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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2014

No 1947 60p



### New recruits for Brodick fire crew

It seems that Brodick fire fighter Greg McCrae has found a new recruit!

There was a real treat for the pupils at Brodick Nursery last Wednesday when they made a very special visit to the local fire station. Read all about it on page 3.

### Ferry back in service after £300,000 repair

The MV Caledonian Isles has returned to service after a £300,000 repair.

The ferry successfully completed sea trials earlier in the week before resuming sailings between Brodick and Ardrossan on Thursday.

She had been forced into Troon for repair last weekend just a day after returning to service after her annual refit. The work has been linked to the replacement of turbochargers which was carried out for safety reasons on the recommendation of the manufacturers.

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne said: 'The turbochargers are highly sophisticated pieces of precision engineering and their installation also involves new tailor-made pipework to connect them to the existing engines.'

#### Vital

'The design and installation of the turbochargers and associated pipework was carried out by the manufacturer's own specialist engineers. It is vital that everything works together perfectly and the different parts are all balanced and in tune with each other as the turbochargers are extremely powerful (turning at 30,000 revs per minute.)'

'The installation work was initially carried out during the refit and following sea trials she was deemed fit to enter service. Unfortunately, we now know that wasn't the case, and a fault with the pipe-work led to her being taken back out of service. Specialist engineers have been working round the clock since then and it would appear that the issue has been resolved.'

# String Road to close for urgent repairs

## Work could begin in mid-March and finish in June

### REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

Plans to finalise the closure of the String Road later this spring to carry out urgent road repairs were due to be discussed at a meeting in Lamlash on Friday morning (February 7).

North Ayrshire Council has

been liaising with VisitArran and businesses from the Shiskine area to help minimise the disruption which will be caused by the closure.

It is expected that the road will be closed for around 10 weeks after Easter but the council proposes to open it three times a day at ferry times and use traffic lights when possible.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We recognise the importance of involving the community at an early stage and have been working with VisitArran since the end of 2013.'

'This has allowed us to bring 12 different options to the table and an agreement was reached on a proposal which would see work begin

in mid-March and finish prior to the Whitsuntide bank holiday in June.

'The road would be opened to vehicles three times a day to connect with the ferry timetable.'

He added: 'It was also agreed that, in the event of the programme requiring an extension beyond this date, the road would remain open

under traffic signals.

'While it would be more practical to continue work through the Easter weekend in April, we will accept the views of the community if they want the road opened fully on those dates.'

'We will consult local residents and other partners once a finalised proposal has been prepared.'

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## Man accused of attacking two women

A Pirmill man has appeared in court charged with attacking two women.

Gordon Bloy, aged 58, denies grabbing and compressed one woman's throat using his fist. He also denies seizing another, pushing her onto a kitchen worktop and grabbing her by the throat.

The offences are said to have been committed at his home in Mid Penrioch Place, Pirmill, on Saturday, February 1. Bloy denies assault, shouting, swearing and threatening or abusive behaviour.

He appeared earlier this week at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and was released on bail pending a trial in March.

## Holy Isle left in darkness

The residents on Holy Isle were left without power last week after a fault in the submarine cable cut the electricity supply.

There were concerns that temporary repairs would not last so generators were shipped to the island in Lamash Bay as a precaution.

A spokesman for Scottish and Southern Energy, the electricity provider, said: 'Our engineers were able to reconfigure the underwater cable and power was restored after 12 hours. Generators have been taken to the island as a precaution as our priority is to keep the power on.'

'We will be monitoring the situation but so far there have been no further problems.'

# Overwhelming support in favour of MPA, says COAST

'Scotland's people deserve healthy and productive seas'

Almost all people surveyed about a proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) at the south of Arran support the plans and want bottom trawling and scallop dredging excluded entirely from the area.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) revealed that over 99 per cent of the people who responded to their questionnaire were in favour and they said the time had come for the Scottish government to act.

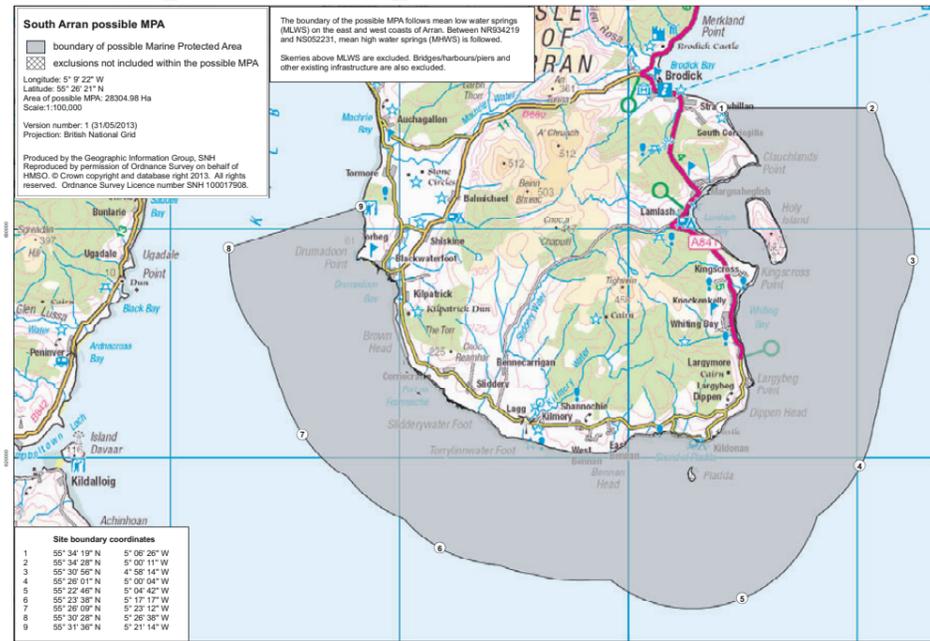
### Public opinion

A spokesman for COAST said: 'Consultations are not referenda or elections but they are part of the democratic process and the weight of public opinion behind MPAs must be acknowledged.'

'Now is the hour for Richard Lochhead (cabinet secretary for rural affairs and the environment) to show real leadership.'

### Support

'It is not good enough to sit on the fence until the independence referendum is over.' He added: 'Scotland's people deserve healthy and productive seas which genu-



The south Arran MPA will encompass the waters from just north of Drumadoon Point on the west coast, to Corriegills Point on the east. b06mpa01NO

inely support all coastal communities.

'For too long Mr Lochhead's department has been biased in favour of bottom dredging and trawling but the scientific consensus is that these methods are destructive

and unsustainable.

'Surely he will see sense and implement lasting reforms, without going through the expense and trauma of a thorough analysis of the mismanagement of the Clyde fishery in the courts.'

If implemented the south Arran MPA will encompass the waters from just north of Drumadoon Point on the west coast, to Corriegills Point on the east and would include the No Take Zone in Lamash Bay.

## Information sought about damaged castle gate

A gate on the driveway to Brodick Castle was badly damaged last Tuesday night.

Staff at the National Trust for Scotland property believe it was hit by a car being driven at high speed through the grounds in the early hours of the morning.

The castle staff are seeking information about this incident in an attempt to catch the culprit.

A spokesman for the castle said: 'The damage caused is extensive and it will require us to replace the gate at a pretty significant cost.'

'Whoever hit the gate also probably did a great deal of damage to their car so we're hoping anyone with information about this will come forward.'

The damage has been reported to the police and investigations are continuing.

## Trophies to be returned

The Arran Music Festival is fast approaching and organisers are asking for the trophies to be returned.

They would like all cup holders to please return the cups to their school or to Shona Hume on 302625.

This year's festival will take place in the community theatre at Arran High School on March 26, 27 and 28.

Copies of the festival syllabus are now available.

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# Ferry disruption is bad for island businesses

'I don't think CalMac has ever really resolved what to do in bad weather and there is a lack of consistency in its responses'

Continuing disruption to the ferry services is having a serious knock-on effect for island businesses and services.

After another week of service disruption, which saw just three sailings in four days between Brodick and Ardrossan, shops and businesses are being badly hit.

Postal services are also being severely disrupted while it has been claimed urgent appointments on the mainland, such as to hospitals and dentists, are being missed - although NHS Ayrshire and Arran says there has been no significant increase in missed or cancelled appointments.

But essential supplies to the island are being disrupted with some companies having to delay work.

Gale force winds and high tides again led to the weekend disruption with the replacement boat MV Isle of Arran, which came into service last weekend, unable to sail on Saturday and making just one return trip on Friday, Sunday and Monday. The MV Caledonian Isles returned to service on Thursday.

Among those hardest hit on the island are the newsagents and general stores.

At Bay Stores in Whiting Bay owner Barry Miggin said

it was the worst disruption and loss of trade he had experienced in the seven years he has run the shop.

'I have never known such a prolonged disruption which seems to go on for days and days at a time and I have definitely lost trade,' he said.

'The supply of newspapers has been badly affected and we either get them very late or not at all.

'That has a knock on effect on trade as, if people don't come in for their paper, they can't pick up anything else they may normally do when they come in. We have been fortunate that all our other supplies have got here, but yesterday we had a big delivery arrive at 4pm when it would normally be here at 8.30am.'

Mr Miggin said his main concern was the 'lack of consistency' over the service.

'I don't think CalMac has ever really resolved what to do in bad weather and there is a lack of consistency in its responses.'

Along the road at Bay News, owner Bev Hodgkinson said: 'Not having the papers in the morning does affect turnover. I get a lot of passing trade and if I miss it in the morning, I am likely to have lost it for

the day. We can't blame all of the situation on CalMac but it has sown that seed of doubt in people's minds that we don't know where we stand when a breeze blows up.

'People are missing hospital appointments as they don't know whether to go or not. I'm not complaining about the local staff it is the top guys in Gourrock who have to sit down and review the service.'

At the Gordon Brothers shop in Lamlash Alistair Black said: 'The one complaint I get repeatedly in here is that people feel they are being lied to.'

### Real problem

'They do not consider that CalMac is being straightforward with the truth. If the real problem is that Ardrossan needs a new breakwater or the harbour needs dredged then if people were told they would get behind CalMac to put pressure on the other authorities involved.'

Owner Jimmy Gordon said the shop had seen a drop in profits and said 60 per cent of newspaper sales were lost if they did not arrive on the first boat.

'The real problem is there has to be a suitable relief ferry for the route. The Isle

of Arran is too small as it can only take 450 passengers so a solution has to be found elsewhere.'

Royal Mail spokeswoman, Felicity MacFarlane, said: 'Bad weather this winter has disrupted ferry services which carry the mail from Ardrossan to Arran.

'This unfortunately means that we cannot always make same day deliveries when the mail arrives late.

'When this happens, Royal Mail does everything possible to get the mail delivered to our customers quickly once it arrives on the island.'

However bosses at NHS Ayrshire and Arran say there has been no significant increase in cancelled or rescheduled appointments, but admit their systems do not record 'weather-related' as a specified reason for this.

Sally Smith, assistant director for access services, said: 'Over the past four months (until January) four planned inpatient appointments were cancelled/rescheduled.'

'In the same four-month period the number of outpatient appointments cancelled/rescheduled by either Arran patients or NHS Ayrshire and Arran has remained fairly static.'



The children from Brodick Nursery had a fantastic time at the village fire station.

## Fire station brought to life for nursery kids

There was a real treat for pupils at Brodick Nursery last Wednesday when they made a very special visit to the local fire station.

Retained firefighters Alan Johnston and Greg McCrae showed the youngsters around the Brodick station and explained to them what a firefighter actually does.

Nursery leader, Vicki Yuill, said: 'We'd like to say a big thank you to Greg and Alan for their fabulous animated tour of the fire station with the nursery children.'

'We have to say it was the best visit ever and so much fun for all the children attending.'

'The children have been learning about 'people who help us' and the visit really brought to life the knowledge some children had already gained on the subject.'

'We also learned more about what firefighters do.' She added: 'It was so much fun and don't worry Alan your secret chocolate stash is safe with us!'

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## Arran residents could benefit from energy efficiency help

Residents on Arran could receive help to make their homes more energy efficient thanks to a successful funding bid by North Ayrshire Council and financial support from Scottish Hydro.

The £800,000 project, funded by the Scottish Government, under its Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) and Scottish Hydro, through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), aims to help cut household energy use and reduce energy costs.

Homeowners or tenants living in privately rented accommodation and who are in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for free energy efficiency measures which include new boilers and loft

and cavity wall insulation. Councillor Tony Gurney, North Ayrshire Council cabinet member for environment and infrastructure, said: 'I would encourage people to check out their eligibility straight away.'

'This scheme presents a golden opportunity to make your home warmer and save money at the same time.'

'Don't let the mild weather so far this winter put you off,' he added.

To find out more about the scheme and check eligibility criteria visit [www.hydro.co.uk/winterhhero](http://www.hydro.co.uk/winterhhero) or call 0800 980 7537. You don't have to be a Scottish Hydro customer to benefit from this energy efficiency partnership.

## Quest begins for best school newspaper

The Arran Banner is delighted to support a competition to find the best print or on-line 'newspaper' produced by high school pupils.

High schools across Scotland can submit entries for the Scottish School Media Awards, held in June.

The Arran Banner, part of Wyvex Media Ltd publishing which is sponsoring the best newspaper category, is encouraging schools across the Highlands and islands to take up the challenge.

The awards aim to encourage young people into careers in publishing and the creative industries, and particularly pupils who have an interest in writing, photography, design and business.

Organised by Menzies Distribution the awards also aim to support the Curriculum for Excellence by building confidence and showing how different school subjects can come together as part of a wider learning experience.

Pupils have until Wednesday 30 April to submit their entries, with the impress judging panel looking for pupil-led projects that have evidence of strong content and commercial thinking.

Should Arran High School require assistance, The Banner would be delighted to welcome pupils into the office to see newspaper production in action.

The awards will include 14 categories that cover news writing, commercial strategy, design and layout, photography, sport writing and individual awards. Winners will be invited to a special awards ceremony to be held in Edinburgh on Friday 13 June.

For more information and to register, visit [impresscotland.co.uk](http://impresscotland.co.uk).

# Arctic festival plan is the winner at enterprise day

A proposal to hold an Arctic Arran Festival with a real snow ski slope, ice rink, penguin petting zoo and real reindeer was the winner of a school enterprise contest.

Around 40 pupils took part in the annual Arran High School enterprise day on Tuesday.

The S1 pupils were each split into six teams and the objective for the day was to promote Arran tourism with a new festival or event.

The pupils were briefed that

the proposed event should be designed to encourage more visitors in the quieter season.

Organiser Jane Macbeth said she was delighted with the standard of entries and said some had not been seen at the event before.

She added: 'The pupils worked really hard and came up with some great ideas.'

Each team had a mentor from the business world to help prepare their business plans for their festivals and

supported by a pupil from S3.

Helping out were Alison Page, of Routes to Flourish, Gil Cameron from Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, Graeme Johnson from Arran Youth Foundation and David Johnston, Garrie Ross and Eric Milton from the Auchrannie Resort.

The winners proposed an Arctic Arran festival in early December with a ski slope in Ormidale Park and a host of winter-related activities.



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The Arran Food Festival team present their entry to the judges. 20\_b06school02



Judges Sheila Gilmore and Linda. 20\_b06school03

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**The Arctic Arran winners with their certificates with mentor David Johnston and judges Linda Johnston and Sheila Gilmore. 20\_b06school05**

The winning team were: Rachel Brown, Ellie Bonner, Ross Dobson, Alice Kinniburgh, Eilidh Macpherson, Max Robson and Ben McHugh. They were mentored by David Johnston.

Runners up were Arran Films, who proposed the 'Fun Dance Film Festival' and third were Spotlight on Arran who proposed a murder mystery 'Myst of Arran' weekend.

The other entries were Mini Arran's with a 'Common-

wealth Why Did You Forget Us' theme, the Festival of 'Fell and an Arran Food Festival.

Judges for the day were Linda Johnston from the Auchrannie and Sheila Gilmore from VisitArran.

Sheila said: 'The entries were all very good but the winning entry was excellent and extremely well presented. Maybe VisitArran should look at its feasibility.'

Depute Head David Fyfe

said: 'This event demonstrates the benefits of Curriculum for Excellence with pupils learning important lessons for living, learning and working.'

One of the participants Innis Thorborn said: 'There have been a lot of good ideas from each group. I could see a lot happening and people really pulling together to achieve success. I found that I can work very well with other people and this should serve me well in the future.'



**Johnston hard at work.**



**Mini Arran's make their presentation to the judges. 20\_b06school04**



**Pupils at the enterprise day listen to one of the entries. 20\_b06school01**

# Call for improvement in deer management

Deer management groups have been told to 'get their act together' by MSPs.

Members of the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee said progress on deer control had been 'too slow'.

In the absence of large predators, Scotland's deer population has to be controlled to limit over-grazing.

But sporting estates and conservation groups disagree over the size of the deer population and the extent of the environmental damage the animals cause.

The committee has been examining how the present voluntary deer management code of practice, introduced in 2012, is working.

It said it was taking too long to implement effective deer management plans across Scotland, and some deer

management groups lacked public accountability.

There are 43 deer management groups across Scotland, one of them the Arran Deer Management Group who constantly monitor's the islands herd of wild red deer.

The MSPs said local groups must have their plans in place by the end of 2016 or face further action if the current voluntary system fails.

The committee's convener, Rob Gibson, said: 'There is no doubt this is a controversial subject, with strong views on either side of the debate.'

'The committee considers that there is no definitive evidence of the need to introduce a statutory duty of sustainable deer management for deer management groups.'

'However, if all 43 deer management groups do not get their act together, this

committee will have no choice but to recommend further action.

The findings were described as 'fair and even-handed' by land managers.

Richard Cooke, chairman of the Association of Deer Management Groups, said: 'There is much in this report with which we agree, for example that the impacts of deer rather than numbers are most important, and that it is premature to undertake a review of the Code of Practice on Deer Management at this time.'

The Arran Deer Management Group says it aims to keep a balance between stags and hinds and sustainable grazing of their habitat. In order to effect these goals it is necessary to cull a limited number of stags and hinds each year, with each carefully selected.

## Valentine's dinner to raise Malawi funds

Ticket prices have been cut for the Valentine's dinner at Arran High School which will be held on Friday 14 February to raise funds for a trip to Malawi.

Nine pupils from the school are fundraising for a once-in-a-lifetime expedition to the African country in 2015.

Those attending will receive a three-course meal prepared by Alastair Gold and his team from Arran on a Plate for just £15.

On top of this, during dinner there will be live entertainment from some of the school's very talented students.

The meal will be a set menu and guests are invited to bring a bottle of their choice to enjoy.

Every penny raised will be going towards the group fund for the expedition next year.

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# Corrie takes brunt of storm damage

A weekend of high tides and gale force winds brought more damage to Arran's coastal shore.

Driving conditions were hazardous around many parts of the island and seawater lashed the coastal roads sweeping in more debris.

One of the worst parts affected was around Corrie and Sannox.

Sections of a sturdy iron and concrete roadside barrier in Corrie itself was badly damaged. And large

concrete blocks have been dislodged and lie strewn on the foreshore.

On Monday the road had to be closed for a time because of flooding at Pirates Cove which came close to the shore road houses.

### Picnic site

The storms also battered the picnic site south of Corrie and tore off sections of the surface and caused more damage to the road.

It was also hard to tell where the shore ended and the car

park began with the surface covered in sand, seaweed and shells.

The aftermath of the storm also left considerable debris on the road with treacherous muddy stretches.

North Ayrshire Council roads workmen have been out this week clearing the debris.

A council spokesman confirmed work had started last week on repairs from the earlier storms and that the latest damage would be assessed.



The picnic area damaged by the storms. 20\_b06storm03



The damage caused to the roadside barrier at Corrie. 20\_b06storm01



The seawall at Cladach damaged by the storms. 20\_b06storm04

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The sea covered the road at the Pirates Cove on Monday afternoon.



Part of the road washed away south of Corrie with the road surface strewn with debris. 20\_b06storm02

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Arran's red squirrel population is 'fit and healthy' according to scientists.

# Red squirrels on Arran 'fighting fit'

The population of red squirrels on Arran is in good health, according to a study by vets.

Evidence that the population of the animals on the island is 'fit and healthy' is good news for the future of the species, scientists say.

Experts monitoring the population of the animal living on the island are showing no signs of the deadly squirrelpox virus, which has hit the number of red squirrels in mainland Scotland.

### Grey variety

The animals were also affected by the introduction of the grey variety.

Arran is one of 19 red squirrel strongholds in Scotland, where there are no grey squirrels who compete for food and places to live.

The survey was led by vets and scientists at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and funded by

the People's Trust for Endangered Species and Forestry Commission Scotland.

The team humanely trapped and examined 21 live squirrels last summer with the help of local foresters and rangers.

The vets also examined the remains of 16 squirrels that had been killed on the roads.

Detailed health checks included tests for common squirrel diseases, such as parasites and viruses, and also investigated the genetics of the animals.

Professor Anna Meredith of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, who worked on the survey, said: 'Some populations of red squirrels have been found to have high levels of diseases, and lack of genetic diversity could also affect their health, so we're delighted to find that Arran's red squirrels are fit and healthy.'

## The Arran Banner on holiday

'The Banner on Holiday' feature started six years ago, and we continue to be absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

This week we have a great picture of Antonia Armstrong from Lamlash catching up with all the news from Arran while visiting her son Alan in Canada.

They are actually pictured in Frankenmuth, Michigan after visiting the world's biggest Christmas store.

Don't forget to pack your copy of The Banner if you are going on holiday.

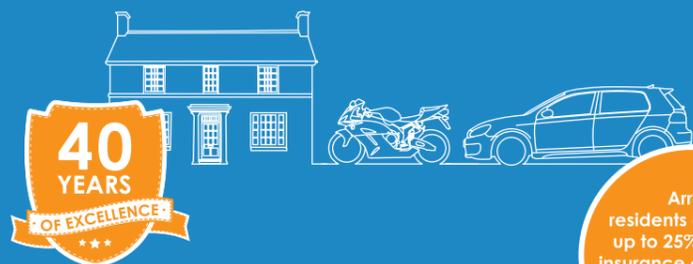
It could be from Wick or Washington, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.



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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## The 'neknomination' backlash

Concerns are being raised over a new alcohol-related social media craze.

It seems to be kind of a modern-day chain letter - 'neknominations' involve people chugging back an alcoholic drink, posting the video on social media websites, and then nominating two friends to follow suit and do the same.

Even Arran has not been immune to it - Facebook has been full of videos of these antics.

Some people seem to see the 'neknomination' as a bit of harmless fun but this week politicians and health experts demanded the social networking site Facebook act to halt the 'neknomination' game following the death of Jonny Byrne, 19, from Carlow in the Irish Republic.

His brother Patrick took to Facebook to express his frustration over his brother's death during the game and asked others not to take part in it.

'My young 19-year-old brother died tonight in the middle of his nomination...he thought he had to try and beat the competition, after he necked his pint, he jumped into the river. If people have any decency and respect they will refrain from any more of this stupid neknomination.'

He also changed his Facebook profile page to say 'Stop 'neknomination' before it's too late. Share this.'

Jonny's death came after Ross Cummins, 22, was found unconscious in a house in Dublin in the early hours of Saturday morning.

He died later in hospital amid reports he was drinking spirits at the time of his death.

The concept of the craze has been described as 'neck your drink, nominate another'. Facebook and Twitter users who receive a 'neknomination' are challenged to down a pint of alcohol in one go, within 24 hours.

They then post a video of themselves completing the challenge and nominate two of their friends to do the same.

'Neknominees' who refuse and break the chain are subject to online ridicule.

Some debate has focused around these antics with many arguing that people will drink far more on a normal night out.

And drinking games are not new, but they have the potential to quickly increase consumption of alcohol which has the potential to be highly dangerous.

So please think twice before participating in this craze - the last thing we want is a front page of The Banner lamenting a completely unnecessary death.

### 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.

*The Arran Banner* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Arran Banner* are not necessarily those of the The Oban Times Group.

### your letters

**THE EDITOR** welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

## Letters to the Editor



### CalMac praised

Sir,  
Like many people on Arran I am very depressed by the recent weather which has continuously forced the cancellation of the ferry.

But on Monday I was one of about 200 people watching the MV Isle of Arran trying to berth at Ardrossan and all I can say is well done CalMac.

It is easy for those of us desperate to get off the island to criticise the boat for not sailing but anyone watching the vessel struggle to get her ramps down at the Irish berth on Monday will now understand why it is dangerous for the ferry to sail in weather like that.

She did eventually make it in and we were soon on board. What followed can only be described as one of the worst ferry journeys of my life.

There were lots of very ill people on board!

But thank you CalMac for sailing and letting me get home.

Yours,

**Name and address supplied**  
**Atrocious weather**

Sir,  
The weather conditions have been atrocious since November.

High tides and gale force winds are never going to be safe conditions for a passenger ferry.

If you don't want to be stuck on the mainland then don't travel when the forecast is bad.

If you don't want to come to Arran for the weekend and get stuck then go somewhere else, preferably not another island.

People need to grasp the reality of this situation. CalMac is not to blame, it's the weather.

So stop moaning and just accept that you all live on an island.

Yours,  
**John Thompson**  
**Ballantrae**

### Blame CalMac

Sir,  
Once again Arran is the victim of the inadequacy of the ferry service.

Last week, we had the almost farcical situation of the newly serviced MV Caledonian Isles breaking down.

Now, on Friday 31 January, there have been a number of cancellations because winds are gusting over 40 mph.

Since Scotland lies in the Cool Temperate West coast climate belt, depressions moving in from the North Atlantic are the norm, especially in winter.

Since depressions are associated with windy weather, winds gusting over 40mph are not exceptional.

Do these recent cancellations now mean that the Arran ferry will only sail when it is exceptionally placid weather?

As regards the ferry service, a number of questions need to be asked. Why have we recently had a few sailings to Gourock, yet none on January 31?

Are some CalMac skippers unqualified to take a ship into the upper firth? If so, why? If they are all qualified, why is Gourock not used more often? Is the Caledonian Isles best suited for the Arran sailing? There seems to be quite a lot of anecdotal evidence that it is not.

Recently, our local MSP was quoted as saying 'engineering work at Ardrossan was not on the agenda'.

Why not? If millions can be spent on a bridge to Skye, which was seldom, if ever, cut off, why can millions not be spent upgrading Ardrossan harbour to make it all weather accessible? Alternatively, why can no other accessible harbour be made available for times when Ardrossan is useable?

We have been told that Troon is too shallow, but the Caledonian Isles was berthed there after its breakdown. How much would it cost to make Troon available, or to reinstate Fairlie?

To move on to the 'victims' of ferry cancellations, a number of questions need to be asked. How many hospital appointments are missed because of ferry disruption? How many patients require to pay for Bed and Breakfast on

the mainland because of potential or actual ferry problems? How many other travellers have to make alternative, and costly arrangements because of ferry problems? How much money have the hotels etc. lost because of cancellations?

I understand that this weekend (January 31-February 2) both the Douglas and Auchrannie Hotels were heavily booked. What is undeniable is that the ferry service provided for Arran is unacceptably poor.

It seems ridiculous, but is sadly true, that the service a century ago was faster and less disrupted than it is now. While not all the reasons for problems are because of CalMac, I think much of the blame can be laid at CalMac's door.

Yours,  
**Douglas Hamilton**  
**Glenburn**  
**Lamlash**

### Funny that

Sir,  
Funny how Troon is unsuitable for the MV Caledonian Isles yet when it breaks down that is where it goes.

Yours,  
**Iain Martin**  
**Glasgow**

### Sulking Cally Isles

Sir,  
Early yesterday (January 28) the MV Caledonian Isles slipped quietly into Troon Harbour where she now lies sulking in a corner. Rumour has it that she is in the huff after all the 'bad mouthing' recently received from armchair experts in these pages, coupled with a dose of novovirus acquired in Gourock!

Yours,  
**Tom Kelso**  
**Troon**

### Harbour solutions

Sir,  
The ferry situation has become so dire a concerted effort is required to find a way to improve the service.

Everyone should scratch their heads and think of a solution.

There must be an answer out there and to start the ball rolling here is mine.

A wind farm built on the rocks to the southwest of Ardrossan harbour would give all the shelter required.

The windmills could be of such a density, even joined together, as to create a barrier that substantially reduces the force of the storms from the southwest.

The wind farm would be grant assisted, provide electricity and hopefully not be seen as a monstrosity and most important of all ensure continuous ferry traffic between Ardrossan and Brodick in all but the most exceptional of conditions.

It seems there is no will to build a breakwater, presumably because of the cost, but a breakwater combined with a wind farm must be more cost effective.

With the emphasis being on shelter, the wind farm element could be designed to fit in as sensitively as possible.

Yours,  
**Kerr Robertson**  
**Brodick**

### Airstrip and helicopter service overdue

Sir,  
Arran's answer to the need raised by an over-cautious CalMac is to start its own airstrip and helicopter service.

Official bodies are more timorous because of health, safety and being sued nowadays, and vessels no longer toss upon the waves on epic runs.

Every few years the idea of getting an airstrip returns, but there is no airstrip on Arran yet.

The Isles of Scilly depended on their ferry alone (she was built to toss about) until around 1965 when the helicopter service began.

Both are now needed. The climate is stormier these days than in previous years and is likely to become more so.

Self-help is needed to kick-start a solution.

Yours,  
**Jeremy Godwin**  
**Drovers Lane**  
**Penrith**

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# Letters to the Editor



## No return

Sir,  
I suspect I am not the first visitor to write to your newspaper in the past few months with regards to the ferry service - if you can even call it that - which currently runs between Ardrossan and Brodick.

We, like many others, came to Arran two weeks ago for a relaxing few days at the Auchrannie in Brodick.

On the Sunday we were among the 200 foot passengers on board the 11.05am boat from Brodick.

Now imagine our dismay when we were told it was going to Gourock (our car was in Ardrossan) - but never mind we thought, at least we will get home.

But no, just 20 minutes later the boat was forced to turn back and we were unceremoniously told to disembark at Brodick.

What followed can only be described as a farce - no communication, no help, no assistance offered by CalMac.

If it wasn't for the lovely staff at The Douglas Hotel I do not know what we would have done.

CalMac should be ashamed of the way they treat their passengers.

We were left feeling utterly lost until 6pm when the MV Isle of Arran arrived.

Needless to say, we will not be coming back to Arran.

Yours,

**Name and address supplied**

## Payback time

Sir,  
No doubt Arran's golfers will appreciate the sage advice recently offered in the House of Lords by the 8th Duke of Montrose, successor of Angus Graham their erstwhile liege lord.

In his keynote speech during a debate on the Scottish referendum, the Duke made the crucial point that if Scotland votes Yes the rules of golf will be suspended in England, as only national bodies can affiliate to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Such perceptiveness, cutting as it does to the heart of the independence debate, is certainly worth the daily £300 attendance allowance

with which we grudgingly remunerate each noble lord.

Older readers may remember that the current duke's father was a staunch supporter of independence from the shackles of Westminster control - mind you, that was in the role of Minister for Agriculture in the Rhodesian government of Ian Smith.

No 'Better Together' then. Of course, we do well to remember that the Montrose title was created in 1707, and awarded to James Graham, 1st Duke, as a reward for his important support of the Act of Union.

Perhaps it's payback time.

Yours,

**Iain Auld  
Kinneil Park  
Lamlash**

# St Valentine's coffee morning to commemorate war wounded

Lamlash Church Guild is holding its annual St Valentine's coffee morning in aid of Erskine Hospital on 11 February.

Many years ago an island resident, one of many First World War veterans, benefited greatly from the care and support of the hospital.

**Conflicts**  
This continued during the Second World War and even to this day, it continue

sto help soldiers wounded in modern conflicts.

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, the guild hopes to make this coffee morning an extra special fundraiser.

Members are looking forward to seeing people in the church hall from 10.15am until noon.

Folk might even see their picture in The Banner the following week!



Alison Prince, Jan MacGregor, Sarah Cook, Heather Gough and Ian Watt were responsible for nominating Arran for the award.

## Arran's creativity pipped by Peebles

Arran very narrowly missed out on winning a Creative Place Award at a ceremony in Kilmarnock last week.

Peebles beat Arran to the £100,000 award in the category for places with under 10,000 residents.

The island was one of nine Scottish communities to have been shortlisted for the awards and the nominees were selected for the wide involvement of the whole community in creative programmes.

Heather Gough, chairman of the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, said: 'We are not downhearted as the feed back was so positive - the jury was pretty bowled over by our application and took a very long time to choose between us and the eventual winners, Peebles.'

'We know that we are now in a very strong position to apply for funding to Creative Scotland and hope that most of the projects that we wanted the award for will still come to pass.'

'The whole process created a wonderful impetus for us and has made us focus on the

future and moving forward for the arts on Arran in an extremely positive way.'

## Round the Rurals:

### Kilmory SWRI

On Monday 13 January, the members of Kilmory Rural had an enjoyable evening as they celebrated the club's birthday.

The ladies enjoyed a lovely supper prepared by their own members, followed by a quiz.

On Tuesday 21 January, they are looking forward to visiting Montrose House for the afternoon.

On Wednesday 22 January, the members have been invited to Kildonan Rural for the evening.

The next meeting will be on Monday 10 February at 7.30pm in Kilmory Hall where the ladies of Shiskine and Kildonan SWRIs are warmly invited to join with Kilmory for a Burns evening.

## Car boot sale

The island's Duke of Edinburgh group are holding an Indoor Car Boot Sale in Brodick Hall on Saturday 1 March from 11am to 2pm.

If anyone is interested in having a table to sell car boot items, please contact Julie Cannon on 600341 to reserve a table. It will be £10 per table and teas and Coffees will be served on the day along with a raffle and tombola.

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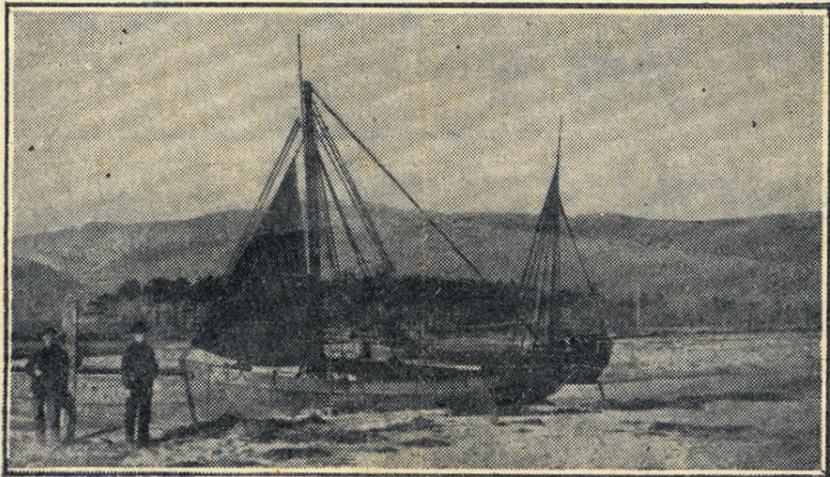
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## ARRAN SMACKS AND SMACKSMEN

By MALCOLM SILLARS



NO story of old Arran is complete without a word about that great race of men and boats—the Arran smacks and smackmen. For centuries Arran has been famous for its seamen, and many of her sons, reaching the highest positions in the Merchant Service, could claim to have begun their careers in an Arran smack.

The smackmen were physically strong, intelligent and independent. They had to be. The work was heavy, the hours long; it was no place for weaklings. They had to be intelligent and independent, for they were at the mercy of the elements in every hour of their everyday life.

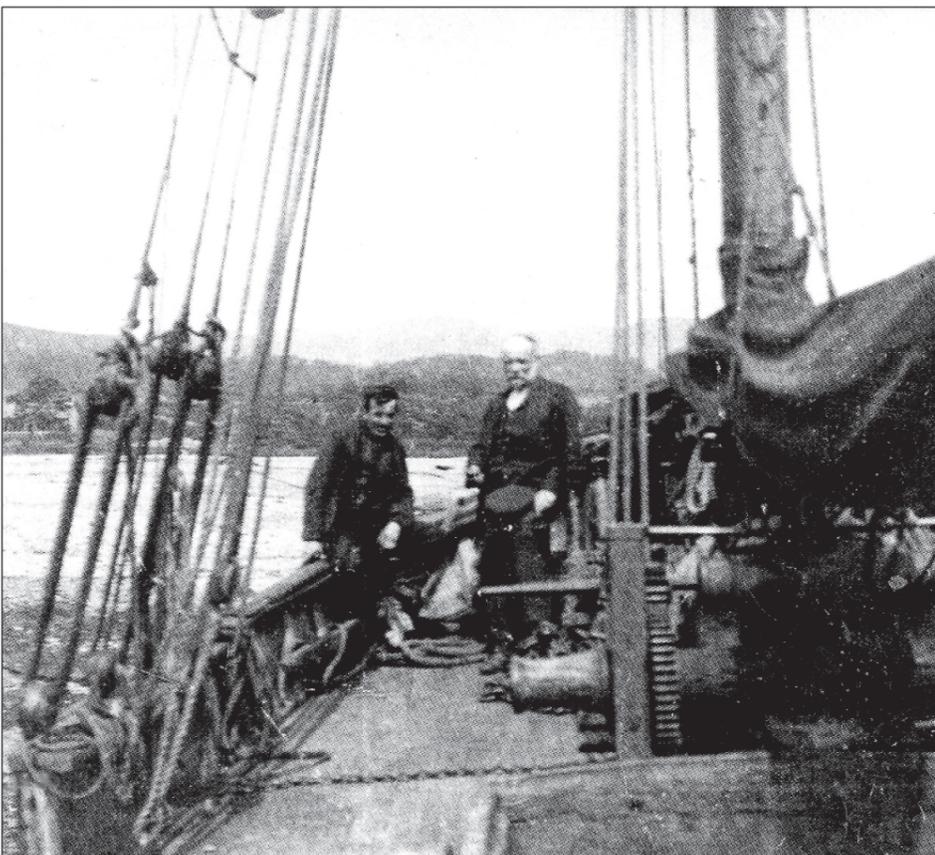
The smacks were small, but very stoutly built. Most of them were built on the mainland; a few on Arran itself. They may have appeared large, lying up on the beaches, or in the small ports, or at the jetties, but, in fact, they were very small indeed, especially on a winter's day, half-way across to Ireland, and a gale blowing. Few, if any smacks were ever lost by bad seamanship. To begin with, they were small and half-decked, carrying about 5 tons; then later 20 tons, and finally the big smacks which carried 35 to 40 tons.

All the Arran villages had their quota of smacks, and at one time the

were upwards of 70 of these craft owned by, or connected with the island. They have now entirely disappeared. The race of smackmen died out, and the smacks seemed to go with their owners. Some of the younger generation tried to keep them going, by installing motors to augment the sails, but the steam "puffers" came, and the day of the smack was over. It was a great era, and we who can remember part of it will not readily forget the Arran smacks and smackmen.

The older generation will recall the beautiful and homely names of those smacks of that bygone age; names that were household words in Arran many years ago. They were the Allison, Annie B. Smith, Betsy Crawford, Brothers, Brodick, Blue Bell, Cumbrae, Duchess, Dundyvan, Dasher, Elizabeth, Elizabeth Hendry, Euphemia, Fairy Dell, Fairy Land, Flora Murchie, Grace Wallace, Glen Sannox, Go-Ahead, Hey-my-Nannie, Isa, Ina Beaton, Janet McNicol, Jane McLeod, Jeanie, Jane, Jane and Lizzie, Katherine, Katherine Kerr, Lygra, Lizzie, Mary Taylor, Mary Kerr, Maggie Allan, Marjory, Malvina, Mary Ann, Onward, Princess Mayse, Retriever, Summer Breeze, Susan Weir, Water Crest, Zephyr.

Arran smacks and the men who sailed them have long proved fascinating to the newspapers.



The Logans from Corrie on board their smack in the Sannox Burn - 1918.



Willie Crawford's grandfather, second left on the front row, Archie Crawford, was famous for

# Arran's 'smack who sailed the

'All this work and time for the price of 40 tonnes of

Sadly there will be few people left today who remember the fleet of sailing smacks owned and sailed by islanders until the early part of the 20th century.

These boats were owned in several villages on the island but the majority were in Lochranza, Catacol and Pirmill and they all wintered in Lochranza because of its very sheltered inner harbour.

With no surfaced roads on the island at that time, and motor transport in its infancy, the smack catered for the need to deliver heavy goods to the point where required, namely to a pier or if the village had no pier, on to a beach.

In 1989 there was a feature in *The Banner* written by A Robertson who not only remembered these vessels but had sailed on one or two of them as a boy.

### Career

He lived in Lochranza and spent a great deal of his time with the men who sailed the smacks.

At the time he said: 'There were eight or nine vessels trading out of Lochranza, and it is no wonder that almost every boy in the village later chose the sea as a career, including me.'

'We spent many happy hours listening to the stories of the smackmen, and most of us learnt our basic sea skills such as sculling, rowing, sewing canvas and splicing rope from them.'

Mr Robertson spoke of these old men going

about their work, all speaking Gaelic, as most people did in the north and west of the island in the early 20th century.

'My own parents spoke it fluently,' he said, 'and I still have a limited understanding of the language.'

The smacks were strong wooden vessels, about 70 feet long, built for a carrying capacity and not for speedy sailing.

### Creeks and harbours

Their trade was in the creeks and harbours of the Firth of Clyde, Loch Fyne, Kyles of Bute and up river as far as Greenock.

Coal, sand and gravel bricks were their main cargoes and the Old Quay, Lamlash was a favourite port of call as was Brodick Burn and the Old Quay at Corrie.

Lochranza had no pier suitable, so cargo was discharged on the beach in the inner harbour.

The smacks were worked by two men, with sometimes a boy, and accommodation was very basic: a compartment in the bow with two bunks and a stove and a small cabin aft for the master with one bunk and a table.

Toilet facilities were non-existent but it was apparently quite comfortable sitting on the bulwark sailing up Loch Fyne on a fine day, doing what one had to do.

Mr Robertson said: 'Only two vessels at that time had motor engines - the 'Maggie' and



For his smack the Betsy Crawford.

# 's' and the men m remembered

gravel seems unbelievable in this day and age'



Willie Crawford had a smack called 'Glen Sannox' and worked mostly in the Clyde but sometimes went as far afield as Tiree.

'Elizabeth' both from Catacol - the rest used huge brown sails for motive power.

'The smacks often loaded gravel on the beaches in Kintyre, it was back breaking work and

could take up to a week to load 40 tonnes.

'It was loaded into the smack's punt, thence to the deck of the smack and from there into the hold.

'It took about 35 boat loads to complete loading and if the wind was favourable four or five hours would see the smack in Troon.

'If, however, the wind was from the east, it would be to Lamlash bay to await a westerly breeze - that could be a week hence.

'All this work and time for the price of 40 tonnes of gravel seems unbelievable in this day and age, but was considered normal at the time.'

### Easier to transport

As the Second World War approached, the condition of Arran's roads improved drastically which made it easier to transport goods by vehicle onshore.

The smacks which had served the Clyde for 150 years were no longer quite so vital and gradually as ships became bigger and faster they were no longer needed.

Mr Robertson finished by saying: 'The memories of that time are some of the happiest of my life.

'Lochranza, Corrie, Pirnmill and Catacol were all busy little villages full of people and boats.

'It was a simpler time, and one that I miss very dearly.'

Willie Crawford who now lives in Corrie is descended from a long-line of smackmen. This week he brought in a wonderful poem written by his aunt Paddy Goffey which was written in the middle of the 20th century which reminisces about these wonderful boats and the men that sailed them.

Each time when at the harbour now  
I see an Arran smack,  
to good old days of long ago  
my memory takes me back.

And well do I remember of the  
now far distant day.  
When up beside Jamaica Bridge,  
these useful vessels lay.

I remember too, when they arrived,  
with gravel and with sand.  
With baskets quaint and primitive,  
they were discharged by hand.

And when discharged, they loaded coal,  
as odd ones do here still,  
for Brodick, Corrie, Whiting Bay,  
Lamlash and Pirnmill.

I mind the Betsy Crawford,  
and her energetic crew,  
the Maggie and Glen Sannox,  
and the dear old Bluebell too.

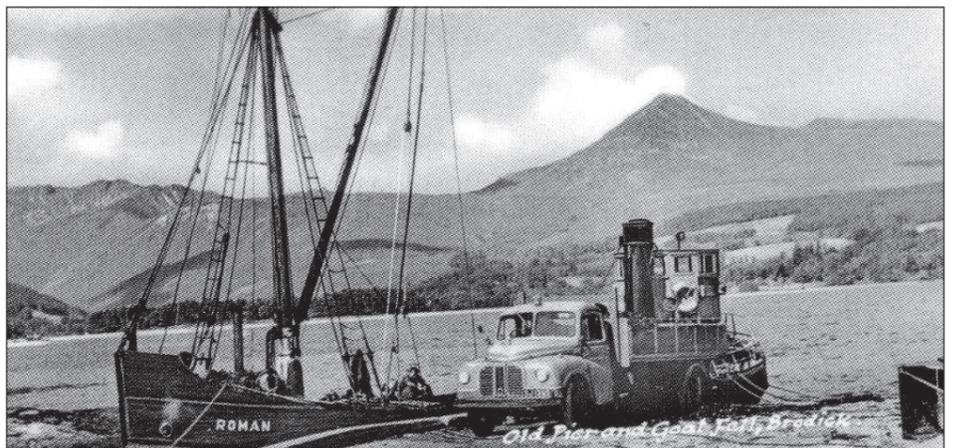
The Onward and the Katherine Kerr,  
which now we seldom see,  
and the Holm and Ina Beaton,  
are memories dear to me.

The times are changed,  
and these old boats, once held in high regard,  
the wheels of modern progress,  
no longer can retard.

And these old relics of the past  
on which we looked with pride,  
though obsolete at present,  
all helped to make the Clyde.

And hence to praise these pioneers,  
I freely use my pen.  
The Kerrs, the Hamiltons,  
and the Grants - all famous Arran men.

The Crawfords and the Kelsos,  
and the Beatons, men of grit.  
In the march of modern progress,  
have all nobly done their bit.



Alistair Kelso was the skipper of the puffer 'Roman', pictured here in Brodick Bay.



A smack at the old Corrie port.



A smackman boiling his nets at the old Corrie Quay.

# Top 10 Arran garden birds 2014

The last weekend in January 2014 was the weekend of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Big Garden Bird Watch.

Twenty-four households and one school on Arran not only took part in this survey of garden birds but shared their results with me.

The top 10 number of gardens in which they were seen is: chaffinch, blue tit, great tit, robin, coal tit, blackbird, dunnock, house sparrow, greenfinch and goldfinch.

While chaffinch, as in the previous three years, remains the commonest bird, blue tit and great tit moved from

seventh and fifth last year to second and third this year. Robin moved from second to fourth, and for the first time goldfinch made the top ten.

In each of the three previous years almost 30 species were seen.

This year it was only 23. This may be a reflection of the inclement weather over the survey weekend.

By far the largest total of birds seen was chaffinch with 334.

There were some quite marked changes including coal tit decreasing from 141 in 2013 to 89 in 2014 and house sparrow increasing from 60 in 2013 to 124 in 2014.

While the information is interesting, too much should not be read into these small samples from four years.

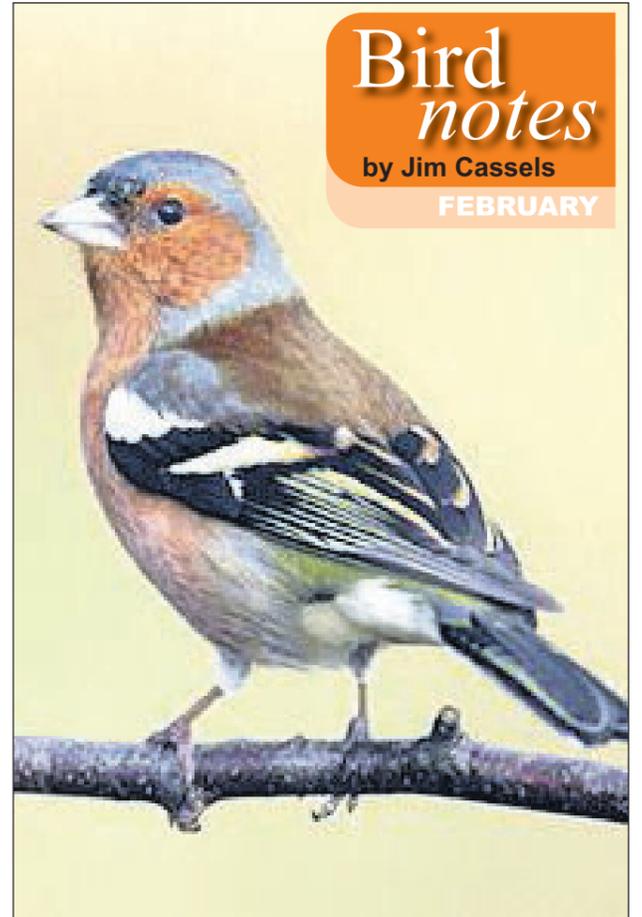
If you would like a copy of the complete collated data for Arran for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, please get in touch. This survey was over one

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 Bird-Watch (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](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net). I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Report 2012' and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
FEBRUARY

Chaffinch remain Arran's commonest bird. By Carl Reavey



Sightings of coal tit decreased from 141 in 2013 to 89 in 2014. By Carl Reavey



More than double the numbers of house sparrows were spotted this year. By Carl Reavey



The blue tit remains one of Arran's most popular birds. By Robert Lambie

## Storm repairs carried out

The Kildonan Low Road was closed between the Breadalbane and Drimla Cottage on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 February for urgent roadworks to take place.

Large sections of the road had crumbled into the sea or had been damaged by the rising tides during the storms earlier this year.



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# Brewery accuses MPs of failing the industry

The managing director of Arran Brewery has accused Scottish MPs of failing to support the country's fast-growing craft beer industry.

Gerald Michaluk, who operates the brewery at Cladach near Brodick, said that it was 'very disheartening' that only six Scottish MPs have so far joined the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA) parliamentary beer champions list.

## 10 per cent

In the rest of the UK some 19 per cent of MPs joined the group but in Scotland the total was only six, representing just 10 per cent of sitting MPs.

The six beer champions for Scotland are David Hamilton, Charles Kennedy, Graeme Morrice, Ian Murray, Thomas Docherty and Ian Davidson.

Mr Michaluk, who is a SIBA trustee for the Scottish region, told The Banner that all six MPs were to be congratulated and that the Scottish Beer Industry appreciated their willingness to stand up and be counted.

'I am heartened by general support of the industry but very disappointed by Scotland's poor showing on the beer champions list,' said Mr Michaluk.

'There are more than 60 breweries in Scotland and

they are increasingly generating jobs, income and tax revenue for the government.

'It is time Scotland embraced local craft beer and showed it some support.'

## Indicative

He added: 'The 10 per cent support in Scotland compared to 19 per cent support south of the border I fear is indicative of Scotland's general lack of support for this important sector to the economy.'

'On a positive note all six MPs are welcome anytime to the Arran Brewery to have a pint on me.'

'Cheers for your support from the Scottish brewing industry!'



February's film is the first ever movie by a Saudi female director, Haifaa Al Mansour.

## Corrie Film Club - February

### Wadjda (Saudi Arabia 2013 Cert PG)

February's offering at Corrie this month is the groundbreaking film Wadjda - the first ever film by a Saudi female director, Haifaa Al Mansour.

Wadjda is a 10-year-old girl living in a suburb of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. Although she lives in a con-

strained world, Wadjda is fun loving, intelligent and always pushing the boundaries.

After a fight with her friend Abdullah, a boy who lives next door, Wadjda sees a beautiful green bicycle for sale.

She wants the bicycle so that she can beat Abdullah in a race.

Wadjda's mother, however,

fears censure and reaction from a society that views bicycles as dangerous to a girl's virtue.

So Wadjda decides to take matters into her own hands.

Find out what happens to Wadjda by coming along to see this important and wonderful film at Corrie and Sannox Hall on Sunday 9 February at 8pm. All welcome.

## Spring Bulb show plans begin

The Arran Horticultural Society will hold its spring flower and bulb show in Brodick hall on Saturday 29 March.

Entries can be placed between 10am mid-day on the day of the show, with the hall open to the general public from 2pm until 4pm.

Tea, coffee and home baking and raffles will be available.

Schedules for the show will be distributed to the usual venues from February 27 and online from then at [www.arranhs.co.uk](http://www.arranhs.co.uk)

The floral art theme for this show will be 'Commonwealth Games', and the theme for the photo competition will be 'Images of

Winter/ Spring 2013-14.

Last year's trophy winners are being asked to return the trophies before the show.

The committee is delighted to see a great deal of interest from the schools again this year.

It was also announced at the recent committee meeting that the summer show will be on Wednesday 13 August, and 'Gardening Scotland' will be 30 May to 1 June, with the Ayr flower show 22-24 August which is later this year because of the Commonwealth Games.

The horticultural society will advise of coach trips later in the spring.

## COAST becomes marine science hub

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust is fast becoming a marine science hub for those wishing to study the ecology of the Clyde.

Since 2010 COAST has hosted and assisted three PhD researchers and 10 MSc research projects while working closely with Glasgow, York and Heriot Watt universities.

It has also engaged six marine science short-term volunteers.

This year it expects to attract a further four MSc students mapping habitats and monitoring change in the No Take Zone.

A spokesman said: 'We are well on the way to becoming a hub for marine science and enlightened marine policy.'

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**MARYLEBONE WIND QUARTET**  
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**CASINO NIGHT**  
 Get glammed up for a fun night in  
**KILMORY HALL**  
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 To book Community Bus phone Phyllis - 01770 870263

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Arran Social Scene

# A pothole's a pothole for a' that

The Bard was toasted in style last Saturday night as 60 villagers gathered for the annual Whiting Bay Golf Club Burns Supper.

Organised by Johnny Kelso - who is normally to be found fixing the island's many potholes - the evening brought together some of the village's most talented performers to celebrate the life of Robert Burns.

The evening also raised in

excess of £1,500 for Whiting Bay Golf Club.

Ian Cook very ably chaired the evening and also recited a very impressive address to the mighty haggis.

Jimmy Miller's 'Address to the Lassies' had everyone in fits of laughter and Christine McLeod replied on behalf of the lassies, very impressively, completely in verse.

The Immortal Memory was given by John Rankin who

also read out a selection of Burns verse.

Organiser Johnny Kelso was responsible for the Selkirk Grace and a lovely vote of thanks at the end.

Johnny said: 'I'd like to say a big thank you to Lindsay Keir of Wooleys for donating the oaties, Gordon Kinniburgh from the Island Cheese Company for giving us lots of cheese, and Colin Nisbet, a member of the club,

for very kindly providing us with a haggis.

'The potatoes and turnips came from John Logan's fields in Pirnmill and we are very grateful for those too.'

He continued by thanking the chef Andy Robinson, helpers Andy Williams, Jo Hunter, Caroline Kelso, Asha Simpson and Ellie Miller and the barmen Jamie McKechnie and John Simmonds.



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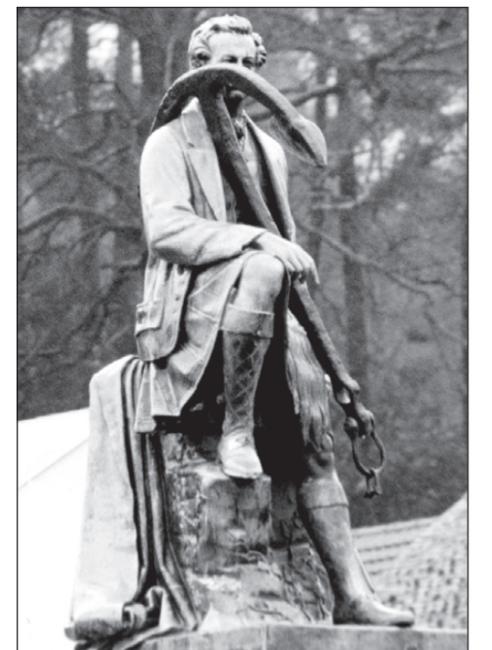
**BANNER**

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**

**Saturday 12 February, 1993**



**A new gangway arrived for the ferry on Wednesday. Once in position it will extend at least half the length of the pier, require a gantry to get it in to position, and be less steep than the present gangway. b06twe02**



**Is the Duke of Hamilton planning a sea voyage or is someone showing a lack of respect to his statue at Brodick School? What we cannot understand is how the culprit got such a heavy anchor up there and, when it comes down, it might do so with an awful thump! b06twe03**



**Arran's two rival bus companies were forced to work together on Tuesday afternoon when one of the Western Buses broke down at the high school. b06twe01**

**Tickets please**

Yes that's right, very soon 'tickets please' will be the first greeting from the ferry crew before you board the boat.

The full summer timetable begins on April 24 and some time before that date buying a ticket on board the ferry will be phased out.

And passengers and drivers must have already purchased their tickets on shore.

**Drug abuse concerns**

Parents on Arran are becoming increasingly worried about the use of drugs on the island, according to the high school PTA.

Two officers from the 'drugs squad' visited the school this week to speak to senior pupils.

The officers then spoke to parents at night explaining the tell-tale signs of drug-use, how to help if someone is found to be using drugs and what to do with any other concerns.

**Whisky bonds sold**

Arran Distillers, which has sold around 1,000 bonds as part of a money raising exercise to build a distillery in Lochranza, is to issue a new cheaper bond of £75.

This will yield only 12 bottles of Arran Malt instead of 60.

It is understood that a start on the project has now been delayed until two golden eagles have finished nesting.

**One lucky driver**

Somebody on Arran will win a car on Monday.

The BP Daily Express 'win a car a day' draw is to be made on the island at Ribbeck's petrol garage on Monday and all the names in the bag will be Arran customers.

**Pier work begins**

Dredging has started at Brodick Pier and is taking place generally through the night.

This is in preparation for a further pier extension to assist in the berthing of the new ferry.

**Bomb scare**

The 4.40pm ferry from Brodick was delayed for an hour on Monday following a threat that there was a bomb aboard.

The threat was made to The Banner office where at 4.20pm a call was received.

A man with a west of Scotland accent said: 'We're fed up of all the English on this island.'

'If that 4.40 leaves there will be a bomb on it, okay?'

A full search of the vessel was conducted and nothing was found.

**Wet January**

Another cold and very wet month, only two days were completely dry.

Total rainfall was 378.8 mm (about 15 inches), the greatest fall occurred on January 31 when 55.7mm was recorded.

While the maximum temperatures were quite respectable ranging from 3.7C to 10.5C, consistently average temperatures resulted in a complete lack of frost.

**Send your old photographs to editor@arranbanner.co.uk**

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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

## ISLE OF ARRAN BREWERY

### Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing  
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open  
 Arran Brewery  
 Arran Brewery tour

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing  
 Daily 9am-Dusk  
 Open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm, Sat 10-5pm Closed Sunday 2pm

### Saturday 8th February

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s Disco  
 Karate  
 Family Games  
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)  
 Junior Football  
 Live Music - James Burge

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Arran High School, 10am  
 P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm  
 Public Bar, Douglas hotel, 9pm

### Sunday 9th February

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)  
 AA Meeting  
 Mackerel Lottery

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm  
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm

### Monday 10th February

Quiz  
 Over 50s Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Citizens Advice  
 Senior Fitness  
 Table Tennis  
 Aerobics (low impact)  
 Badminton  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Yoga  
 Lunch club  
 Yoga - Arran

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Shiskine Hall 6pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon  
 Lamlash sheltered housing, 12 noon  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm

Shirley & Sarah fitness class  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Bridge Club  
 Metafit  
 Kildonan Hall AGM

Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Beginners & Improvers Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 5.15 - 5.45pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7.30pm

### Tuesday 11th February

Pop Quiz  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth Club  
 Rotary club  
 Streetly Dance pre school  
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3  
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7  
 Streetly Dancing Seniors  
 Junior Hockey Club  
 Healthy Outdoors  
 Winter bowls  
 SFA Early Touch Football  
 Metafit  
 Scottish Country Dancing

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre  
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
 P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm  
 Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

### Wednesday 12th February

Hockey  
 Tae KwonDo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Yogalates  
 Aquafizz  
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 RunArran mixed ability  
 Running Coaching  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Sports Club  
 Coffee morning in aid of Erskine Hosp  
 Arran Brass AGM

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
 Auchrannie car Park, 5pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15-12 noon  
 Brodick church hall, 7PM

### Thursday 13th February

Senior Fitness  
 General Knowledge Quiz  
 Lochranza Craft Club  
 Live music  
 Weight Watchers  
 Yoga  
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class  
 Brodick Embroidery Group  
 Winter bowls  
 Metafit  
 Bridge Club  
 QuiltArran  
 Lunchbox

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 2pm  
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm  
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
 Auchrannie sports hall, 6pm - 6.30pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm  
 Fire Station, Lamlash, 2-4pm  
 Ormidale Sports Pavillon, 12.30-2.30pm

### Friday 14th February

Aqua Fizz  
 Yogalates  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Lochranza Kids Badminton  
 Lochranza Adults Badminton  
 Arran Ceilidh Dancers

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8-10pm

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# Recruitment

**auchrannie** resort **auchrannie job vacancies**

Auchrannie Resort is looking for exceptional people to join our team in the following roles:

**Leisure Assistant**  
A fitness qualification would be advantageous but is not essential.

**Housekeeping Assistants**  
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All applicants should be able to demonstrate their desire to ensuring that our company vision of 'Hospitality with Passion and Personality' is achieved.

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For further information and application forms please contact the Castle Administration Office  
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# Public Notices

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**

will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

<b>Monday 10 February</b>	
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hal	11.30-12.30
Shiskine Village Hall	13.15-14.15
Brodick Health Centre	15.00-16.00
<b>Monday 10 March</b>	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15-12.15
Kilmory Village Hall	13.00-14.00
Lamlash ACVS	15.00-16.00

**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](mailto:Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

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**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GRASS CUTTING SCHEME**

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme which is limited to grass and hedge cutting. The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".

To be eligible the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:  
Be aged 75 and over.  
Or  
Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.  
Or  
Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA high rate (mobility) or highest rate (care).

To apply to the scheme contact the Council by telephone from Monday 3 February 2014 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the telephone application process and payment for the scheme will be taken. The charge for the scheme is £60 including VAT.

Applications will close on 28 February 2014. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Development Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) \* and at The Council Offices, Lamlash.

Written representations may be made to the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to [eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 28.02.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)**

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development  
14/00039/PP; Site To North Of Tor-Alvey, Whiting Bay, Brodict, Isle Of Arran;  
Erection of detached dwelling house with detached garage.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



**HOUSEKEEPER**  
Wanted for holiday cottage changeovers in Whiting Bay. Garden work also available if desired.  
**Tel. 07582 325577**

**ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP**

The island GP surgeries will be

**Closed for training from 1.00PM**

on

**Wed 12 February 2014**

If you need to contact a doctor urgently when the surgeries are closed you should phone

**NHS 24**

On

**08454 24 24 24**

**In an emergency please phone 999**

**ARRAN BRASS AGM**  
7pm, Weds. 12th February  
**BRODICK CHURCH HALL**  
ALL WELCOME  
(please note corrected venue)

Kildonan Hall & Village Improvements Committee  
**AGM**  
**Monday 10th February**  
**Village Hall at 7.30pm**  
All Welcome

**ARRAN GOLF PASS AGM**  
to be held in Brodick GC  
on Wednesday 26th February  
at 7.30p.m.  
All welcome

**Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are.**

[www.arranbanner.co.uk/digital](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk/digital)



# Trade Classifieds

## TREES

Tree & hedge cutting and clearing  
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All types of fencing

Call Jamie McKinnon:  
01770 810 222 or 07760 247201

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Mobile 07733 738127  
Email: john@thornbankwoodcraft.co.uk

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS  
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

# Drive Times

## HONDA CRV 4X4

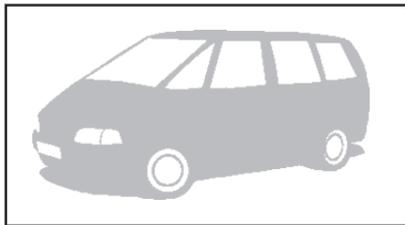


June 2002, 105K miles, roof box if wanted. MOT June, Taxed until December. One owner; a very reliable much-loved versatile car.

Telephone 0780 2228460

**£1750**

## VAUXHALL ZAFIRA



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Tel: 01770 700517 (Arran)

**£1000 o.n.o**

# Property

## FOR SALE

**A great business opportunity or fabulous large family home/holiday let.**  
Walk-in condition, fully furnished, successful small B&B and S/C business (currently 4 beds/ 4 baths), with potential for expansion in central Brodick with sea views.

Tel: 01475 675001 Ref: LA0347 EPC Rating: Pending

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

# Classifieds

## FREE TO UPLIFT

Philips 28" television with stand, excellent order. Free to uplift. Phone: 302066

Piano Tel: 07984 402076

Wooden wall unit 5'6" tall and 7'6" wide (approx) excellent condition Tel: 302230

## WANTED

Flat screen TV Tel: 700369

## OVER £30

Two 3-seater chocolate brown leather sofas, as new, £150 Tel: 07557 196441

Youth and adult mountain bikes £35 & £50 Tel: 830637

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**BANNER CLASSIFIEDS**

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PRICE..... TELEPHONE.....

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 9th February**  
Holy Communion, 11.30.  
Rev Simon Mackenzie,  
Priest-in-Charge.  
Coffee and sandwich lunch after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson.  
Parish assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter.  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Sunday 9th February**  
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
Corrie Church, 12noon, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
A Service of Worship, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirmill  
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 9th February**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Both Churches:  
Mrs Jean Hunter  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 9th 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

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday morning masses 11am

Follow us on **facebook**  
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 9th February**  
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
Tea & coffee after the service.  
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.  
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no. 600222.  
Everyone warmly invited.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 9th February**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)  
Mr Sean Ankers

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 9th February**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6-30 pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
**Wednesday 12th February**  
Prayer Meeting 7pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**SALVAION ARMY**

House Group/Bible Study Mondays 2.30pm.  
If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

**DEATH**

**HARVIE** - John (Ian). Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Tuesday 30th January 2014. Ian, aged 82 years, beloved husband of Margaret (Meg). All friends are invited to the funeral service at Leaside, Strathwhillan, Brodick on Tuesday 11th February at 11:30am, and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery. No flowers please, donations if desired to ArCaS.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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Shiskine Golf Club photographed recently on a rare bright day.



**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday 23 January Yellow Medal. 1 Ian Bremner 62-6=56, 2 Raymond Burke 75-11=64. Twos Ian Bremner (2) at the 7th and 17th, Graeme Andrew at the 13th, Raymond Burke at the 16th.

Thursday 30 January, Yellow Medal. 1 Graeme Andrew 68-7=61, 2 Alan Smith 75-10=65 BIH over John O'Sullivan 87-2=65. Twos Graeme Andrew at the 9th.

Sunday 2 February, Winter League at the Shiskine. Result: Lamlash 4 Corrie 0.

Fixtures: Sunday 9 February, Glenburn Cup 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday 13 February, Yellow Medal, ballot at 11am.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Wednesday 29 January, 10 played on a better day with the course in decent nick after all the rain. Walter Bainbridge Plate: J Dick won with a score of 39 points. 1 G Silars 84-23=61 BIH, 2 J Dick 75-14=61. There were twos for J Green, G Sillars and Wolfi. Sunday 2 February, competition washed out by weather yet again.

Fixtures: Sunday 9 February, Brandon (January) and

Winter Cup, class draws at 9am and 12noon. Sunday 16 February, Clochendichter. Sunday 23 February, Brandon (February) and Winter Cup, class draws at 9am and 12noon.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday 2 February, well done to the Whiting Bay team on defeating Machrie Bay three and a half games to a half game at Shiskine and winning the AGA Winter League Duncan Shield with one match still remaining. The highlight was undoubtedly the hole in one by Ronnie 'Ace' Mann at the 10th Hole! Well done to all who played for the team throughout the winter.

Fixtures: Sunday 9 February, Winter Cup round 5.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday 28 January Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Campbell Laing 35, 2 Brian Sherwood 34, 3 David Price 31. Scratch Brian Sherwood 78. Fixtures: Saturday 8 February Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final, tee off 12noon. Tuesday 11 February Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Winter League/Duncan Trophy 2013-2014.  
Whiting Bay are the Winter League/Duncan Trophy 2013-2014 champions with the final round of the competition still to be played.

The 4th round of matches took place at Shiskine Golf

Club on a slightly wet Sunday morning but the day turned in to a glorious sunny afternoon for the later starters.

Thanks to Shiskine for hosting and the superb condition of the course for the time of year, also to the staff at the Kinloch for the soup and rolls.

First match was Shiskine against Brodick; two big wins for Shiskine coupled with two tighter losses meant the tie was halved overall.

Next was Lamlash against Corrie, with Corrie lying second undefeated and Lamlash bottom on one point the boys from Lamlash set off with a point to prove and won the match comfortably by 4 games to 0 and thus ending Corrie's hopes of the league for another year.

Lastly was leader Whiting Bay against Machrie; with some of the Machrie players

struggling to get back from the mainland the Whiting Bay lads took full advantage and won the tie by three and a half games to a half.

Congratulations to Whiting Bay on a very well deserved League win, undefeated for the year and a home game to come. Special mention was given to Ronnie Mann who aced the 10th hole in his match. With Corrie losing there's now a four-way battle for runners up spot with every team bar Brodick.

Fixtures: Final round of matches will be played at Whiting Bay on Sunday 2 March with a shotgun start. Could all teams please be at the course for 9.30am as there will be a bit of a walk to get to some tees ready for 10am. Dougie will sound a claxon at 10am. Draw: Whiting Bay v Corrie, Brodick v Machrie Bay, Shiskine v Lamlash.

**Max is pool champion - again!**

It was an all-southern affair on Sunday afternoon as Max Worthington of PT1934 won the Arran Open pool championship for the second year in a row.

Eighteen players gathered at the Drift Inn, Lamlash, for the tournament that lasted well into the evening.

Max defeated Dave Nicholson of Kildonan three games to two in a best-of-five final.

**Beating**

Dave earned his place in the last round by beating Niall McMaster of PT1934 2-0.

Pedro Stewart was also beaten 2-0 to take Max into the final.

The quarter finals of the

pool doubles competition should be played on or by Sunday 2 March. The draw is as follows: I McDonald/R Buchan (Drift) v B Lacey/S Pearce (Kildonan) at Whiting Bay GC, J Simmons/J Ainsworth (Whiting Bay GC) v D Smith/E Picken (PT1934) at Kildonan, D Nicholson/R Hughes (Kildonan) v J McKechnie/K Turner (Whiting Bay GC) at the Drift Inn, R Davidson/S McMaster (PT1934) v K Jackson/B Hamilton (Whiting Bay GC) at Kildonan.

This is a reminder that the Ladies Open will be played on Sunday 23 February at 2.30pm in the Drift Inn.

**IN MEMORY**

In memory of  
**Peter H Roberts**  
who died 11/02/2012

You are sadly missed.. from your wife Rosemary, son Andy and family, sister Pam and family, brother in law Phil and Carol, friends and all that new knew you.

*'You will always be with us wherever we are'*

**90TH BIRTHDAY**

**Happy Birthday**

to Verner Small who celebrated his 90th Birthday on Sunday, 2nd February.

*Love from all the family.*

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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The winners of the Peggy Currie Cup, from left to right: Douglas Hamilton, Trish Martin, Margaret Bruce and Dougie Bruce.

## Arran Bridge Club

The recent results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows.

Thursday 23 January, aggregate points: North/South 1 Fiona Crawford and David Henderson, 2 Elizabeth McKellar and Jim Peacock, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

East/West: 1 Morag Gardner and Jean Barclay, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Margaret Macgill and Elizabeth McConnell.

Monday 27 January, aggregate points. North/South: 1 Tricia Martin and Alison Bilsland, 2 John Baraclough and Jean Barclay, 3 John and Jan Beattie. East/West: 1 Fiona Crawford and Maureen Cumming, 2 Helen Boyd and Jean Murchie, 3 Jessmay and Jim Peacock.

Thursday 30 January, Boyd Trophy, Round 4: North/South 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2= Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar, 2= John Dick and Margaret Macgill. East/West 1 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 2 Helen Boyd and Jean Murchie, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

# Entries open for Isle of Arran 10K race

## 10K race is just 10,000 metres, roughly 9,000 steps

The Isle of Arran 10K Race will take place on Sunday 27 April and organisers are keen to encourage more islanders to take part this year.

In the next few weeks The Banner will be giving some helpful hints to get you there. Safety first: wear bright clothes and run where you can be seen. If you have health problems consult your GP before starting.

### Good shoes

Feet first: If you don't have good shoes appropriate to

your weight and running style then buy a pair that will support your feet, stop injuries and feel that they are made to run in.

### Good idea

Getting started: Choose a route that has a 'lifeboat'. Running a circuit which incorporates going past your house or a comfort station is a good idea so if you have to stop, return to safety or just go to the toilet quickly you can.

Establish a routine: Have

a wee search on the internet and find a set of simple stretching routines to ensure you are warmed up and ready to go, use the same routine to warm down.

Hydrate: Have a wee drink before you go and if you need to drink often take a wee bottle with you.

### Comfortable

How far: To start with find out what you are comfortable with; if you are brand new to running try a gentle jog; if you feel tired stop and walk

briskly - don't stop unless you feel unwell; always try to visualise your goal. A 10K race is just 10,000 metres, roughly 9,000 steps - remember that you only have to take them one at a time.

### Challenge

How often: Try to run/jog every other day to get your body used to the effort. Your big challenge is allowing your body to deal with lactic acid - that's what makes your muscles tired.

If you can run with a group

or with company you may also wish to join the RunArran or JogScotland groups on the island.

Look out for more training tips in next week's Banner.

## Training diary for week one

Day one - Run for one minute, walk for one minute for a total of 30 minutes.

Repeat for day three and five and on day six do some cross training like cycling or swimming.

On day seven have a day off but remember to do your stretching exercises.

### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.