glasgow Western Infirmary

Will be forever in our thoughts, Mum and Dad

DAVIDSON, COLIN ROSS

DIED Monday February 6th after a brief illness at the Western Infirmary. Beloved son of Ethel & Alec, brother to Gordon (deceased), loving father of Fraser & Gavin and husband to Cathy. Cremation at Holmsford Crematorium on Tuesday 14th February at 1300, and thereafter The Drift Inn, Isle of Arran. Those requiring transport please contact Cathy on 601 329.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(In full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. SUNDAY, 12th February: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. John Roberts
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran, Brodie, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine. Independent but working together
Minister Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Asst Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in the above
Churches at the following times to
Which all are invited - Families, young people
And children welcome.
Sunday 12th February
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Sacrament of the Lords Supper
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Sacrament of the Lords Supper
Lochranza/Pirmill
10.15am at Pirmill
Shiskine Church 12noon
A service of worship will also be held in Montrose house at 1.30pm

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Morning Mass, 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SCO14005)

Sunday 12th February 2012 - the Minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, will conduct Worship at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 12th February
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodie
11am Morning worship
Tea/Coffee after the service
Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday
At 7.30pm, for details telephone 860 232
Everyone very welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND KILMORY LINKED WITH LAMLASH

A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 12th February
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In both churches:
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 12th February
Shiskine 11am
Marcus McCulloch
Brodick 7pm
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (CONTINUING)

Sunday 12th February
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodie
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road Brodie
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 15th February 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodie
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quakers: Meeting for Worship on Sunday
12th February at 11, Glen Estate, Brodie at 11.
Enquires to Jenny 302779

Happy 40th Birthday



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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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Euan is open champion

Euan Ingram won Arran's open pool competition on Sunday night after a marathon series of games in Mac's Bar, Brodick.

Euan, who has won the tournament several times in the past, defeated youngster Danny Head 3-2 in a thrilling final.

Thirty-two of Arran finest pool players entered the competition and over the course of six hours it was whittled down to just one player.

In the semi-finals, Danny defeated Eddie Picken and Euan beat Pedro Stewart to reach the final.

Meanwhile, the Drift Inn came close ending their run of unbeaten games on Thursday night when they drew 5-5 with Catacol.

The northend team were 5-4 up when it came to the last game and it looked as though the Drift would be beaten for the first time this season.

But a last minute respite was there's as they won the last game to draw the night.

PT1934 were beaten 6-4 by Whiting Bay Golf Club and Kildonan defeated Bar Eden 6-4 too.

The game between the PHT and Mac's Bar was postponed.

The draw for the quarter-finals of the doubles competition has now been completed.



Euan Ingram is presented with the Arran open pool trophy by Eddie Picken, semi-finalist and secretary of the league. b06eua01NO

All games should be played on or by Sunday 19 February.

The draw is as follows: N Lemmon/R Buchan (Mac's) v J Picken/N McMaster

(1934) at the PHT, L and S Logan (Cat) v J Ainsworth/D Prescott (WGC) or A Turner/S Lawson (Cat) at Mac's, M Worthington/A Picken (1934) v J Copperwheat/S Scott at

the Drift and finally K Jackson/B Hamilton (Eden) v B Lewis/D Bell (Cat) at Mac's Bar. The ladies open will take place at the Bar Eden on Sunday 26 February at 3pm.

Lindsay kicks off Six Nations campaign

Corrie woman battles through injury worries

Lindsay Wheeler of Corrie was selected as part of the Scottish Women's Rugby Team that played England at Lasswade's Hawthornden ground on Sunday.

Lindsay, who had been in doubt for this year's Six Nations tournament following a spate of injuries, put in the hard yards, both in defence and attack at the number eight position.

Scotland's women battled hard, but were outclassed by their English counterparts, resulting in a 49-0 score at full-time.

The scale of the Scots' task became apparent early on as England scored two tries in the opening six minutes to set the tone for the evening.

At 10-0 down so early in the game, the Scottish team could have gone into

their shells, but it is a credit to them that they didn't do this and that they were able to gain a foothold in proceedings.

Their next match against Wales kicks-off at 1pm this Sunday at Cross Keys RFC.

Lindsay Wheeler, pictured right, played well for Scotland on Sunday.



MacKenzie memorial darts event confirmed

The 2012 Donald MacKenzie Memorial mixed double darts tournament will be held next weekend.

The event will take place in Kilmory Hall on Saturday 18 February, starting at 7.30pm.

This will be the 24th year that Margaret MacKenzie has organised this event in memory of her late husband Donald.

As usual, funds will be raised for Kildonan and Kilmory Senior Citizens.

Names of entrants should be given to Margaret on 870309 by Friday 17 February.

Donations of raffle prizes will be much appreciated.

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