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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY, 2009

No 1687

15,000 tonnes of timber will be moved annually on the String Road

Trucks set to roll

A change of heart by the Forestry Commission means that fully-laden timber lorries will soon be trundling regularly down the String Road for the next seven years.

The lorries will be hauling logs from the clearance of the Clauhan Glen forest and were originally meant to be going down the lesser-used single track Ross Road.

Work should start next Monday and a Forestry Commission spokesman said: 'We expect to extract an average of about 15,000 tonnes (about 600 lorry movements) per year over the next seven years on the String Road.'

It had been planned to take this timber over a new forestry road to be constructed from Shedog, cross-country to the top of the Ross, and then down the Ross Road to Lamlash and Brodick.

Lifeline

The idea was to avoid using the B880 String Road which is an important lifeline across the island. Part of this new route would be through land recently designated a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), largely due to the presence of the protected species of hen harriers.

In 2003 North Ayrshire Council and the Forestry Commission began a three-year project to strengthen and upgrade the Ross Road and build extra passing places ready for this extraction of timber from the west of the island.

This upgrade was completed in 2006, but last October FCS shelved the plans for the new

By HOWARD DRIVER

forestry road. The FCS spokesman said: 'It is unaffordable. In addition we have not been satisfied that the environmental and infrastructural consequences on public roads of taking the timber across the island and down the Ross to Lamlash would be justified.'

Local contractor Ian Thomson said: 'We should begin extraction on Monday and expect to haul 12,000 tonnes down the String in the next four months. The trucks will be 44 tonnes fully laden.'

Concerns

Addressing concerns about damage to the road, the Forestry Commission spokesman said: 'We are talking to North Ayrshire Council about a possible collaborative bid to the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme for grant aid contribution to the infrastructure of the String Road.'

Ronnie Small, NAC roads chief, said: 'We are happy to help the commission in any bid but ultimately it will be for them to come forward with proposals for any advance or repair work on our roads. It is well known that heavy goods cause far greater damage to roads than even high volumes of private cars and this will form the basis of future discussions with the commission.'

Shiskine community councillor Neil Arthur said: 'There will be a weight impact on the road.'

'However, this could be an opportunity we've been waiting for to get the String Road upgraded and widened at the same time.'



Pyjama fun in Kilmory club

The youngsters of Kilmory Youth Club held a pyjama party in the village hall last Friday evening. From the left, Rachel McKinnon, Natasha Murray, Charley Napier and Leigh Boyd. For more photos see page 11. b07pyj06

Hopes for second summer ferry

Arran's ferry committee said this week that it was 'hopeful' the island will continue to have a two-vessel service during the summer.

At a meeting of the ferry committee on Monday night, attended by CalMac managing director Lawrie Sinclair, CalMac operations manager Philip Preston, and Robbie Brown, CalMac's regional manager

for Arran as well as Kenneth Gibson MSP and Judith Ainsley from the Scottish Government, the committee were reassured that every effort is being made to secure a second vessel for the summer.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee chairman Ken Thorburn said: 'We are very hopeful that we will get a second vessel this summer but it has yet to be

confirmed.'

Since 2005, the MV Saturn has run alongside the MV Caledonian Isles considerably easing the volume of traffic using the main ferry.

Rely

Islanders have come to rely on the extra ferry, which runs from June to early September between the main sailings of the Caledonian Isles.

MSP given assurance of grit bins for residents

With much of Arran gripped by snow and ice in recent days, it seems that not enough is being done to keep pavements and paths clear of ice and snow.

Said local MSP Kenneth Gibson: 'North Ayrshire Council Roads Department have made it clear that their primary responsibility is to keep roads clear of snow and ice.'

'In former years residents often cleared snow and ice from outside their home as part of their civic duty. With mostly mild winters in recent years this has declined and grit bins are lacking in much of the island.'

Falling

'Now in severe cold spells many people, particularly the elderly and infirm, are often afraid to leave their homes, particularly in hilly streets, for fear of falling.'

'In discussions with Mr Ronnie Small, NAC head of roads, he offered to provide grit bins and salt for anyone who agrees to have a grit bin sited outside their home, providing the pavement is wide enough to accommodate one.'

Mr Small said: 'Footways and paths are gritted on a reactive basis but even then have a relatively low priority. We regularly receive requests for grit bins and we try to meet these.'

'Bad weather throughout the country means that bins are in demand and our supplier has told us it could be three to four weeks before we receive our current order.'

Anyone who wants a bin should call 01294 225200 or email headofroads@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



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Police files

Arrested on warrant

A Kildonan man was arrested at his home last Thursday, February 5 after a court warrant was issued for his arrest.

He was detained in custody in Lamlash police station and taken to the mainland the following day to appear in court.

Car stolen and dumped

A car was stolen from outside The Ormidale Hotel in Brodick between 9pm last Friday and 10am the following day.

The blue Renault Megane was later found dumped and with all its windows and lights smashed. Police are appealing for any information.

Aldersyde windows smashed

Three windows were smashed on the upper floor of the Aldersyde Hotel between 7pm last Friday and 11am on Saturday.

The hotel has been empty for some time and the ground floor windows were boarded up. It has recently taken over by new owners.

Police are following a positive line of enquiry.

Scots Night for WRI

The February meeting of the Lamlash WRI was in the form of a 'Scots Night'. A very happy night of music, song and poetry ended with a lovely buffet. The members would like to sincerely thank the entertainers – Robert Halliday on the accordion and Mark Brown playing the fiddle.

Colin McKenzie read a selection of Burns poetry and Moira Starks and the choir, 'Ain't Misbehaving' performed songs.

Lamlash Beavers start

Lamlash Beavers will be starting on Wednesday, February 18 from 6.15pm to 7.15pm at Arran High School.

The colony is open to both boys and girls aged 5 years and 9 months to 8 years old. All welcome.

Ps: you have won free tickets!

To celebrate Valentine's Day, Andrew Goodwin from Filmobile Scotland offered two sets of two tickets to a viewing of the touching romantic drama *PS I Love You*.

The two lucky winners of the competition in last week's Banner were Bill Roberts of Whiting Bay and Mrs M E

Thomson of Corrie. They can collect their free tickets at the door this Friday night. The film starts at 7.30pm in Arran High School Theatre.

The correct answer to the question: Who is the patron saint of love? is of course St Valentine.

Archie leads the A-Team

Archie, the black Labrador puppy, is just about ready to make his debut in a new *Where's Archie?* feature in the *Banner*.

The popular *Where's Archie?* column came to a sad end last April when Murphy, also a black Labrador, died suddenly. Messages of condolence and even offers of another dog came from literally all over the world.

In July a litter of pups was born at Dougarie and after being advertised in the *Banner*, all 10 little dogs went to homes on the island. Archie was one of those puppies and relocated to his new home in Whiting Bay. Now he is ready for the challenge of appearing in public each week.

A new *Where's Archie?* feature will be starting next week, and the little black chap is being sponsored by The Arran Team.

The Arran Team is delighted to welcome their new team mascot, Archie, this week. Skilled second home managers, The Arran Team have now turned their expertise to all Arran properties. They do small electrical, plumbing & joinery jobs, flat pack furniture assembly, help clean out your cupboards, mend a



Archie in the Arran Team offices in Brodick with his new pals, Jim Park, Teresa Beckett, Penny Brass, Kirsty Evans and Julie Newall. b07are02

fence or greenhouse and have a secure key holding centre, open every day. The staff are reliable, friendly, well-kent faces and they will give you a quote first.

Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm call them on 0845 459 9968 or 01770 303111/3 or email info@thearranteam.co.uk. Introduce a friend and get £5 off your first invoice.

Yates teams up with former Pru colleagues

Kildonan man Alistair Yates is no longer a one-man band.

The well-known Southender has just joined Ken Binnie Ltd, independent financial advisers based in Kilmarnock. Alistair has been giving advice to islanders on money matters for almost 30 years. For 15 years he was 'the man from the Pru', as the representative of the Prudential Assurance Company on Arran.

Independent

Fourteen years ago he set up on his own as an independent adviser and now he has rejoined some of his former



Alistair Yates, right, with Ken Binnie and Ian Hastings. b07yat01

colleagues. Ken Binnie and Ian Hastings are both former 'Prumen' and the three of them will form part of an 11-strong team with offices in Kilmarnock and Stranraer.

Alistair has been the only registered financial adviser on the island since Mike Lunan left quite a few years ago.

He will continue to run Arran General Insurance Services.

Meeting of friends

The next meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle will be held on Wednesday February 18 at 2.30pm in the castle tearoom.

The guest speaker is Jim Casels who will be talking about 'Birding on Arran'.

Fairtrade AGM

The annual general meeting of FairtradeArran will be held in the Ormidale Pavilion at 7.30pm on Monday, February 16.

A short business meeting will be followed by the showing of a couple of short DVDs about Fairtrade, then a cheese and Fairtrade wine and chocolate social. All welcome.

Coffee morning

The Lamlash Church Cool Club will be holding a coffee morning in Lamlash Church Hall from 10.15am to noon on Saturday February 21.

Funds raised will be for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Business growth course

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce is holding a sales growth business course next Wednesday February 18 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Glencloy suite, Auchrannie Spa.

The speaker will be Zach Sorrells of Matrix Business Growth Consultants and entry is free.

Places must be booked in advance by calling 01292678666 or email events@ayrshirechamber.org

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Coffee morning held with supper in mind

Pupils and staff at Corrie Primary School held a coffee morning last Friday to raise funds for the school.

Parents, grandparents and friends of the school gathered to enjoy tea, coffee and delicious homebaking.

Pupils from primary six and seven were selling toys, games and books to raise money for the school Burns Supper in March.

The youngsters hope to be able to put on a proper Burns Supper as part of the Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrations.



Saskia Eaddy, Fraser Blain and Sarah Jackson were selling books and toys to raise money for Corrie School's Burns Supper in March. b07cor02

Challenge for hospice fund

There will be a new Arran challenge for all-comers on Saturday, April 11.

Anyone who considers themselves reasonably fit is invited to take up the challenge of a mini-triathlon.

The event is being organised by Derek Wenham of Milton Keynes. Derek is a keen cyclist and runner and also a good friend of John and the late Judy McFaul. After Judy's untimely death last year John started a campaign for a hospice facility at Arran War Memorial Hospital and Derek wants this event to raise more funds for the project.

John said: 'The event will start from Whiting Bay at 10am with a run to the Dyemill then cycling along the road to Arran Active at Cladach. Entrants will then simply climb up and down Goat Fell.'

'We have cleared it with the police on safety grounds and I will be talking to the mountain rescue team.'

Entrants will be expected to raise some kind of sponsorship by their efforts and forms are available from John on 870339 or Derek on 07813992195.

Derek Wenham and his wife Jill walked round Arran last April in aid of the hospice fund.

John said poignantly: 'This Thursday (February 12) it will be a year since Judy's death.'

Rogue road signs undermine

A number of rogue signs have been painted onto the road surface at locations in Brodick and Lamlash last weekend.

They are a copy of the official-looking warning signs erected two weeks ago by disgruntled Brodick resident Ian Small who was fed up with the increasing number of potholes on Arran roads.

These painted signs bear the same acronym as Ian's slogan 'Arran Roads Slowly Eroding Down.' But Ian is adamant that he didn't do these new signs.

'It wasnae' me,' he told the Banner. 'When I saw them on Friday I telephoned the police and notified them. My signs are neatly up on posts. This sort of graffiti is doing our campaign no good at all.'

The serious pothole outside the Heritage Museum which Ian says he notified to the council on Friday January 30 appears to be still untouched.

Solicitor demands inquiry into sabotage tribunal

'I was forced to sit there while they defamed my character'

An Arran solicitor has requested a full hearing by the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission after neither she, or her clients, were called to give evidence at a tribunal panel.

The Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal ruled last week that Glasgow-based estate agent Graeme Miller should be censured for his professional conduct during 2006, when he ran an office in Brodick.

It was during this period that two clients of estate agent Elizabeth Blair from Corriecravie, who also operated on the island, had their property adverts sabotaged in copies of the

GSPC guide that had been distributed across Arran.

Mr Miller, 46, whose firm, Miller Stewart, has offices in Glasgow, opened an office in Brodick in 2000.

Reprimand

He received an official reprimand for professional misconduct after the Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal said he had not adequately supervised a member of staff who blacked out magazine adverts by the rival firm Reid Blair.

The more serious charge against Mr Miller, which related to the defaced

adverts, was dropped before the hearing and never heard by the panel.

'We are challenging everything that was said in the tribunal,' said Ms Blair. 'I have never tried to mislead a court and I have never told any lies. I was being forced to sit there while they defamed my character.'

Clients

While Ms Blair, her mother Jan Reid and two of her clients had attended the hearing none of them were called to give any evidence to the panel.

A complaint now sits with the Scottish Legal Complaints commis-

sioner about the way the hearing was conducted.

'Disregard'

In the complaint, Ms Blair said that the tribunal was fed a 'litany of false statements and an unfounded character assassination on myself' and it represented a 'chilling disregard' for the Solicitor's Code of Conduct.

'I really don't know what the outcome of the inquiry will be,' said Ms Blair. 'All we are hoping for is the chance to have our version of events read out in a court of law. Whether we win our case or not is not important.'

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Letter from Strasbourg

by Elspeth Attwooll MEP

Elspeth Attwooll is Liberal Democrat MEP for Scotland and has a house in Whiting Bay

January always seems to be a short month – perhaps because we do not start back until the fifth – but a lot has been packed into it all the same.

The start was dominated by discussions on pesticides, with people from the National Farmers' Union for Scotland out in Brussels to engage our help in making the package more sensible where crop production in Scotland is concerned.

Decisions

Although we did not succeed in getting the hoped for amendments through in Strasbourg the following week, at least the final version was better than it might have been. We now have to do our best to make sure that decisions taken on the new rules have a proper scientific basis.

Strasbourg also saw a resolution on the situation in Gaza, about which we had all received a lot of correspondence.

Brussels turned out to be busy for fisheries. There was the vote of my report on whaling which went much more smoothly than I had feared, and a lively



Elspeth Attwooll MEP
b07els01

discussion of my report on the governance of the Common Fisheries Policy.

We had meetings, too, with Ministers from the outgoing French Presidency and the incoming Czech Republic one.

We were inundated with protests too, about a Commission plan to bring recreational sea fisheries under a new control regulation.

Although this is not meant to be nearly as far reaching as many correspondents fear, it certainly needs sorted and we are encouraging those concerned to write to fisheries

ministers, as it is them who shall have the final say.

Life had its social side as well, with two Burns suppers – the one annually organised by the Scottish MEPs and another at Scottish government level with guests from the Czech Republic. Both were really enjoyable and our own Burns supper raised a goodly sum for Mercy Corps Scotland.

Complicated

Of course, there were quite a few things to attend to back home as well, including people coming to see me in the office on some rather complicated issues.

The Scottish MEPs, too, have just had their annual meeting in Dunblane with representatives of the Scottish churches. As ever, the discussion was wide-ranging, challenging and thought-provoking.

The first week of February shall see another Strasbourg session.

I have to confess that I am now counting the number of these before my retirement.

On these or any other issues, contact my Constituency Office, 38 Queen Street, Glasgow, G1 3DX or phone 0141 548 8099.



Shiskine youngsters toast the Bard

Shiskine Nursery Group at their special Burns lunch in Shiskine Hall last Thursday. They are, back from left, Alex Stewart, Morgan Bell, George Andrew, Euan Kinniburgh, Freddy Liley and Gordon Bloy. Front, Donald Currie, James McArthur, Erin McNiven, Julie Hamil and Lewis Fotheringham.

b07nur01

Want to go back to work but can't through lack of childcare?

Well, help is at hand in the form of Working for Families (WfF) project.

As of April 2008, WfF has been funded by the Community Planning Partnership. The aims of the project is to help parents within North Ayrshire sustain their employment or return to work, with the assistance of childcare funding. So far it's been a big success.

And it's about to get even better thanks to our improved service which will include an Outreach Service. From January this year Karen McGhee, Kelley McCandlish, Alison Corbett and Isobel McLaughlan, have been out and about advising individuals at special Drop-In facilities throughout North Ayrshire.

Even more impressive, since 2004 Working for Families has registered over 1000 clients. Further breakdowns showed 210 clients moved into full-time employment, 189 into part-time posts, 343 clients were able to sustain their employment activity and over 160 client moved into other opportunities.

Senior Link Adviser Isobel McLaughlan said: "Anyone can come along to the Drop-In facilities. Our aim is to provide a comprehensive, confidential and informative service direct to our clients on their doorstep. You don't need an appointment although it might be a good idea to phone in advance to save yourself having to hang around for too long".

Those who do go along discover that it's not only childcare the project assists with, they also provide a debt advisory service, and a training opportunity to become a registered Childminder. We can also refer you onto other projects who can help with a number of issues.

"A dedicated Link Advisor will support you throughout and help you work towards your goal"

For further info contact Working for Families on 01294 225169 or email sgracie@north-ayrshire.gov.uk .

Eligibility:

- Lone Parents
- Parent on a low income
- Parents with a stress within the household

Arran trio triumph at Youth Speaks

Three young Arran people will soon be representing the island at a national public speaking competition.

The team of Iona Flewitt, Katharine O'Donnelly and Christopher Jenks tasted success twice last week. On Tuesday night they were the chosen team after their speaking performance at the Rotary Club meeting in the Glenclay suite at Auchrannie. And on Wednesday they won the regional final to go forward to the national event.

Out of five teams from the High School they were selected as this year's Arran Rotary Youth Speaks champions on Tuesday and were soon preparing for the next stage of the competition.

Each year hundreds of young people take part in local and regional events that culminate in the Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI)

Youth Speaks finals. Teams for this prestigious event come from schools, colleges and youth groups and comprise three members: a chairman who speaks for two minutes, a speaker who speaks for up to six minutes and a proposer for a vote of thanks who has two minutes.

Accompanied

The Arran trio had no time to bask in their victory before they were heading off the following day, accompanied by teacher Heather Gough, to take part in the Scottish regional finals at Reid Kerr College in Paisley.

Their chosen subject was 'romance' and the main speech was delivered by Chris. Katharine gave the introduction as chairman and then handed over to Chris. He spoke eloquently for six minutes, hardly referring to his notes and laced his thoughts on romance with humour and pathos. Iona then had two min-

utes for a vote of thanks.

When the judges made their announcement it came as a quite a shock to the Arran youngsters. They were the winners!

Iona said: 'We had worked out who we thought would win and it was a shock when it was us. We all contributed to each part of the presentation but Chris was great. He had learnt his piece off by heart.'

Last Friday, Arran Rotary President Gillian Bussell and Youth and Vocational Officer Karen Augier met the trio at Arran High School to congratulate them. Gillian presented them with a shield and vouchers were given to all the Arran speakers from Tuesday night.

The Arran contingent is now preparing for the ultimate test; the National Finals on Saturday April 18. They will be competing against teams from all over the country at the Kings



Arran Rotary President Gillian Bussell, Iona Flewitt, Katharine O'Donnelly with the shield, Chris Jenks and Rotary youth and vocational services officer Karen Augier outside Arran High School. b07rot01

of Wessex School in Cheddar, Somerset.

Rotary president Gillian Bussell and teacher Heather Gough hope to accompany them.

Gillian said: 'Whoever goes will have to fly down from Glasgow to Bristol and probably stay two nights so it may be that we will seek some

sponsorship or support to help with travel and accommodation costs. It would be marvellous for the island and Arran High if the three do well.'

It's all happening in Shiskine Hall

Following the very successful Shiskine Hall Burns Supper, the hall committee is looking forward to the 40th anniversary Shiski Diski which takes place on Saturday February 14.

Ticket sales have been so successful for this over 18s do, that there will be no tickets at the door...so if you've not bought your ticket in advance, you'll not get in.

Another event fast approaching is the Hall Auction, which this year will take place on Friday March 13.

Remember that proceeds raised will go towards hall funds and we may be able to arrange pick-up of items (please, no mattresses!).

As the date clashes with a certain national fundraiser, a donation of monies will also be donated to Red Nose Day.

One man's rubbish is another man's treasure, so if you're having a wee clear out and would like to arrange collection, please phone 860726.

We are also delighted to welcome Quattro McJazz to Shiskine Hall. Yes, a direct

spin-off from the Burns Supper (Lennie Herd proposed the Immortal Memory), the hall committee is delighted to announce that the world famous talent of Quattro McJazz will play at the hall on Sunday April 12.

Further details will be advertised shortly, and following this, tickets will be available at the Harbour Shop (our thanks to Gillian) and also the Book & Card Centre (thanks to Alan too) in Brodick.

Other events include a coffee morning in aid of Dr Graham's Homes on Saturday April 4, birthday parties, and of course the regular meetings of all the user groups; Nursery, Exercise classes, Rainbows, Guides, SWRI, Beavers, Scouts, Cubs, Toddlers, and drama (both junior and senior).

In fact, Shiskine Hall is so busy, the committee struggles to get a free date to have a meeting.

Please remember that anyone who has any memories they'd like to share from when the hall moved to its present site some 50 years ago, is urged to contact any member of the committee.

We are keen to commemorate this occasion in some way, and already we've been told about the opening night play 'No Hawkers'. Plans may be afoot to perform this again... watch this space.

SG

Missing jacket

A dark blue Crag Hoppers jacket with the owners name written on the label was taken from Brodick Village Hall last Monday night after a youth disco.

If the jacket has been taken by accident please contact Arran High School or Judy Draycott.

A small reward will be given.

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Email: Marie@thearranteam.co.uk

It pays to advertise in the
ARRAN BANNER

Abandoned duck found in Brodick

Has anyone lost a duck? A small duck was brought in to the Banner office this week and left in our tender care. It has the numbers 586 etched on its right wing and seems quite happy in its new surroundings.

The duck was found abandoned on Brodick beach by Tina Williams of Kildonan and she has asked us to find a home for it. Its streamlined yellow features make it out to be a hybrid racing duck. Is it a stray that has floated away from its family, or could it be one of the Brodick Church

fete plastic ducks which are released each August for a charity chase?

It might even be one of the famous Shiskine Duck Derby creatures that are sent racing down the Black Water every July in the thrilling finale to Shiskine Valley Sports day.

Readers may remember one of the greatest dramas in Shiskine Valley Sports history in 1990, when duck number 214 was callously kidnapped by a fearless gang of brigands. The hall committee soon received a sinister ransom note saying: 'If you want the duck back alive put three Mars Bars in a Kinloch Hotel bag or the duck gets it.'

After payment of the ransom and a merry chase, the duck was found safe in the Kinloch pool and returned to its family.

Duck 586 may have made the hazardous journey bobbing round the Kilbrannan Sound from Shiskine, or has it made the short trip down the Glencoy burn from Brodick Church? If you are the keeper of this little chap please contact the Banner office and we will arrange for a repatriation.



Duck 586, found abandoned on Brodick beach. b07duc01



New milestone 23 on the left alongside the renovated one. b06mil01

Lamlash couple repair 'decapitated' milestone

One of Arran's historic milestones has just been renovated.

Milestone 23 had all but disappeared from its position on the west coast of Arran. Last October Alan and Ruth Thompson of Lamlash discovered that the stone had been badly damaged.

Alan said: 'Stone 23 had been demolished by machinery used to clear scrub alongside the road. We set about trying to replace it but it has been a difficult task.'

The Thompson's good friend Joan Seddon of Liverpool was able to help by sending them a photograph of what the milestone used to look like.

Ms Seddon said: 'I hope that

the photographs are of some use in replacing number 23 milestone. I have kept all the work that I did on the milestones as I enjoyed that trip around Arran very much.'

Joan Seddon cycled all Arran roads and photographed all 79 milestones for her first class Discovery Award which is limited to persons over 50 years old.

Now Alan and Ruth have managed to replace the historic

milestone with a new one.

Alan said that the stone had been 'decapitated by machinery' but they have managed to salvage some of the broken bits from down a steep bank and have installed the renovated one alongside the new milestone.

The old red sandstone mile markers were put in place shortly after the coast road was completed by famous engineer Thomas Telford in 1851.

The stones start at Brodick Old Quay and are numbered clockwise heading south through Lamlash and Whiting Bay. They were originally catalogued by Frances and Anthony Campbell and later compiled into a useful little book called The Milestones of Arran by Ruth and Alan Thompson.

Milestone 23 is on the Leacach Bhreac, just north of Corrie cravie.

Heating help available for older people

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson is urging Arran householders to apply for the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme.

Mr Gibson said: 'Under the scheme, pensioners with broken or inefficient systems could benefit from a more efficient replacement system that will help cut energy bills.'

Welcome

'During this time of economic difficulty this is a welcome measure for many older people in Arran who may be struggling.'

'An extra £10 million has

been invested into the Scottish Government's Central Heating Programme this financial year to install more central heating systems than ever before.'

'It's a simple application form taken over the telephone and anyone aged 60 years or over who owns or privately rents their home may qualify if they have never had a central heating system.'

'They could also qualify if they have a system which is broken beyond repair and are aged 60 to 74 years and are in receipt of guarantee element of Pension Credit, or aged 75

years or over, or they have a partial or inefficient system and are in receipt of the guarantee element of Pension Credit, or are aged 80 years or over.'

Mr Gibson added: 'This is a welcome boost at a time when fuel, food and other domestic bills are rising.'

Quality

Anyone who thinks they may qualify should call the freephone number 0800 316 1653.

Further details on who is eligible are available here: www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/built-environment/housing/access/fp/chp

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£650,000 earmarked to redesign Arran home for the elderly Council tax frozen in new budget

Council tax on Arran will be frozen for the second year in a row.

That was one of the main decisions due to be rubber stamped at a special full meeting of North Ayrshire Council this Thursday. This will be subject to confirmation of Scottish government support levels to balance the books.

The government support is anticipated to be £287.885

Report by
HOWARD DRIVER

million while council tax is expected to bring in £56.473 million.

This means that the rate for Band D properties will remain at £1,152 per annum. The last council tax rise was 2.4 per cent two years ago.

Other specific Arran issues in the North Ayrshire budget are

that Montrose House residential home for the elderly will be redesigned and have £400,000 spent on it next year and a further £250,000 in 2010/2011.

The Arran Outdoor Education Resource on Shore Road, Lamlash will also be getting a new boat shed at a cost of £135,000.

The condition of Arran roads is of local concern, and council leader David O'Neill told the

Banner: 'There will actually be an increase in the roads budget next year.

'We are very conscious of the state of Arran roads. It has been a severe winter and we have put a lot of salt on the roads.

'Arran folk must realise that the mainland is suffering as well.'

The budget allows for a two-and-a-half percent pay settlement for staff based on agreements with unions following industrial action last autumn.

Realism

Councillor O'Neill added: 'I think there is now a fair bit of realism among the workforce.'

In the current financial climate, any Arran businesses finding difficulty in paying their business rates could be treated sympathetically.

Alasdair Herbert, assistant chief executive (finance) said: 'Our budget will manage any debt of non-payment of non-domestic rates accordingly. We will liaise sympathetically with the Department of Work and Pensions.'

He confirmed that there was sufficient of a contingency fund



North Ayrshire Council leader, David O'Neill.

b07bud01

to cope with emergency coastal flooding and erosion and that the scheduled replacement of orange street lights on the island was still on course.

The budget proposals were due to be considered by the executive of North Ayrshire of David O'Neill, John Reid, Tom Barr, John Bell, Peter McNamara and Margaret McDougall on Thursday morning, followed by a full council meeting in the afternoon.

Any amendments to the proposals will be published next week.

Brodict Bridge Club

Match points from Thursday January 29: 1 L Trickett and E McNiven 64.01%, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton 61.81%, 3 H Boyd and L Paul 57.69%.

Results from the Bobby Allan competition on Thursday February 5. N/S: 1= D Henderson and F Crawford 54.69%, 1= A Bilsland and E Duncan 54.69%, 3 J and J Beattie 53.65%.

E/W: 1 H Boyd and L Paul 65.62%, 2 J MacLure and A McKelvie 54.38%, 3 E McKellar and I McArthur 52.50%.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday February 9. N/S: 1 D and M Bruce +220, 2 J and J Beattie -100, 3 B Livingston and M Gardner -1630.

E/W: 1 H Boyde and J Murdoch +2260, 2 J MacLure and A McKelvie +2250, 3 T Martin and A Bilsland +1220.

• Do you have a story? Call **The Arran Banner** reporters on 01770-302142



Arran folk at the Showbiz Ball in Glasgow. From left; Robbie Glen, Sheila Gilmore, Peter Morrison and Calum Johnston.

Stepping out in style!

Arran was well represented at the annual Showbiz Ball at the Thistle Hotel in Cambridge Street, Glasgow last Saturday night.

Among the throng were legendary singer and entertainer Peter Morrison of Brodict, former prison governor and after-dinner speaker Robbie Glen of Whiting Bay and local thespians Sheila Gilmore and Calum Johnston of Shiskine.

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 14th February
12pm - 4pm

Tighnabruaich Shiskine
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How to get published as a crime writer - Allan Guthrie (1pm-3pm)



Plotting and Mind Mapping - Stuart MacBride (3pm-5pm)



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THE ARRAN

BANNER**It may be cold on Arran, but we are lucky**

While islanders wrap up here against the icy weather and falling snow, on the other side of the world people are struggling with extreme temperatures at the other end of the scale.

In Australia, residents are sweltering in temperatures in the mid 30s Celsius, with a predicted figure of 43 degrees in many southern towns – that's a massive 40 degrees warmer than Arran.

Sadly this extreme warm weather down under means that forests in south-eastern Australia are becoming warmer, drier and more prone to fire.

The Australian bush is tinder dry, so combining that with high temperatures and strong winds creates a furnace-like intensity.

Witnesses describe seeing walls of flames four storeys high, trees exploding and the skies raining ash as fires tore across 115 square miles of forests, farmland and towns.

The terrible events of the past couple of weeks have seen more than 100 people die in ferocious forest fires.

At least 700 homes have been destroyed in Victoria and about 14,000 homes are without power.

The resolve of the survivors is quite unbelievable. Speaking on the radio on Tuesday morning one woman spoke of her ordeal.

Along with her husband and three children, she had hidden in a pool of muddy water until the flames died down.

She watched as the farm she had lived on her whole life was incinerated but over and over again she kept insisting that she was happy – happy because she was alive.

'I have lost everything,' she said. 'All I have now are the clothes on my back but I won't complain and I won't feel sorry for myself because my family are safe. That is more important than anything else.'

These harrowing stories put Britain's cold snap into harsh perspective.

While Australia burns, Britain battles more freezing rain, snow and high winds with flood warnings in place all over England and Wales.

The weather is reported to be Britain's coldest spell for more than 20 years and while Victoria succumbed to the bushfire horror, Saturday night saw the lowest temperature of the British winter so far recorded as minus 18 degrees in Aviemore.

Car and truck drivers have had to be rescued from waterlogged roads in Somerset while in Oxford, Sussex and Wiltshire there have been serious problems with flooding.

People have died in Britain because of this terrible weather but we have to be thankful that our temperate climate – while very cold at the moment – will never inflict the kind of tragedy upon us as the bush fires in Australia.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'God is a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.' (Nehemiah 9:17)

press policy

WE AT *The Arran Banner* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a local newspaper.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor**VisitArran need to improve island's appeal**

Sir,
I have just read VisitArran's marketing strategy for 2009.

100,000 magazines are being produced in an effort to bring more people to Arran, presumably this year.

I find it extremely worrying that VisitArran do not understand the difference between advertising and marketing.

Why are they trying to bring more people to Arran when (a) there are not enough beds, (b) there is seemingly no attempt by VisitArran to improve or investigate the existing problems on Arran: poor roads, an untidy 'first impression', a lack of communication between event holders, businesses and committees; and (c) there is no indication that any effort has been made to actually find out what current visitors are saying about the island.

Surely this vast expenditure could be better used in making our visitors feel good about their holiday experience on Arran and to let them know that the island as a whole is making an effort to improve its appeal.

It is easy to advertise. It is not so easy to investigate, acknowledge and act on the issues that many people must surely find detrimental to tourism on Arran.

**Yours,
Name and address supplied
Highland dress**

Sir,
In last week's *Banner* feature regarding the wind up of the Burns season I noticed that all the people in the photograph were wearing Highland dress.

This dress worn traditionally on formal occasions has become regarded world wide as the national dress of Scotland.

Just as the Kukri and cocked hat of the Gurkha make him a Gurkha, so the kilt and sporran make us, in the eyes of the world, Scotsmen.

But Robert Burns was a lowland Scot and had little truck with the Highlands and Highlanders.

In witness of this, when he visited Inveraray he wrote with

a diamond ring on a window of the Town House, the lines:

'There's naething here but Hielan' pride,

An' Hielan' scab an' hunger,

If providence has sent me here,

'Twere surely in his anger.'

In Burns' day, Ayrshire men wore trousers and I am sure the vision of partygoers here without these would raise a smile with the Bard.

**Yours,
Bill Wood
Glen Court
Brodick**

Gordon the Gangway is back

Long time Banner correspondent, Gordon the Gangway, writes to give us an update on his recent holiday.

Sir,
Well here I am back from my holidays while the MV Clansman was here and the Caledonian Isles was away getting new carpets fitted.

I went over to Islay on our old friend the MV Isle of Arran – she carries so much whisky to the mainland that it sloshes around the decks and the passengers can just help themselves.

I am quite angry that Mr Brown in the pier office only gave me two weeks' holiday this year instead of the usual three – I think I will intentionally break down at the Easter weekend so he will have to give me four weeks next year.

The Clansman is a great boat, much better than the old tub we had from Oban last time. She goes so fast that the crew take turns at water skiing behind it to Ardrossan – they can't do that with the Caledonian Isles as she might breakdown half way across.

Did anybody notice that the food on the Clansman was cheaper? Maybe this trial RET scheme that they have up in the Western Isles covers chips as well as fares.

Anyway, Arran already has its own RET system on the go – Really Expensive Transport.

And what about the new link-span? It should be in place by now. Maybe it's just as well its not, as I might be made redundant when it comes.

I was surprised to see the MV

Hebridean Isles out in the bay one morning – she spent a night here a few years ago but she obviously didn't like Brodick as she refused to come into the pier.

Maybe Mr Brown will be able to get bigger engines put in it for next year.

I am looking forward to seeing the Waverley again this summer. She had a really bad year in 2008 and everybody needs to go on it in 2009 to keep her (and them) steaming!

No word about the Saturn this summer but it's early yet – I have been in touch with CalMac's Gangway Graveyard to see if they can supply decent ones for Ardrossan and Brodick as passengers get really frustrated waiting for the car drivers to reverse off. Sometimes the Caledonian Isles catches the Saturn up with the time it takes to unload the cars.

Anyway, a wee bird tells me that we might get another boat instead; wait and see!

**Yours,
Gordon the Gangway
The end of the pier
Brodick**

Original distillery staff

Sir,
I was very pleased like many other people on Arran to see staff, workers and guests celebrate the launch of the 12-year-old malt at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

What was disappointing was the people who actually started the distillery and made the malt were not mentioned or invited to the celebrations.

If not for people like Harold Currie and family, Gordon Mitchell (former distillery manager), John McMullan (first distiller), Tom MacKenzie and Duncan Simpson, who were the original staff that started the processing and making of the Arran Malt, followed by John Graham (hooks), Alex Dale, and Danny Watkins the celebrations would not have taken place.

We all like to be recognised for a job well done and the aforementioned people certainly have done that, so to mention them in the *Arran Banner* or send an invitation

to them would have been very much appreciated.

I think we tend to forget that most of the businesses on Arran have a history and they are certainly a part of the Isle of Arran Distillery's.

**Yours,
Diane McMullan
Eilean Tigh
Lochranza**

Unfair attack?

Sir,
Local MSP Kenneth Gibson's attack on 'opposition MSPs' in last week's *Banner* was disappointingly partisan and also, let us say, inaccurate.

Labour, Liberal Democrat and Greens may indeed have initially voted down the SNP administration's budget for next year – which, of course, they are entitled to do in a democratic parliament – but all of the Conservative and Unionist MSPs voted for it (the Speaker aside, of course) on both the first and second attempt to pass it.

I have to admit that I was originally sceptical about devolution, but it is here to stay and it is the Tories who are now helping make devolution work better.

The electorate made the SNP the biggest party at Holyrood in 2007. We respect that democratic result and recognise the benefits that can be achieved through constructive politics.

Where we can achieve good things together for Scotland we will support the democratically elected SNP administration, and where we see failings we will highlight them.

We will also oppose the SNP where we think their ideas are to the detriment of Scotland, such their 'soft touch' approach to knife crime, their ludicrous plans for separate aisles in supermarkets for purchasing alcohol and, of course, the break-up of our United Kingdom.

Perhaps the reason Kenneth Gibson wishes to overlook the Tory support for his party's budget is the £234 million package of 'common sense' concessions we achieved as condition of that support.

**Yours,
Philip Lardner
Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
Westminster Candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran**

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Grants available for Arran through Town Centre Regeneration Fund

Philip Lardner, the Conservative Westminster candidate for Arran, is encouraging residents on Arran to nominate their village for regeneration grants.

£60 million pounds will be available in 2009/10 from the new Town Centre Regeneration Fund. Scotland's first minister still

has to agree the detailed criteria for eligibility and distribution of funds, but Mr Lardner is urging local people to get online now and nominate Brodick or the larger population centres which may also qualify as 'town centres' under the scheme.

'If we don't apply, then we definitely won't get help,' he said. 'Arran suffered a big drop in visitors last year, so any help to improve the facilities and look of the main streets may help to stop the decline and bring in more tourists. Any extra income for the island's economy is always positive, but will certainly be welcomed by our small businesses in the current economic environment.'

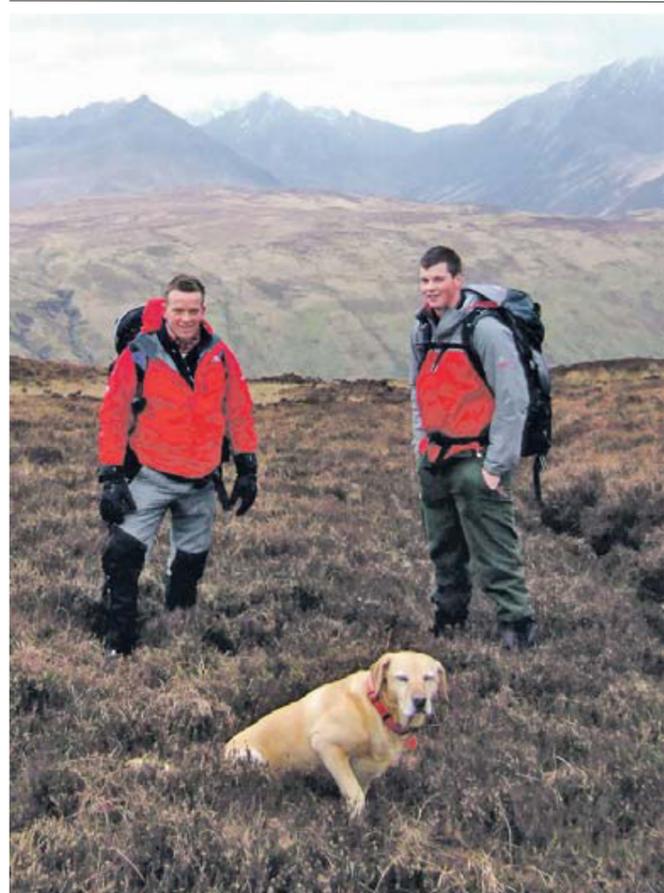


Tory Westminster Candidate Philip Lardner – in the snow - last weekend.

The Regeneration Fund is backed by Scottish Chambers of Commerce and the CBI, and

anyone can log on to the website at www.helpourhighstreet.com and make a nomination for

Brodick, Lamash or Whiting Bay to receive money to help rejuvenate the town centres.



Navigation exercise for Arran's Mountain Rescue team

Members of Arran's Mountain Rescue Team took part in a navigation exercise recently.

Around 17 team members met at the top of the String Road and the exercise led them

to the Cnoc Dubh area of the nearby hills.

Davy Boal and Ewan McKinnon are pictured with Neil Bulger's search and rescue dog, Briar.

Whiting Bay SWRI

Whiting Bay SWRI members and visitors met on Wednesday February 4 to hear an entertaining and informative talk by Lesley Van Bogerijen on reflexology.

Lesley provided lots of pointers on simple facial pressure points, which people could use on themselves to help alleviate such common troubles as insomnia, sinus problems and headaches.

She was very willing to help members find these points correctly and demonstrated their use in particular cases. A great deal of interest was generated by her talk. The next meeting on Wednesday March 4 will be the annual business meeting and members are reminded to bring their voting papers with them and also any winter work, either finished or in progress, for our own display.

The joint meeting on April 15 with Whiting Bay and members from Kildonan and Kilmory will be an evening with the Body Shop that should provide both fun and useful information. Deirdre Cruickshank won this month's competition of a photograph of 'Winter in Arran'. The evening closed with an excellent supper provided by Elizabeth McCormack, Isobel Thomson and Mary Graham.

Financial BANNER

SEMINAR How to protect your main residence from being sold to pay for the cost of Nursing Home fees.

I think most people would agree that living a long life is, in itself, a privilege and one with which I wholeheartedly agree. However, for many of our mature clients it brings with it a number of financial considerations that at times can cause concern. One, for example, is 'pension income' keeping pace with the rising cost of living. This has been ably demonstrated recently with the cost of some utilities rising (in some cases by 40%) and, as far as I am aware, income from all sources simply does not match this type of price increases.

In addition to this, another source of worry (as mentioned previously in these pages) is local authority seizure of a person's main residence to pay for the costs of a nursing home. With this in mind I have decided to conduct a seminar on this very subject to provide those who choose to attend with a step by step guide through the measures that may be open to a family that will effectively prevent this taking place.



In the past, when we have conducted these sessions around the country they have been extremely well attended, I suppose due to the sensitivity of the subject matter.

So with this in mind, I suggest you contact our office on 0141 889 2607 to reserve your place. If our 'phone lines are busy, just keep trying. Due to the strong response to our initial announcement there are now only 5 places remaining.

The normal cost of attending is £97, however, this is free to readers of the Arran Banner. When booking please quote reference 19987.

Please do not just turn up on the day due to limited places.

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Arran Wildlife Festival looking for support

The fourth Arran Wildlife Festival will be held between 13 and 20 of May 2009 and it needs your support.

The Festival has come up with

innovative ways to ensure it has continued success into the next decade.

Over the last three years it has proved to be an excellent

showcase for the island's very special wildlife.

Festival co-ordinator Lucy Wallace said: 'We are in receipt of significant grant funds which will enable us to offer an even bigger and better programme that will reach even more people but much of this funding is contingent on generating financial support from the community.'

'The sums involved are not huge, but it is vital for the continued success of the festival that we can raise them and demonstrate to the funders that Arran is behind us.'

'We have found that we have a lot of goodwill from the community.'

The organisers have put together a package of different ways that people can help with a range of great incentives including free entrance to many of the guided walks at this year's festival.

From the spectacular sights of birds of prey and seal colonies to hidden gems like rare butterflies and bats, people have been given a fantastic insight into the island's wildlife with the help of experts and enthusiasts based locally and from the mainland.

This year will be no exception with special walks on the menu including a late night foray into



Arran Wildlife Festival co-ordinator Lucy Wallace, centre, with Zoe Clelland, regional conservation officer RSPB Scotland and Arran Bird Recorder and Banner columnist Jim Cassels at the 2008 festival. b07fes01

the world of moths and a trip to look at some of Arran's amazing fossil footprints.

In July 2008 the organising committee became a sub committee of the Arran Natural History Society. Within this energetic team there is a strong partnership between local dedicated individuals and national conservation organisations that share the decision making process. The festival provides events that are informative, fun and appealing to a wide range of backgrounds, ages and interests, including local children.

Organise

However, the growing popularity of the festival is not without a price. It takes a lot to organise an eight-day festival with over 60 events, visiting specialists, venues, accommodation and transport.

There is an increasing demand for professional delivery and investment in equipment

and materials that will help visitors enjoy Arran's wildlife for years to come.

The committee has obtained grants from the Argyll and the Islands Leader Programme – European Funding; Action for All – Lottery Grants for Local Groups; Scottish Natural Heritage; North Ayrshire Council; and Arran Natural History Society. However, to complete the budget of around £18,000 for each of the next two years the committee needs to attract donations.

For as little as £20, an individual can become a Friend of the Festival. In return for this, Friends gain free entry to a number of events. Should this target be exceeded, the extra funds raised will go towards wildlife conservation programmes on Arran.

If you run a business or organisation the committee is offering a range of sponsorship packages.

The Festival attracts hundreds of visitors each year and has contact with thousands more through the website, media publicity and leaflets. A new website will be launched in March with the 2009 programme. A leaflet with the programme of events will be distributed island-wide and through targeted outlets on the mainland.

In 2008 the Arran Wildlife Festival featured in several national magazines including RSPB's Birds Magazine and on BBC Radio Scotland. Sponsorship would enable an organisation to support the Arran Wildlife Festival and in return make the most of the publicity.

To find out more about how to become a Friend of the Festival and about the range of sponsorship packages available contact Lucy Wallace. Tel: 01770 601339/07825 644161 email: festival@arranwildlife.co.uk



Shona Munro, red squirrel conservation officer Ayrshire in Kilmory Hall during last year's festival. b07fes02



ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

Adjudicator: Mr Brian Marjoribanks
Arran High School Theatre

Wednesday 25th - Saturday 28th February
Doors open 7.00pm Curtains up 7.30pm

TICKETS on sale at The Book & Card Centre, Brodick
Monday 23rd February 10am - 12noon
Thereafter at Arran High School Theatre on evening of performance

Tickets £6.00 - Four night special: £20.00

ORDER OF PLAYS

Wednesday	Shiskine Junior Drama Club	Snow White & The Mini Miners
	Whiting Bay Club of Drama & Music	Mayhem Players
		Present Love in a Transylvanian Mist
Thursday	Shiskine Junior Drama	The Star Dusters
	Whiting Bay Club of Drama & Music	Four and Twenty Blackbirds
	Shiskine Drama Club	That Old Black Magic
Friday	Lamlash Junior Drama Club	May I Have Your attention Please
	Clanjamfrie	Teamwork
	Shiskine SWRI	Slim Chance
Saturday	Lamlash Junior Drama Club	Choice
	Pimmill Players	Playing With Daisy

.....followed by the prizegiving

Strictly no admittance during a performance

Any adult doubting the suitability of any play for viewing by their children should contact either the producer or a committee member

Colin speaks to garden club

The Arran Garden Club was delighted to have Colin Totty, head gardener at Brodick Castle, at their January meeting, which was held in the Rangers' Centre, Brodick Country Park.

Colin trained at the Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens, before going to the National Trust for Scotland's Crathes Castle as a gardener.

While there, in August 1987, he and a colleague travelled to north eastern Turkey to collect plant seed.

Both the Alpine Garden Club and the Scottish Rock Garden Club sponsored the five-week trip.

Colin outlined the extent of preparation required before the trip, including the use of his extensive range of well-thumbed books, which he brought along with him.

He also spoke about the process of getting the required

licences, and the methods of collecting and storing the seed collected.

Colin's enthusiasm for his job and passion for plants came through in his excellent slide show.

His slides showed the range of habitats, from valley floor to high mountains, and the multitude of plant species and varieties, with herbaceous plants and also bulbs at higher altitudes.

Knowledge

Colin's extensive knowledge was evident, especially in his answers to questions from members of the Garden Club.

For those of us who love Brodick Castle gardens, and the gardens around it, it was interesting to hear Colin talk about this other aspect of his life as a professional gardener.

The next meeting of the Arran Garden Club will be on Thursday February 26 at the

Rangers' Centre in Brodick Country Park.

The guest speaker at this meeting will be a member

of the Garden Club, Judith Baines, who will talk about 'Moths in the Garden'. All welcome!



Colin Totty, head gardener at Brodick Castle and Country Park was the guest speaker at the January meeting of Arran Garden Club. b07tot01

Arran's Social Scene

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Abbie Mulholland, Elaine Davish, Erin Mulholland and Mairi Thomas. b07pyj03



Rory Morrison, Declan Shepherd, Lyle Robertson, John Mulholland and John Davish. b07pyj05



Youth club leaders Lorna McKelvie, Isobel Mulholland and Kirsten Napier. b07pyj08

Pyjama party time at Kilmory Youth Club

The members of Kilmory Youth Club held a special pyjama party last Friday.

Leaders Isobel Mulholland, Lorna McKelvie and Kirsten Napier try to ring the changes to keep up the youngsters' enthusiasm and on Friday evening they all turned up in their pyjamas.

Isobel said: 'We've had a

trip to the movies, a fish and chip supper night and cookery demonstrations.

Behaviour

'The boys and girls are divided into two groups as equally as we can and their points build up over the season.

'Any bad behaviour can earn a yellow card or loss of a point. It encourages competition in a

friendly atmosphere.

'We have appointed two leaders for each team; Katie Morrison and Donald Mulholland for team A and Alan Dillon and Kieren Robertson for team B.

'The theme tonight is a pyjama party and I'm pleased to see that all the kids have come in their PJs.'



Youth team leaders Alan Dillon, Katie Morrison, Donald Mulholland and Kieren Robertson. b07pyj01



Alex Muir and Chloe Brookes. b07pyj07

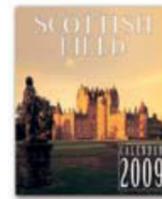


Senior helpers Katrina McKinnon, Abbie Phelps, Linzi Nicol and Nikki Lennox. b07pyj04



Abbie Phelps and Murray Philips. b07pyj02

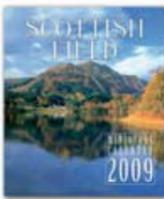
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Scottish Field - £6.65
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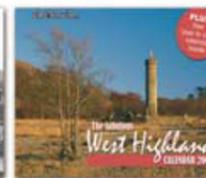


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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, February 11, 1988

Good riddance!

'This month will go down in Scottish history as the last in which the iniquitous rates payment will be made.

'Good riddance to this very unfair method of paying for local government services,' said Arran's regional councillor Fergus Clarkson this week.

Speaking to the APACHE audience in Lamlash on Wednesday, Mr Clarkson extolled the virtues of the new community charge. 'I think activist of the parties which oppose the Community Charge are trying to discredit it. But people in their hearts know it is a fair way of paying for local services.'

After the meeting Mr Clarkson spoke to the *Banner* and he made a prediction, but not before he reminded us that he correctly predicted the rate of the community charge to be around £290.

He said: 'As we approach the regional elections next year I will predict again that the region's proportion will be

reduced by £20.'

This would mean community charge payers paying less than £260 each.

With the community charge now due to become the local tax within two months, Mr Clarkson said the local authorities were already becoming more aware of the consequences of spending.

Still waiting

There is still no decision from the Crown Estate Commissioners on the proposed Marine Harvest fish farm expansion in Lamlash Bay.

Meanwhile, speaking to Allan Scott who handles the company's publicity, we got a strong feeling of disappointment and hurt at the views, which are now being publicly expressed.

'We're fighting against a tide of environmental opinion,' he said. 'A lot of it is ill informed. Some of it deliberately so and now it's finding its way into local opinion.'

He continued: 'It's really disgusting the way some papers and some people are twisting the whole thing about fish farming.'

This comment referred in part to a story in a national newspaper in which a man lost a finger after pricking it when giving salmon injections.

Councillor Evelyn Sillars was asked on radio about this after having just seen the story.

'It's not the use but the misuse which may have caused the problem,' she said.

Exercise postponed

Full scale mountain rescue team exercises with helicopters scheduled for last Sunday were called off at the last moment when the Royal Navy part of the exercise was called away to a real emergency on Ben Nevis.

New harbour bus

It was announced this week that a bus between Ardrossan Harbour and Ayr will meet the



A scene from *The Perils of Prince Percy of Pomegranate* performed in Kilmory Hall on Friday by local primary pupils. Joanna Lennox is the Prince anxiously awaiting her fate at the hands of axeman Geraldine Ash, while Lorna Barnes as the Fool wonders whether it's her turn next. The rebellious peasants look on in glee. b07twe04

ferry each Tuesday morning when the boat resumes its summer timetable.

Dodds coaches of Troon are putting on the service as a direct response to a written suggestion from Mrs Blake of Strathwillan Road, Brodick.

Williamson? 'No', he said. 'We will be showing the type of things we do. It's not drilling and shouting all of the time. We're actually heavily into the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme so there's a real mixture of what we can do.'

tional swim for seven days. Apparently the circulation pump has burnt out.

Lawrence Crawford suggested to us last week that a balloon or part of a balloon had got stuck somewhere in the mechanism.

For 18 years Robin and Lawrence Crawford have run an almost public swimming pool open to all who will use it.

When it opened in 1971 it was ahead of its time for a hotel of that size to have a pool. 'Oh we're always ahead of our time,' said Robin. 'That's our problem. We had the first two rooms with private bathrooms back in 1956 and everyone said that no one would want private bathrooms.'

The pool cost £25,000 and Robin admits it was an expensive investment at the time.

Cadet open day

Arran's Army Cadet Force is having an open day at its headquarters on Auchrannie Road today.

The principal reason behind the day is to attract more members to the group.

As a result, the district organiser Major Williamson visited Arran High School on Friday and various officers will be present at the open day.

Is it fair that the cadet force has a reputation for discipline and shouting we asked Major

Reminder

A reminder from George Lammie to the chairman of the Arran Football League: 'We are still waiting for you to set a date for the meeting concerning the future of Southend United.'

Taken for granted?

Arran's swimming pool has been closed all week and many have realised just how much they take the pool for granted.

The Kinloch Leisure Club's 288 paid up members have been unable to take their consti-



Stewart Lambie pipes in the haggis carried by Gus MacLeod at the Whiting Bay Burns Supper on Saturday night. b07twe05



Arran's Cub Scouts held a charity car wash in Brodick on Saturday morning. b07twe03

Bird Notes from New Zealand

- by Jim Cassels

In the article in last week's Banner the unique birds of New Zealand were highlighted.

As well as these unique birds, there were many familiar birds like blackbird, house sparrow, greenfinch, goldfinch, yellowhammer, redpoll and rook often in higher numbers than seen on Arran.

Where had these come from? These had come from the work of Acclimatisation Societies.

These societies were created in order supposedly to enrich the fauna of a region with animals and plants from around the world.

The appeal was the belief that the local fauna was in some way deficient or impoverished; there was also an element of nostalgia in early colonists who desired to see familiar species, plus an interest in introducing commercially valuable species or game species.

New Zealand's first acclimatisation society was set up in Auckland, around 1861.

Many others soon followed and there was a network of regional acclimatisation societies that lasted for 130 years when their role changed to sports-fish and game-bird management.

In the beginning, many committee members had links with shipping agents, so transport of new plants and animals was often cheap or free.

Birds were kept in cages on deck and survival of more than 25 per cent on the long voyage from the UK was considered a success.

Early societies did not place much emphasis on research or science - if at first they failed to introduce a species they wanted, they just released more into the wild, again and again.

A total of 144 bird species were introduced by man into New Zealand between 1840 and the present day and of this total 33 species have survived,

and are now part of New Zealand's avifauna.

Here are a few examples. About 500 yellowhammers were introduced by acclimatisation societies between 1862 and early 1870s.

By 1900 they were established in both north and south islands. Between 1867 and 1882, several hundred dunnocks were released.

By the 1930s they had spread throughout both islands.



A thousand starlings were released between 1862 and 1883 and are now abundant. b07sta01NO

A thousand starlings were released between 1862 and 1883 and are now abundant. Several hundred rooks were introduced between 1862 and 1874, and 100 years later there were 25,000 in the Hawke Bay area alone and pest control operations were introduced.

To see familiar greenfinches, blackbirds and goldfinches together with the birds in the endemic population like New Zealand robin, New Zealand pigeon, tomtit and black oystercatchers, I found disconcerting.

Having said that, the combination of unique and familiar birds makes New Zealand a wonderful place to watch and study birds.

The efforts being made to retain the unique New Zealand endemic birds have to be admired.

For example, in 1995 there were only 50 kakapo left in the world and today, through the efforts of the Department of Conservation in partnership with Rio Tinto Alcan and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, there are over 90.

This involved, among other things, establishing predator-free island sanctuaries.

As well as work on the endemic birds, the effects of the introduced birds on New Zealand's ecosystem are being studied. To get a flavour of the range and extent of the work going on in New Zealand supported by the people of New Zealand, visit the website of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand at www.osnz.or.nz. Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



There are many familiar birds in New Zealand like the goldfinch. b07go01NO



Black oystercatchers are unique to New Zealand. b07oys01NO



Between 1867 and 1882, several hundred dunnocks were released. b07dun01NO



A New Zealand robin. b07rob01NO

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Sun - Folk Session
Tues - Pop Music Quiz - 10pm
Thur - General Knowledge Quiz - 10pm

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

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

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years	Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Highland Dancing Lesson	Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Quiz Night	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Lamlash Guild Coffee Morning	Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY

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

MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY

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

TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY

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

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY

Mixed Hockey	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training	P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers	Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm
Yogalates	Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy	10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training	Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal	Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group	Village Hall 10am - 12pm
Lamlash Beaver Scouts	High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Friends of Brodick Castle "Birding on Arran"	Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm

THURSDAY 19th FEBRUARY

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

FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY

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

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY

Youth Cafe	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm
Cool Club Coffee Morning	Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GRASS CUTTING SCHEME

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

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

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

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

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

Arran Farmers Society AGM

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Available from March until November, we offer good rates of pay, live in accommodation (if required), all meals and free use of the hotel leisure club. Varied shift patterns, 5 shifts per week, 2 days off per week, 35-40 hours working week.

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DEATHS

Cook – Elizabeth
Suddenly, at Arran War memorial Hospital on 6th February, 2009.

Elizabeth (nee Wilson), wife of the late James, dear mother of May and the late Catherine (Reid), and much loved gran to Robert, the late John, Emma, Jennifer and Alan. Funeral service on Monday 16th February in Kilmory Church at 12 noon to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Transport will be available to meet passengers arriving by ferry. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to ArCaS will be accepted on retiral from the service.

DEIGHTON - SYLVIA

Suddenly in Southern General Hospital on Sunday February 8th.

Devoted wife of Maurice, loved and loving mother of Nicky and Teresa and nana of Freddie. Funeral service in Whiting Bay Church on Friday February 13 at 12pm followed by interment at Lamlash Cemetery, thereafter refreshments at PHT. Family flowers only please. Collection towards building a school classroom in The Gambia.

HILL - ADA (nee Bryce)

Peacefully at Ayr Hospital on 9th February. Ada, 76 years, much loved wife of George, mother of Alan, Gavin and David and beloved grandmother. She will be sadly missed by everyone who held her close. Family flowers only please.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine. *Independent but working together.*
Minister
Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited

Sunday 15 February
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church 12pm.
Pirmill 10.15am.
Shiskine 12pm.
A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 15 February
(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
Shiskine 11am
Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
Rev David Karoon
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH
Sunday 15 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 and there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods.
All welcome.
At 6.30pm in the Church there will be an informal service of praise and discussion. All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 15 February
Holy Communion. 11am
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee and rescheduled AGM after service.
Wednesday 18 February
Holy Communion 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 15 February
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 15 February
11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service, 7pm
5 Glen Road.
Rev J J Murray
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 18 February
7pm
Rev. D. Macleod
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
Sunday 15 February
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship and Word
Speaker: Rev Iain Macaulay
Everyone welcome

Good job you wore the sunglasses so no one will recognise you now that you are 21.



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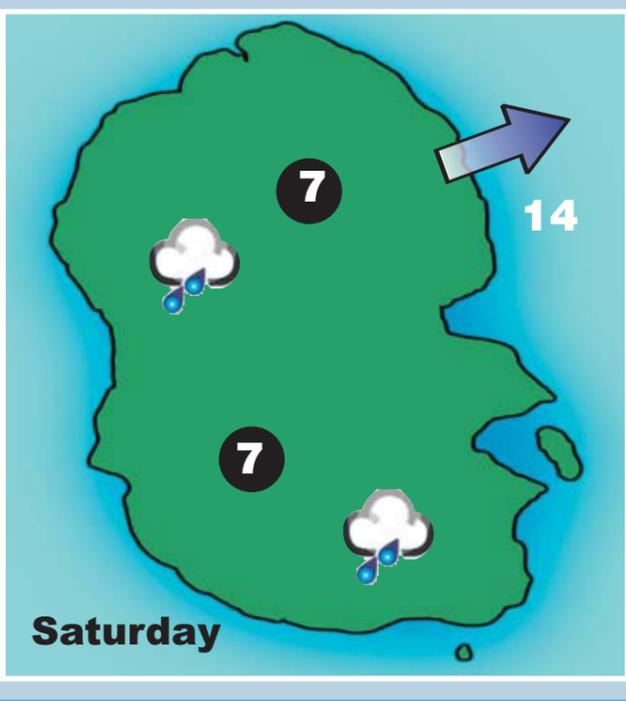
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, February 14 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Sat	0306 3.0 0833 0.2	1504 3.4 2047 0.2
Sun	0338 2.9 0912 0.3	1539 3.2 2127 0.4
Mon	0409 2.8 0954 0.5	1615 3.0 2211 0.7
Tues	0446 2.7 1044 0.7	1655 2.7 2304 1.0
Wed	0530 2.5 1200 0.9	1743 2.5 **** **
Thur	0037 1.2 0633 2.4	1349 1.0 1847 2.3
Fri	0218 1.2 0838 2.4	1459 0.8 2127 2.3

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

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



Weather

Saturday, February 14
Heavy showers throughout the day. Moderate south westerly winds.
Maximum Temp 7°C.

Sunday, February 15
More rain forecast. Light south westerly winds
Maximum Temp 8°C.

Monday and Tuesday
Rain, 7 °C, moderate SW winds

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

THE PUNDIT SPEAKS OUT

Life after postponement for Arran Rugby Club?

In sport, one of the most important qualities is commitment. Not just on the field, but off it as well.

Unless of course it's darts or rugby, where a commitment to drinking is also required. (On and off the field!)

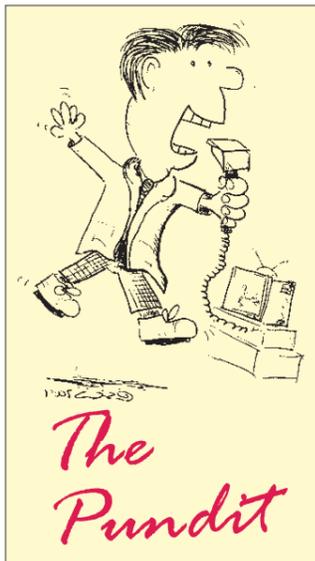
However, in rugby, team bonding and drinking sessions are usually cut short when there is no game of rugby to play - and Arran know only too well after their unfortunate luck with the weather this season.

Last Saturday was their first game in six weeks!

Although they did put up a good fight, they were beaten comfortably - but my sources tell me that the game was closer than the score suggested...

There was one main dampener on the day though; they only had 15 players. I can understand that players may lose eligibility if they jet off to a foreign country or have a wedding to go to etc, which has already happened this season, but with a regular squad of roughly 16/17 players, is there really life after postponement?

Too many games have been cancelled this year and the



effect it may have on the team could be critical.

Bert Ramage, his loyal squad, and all associates of the rugby club do a grand job, but keeping players interested when they're not playing is a task too great for anyone.

Weary

I am weary of hearing people saying 'The club needs more players; when it's actually the people saying this that need to start playing!

The club has a great youth system, and I am forever hearing of their great wins, and how some of them take to trying at

district level.

There is no doubt that the club has a great future ahead of it, but it's next season that I think could cause bother.

Unless more people take to the squad, I can see Arran slipping.

Rumour has it though that influential fly-half Lachlan Jones is making a dramatic return next season, but one player cannot add enough back up to the team.

The island provides great support for the club, and most players here are committed, but there are still a lot of good players not signed up for the team.

I just hope that the club can attract more players and continue with their fantastic performances.

However, in the end I get a gut-wrench that feels as if I've just downed a triple vodka with a dash of pessimism and a squeeze of 'what if!'

And Finally...

I hear that last month Drift Inn pool captain Lee Girbow set a new league record becoming the first player to pot all three blacks in one night, and still not win a game. I just hope he's better at finishing his dinner!



Brodick lady golfers win prizes

The ladies of Brodick Golf Club had their annual dinner and prizegiving in Brodick Bar recently. Thirty Ladies enjoyed a magnificent dinner and some light-hearted entertainment before the trophies for 2008 were presented. Jan Beattie, the Club Champion, is in the centre surrounded by other prizewinners.



Brodick Golf Club

Sunday February 8, Brandon and Winter Cup CSS 67, RO 22 played.

1 Robert McGunnigle (11)65, 2 Donald McKinnie (11)67, 3 Lenny Hartley (16)67 BIH. Scratch Robert McCrae 75.

First class Brandon winner Robert McGunnigle, second class Brandon winner Lenny Hartley.

There were three magic twos from Alistair Dobson, Peter McCalla and Lenny Hartley.

Fixtures: Sunday February 15, Clochendichter shotgun stat at 10am.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 8, the fifth round of the Winter Cup was postponed due to the weather.

Fixtures: Sunday February 15, Friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash Golf Club. All members welcome, just turn up to be paired off. Tee-offs between 10.30am and 11am. Sunday February 22, Winter Cup Round five, (rearranged from the 8th) This means the Wolfi Kroner Stableford, rearranged from November, has now been re-rearranged for the end of March...I think!

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 3, Winter Cup.

1 Brian Sherwood 71, 2 Denise Sherwood 74, 3 David Price 77. Scratch Brian Sherwood 75. Saturday February 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Elizabeth Ross 36 points, 2 David Price 35 points, 3 Hamish Bannatyne 32 points BL3. Fixtures: Tuesday February 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12pm tee-off.

Lamlash Golf Club

There was no golf played this week due to the arctic conditions.

Fixtures: Sunday February 15, friendly match between Lamlash and Whiting Bay at Lamlash Golf Club, 10.30am for 11am start.

Whiting Bay Golf Club clarification

With reference to the article in last week's Banner about Whiting Bay Golf Club opening to non-members on a Friday night, the committee members would like to clarify the situation.

The committee of Whiting Bay Golf Club agreed to open on Friday evenings in order that members and their guests

would be able to enjoy some relaxation at the end of their working week.

The club is open to members and their guests only and social members who have been approved by the committee.

The article states that non-members can be signed in by members. This is not the case as only guests can be signed in by members at a maximum of three guests per member.

Any fundraising events held in the Whiting Bay Golf Club are organised by members and attended by members and their guests.

The club is not available for any individuals or organisations to stage any fundraising events unless the fundraising is run by a club member.

No Picken in the mix

The draw for the last 16 singles matches to be played on or by Sunday March 1 is a bit of a shocker this year - there's not a single Picken in the running.

All three, Jamie, Murray and Eddie, have been defeated leaving some surprise contenders for the title.

The draw is as follows: 1 J McPherson (Bar Eden) v J Copperwheat (Drift) at Cameronia, 2 J Ainsworth (Cameronia) v D Head or N Auld (Bar Eden) at PHT, 3 M Worthington (PT1934) or G Blythe (Drift) v S Pringle (Bar Eden) at Cameronia, 4 S McGovern (Bar Eden) v S Logan (Catacol) or B Radtkouski (PHT) at Cameronia, 5 I Murchie (Drift) or M Williamson (PT1934) v A Duncan (Bar Eden) or T

Mulholland (PT1934) at PHT, 6 C McBain (Cameronia) v H Driver (Kildonan) at Bar Eden, 7 J Welsh (Drift) or E Ingram (Bar Eden) v G Willis (Cameronia) at PHT, 8 A Cook (Cameronia) v S Scott (Drift) or A McDonald (PT1934) at Bar Eden.

The winners should phone the PHT on 600418.

The Ladies Open competition will take place on Sunday February 22 at 3pm in the Kildonan Hotel.

	P	W	D	L	Pts	GoB
Bar Eden	13	13	0	0	39	9
Drift Out	13	8	2	3	26	8
Corrie	13	7	1	5	22	8
PT1932	13	6	2	5	20	6
Cameronia	12	5	2	5	17	7
PHT	13	4	1	8	13	5
Catacol	13	3	2	8	11	7
Kildonan	12	0	0	12	0	3

The results from the Arran Pool League on Thursday February 5 were: Corrie 8 (Gallon) PT1934 4, PHT 3 Drift 9 (G), Catacol 3 Bar Eden 9 (G).

The match between Kildonan and the Cameronia was postponed until a later date due to the poor weather conditions on the night.

The games to be played this Thursday (February 19) are: Drift Out v Cameronia, PHT v PT1934, Bar Eden v Kildonan, and Corrie v Catacol.

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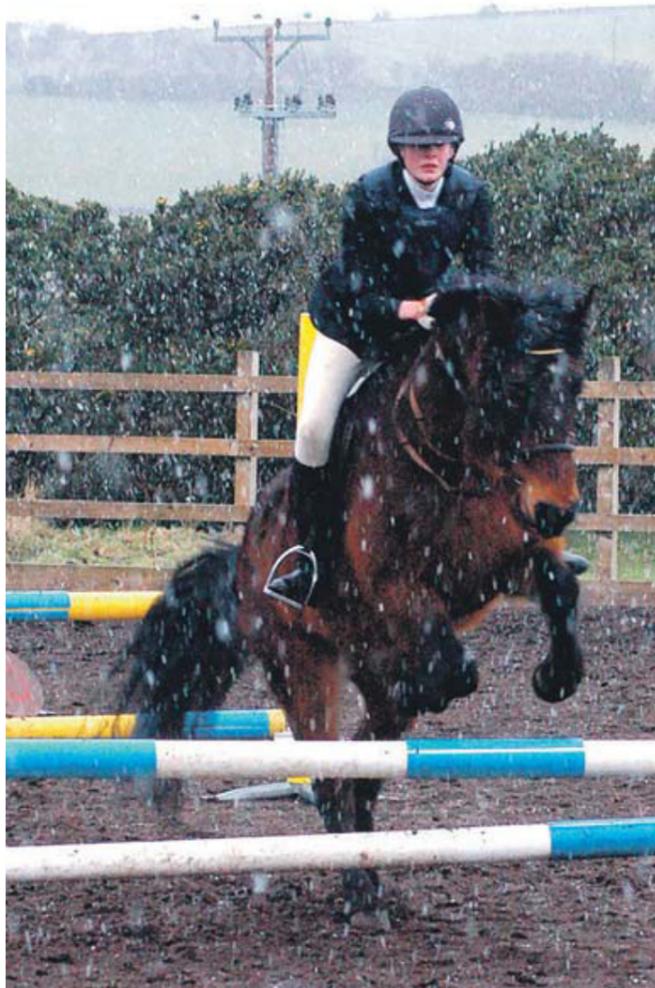
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Megan is up to the challenge



Lynn Ramage on Katie braves a snowstorm. b07win01

Megan MacAlister and her horse Ally were once again on form at last Sunday's penultimate Cairnhouse Riding Centre winter points.

Nineteen riders braved the chilly but bright start

Ten were forward for the Wobbly Classes with eight clear in round one and two, however, it was just six that went double clear for the three points on offer: Lauren MacAlister, Abbie MacAlister, Sue Tozer, Sarah MacNeil and Ailsa McMillan. The fastest double clear was Amie Latona riding Jenna Thomson's Merlin. They picked up the five points for their lovely clear round in 33.10 seconds.

Unbeatable

Thirteen were entered in the novice class and eight went clear in round one and into a jump off against the clock over a shortened course. Lynn Ramage returned a good clear in 28.09secs. Two riders later and Megan MacAlister turned her own Ally inside out to shave seconds off Lynn's time to come home in an unbeatable 25.16 seconds. Last to go, Nicola MacAlister, rode a tremendous round on Taylor Smith's Bing in 25.91 seconds. Novice: 1 Megan, Ally



Line up of rosette winners on Sunday. b07hor01

2 Nicola, Bingham's Pageboy
3 Lynn, Katie
4 Emma Hill, Dynah
5 Amie, Merlin
6 Amy Downard, Malakye.

The Mini Challenge two feet three inches class had 11 forward and Nicola was first in. Jumping eight fences in the 30 seconds allowed, she came back with a good top score of 360, but it was the on-form Megan that just snatched victory once again by jumping an extra fence posting a top score of 370 to claim the six points.

Mini Challenge; 1 Megan, Ally (370)
2 Nicola, Bingham's Pageboy (360)
3 equal Sherlea MacDonald, Malakye (335) and Nicola Currie, Dolly (335)
5 Amie, Merlin (330)

6 Amy D, Malakye (270).

When the clear round two feet six inches class got under way the day had changed dramatically and snow was falling. Nine were entered, however only the following three posted a clear round: Amy D, Megan and Amie L all picking up a valuable three points.

Eight riders battled it out for the points in the last class of the day, the Cairnhouse Challenge with the 100 fence at three feet three inches. Nicola came back with a score of 170. Megan was not long in clocking up her score, jumping the 100 fence both ways and making it look effortless.

Amy came home with a

credible top score of 295. Lynn also had a lovely round and sailed the 100 beautifully with wee Katie to score 245 for third place.

Cairnhouse Challenge; 1 Megan, Ally (360), 2 Amy D, Malakye, (295), 3 Lynn, Katie, (245), 4 Nicola, Bingham's Pageboy, (170), 5 Jennifer Gilmour, Mowgli, (95) 6 Amie L, Merlin (40).

The final show of this year's Winter Points will be held on Sunday March 8 when it will be double points on offer. So there is everything to ride for as the leaderboard can change quite dramatically. Come along and give the riders your support.

Happy in defeat

Arran's senior rugby team played their first match in more than two months on Saturday against Millbrae in Ayr.

Despite being beaten 37-14 the team insist the game was much closer than the score suggests.

After just nine minutes Millbrae scored two tries and were 10 points ahead.

After some impressive play by Arran's Frazer Barr, team captain Murray Picken outpaced Millbrae's fullback for a great try. Frazer converted, taking the score to 10-7.

In the ten minutes before half time Millbrae scored twice but failed to convert the tries.

With a penalty on the stroke of half time, Millbrae found themselves 23-7 in the lead.

As the second half got under way Arran fought hard to increase their score.

Ben Tattersfield stole the ball in his own 22 and sprinted to the opposite try line in the 69th minute. Another kick on target from Frazer took Arran to 14 points.

Unfortunately Millbrae picked up the pace once again and in the last 10 minutes scored again with two converted tries.

Speaking after the game Murray Picken said: 'It was a long time since we had played a full 90 minutes of rugby, so I



Arran's second row, Niall McMaster and Jamie Picken, try their best to stop another Millbrae try in Ayr. b07rug01

think we were a bit rusty but there was still some really great phases of play. We were just happy to get a game.'

This Saturday Arran travel to Renfrewshire to play the mighty Greenock Wanderers in a cup game.

Names sought for memorial darts competition

The 21st annual mixed doubles darts competition for the Donald MacKenzie Memorial Trophy will be held in the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday, February 21 at 7.30pm.

Since Donald died suddenly 21 years ago his family has arranged the darts tournament in his memory. Names are drawn

out of a hat on the night for pairings.

Margaret MacKenzie said: 'Any donations of goodies for the family hamper and raffle would be greatly appreciated.'

Names for competitors should be given to Margaret at 870309 or the Kildonan Hotel at 820207.

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