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# Arran's Olivia wows the judges at talent auditions

Judges at a national singing competition have given a talented young Arran singer a big thumbs up.

Fifteen-year-old Olivia Barker from Viewbank House in Whiting Bay will now be performing at the live stages of TeenStar, a brand new competition for young singers and songwriters.

Last Saturday, Olivia auditioned against around 70 other singers at the City Halls in Glasgow and won through to the regional finals on 6 April.

She sang 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Miserables and so impressed the judges that one of them said: 'Good confidence and expression. Great huge voice.'

Olivia is now in the running to compete for a place in the national final at The O2 Arena in London.

'This is like the X-Factor

**REPORT**  
 by JENNIFER LYON  
 and HOWARD DRIVER  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

for teenagers,' explained dad Mal.

As well as running the guest-house with wife Julie, Mal Barker writes for several music magazines. He said: 'I play the guitar a bit and have a few contacts in the music industry; Olivia is learning guitar and piano.'

'The offer to take part in this competition came through by email after she registered with her new coach.'

Olivia has been winning prizes for her singing at the Arran Music Festival for seven years. Now she is working with a vocal coach based in Cathcart. She explained: 'It helps with lots of aspects, like projection, deportment and

confidence.'

She will be performing in front of hundreds of audience members and a professional judging panel to win a place at the national grand final.

For this round, she has to record a backing track for a new, modern number before she goes, so is on the lookout for an island recording studio.

But Olivia is keeping her feet on the ground. She said: 'I'd like to take this further as a career if I can. But I'll be getting my qualifications first.'

Chris Grayston, events co-ordinator for TeenStar said: 'We are looking to find an act that has something unique to offer, another star that can go all the way, with both the ability to deliver a strong live performance but also potential to become a professional recording artist.'



Singer Olivia Barker, a sparkling young Arran talent. 02\_b07sing01

## Mine's a pint at the 1934 Club

Kilmory Social Club has been given the go-ahead.  
 Last September NAC approved a change of use from village hall to social club, and now the North Ayrshire Licensing Board has granted an alcohol licence for a members' club to be called The 1934 Club, that being the year when the hall was built.  
 Membership for people living or working in Kilmory district will be £5 a year, but £7 in the first year running up to October 2014.  
 Three part-time members of staff have already been appointed; a manager and two bar tenders.  
 At the moment, opening hours are planned to be Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and 2pm to 8pm on Sundays.  
 A grand opening is being planned for Saturday 16 March, but it may open sooner if the alterations and training are completed.

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**Ferry disruption information**

Passengers seeking information about ferry disruptions on the two Arran routes can now receive instant updates by email.

Colin McCort, CalMac port manager at Brodick, said: 'Any islander who wants to be advised of disruptions to the ferry service by email can contact me at colin.mccort@calmac.co.uk. The information provided will be the same as on the CalMac website.'

'However, this service will go directly to the email of anyone who contacts me, enabling more people to be informed quickly and directly, should disruption occur.'

**Assault woman ordered to be of good behaviour**

A former Arran woman has been ordered to be on good behaviour until she goes back to court for sentencing following an assault last year.

At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court Sarah Campbell, aged 31, formerly of Benlister Road, Lamlash and now living in Erskine, admitted assaulting Poppy Haggarty last summer. Miss Campbell admitted pushing Poppy on the body so that she fell, seizing hold of her by the hair, repeatedly striking her head off a wall and the floor and repeatedly kicking her body, all to her injury, at the Ormidale Hotel, Brodick on May 12 last year.

Sheriff Shelagh McCall deferred sentence until April and ordained Miss Campbell to appear then.



The unmarked grave of Dr Walter Hastings in Kilbride Churchyard. 02\_b07has01

# Unmarked grave of Dr Hastings found in Kilbride Churchyard

In last week's Banner we asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of Dr Walter Hastings' grave on Arran.

On Tuesday we found it. The Sleat Local History Society on the Isle of Skye had contacted us to seek information about Dr Hastings who was born in Lamlash in 1870, the son of a local miller and grain merchant, practised as a GP in Skye, and after a fatal car accident on Skye his body was brought home to be buried on Arran in 1919.

He had been a much-loved doctor on Skye and merited a notable obituary in the

British Medical Journal of 10 January 1910.

North Ayrshire Council gravediggers came into the Banner office on Tuesday to say that they had found the grave in Kilbride old cemetery in Lamlash.

**Cleaned**

Not only that, but they had cleaned the ancient headstone and showed us where the good doctor was laid to rest. In fact the grave is just four lairs up from that of Rev Colin Campbell, the great-great-grandfather of author J K Rowling.

But there is no mention of

Walter Hastings on the huge headstone. Apparently by the time he was buried on 26 December 1919 the stone was already full of names, including five of his siblings who died before him.

It is inscribed: 'Erected by John Hastings and Jane Buchanan in memory of their much loved children', five of whom died before their parents.

So although there is no inscription for Dr Walter Hastings on the stone, Council cemetery records do confirm that he was indeed laid to rest here in 1919.



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# Former Arran bus driver denies sex offences

The trial of a former Arran bus driver accused of sex offences against two women was postponed last week after a mix up over an interpreter.

Pawel Ziemecki, aged 53, denies that on more than one occasion between June 1, 2010 and January 12, 2012, both dates inclusive, on bus journeys between Brodick and Lamlash he sexually assaulted a female by repeated-

ly making inappropriate comments to her, asking that she remain on the bus beyond its destination, kissing her hand, seizing her body, attempting to pull her towards him, attempting to kiss her face and placing her in a state of fear and alarm.

The accused, now of Brentwood Road, Tottenham, London but formerly of Easterlea Cottage, Brodick, further

pleads not guilty to a second charge that between September 1 and November 30 he sexually assaulted another girl by making inappropriate comments, seizing her by the arm, pulling her towards him and attempting to kiss her on the lips.

At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court last week Sheriff Alistair Watson agreed to a defence motion that the proceedings

be continued at a later date as the interpreter assigned to Ziemecki – a Pole – was the same one who had sat in on his police interview and that could prove problematic.

No evidence was held and the case was held over until a fresh intermediate diet on March 30, with the trial set for April 16.

The accused was ordained to appear on both dates.

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## Planning applications under consideration

An application for a certificate of lawfulness for alterations at the former care home of Craigielea in Whiting Bay has been lodged with North Ayrshire Council.

They include the erection of a timber shed for the purpose of dog grooming, the demolition of a former fire escape stair and rear chimney head, replacement of PVCu windows and the creation of ensuite facilities to bedrooms. An application for the erection

of a one-and-a-half storey three-bedroom detached house at Brackenrigg Cottage, Blackwaterfoot has been referred back to the applicant by North Ayrshire roads department to provide amended plans incorporating vehicle-turning details within the cartilage of the site.

A further application pending consideration is for the erection of a detached house at a site to the south of Colathim, Blackwaterfoot.

• Do you have a story for The Arran Banner? Call 01770 302142

## Second ferry terminal meeting organised

Following the public meeting in December last year, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) will be holding a further event in Brodick on Monday 4 March, to provide an update on the Brodick Ferry Terminal redevelopment plans and the potential new vessel plans.

Arran's residents are invited to attend the meeting in the Brodick Hall at 7.30pm.

## Landslip works about to commence

Work is due to start on the landslip above the road at the Gaery, south of Whiting Bay. North Ayrshire Council has appointed Murchie Sand & Gravel for the job, which they say should take five to six weeks.

Bespoke concrete blocks are being prepared, and traffic lights will control vehicle movements. An NAC spokesman said that road closure would not be necessary during the work.

## Planning refusals for two houses

Two separate planning applications for housebuilding were turned down by North Ayrshire Council last week.

They are the application for a one-and-a-half storey house between Mentone and Braehead Farm, south of Whiting Bay and the application for a detached house with attached garage to the north of Dunard, Corrie.



Friends and family of the Arran RNLI members joined them at the charity car wash on Saturday. 01\_b07car01

## Car wash fundraiser gets Lamlash RNLI into a lather

The volunteer crewmembers at Lamlash RNLI got themselves into a real lather on Saturday when they held a charity car wash.

From 10am until 2pm the lifeboat station car wash was open for business and the incredible sum of £820 was raised in just four hours.

Geoff Norris, spokesman for the Lamlash station, said: 'The money will go to one of our own crew members - Calum McNicol. Calum is currently completing a world-record breaking attempt to row the Atlantic Ocean in 30 days in aid of The Ayrshire Hospice.'

'Each crew member is raising money for their own charity, one of them for the RNLI and Calum is raising for the Ayrshire Hospice where his mother died. Calum is one of the Lifeboat helmsman and also the station training coordinator. He currently has less than a thousand miles to go.'

### Supported

Thanks to everyone who supported the car wash on the day and to MBS in Whiting Bay for donating all the car wash equipment and the Lamlash Co-Op for the fabulous hamper, which was won by Alvin Hoelzl.

## Concessionary card dates

Holders of concessionary ferry cards are being urged to check their expiry date, as many are due for renewal. Colin McCort, CalMac's port manager at Brodick, said: 'A large number of concession cards are due to expire.'

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# Big cat sighted on Machrie Moor

A couple here on holiday from Arbroath are convinced that they saw a big cat on Machrie Moor on Sunday.

They were staying at Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash and came in to the Banner office on Monday morning.

The man said: 'We went for a walk to the Standing Stones at around 2pm and when we go to the far end of the track there it was - about 50 yards ahead, sitting in the long grass and totally black.'

'It was about the size of a collie dog, with a large flat black face, yellow eyes and a bushy tail.'

It just stared at us for what

seemed like a minute then loped off. It went at a hell of a rate, and by the time we had gathered our wits it had gone.

'People might think we are loopy, but I know what I saw.'

Back at the hotel the couple asked if there had been any similar sightings and were assured that there had been several reports in the Banner over recent years.

Usually these reports are dismissed by the experts, but the big cat sightings continue.

See the comments on the letters page.

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## Arran livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 5,674 prime hogs and ewes at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday.

Arran prices:

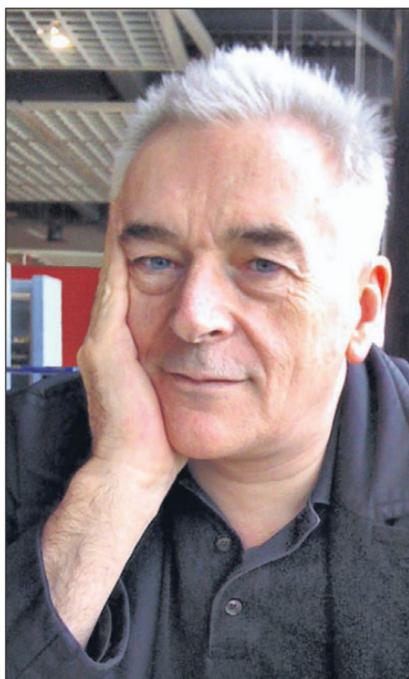
**Hogs:** Craigdhu (Texel) £83, Kilpatrick (Texel) £77.50, Springfield (Texel) £62.50, Springfield (Mule) £65, Museum (Cheviot) £50, Springfield (Blackface) £41.

**Ewes:** Balgowan (Texel) £89.50, Bellevue (Texel) £88.50, Craigdhu (Texel) £86.50, Springfield (Texel) £75.50, Kilpatrick (Tex) £75.50, Cosyden (Cheviot) £59.50, Kilpatrick (Mule) £57.50, Auchenhew (Cheviot/Mule) £78.50, Craigview (Blackface) £41.50, Balgowan (Blackface) £35.50, Museum (Blackface) £32.50.

**Tups:** Springfield (Texel) £77.50, Craigview (Texel) £31.50.

Got a story for  
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# Signature project team to convene at Brodick Castle



Designer Willie Miller will be working at Brodick Castle. b07sig02

Brodick Castle's Signature Project team is convening on the island next Monday and Tuesday.

The Glasgow-based company Kevin Murray Associates has been appointed to lead the planning of this prestigious project for the National Trust for Scotland.

They will be investigating a complete overhaul of the facilities and how best to improve their usage by the general public. The team includes experienced designer Willie Miller and tourism consultant James Fraser.

Mr Murray said: 'We will be looking at everything, from the shoreline to the top of Goatfell.'

'The work will involve extensive consultation and new and creative ways for the public to use Brodick's exceptional heritage assets.'

The company has a background of working with rural communities on sensitive development, regeneration and tourism. The group plan to hold evening community meetings for public consultation.



Kevin Murray will be leading the Signature Project at Brodick Castle. b07sig01

## Wine tasting at Shiskine SWRI

On Wednesday 6 February our vice President Mrs Joan Stewart gave us all a very warm welcome at The Kinloch Hotel and hoped that we would have a very pleasant evening.

On arrival we were all given a glass of Lorentz Cremant d'Alsace Rose, which went down very well and this set us up for the rest of the evening.

Following on from that the rest of the tasting began and in total we sampled another four wines which were all accompanied by nibbles to complement the wines which were made by the chef at The Kinloch and were very tasty indeed.

Each wine was described in detail by the Wine Representative and how it was produced.

So at the end of the evening the Shiskine WRI ladies had a superb evening.

The competition for a Valentine Card was won by Eunice Williamson and second was Joan Stewart.

Jenny Harper won the exhibition for a dress ring and second was Fiona Scott.

The following ladies, Isabel Rankin, Diana McMurray, Jane Gillespie, Joan Stewart, Janet Gilmour, Helen Knight, Elinor Kinnaid and Murdina Currie, won the raffle prizes.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6 March which will be our AGM and members are reminded to return their Ballot Paper.

Our guest speaker is Edward O'Donnolly who will be giving a talk on Old Arran.

The competition is a small home made pizza and the exhibition is March Hares.

## Funding sends Arran youths to London

Arran Youth Forum is aiming to take a number of youngsters to London after securing a grant from The Big Lottery Fund.

The £5,830 will be used to take 15 people to London for two days to visit the Houses of Parliament, London Eye and other sites of interest.

The forum will also run a horse-riding project for 10 young people on the island. Across Scotland, nearly 300 groups have shared lottery funding worth more than £2m in this round of grants.

Awards for All is the National Lottery's small grants scheme which gives out grants of between £500 and £10,000 that make a big difference across Scotland.

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**OBITUARY:**

# Colin Robert Douglas

23 December 1983 – 6 January 2013

From the day that Colin Douglas came into this world he has put a smile on to the faces of each and every person that he has met.

Born in Lanark on 23 December 1983 to parents Jim and Merle Douglas, Colin spent the first five years of his life in Carluke with his older siblings Jonathan and Laura as dad Jim was working at Ravenscraig Steelworks and mum was a nurse at Law Hospital.

When the steelworks were closed the family decided to relocate to a little village in South Wales called Magor and it was during his childhood here that Colin picked up his unforgettable Welsh accent!

Not long after they had moved there Colin developed a limp and after various tests to rule out cancer, it was discovered that he had Perthes disease, which was causing a deformity of his hip joint.

At that time the only treatment was 'broomstick plasters' and the youngster spent three years with his legs sticking out straight in plaster.

But he didn't let this hold him back and the family remember him playing with the children in the village, bumming his way up and down the stairs, and even going into the sea for a paddle all despite having to use a wheelchair.

As mum Merle said he 'just got on with it' and didn't worry about the plasters holding him back.

It wasn't until Colin was in his mid teens that the plasters came off and he was able to walk again properly.

It was then that his immense love of sports really developed, as he was able to play football and rugby for the first time.

As part of the Caldicot Un-

der 18s rugby team he made it to the county championships and his mum and dad can remember that game well as they could never seem to see Colin on the pitch as he was always buried at the bottom of the scrum!

Throughout his childhood and as a teenager the family spent many happy holidays on Arran and Colin developed a lifelong love of the island that only increased when he moved here as an adult.

After school he went to college where he studied painting and decorating which allowed him to explore his love of art.

**Loved**

Looking back now he probably should have gone to Art College but his skills came in very handy when the family moved to Arran in 2006 as he was taken on straight away by Fulton Decorators and loved every second of his job.

In fact one of the last times Colin made it home to the island he helped to decorate his parents' bedroom – a fond memory that they all cherish.

For a number of summers he worked with the North Ayrshire Council cleansing department and became one of Arran's friendliest and most recognisable faces and made many wonderful friends on the island.

He also spent many happy

hours on the island with his three nephews, Kyle, Toby and Bobby, whom he absolutely adored.

But in August 2010 after months of sheer exhaustion Colin was diagnosed with leukaemia.

He spent the rest of the year in hospital receiving life saving treatment and at one point there were fears he wouldn't make it as he was struggling to fight an attack of double pneumonia.

But in typical Colin style he never gave up and by 2011 he was well enough to come home and enjoyed a happy summer with friends and family.

Tragically in September of that year the Leukaemia returned and a stem cell transplant was his only hope. After several nerve-racking weeks, his sister Laura proved to be a 10/10 match and on 6 January 2012 he was given her stem cells in order to eradicate the cancer from his blood and replace it with his sister's healthy blood cells.

Despite suffering terribly from the graft versus host illness following the transplant, it was a complete success and Colin was able to say he had beaten the cancer.

After celebrating his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday he was so looking forward to spending his first



Colin Douglas – forever putting a smile on the faces of people who knew him.

Christmas at home for three years but as 2012 drew to a close Colin's condition deteriorated.

An infection in his gallbladder was too advanced to treat and, despite doctors telling him only days before that he had many more birthdays to look forward to, on January 6 Colin closed his eyes for the

last time and put the pain of his illness behind him.

Colin is one of those people who will be remembered with utter joy and happiness by all those who were lucky enough to know and love him.

Rest in peace now our friend, you shall never be forgotten.

JL

## Five plays in 2013 drama festival

As reported in last week's Banner, there will be five plays staged over two nights at this year's One-Act Drama Festival in the Community Theatre, Lamlash.

On Friday 22 February, Shiskine Junior Drama will present Romeo and Juliet, a play by Geoff Bamber, with a cast of dozens.

This will be followed by Say Something Happened, a play by Alan Bennett, presented by The Castaways group.

Finally on Friday, Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music will perform The Worst Day of My Life by Alan Richardson.

On Saturday 23 February, Lamlash Junior Drama Club will give Seven Wives for Dracula, a comedy by Tim Kelly. Last but not least Lamlash Drama Club will present The Beach Hut, a black comedy by Mark Rees.

Adjudicator Mr Ron Nicol has been to the festival several times in the past, and will make his decisions after the final play, followed by the presentation of trophies.

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# Fiona is nominated for 2013 Citizen of the Year Award



Fiona Laing, centre front, with the North Arran First Responders. 02\_b07civ04



Fiona Laing, nominee for Citizen of the Year 02\_b07civ02

## Fiona is well-known on the island, driving right round the coast road in her van

The finalists have been announced for this year's North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

And Fiona Laing of Pirmill is one of three short-listed nominations for North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year.

This prestigious category is for a person who has made a positive contribution and promoted or demonstrated civic pride in his/her community.

Fiona is a well-known face on the island, driving right round the coast road in her van every day, delivering newspapers to the local shops.

But this award is more concerned with the voluntary and community activities of individuals. And Fiona is very active indeed in the community.

She became a retained firefighter in Lochranza in 1995, and in just under two years she will qualify for a 20-year long service award.

In 2003, Fiona was instrumental in founding the North Arran First Responders, a voluntary group on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This ground-breaking group has been providing emergency life support for 10 years

in cases where an ambulance or paramedic would be too late.

Not only is she a founder member, but Fiona also organises the rota for the trained volunteers.

And over the last year she has been helping local communities to co-ordinate fund raising to get Public Access Defibrillators in every village.

To date she has been instrumental in installing five defibrillators around the island, with another five due to be in place before summer. These amazing machines can be the difference between life and death for a heart attack victim.

In addition to all this, she joined the Arran Coastguard team as a volunteer in 2006 and is now Deputy Leader.

It is difficult to see how she makes time for all these voluntary community activities.

Now you – readers of the Banner – have the chance to show your appreciation by casting your vote in each of five categories, including the citizen of the year, on the form on this page.

Voting closes at 12noon on Thursday 7 March and you can also vote online on the North Ayrshire Council website.

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#### North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year

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Fiona Laing

Grahame Ross

Norrie & Rose Brown

#### North Ayrshire Young Citizen of the Year

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Scott Robinson

#### North Ayrshire Arts & Culture Award

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All votes must be received by 12 noon on 7th March 2013

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## So now we know what happened to Shergar

The champion Irish racehorse famously went missing in 1983 and has never been found. Maybe he just ended up in a tin of corned beef?

The current crisis in the meat industry is truly astonishing. Over the years we have been conditioned to believe that safety standards in food production in this country are second to none.

But in the last few weeks that notion has been blown out of the water, and each day there seem to be more startling revelations.

We know that there is a sophisticated system of traceability for all animals in the food chain in Britain. But how many of us realised that meat for consumption in this country is actually 'sourced' from all over the world?

The Foods Standard Agency and local Trading Standards authorities are unearthing new breaches of conduct every day.

The discovery of horsemeat in beef products has led to a range of processed foods being withdrawn from sale across Europe. From horsemeat found in burgers and kebabs to pork found in beef products, it is difficult to know exactly what you are eating nowadays.

We are told that there is no health hazard and that horse is commonly consumed in continental Europe, but to British folk, the very notion of eating one of Thelwell's ponies is anathema.

Almost every supermarket chain in the country has withdrawn products from sale in the last week. With no pun intended, it may be that our chickens have come home to roost!

The modern housewife is less inclined to buy her meat from a traditional butcher, preferring to browse among the rows of neatly packaged supermarket meat.

And it must be bright red if it's beef, regardless of the fact that the colour probably comes from a food dye.

She is also so busy juggling a full-time job and being a mum, that it is easier to buy ready prepared foods such as frozen lasagne or spaghetti Bolognese.

So maybe it is time to go back to basics. Buy your meat from a proper butcher, spend a little more time on making 'real' meals in the kitchen, and come to terms with the fact that 'everyday value burgers' are probably of dubious origin. And it makes sense to look for the Red Tractor Assurance logo.

Perhaps one good thing to come out of the 'horsegate' scandal is that we change our eating habits a little and look more carefully at labels.

### 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.

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

### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor



### What's in a name . .

Sir,  
Recently the multi-award winning Auchrannie country club hotel ran a competition to name their forthcoming and no doubt award-winning spa.

As a moderately imaginative person I considered this a fair challenge and a bit of fun. After several trips to the Mitchell library and numerous interviews with Gaelic speakers (in hindsight the incoherent interviewees that were propping up the Ormisdale bar may simply have had too much Arran Blonde).

And the bit about the Mitchell is a slight exaggeration but I did visit several web sites for inspiration.

Eventually, after many sleepless nights and many more mugs of regular instant coffee, I only ever have cappuccinos or mocha chocas when I'm visiting 'Brambles' or the Mariners café (good name for a café on a boat), I see it as my contribution to maintaining island life, I narrowed my choices and sent my entry in.

Having never won anything in my life except the Easter egg painting competition 2001 held at Brodick Castle, so I wasn't too disappointed to discover some weeks later that I was unsuccessful.

(Technically it was my three-year-old daughter who won the egg competition but I provided the design concept).

My disappointment soon turned to disbelief. A spa!

At first I thought it was a mistake, but no the logo had already been designed.

I can only presume the delay in announcing the winner (a delay which they apologised several times for) was due to a heated debate within the Auchrannie management team.

Apparently, according to my sources the debate revolved around two contenders. Should it be called 'A Spa' or 'The Spa'.

Fortunately somebody pointed out that there was a programme on Sky Living called 'the spa'.

It was felt that this might

give the wrong impression of their exclusive spa and also people might accuse them of being unoriginal and unimaginative so the decision was finalised...the competition to name a spa was over.

But like the Arran ale I'm not bitter, I'm just preparing my granddaughter for the next Easter egg painting competition.

Yours,  
**Kenny Beattie**  
Via e-mail

### Fairtrade fortnight approaches

Sir,  
We would like, through your pages, to explain our understanding of 'Fairtrade'.

Arran Fairtrade recognises that many farmers on Arran face similar issues to farmers elsewhere, in ensuring that they get a decent return for upholding decent social and environmental standards in their production.

Fairtrade is not in competition with UK farmers and the purchase of locally produced and Fairtrade products are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Fairtrade focuses by and large on tropical agricultural products such as coffee and bananas that can't be grown in temperate climates or products that can't be grown in sufficient quantities in the EU eg. grapes and oranges.

For some items such as honey and flowers, local supply is not able to meet the total demand - it has been estimated that both UK flowers and honey account for less than one-third of the UK market - and so imports are necessary to keep up with consumers' shopping preferences.

Other products, such as apples, are seasonal in both the UK and places like South Africa, and for as long as shoppers want to buy apples out of season, there is a demand for fruit from other countries.

Often the choice facing shoppers is not necessarily between local honey and Fairtrade certified honey but between Fairtrade honey and conventional honey imported from, say, the US or China. It

is up to each person to weigh up these choices and shop accordingly.

Ultimately, it is up to us all to do what we see as being in the interests of people and the planet. What is important is that we all try to make informed choices wherever possible.

Arran Fairtrade simply want to raise your awareness of the fact that buying products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark is empowering and strengthening the future for disadvantaged producers in developing countries.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year is from Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March.

We are delighted that the Primary School children are helping once again.

Look out for the display in the Brodick Co-operative store.

Yours,  
**Jan MacGregor**  
Secretary of Arran Fairtrade

### Subsidising fuel costs

Sir,  
I came to live on the island in 1995 and I know a lot about the discussion surrounding increasing fuel prices - just a reminder, the price then was about 48 pence per litre. Over the years there were several appeals, promises, assignments-of-guilt thrown into these discussions but nothing has really happened on any of the Scottish islands.

Everyone defends his position and speaks words of concern and utters some promises - if this and/or that happens - but further discussions will be equally useless and will never offer a solution, namely giving us 'normal' energy prices.

I believe the only real solution is a state owned company that sells fuel and energy on all remote Scottish localities, inclusive of all islands, to a unitary price to be comparable with an average of the urban prices.

Such a company does not have to make a profit or use luxurious offices and managerial posts, just cover their cost on a basis of £1.00 win.

If this is not achievable on

the free market, the Scottish government should subsidise all losses.

However, with cunning buying practise and clever marketing and distribution, this would probably not be necessary. Beginning with petrol and heating oil would be a good start, gas and electricity might be a bit more complicated.

Yours,  
**Bruno Baumgärtner**  
Corrie cravie

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### Big cat forum

The following are postings on facebook in response to our 'big cat' story on page 3.

**Jon Hollingworth:** I live on Machrie Moor and there is a family of rather large black cats on Machrie Moor but they are just large feral cats (not big cats).

I had one wander into our garden as a tiny kitten - after feeding it a tin of tuna, it stayed with us for 12 years and was quite a size, but that was down to the number of rabbits, pheasants and other livestock that is readily available on the Moor!

**Paul Paterson:** Big cats on Arran? No chance... And I have been working with big cats for a long time.

Arran with big cats, more like fairies dancing on Machrie moor!

None of the sightings of big cats have ever been confirmed and the evidence of all the sightings we have been asked to look at has either been unsubstantiated or has been attributed to other causes.

From time to time big cats do escape from zoos or other collections and are usually recaptured very quickly. We are confident that there is no breeding population of big cats in this country.

**David Graham** About the size of a collie dog, black face...could it have been a collie dog?

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Putting in Lamlash, a favourite summer pastime. Arran and Ayrshire has topped the survey for most repeat visits. 01\_b24put01

## Visitors 'haste back' to Arran and Ayrshire

Arran and Ayrshire attract more repeat visits than any other region in Scotland, according to new research.

The Scotland Visitor Survey 2011-2012 shows that 85 per cent of holidaymakers were on a return trip, while 93 per cent said they would recommend Ayrshire and Arran to others.

Conducted by VisitScotland, the national tourism organisation, the survey also reveals that 82 per cent were considering returning to the region within the next five years.

Going to the beach proved particularly popular, with more than half (52 per cent) hitting the sand while in the region, while taking in historic castles and houses also rated highly.

Annie Armstrong, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'Given all the wonderful things to see and do on Arran, from the stunning scenery to the quality range of food and drink, I am not surprised that so many visitors choose to return here time and time again.'

'Ailsa Craig features in a brand new VisitScotland television advert celebrating the Year of Natural Scotland, which I am sure will help to encourage even more visitors to this beautiful part of the country.'

The latest full-year statistics available for the region show that 780,000 people visited Ayrshire and Arran in 2011, generating £207 million for the economy.

### From Nob Hill to Poo via Tittybong: Cock of Arran included in hilarious map

The Cock of Arran may not be the most elegant of names, but it is certainly eye-catching.

And no one could blame the postman if he titters when he's delivering letters to homes in Bum, Tittybong, Climax or Intercourse.

Now someone has created an interactive map of the world's most suggestive place names - and The Cock of Arran has been included.

Among the others highlighted on the map are Poo in India, Pee in Liberia, Bitche in France and Arsoli in Italy.

There are places with names to make you blush - but you'll have to find them yourselves.

The map titled Vaguely Rude Place Names Of The World was created by geographer and Nokia's director of places Gary Dale from southwest London.

Mr Dale modestly describes his work as 'a classic Web 2.0 style maps mashup that will never win any awards for originality or innovativeness'.



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# Successful year for Save the Children

The Arran branch of the Save the Children celebrated another successful year at their AGM in the Auchrannie Spa on Monday 4 February.

Carol Burge, chairman, welcomed all present but said that unfortunately, due to ferry disruptions for the third day, the guest speaker Dorothy Parker was unable to attend.

In her report Carol expressed her thanks to the committee for their continuing support and commitment that enabled the branch to maintain their successful fundraising.

Due to the economic climate, the branch is slightly but not significantly down on last year having managed to raise just over £8,000.

Carol informed the members that 89p from every £1 goes directly to Save the Children projects - this is slightly more than last year.

Two new events are planned for 2013 that should boost the funds.

In June Lady Jean Fforde has kindly offered to open her gardens with proceeds going to Save the Children and at the end of July a Texas

Scramble golf tournament will be held at Shiskine Golf Club.

The other events will continue as usual.

The office bearers remain the same for another year, as does the committee with the exception of Sarah Pierce who had to resign.

Carol thanked Sarah in her absence for her worthwhile contribution during her spell.

Chairman Carol Burge, secretary Margaret Shaw and treasurer Myrna Boal all retain their posts.

#### Highlighting

Business concluded, the members were shown a DVD of 'No child is born to die', highlighting the work of Save the Children in Bangladesh, Kenya and other African countries where children are severely affected by malnutrition.

Although disturbing to watch, the amazing success of the work in these areas emphasised the need for continuing support.

Carol then brought the meeting to a close expressing her thanks to the Auchrannie for their hospitality.

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# Great riding club day out at Bishopton

Last weekend, 25 members and friends of Arran Riding Club went to the Equestrian Centre at Ingliston Country Club in Bishopton.

The day out had been organised by Janis Murchie

and it was hailed as a great success.

The group had a tour of the facilities which all agreed were of a very high standard, and most took an interesting turn on the super

horse simulator, with walk, trot and canter practice.

After lunch, they watched the junior show jumping and several of them reportedly came home tired and emotional.



Lunch at Palomino's. b07rid03



Above: The Arran Riding Club group at the entrance to the Equestrian Centre at Bishopton.

b07rid01



Right: Danielle Mutch having a go on the horse simulator. b07rid02

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## Arran to feature as one of Britain's most sacred sites

A travel and guidebook writer's five-year mission to visit and write about Britain's most sacred sites and shrines saw him witness a miracle on the Isle of Arran.

Former financial journalist Nick Mayhew Smith spent five summers visiting all corners of England, Scotland and Wales to research his book.

And the fruits of his hard work – which often involved camping unglamorously in remote, muddy fields with just cows or sheep for company – is to be brought to

life on our television screens in a unique six part series. Nick, who travelled with Welsh poet Ifor ap Glyn and a film crew throughout the series, recalls witnessing a 'miracle' during filming. Nick said: 'The 'miracle' occurred during filming on Arran.

### Remote

'We were walking along a remote stretch of coast when Ifor spotted a brand new £20 note floating on the water, undamaged by the sea.

It reminded me of the Lin-

disfame Gospels which were supposedly lost at sea for three days before being washed up, miraculously undamaged by the tide.

'Our own miraculous piece of beachcombing felt rather more worldly and materialistic, more so when it paid for a round of drinks in the pub the next evening!' Britain's Holiest Places is scheduled for broadcast on BBC4 in the six weeks leading up to Easter starting the week-commencing February 25.

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### Posh or Pink for Cancer Research UK

The Posh or Pink coffee afternoon this year will be held in Kilmory Village Hall on Friday 8 March, from 2pm to 4pm.

The adults will get a lovely china cup, saucer and side plate to keep after their posh nosh, and the children will get to keep their mug after juice and a pancake.

This is a fund raising event for Cancer Research UK.



## Rural ladies toast the Bard at Kilmory

The ladies of Kilmory SWRI welcomed guests from Shiskine, Kildonan and Whiting Bay Rurals on Monday night for their annual Burns Supper in celebration of the life and works of Robert Burns.

The food had been prepared by members in the village hall kitchen and proceedings started with Andrew Earle piping in the haggis, carried with aplomb by Joan Lewis.

Alan Nicol then took to the stage and addressed the haggis in style.

After grace by Mairi Duff the company enjoyed a hearty traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Finlay Murchie recited a poem and May Macdonald and James Fleming performed 'Ae fond kiss'.

### Poems

After poems by Isabelle Adamson and music by Bobbi Adamson, May and James led the company in 'Ye banks and braes'.

The evening was rounded off with a quiz and raffle, and, of course, 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Left: Andrew Earle piping in the haggis, carried by Joan Lewis. 02\_b07bur02

Right: Alan Nicol addressing the haggis on Kilmory Hall stage. 02\_b07bur01



# Aviation mission talk for St Bride's Ladies

David Shaw of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) gave the St Bride's Ladies an informative presentation last week about the work of the charity.

### Meetings

The St Bride's Ladies continued their winter series of afternoon meetings in the Church Hall on Monday 11 February with a cheese and wine party followed by the interesting presentation by David Shaw.

MAF is an entirely charitable Christian organisation operating over 135 light aircraft in around 30 countries.

### Transporting

They provide 270 flights every day transporting patients, relief teams, essential medical supplies and Christian workers to the world's remotest regions and places of deepest human need; places where flying is not a luxury but a lifeline.

David, himself a pilot, is

based in Troon and willing to talk to any interested charitable group on the island.

He can be contacted on 01292 310600 or at flyingduo@btinternet.com

**Mission Aviation Fellowship is an entirely charitable Christian organisation operating over 135 light aircraft in around 30 countries.**



## Alba Brass in concert in Brodick

Alba Brass are performing at the Arran Music Society concert in Brodick Hall from 1.30pm on Saturday 16 February. They are described as an exciting brass quintet who are adding their own style to traditional music.

Alba Brass have appeared at concerts and festivals all over Europe, Russia, North America and the Middle East.

They have also been recorded for BBC's Songs of Praise and STV's Spirit of Scotland.

## Jacket found

A Gore bike wear jacket was found on the Goatfell path on Tuesday 12 February.

It is probably worth £150-200 so it will no doubt be missed!

Please call 302416 for details.

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### SATURDAY 23RD

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Lamlash Drama Club

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# New service available for Arran stroke survivors

Stroke is the greatest single cause of severe disability in Scotland affecting over 100,000 people, so almost everyone knows someone affected by this illness. The Scottish charity Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland which runs support services all around the country is planning to offer a new service on Arran.

The charity will hold an information day on the island where people who have had a stroke, carers and anyone interested in volunteering with the service can come along to find out more.

The new service is designed especially for people left with communication difficulties after a stroke and will con-

centrate on developing conversation skills.

The event will also be of interest to health professionals and social workers that might want to refer people to the new service.

The information day will be held at the Ormidale Pavilion on Thursday 14 March between 11am and 3pm.

Refreshments will be available and the charity's local Coordinator, Mary Meiklejohn and group worker, Kathleen Frew, will be on hand to explain the work of the charity and the support available to people who have had a stroke, particularly those left with communication difficulties.

Mary said: 'We'd love to see

you at our information day and tell you more about how our Communication Support Service can help with rehabilitation and rebuilding confidence after stroke.

'Whether you've had a stroke yourself, are caring for someone who has, or would like to find out more about working with us as a volunteer and making a real difference in your local community, we'll give you all the information you need. Please join us for a cup of tea in the Ormidale Pavilion on 14 March and find out more.'

For more information about the Information Day please call Mary on 01294 824948 or email [mary.meiklejohn@chss.org.uk](mailto:mary.meiklejohn@chss.org.uk).



High winds and heavy seas last Sunday saw flooding on the coastal road in many areas around the island. In Whiting Bay, cars and pedestrians were taking evasive action to try and miss a drenching as the waves crashed over the sea wall, bringing seaweed and debris onto the road. 02\_b07sea01

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## Arran farmers urged to prepare for IACS

Arran's farmers are being reminded that the Integrated Administration and Control System or 'IACS' time is almost here.

This hectic period between farmers receiving their forms and the deadline for submission on 15 May is rapidly approaching.

With the process becoming increasingly complex, now is the perfect time to get properly prepared before calving, lambing and spring work gets fully underway.

What farmers and advisors call 'the IACS form' is actually the claim form for several important schemes that bring valuable support to the Isle of Arran economy:

- Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFPS)
- Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS)
- Land Managers Options (LMO)
- Rural Priorities (SRDP)

Ask yourself the following questions: Do you have a recent IACS map, and is it correct? Do you have maps, field identifier (FID) numbers, and agreements for all seasonal land?

Is all your land eligible for Single Farm Payment Scheme? If not (perhaps because of whins, yards, bracken etc) then do you know how much to take off or will you need to measure some areas?

Even if the land is eligible for SFPS is it also eligible for LFASS?

#### Forage crop

Remember that to claim LFASS you must actively use the land for forage crop production or grazing livestock

for more than 183 days of the year. Do you have a successful SRDP scheme that involves annual recurrent management options (such as management of water margins, moorland, hedges etc)?

These need to be claimed on the IACS form – dig out your contract now so you are clear what should be claimed.

You need to submit the annual record by 15<sup>th</sup> May). Find out what information needs to be completed.



With the IACS process becoming increasingly complex, now is the perfect time to get prepared before calving, lambing and spring work gets fully underway.



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
JANUARY

A huge number of Greylag Geese were spotted in Shiskine. b07lag01NO Photo by Susie Thompson.

# Red Kite sighted at Bennan Head

**Winter is a good time to see Dipper as they move down river to the coast.** Photo by Brian Couper.

January was 20 per cent wetter than January 2012 and the month finished with a very unsettled spell.

A particular highlight this month was a wing-tagged Red Kite soaring along the top of the cliff west of Bennan Head on 22 January.

This is the first report of this species since one was seen over Brodick Country Park in April 2011.

Other highlights included: seven Shelduck on the Silver Sands on the 1<sup>st</sup>, over 100 Jackdaw in the Shiskine Valley on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 13 Common Scoter off Cosyden on the 15<sup>th</sup>, seven Moorhen at Port na Lochan on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11 Bullfinch by Loch Cnoc an Loch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and five Ptarmigan near the summit of Cioch na h-Oighe on the 9<sup>th</sup> is the largest group for at least six years.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: 18 Whooper Swans at Clauchlands on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 86 Teal at Kilpatrick Point on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 28 Wigeon at Cosyden on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21 Pink-footed Geese with 330 Greylag Geese in Shiskine Valley on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Other winter visitors in January included: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on the 1<sup>st</sup>, two Little Grebe by Fisherman's Walk on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15 Fieldfare on High Kildonan on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 71 Turnstone on Silver Sands on the 10<sup>th</sup>, three Goldeneye at the mouth of the Blackwater on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 35 Lapwing in the Shiskine Valley also on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 47 Golden Plover at Shannoche on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 50 Redwing at Kildonan on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Winter is a good time to see Dipper as they move down river to the coast.

In winter food seems to be easier to find at the mouths of our rivers and burns rather than upstream.

Reports of Dipper in January included: Silver Sands on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Margnaeghlish on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Fisherman's Walk also on the 4<sup>th</sup> and Loch Ranza on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

All three divers were also reported including: five Black-throated and 17 Great Northern Divers off Cosyden on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a Red-throated Diver in Loch Ranza on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Interesting garden birds included: a Treecreeper in Brodick on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 Goldfinch in Lamlash on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a male Blackcap in Brodick on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a Great Spotted Woodpecker

in Shiskine on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and ten Long-tailed Tit in Margnaeghlish on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

There were some signs of approaching spring with a pair of Golden Eagle displaying over Lochranza on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Shags in breeding plumage with their wispy crests at Kilpatrick on the 12<sup>th</sup>, five Red-breasted Merganser displaying off Margnaeghlish on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a pair of Collared Doves in Blackwaterfoot carrying nest material on the 30<sup>th</sup>. But the winter is not over yet.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the "Arran Bird Report 2011" and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



A particular highlight this month was a wing-tagged Red Kite soaring along the top of the cliff west of Bennan Head.

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# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday 20 February, 1993

### Kiss of life

Shiskine Hall is to rise from the dead after limping along from one stay of execution to another for the past few years.

It had seemed that the only course of action would be to close it but now it has been given a huge grant – the largest of its type in Strathclyde.

Shiskine Hall will receive

£27,000 towards the work costing £36,000.

### Blade amnesty

Operation Blade is still producing knives on Arran.

This week one bayonet, two open-ended razors and eight knives have been handed into police in Lamlash.

### Dairy quotas u-turn

Some of Arran's dairy farm-

ers this week changed their views on milk quotas to present a united front.

With the possibility of the area restrictions being taken away so that Arran farmers could buy or sell quotas to any part of Scotland, the majority were in favour.

### 'Arran code' agreed

The Arran Access Forum met last week and agreed on an 'Arran Code' for people using the land for recreational purposes.

The access forum was formed following the dispute over charges for geologists studying on Arran Estate land.

### Mayoral visit

The Mayor of Berwick upon Tweed will arrive on Arran this week and, with his wife, walk around the island.

Alex and Ann Thomson will camp on their journey during their walk and hope to raise money for the McMillan Cancer Fund.

### Man arrested

Police arrested a man at The Douglas Hotel on Monday evening following a fight in which another man received two lacerations to the head.

Both men, we understand, are from the mainland and on the island working at the hotel.

### Lamlash refurbishment

New lampposts and a pavement are all part of the refurbishment at the front of Lamlash.



Mrs Annie Stewart handed over the new Cnoc Shield to its first winner, Alec Miller and Ann, and runner-up Matthew McNeish with Sweep after the nursery dog trial at Glenree on Saturday. b07twe03



Shiskine Hall has received a grant of £27,000 towards work that will keep it from closing. b07twe01



Eddie Cannon adjusts the new lampposts on Lamlash seafront. b07twe02



Brian Wilson MP, left, presents Graham Dagleish with the Brian Wilson Cup at Brodick Bowling Club's annual dinner and prizegiving on Friday. b07twe04

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# Where's Archie?

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Last week Archie was waiting for a bus at the Levencorroch lane end. First correct answers came from Scott Harwood, Allan Little, Morag Murchie and David Ritchie, who said: 'My wife was born up there!' This week he is high up on a new walk, but do you know where?

If you think you know then post your answer on the website [www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)  
 Or email us at: [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# World rowing record attempt continues

Here at *The Arran Banner* we have been following Calum McNicol's world record rowing attempt with avid interest.

He has been updating his blog regularly and we bring you his last two updates.

'We continue to row relentlessly towards Barbados. We have suffered from low battery power over the last week and we are now rationing electrical usage. Hence the reason for the lack of updates.

The batteries are recharged by the wind vane and the solar panels and for the last week or so we have had low winds, even lower when apparent, and the cloud cover has been intermittent, meaning we now operate with only a half battery. One is completely dead. Onward we row.

#### Meaning

Interestingly the sun now sets 2.5 hours later than it did when we left Puerto Mogan meaning it is light until 9pm.

The sunrise is only an hour later than when we left.

Daily life onboard is full of fun and the banter, heckling and haggling is non-stop. Especially when we heard the result of the Calcutta Cup! Our daily ration packs have become priceless commodities and on the trading floor just now Double Deckers are trading for three super noodles, two strawberry re-hydration drinks and a Nobby's Nuts. It's cut and thrust out here.'

'Well, well, well. We have just finished our 23rd day at sea we have just crossed the 1,000 miles to go mark.

#### Smidgen

I broke this news to the crew by telling them we now only have the length of Great Britain to row and we are travelling at a smidgen over walking pace.

To say that analogy didn't go down too well is a bit of an understatement and I thought I would be taking a long walk off a very short plank.

The wind blows a steady 15 knots from the east and with every day we get closer to our goal.

Our speed is a bit down on world record-breaking pace and even the most optimistic amongst us now see the sub 30 day record slipping from our reach.

We do however have the world record of minus 32 days in our minds and we are pulling with increased determination and focus.

This focus was given an-

The boat now lists and heels with every wave and swell that passes under us. To quite the angle at times!

In the light of day I will inspect the damage and formulate a plan. But for the time being its rock and roll.

On a more positive note the sunrise this morning was spectacular and the beard is coming along well.'



Today (Friday) marks Calum McNicol's 28<sup>th</sup> day at sea.



## Making Scotland's kids shine under the floodlights.

The Bank of Scotland Midnight League has been running for nearly 10 years across Scotland. It provides free five-a-side football for young people on a Friday and Saturday night, which contributes to bringing positive change to communities, like Ayrshire, all across Scotland.

Run at venues across Ayrshire, the league gives young people something to do and somewhere to go, as well as helping inspire confidence and personal development along the way.

Discover more at [bankofscotland.co.uk/midnightleague](http://bankofscotland.co.uk/midnightleague)

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**Saturday 16th February**

Army Cadets  
Over 21s Disco  
Karate  
Family Games  
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)  
Live music  
Alba Brass

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Arran High School, 10am  
Douglas Hotel Bar from 9pm  
Brodict Hall, 1.30pm

**Sunday 17th February**

Alcoholics Anonymous  
New AI-Anon Meeting  
Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Open Mic Session  
Folk night  
Cocaine Anonymous

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm  
Phone either 601206 or 870567 in evenings for time and venue  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm  
Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm – 3.30pm

**Monday 18th February**

Outside Boot Camp  
Over 50s Badminton  
Badminton  
Citizens Advice  
Morning Fitness  
Breathe Walk Class  
Table Tennis  
Badminton  
Lamlash Bridge Club  
Volleyball Club  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Conservative & Unionist Association AGM  
Lunch Club  
Unison Arran AGM  
Arran Antiquarians

Whiting Bay Park 6am  
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm  
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Beginners & improvers, Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2-4pm  
Brodict Library, 2pm  
McKelvie road, Lamlash 12noon  
Lamlash Council Offices 5pm-6.30pm  
Brodict Hall 2pm

**Tuesday 19th February**

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Rotary club  
Streetly Dance pre school  
Streetly Dancing Classes P1-S7  
Youth Club  
Rowan Singers  
Weight Watchers  
Junior Hockey Club  
Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
Healthy Outdoors  
Cricket Practise  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners  
Arran Farmers Society AGM

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 3.45pm – 6pm  
Brodict Hall, 6.30 – 8pm  
Lamlash church hall, 7.30-9.30pm  
St Molios Church Hall, 7.00pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm  
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm  
Lamlash high school car park, 5.30pm  
Kinloch Hotel, 8pm

**Wednesday 20th February**

Hockey  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Senior Badminton  
Yogalates  
Aquafizz  
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners  
Arran Abs Runners - advanced  
Northend Football Training  
Outside Boot Camp  
Arran Elderly Forum  
Friends of Brodict Castle

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm  
Arran High School, 8-9pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
Auchrannie Spa Car Park, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa Car Park, 6pm  
Lochranza, 7pm  
Whiting Bay Park, 6am  
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am-1pm  
Brodict Castle Tearoom 2.30pm

**Thursday 21st February**

Quiz  
Morning Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Lochranza Craft Club  
Youth Club  
Live Country/Folk music  
Brodict Embroidery Group  
Brodict Bridge Club  
Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
Ladies Netball  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners  
Lunchbox

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Hall, 2pm  
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm  
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm  
Brodict Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm  
High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm  
Kinloch Car Park, 5.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 12.30-2.30pm

**Friday 22th February**

Aqua Fizz  
Yogalates  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Weight Watchers  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Disco  
Outside Boot Camp  
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group  
Drama Festival

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9-10.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Whiting Bay Park 6am  
Corrie Hall, 8-10pm  
Community Theatre Lamlash, 7.30pm



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

Written representations may be made to the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to [eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 08.03.13. Any representations received will be open to public view.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development  
13/00051/PP; Broombank, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of extension to side of detached dwelling house.

13/00052/PP; Brackenrigg Cottage, Blackwaterfoot, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8HA; Erection of one and a half storey detached dwelling house

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



### Arran Farmers' Society A.G.M.

Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot  
Tuesday 19th February at 8pm

All Welcome

Sec: Christine McBride, Tel: 820291

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#### AGM

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**BANNER**  
CLASSIFIEDS



Arran Rugby Club celebrated a surprise promotion to the third division last year after finishing second in division four. 01\_b25rug01

# Arran's rugby progress stalled by game cancellations

Arran's senior rugby team's progress in the west division three league has stalled slightly in recent weeks after two games were cancelled and the usual break for the Six Nations competition took place.

**Beat**

The island team's last game was on Saturday 12 January when Oban Lorne beat them 14-10 at the Ormidale Park. They are due to travel to

Loch Lomond this Saturday but recent weather conditions suggest the pitch may be unplayable.

Arran are now in third place behind first placed Loch Lomond and second placed Oban Lorne, but they still have seven games to play so the league is far from over.

**Dropped**

Jordanhill Phoenix have dropped out of the league after

failing to play most of their games this season.

Arran Rugby Club celebrated a surprise promotion to the third division last year after finishing second in division four.

When Jim Stevenson, the former president of the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU), came to the island to present the club with a commemorative plate, he said he was a

great believer in supporting grassroots rugby and that Isle of Arran RFC was a great example of how a small rugby club should be.

**Proud**

'It's teams like Arran that make me proud to be part of the SRU,' he told the assembled guests last June.

So is there still a chance Arran could be promoted again this year? Watch this space!

# Kilmory's pool team top the Arran league

The pool teams from Kilmory and Lamlash are both sitting on 12 points at the top of the Arran Pool League.

Both PT1934 and the PHT have played eight games and both have won five.

**Nearest rivals**

However PT1934 have two more points in the for and against section than their nearest rivals, which puts them into the lead and to the top of the table.

The Drift Inn have sadly had to pull out after the sudden closure of the pub so there are now

just six teams in the league.

On Thursday 31 January the results were: PT1934 8 PHT 2, Whiting Bay Golf Club 5 Mac's Bar 5, Kildonan 7 (G) Catacol 3, the Drift Inn had a bye.

The results from Thursday 7 February were as follows: Mac's Bar 6 (G) PT1934 4, PHT 7 (G) Whiting Bay Golf Club 3, Catacol and Kildonan both had a bye.

This week Catacol play Mac's Bar, PT1934 are taking on Kildonan and Whiting Bay Golf Club and the PHT have a bye.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 17th February**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Rev'd Paul Fletcher,  
East Kilbride.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran:  
Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza,  
Pirmill and Shiskine  
Independent but working  
together.  
Minister: Rev Angus Adamson,  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter.  
Worship will be conducted in  
the above churches at the  
following times, to which  
all are invited.  
**Sunday 17th February**  
Brodict Church, 10.30am,  
Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church, 10.30am,  
Morning Worship.  
Lochranza and Pirmill  
Churches, 10.15am,  
Morning Worship at Lochranza  
Shiskine Church, 12noon,  
Morning Worship.  
A Service of Worship will also  
be held in Montrose House  
at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a  
fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 17th February**  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
In both churches:  
Rev. Dr. Ian Macleod  
All welcome, including families;  
children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**HOLY CROSS**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sunday 17th February  
Mass 11am

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 17th February**  
Worship will be conducted by  
the minister, Rev Elizabeth  
Watson, at 10.30am.  
Tea and Coffee will be served  
in the Transept after the service.  
All welcome.  
At 7pm in the home of Mrs Sue  
Francis, Stronbuy, Whiting Bay,  
there will be a Christian Film  
Night. All welcome.

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Sunday 17th February**  
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodict  
11am Morning worship  
Tea/Coffee after the service  
Home Fellowship Group meets  
on Wednesday at 7.30pm  
For details telephone 860 232  
Everyone very welcome.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Services as follows  
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on  
road between Blackwaterfoot  
and Machrie)  
Brodict 7pm (Church behind  
post office)  
Rev Marcus McCullough  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 17th February**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen  
Estate, Brodict  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodict  
Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 20th February**  
at 7pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodict  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakes meet every Sunday  
at 11am.  
For meeting venue ring 830622,  
820223 or 302779.

**ENGAGEMENT**

Rev & Mrs Paul Fletcher of Sliderry, Arran are pleased to announce the Engagement of their daughter, Charlotte Louise Macgregor Fletcher to Jason Miller, son of Mrs Caroline Miller of Gardenhall.



**On Wednesday morning Arran woke up to a covering of snow – even at sea level.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Colin Robert Douglas**

Our family would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all the support, comfort, words, cards and kind gestures since the recent loss of Colin.  
We are eternally grateful to family and friends, the Rev Angus Adamson and St Brides Church in Brodict.  
To Clair and David Hendry, Eleanor's Flowers, Charles and Alistair Hendry and Iain and Jane at Brodict Bar.  
Thank you also to the doctors and nurses at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Brodict and Shiskine Surgeries, the District Nurses and ArCaS for continued support for travel; Crosshouse Hospital ward 3A; Dr Gillies and his team; and everyone at the Beatson Cancer Centre particularly ward B8 and B9 and also the Friends of the Beatson, HDV Gartnavel, ITU Western Infirmary and all of Colin's colleagues at North Ayrshire Council in Lamlash.  
Also the CalMac team on and off the ferry, Troon Lifeboat and the Medivac Helicopter; and all support and prayers from people on Arran. Thank you for the generous donations, £1,120 was collected and split between ArCaS, Friends of the Beatson and the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia and Lymphoma research at the Beatson.  
Colin was helped by so many people and we are very grateful he is now 'Home on Arran'.

**THANK YOU**

Jan and the Crawford family would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and carers for their invaluable help in caring for Lawrence in his latter days. Thanks also to Jean and Angus for a comforting service, to Neil for the eulogy and to David and Clair for the funeral arrangements. Thanks also for the overwhelming support from near and far.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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**Shiskine Golf Club**

Results: Saturday 9 February, 18 Hole Medal. 1 Q Oliver 80-18=62, 2 J Culpan 78-15=63 BIH, 3 W Paton 69-6=63 BIH. Scratch W Paton 69. Magic twos from D Price, B Sherwood and W Paton (2).  
Sunday 10 February, Ryder Cup. Kilpatrick beat Torbeg 3pts to 1pt. Shiskine beat Blackwaterfoot 3pts to 1pt. Table is very tight at the top! 1 Torbeg 10 1/2, 2 Kilpatrick 10, 3 Blackwaterfoot 9 1/2, 4 Shiskine 6. Double header next weekend if weather allows.  
Fixtures: Sunday 17 February, Ryder Cup Double Header. Sunday 24 February, 12 Hole medal and Winter Cup.

**Brodict Golf Club**

Ladies: Twelve played in the Spring Bogey competition on Saturday 9 February and most scored remarkably well. 1 Margaret Roxburgh +5, 2 Gege Kroner +4, 3 Margaret Bryce +2. The next Bogey competition is fixed for Sat-

urday 9 March at 10.30am - Ladies from other clubs welcome.

Gents: Wednesday 6 February, 14 played on a reasonable day for the last of this winter's trophies. Sweep 1 Len Hartley 80-17=63, 2 Eric Thompson 18-18=64, 3 Brian Boal 78-14=64. Winner of the Norman Peach Salver was Len Hartley with 36 points. Many of you will remember Norman Peach and his wife Joan. His claim to fame, a part in the Dam Busters film while a radio operator for the RAF. Our best wishes to all his family. Congratulations to Charlie on his release from the sin bin!

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Results: The 5th round of the Winter Cup due to be played on Sunday 10 February was cancelled due to the wet weather and will now be played on Sunday 24 February.  
Fixtures: Sunday 17 February, Whiting Bay play the third of our winter friendlies with Lamlash, at Lamlash. Tee-offs between 10.30am and 11am. All gents welcome - simply turn up to be paired off and enjoy the golf and hospitality afterwards.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Results: Tuesday 5 February Winter Cup, 1 Campbell Laing 64, 2 Brian Sherwood 70, 3 David Price 78. Scratch Brian Sherwood 79.  
Fixtures: Tuesday 19 February Lochranza Hotel Cup tee-off 12noon.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Results: Saturday 9 February, Winter Cup 13 played CSS 61, medal tees. Sweep 1 John Adams 64-7=57, 2 Steve Beardsley 65-6=59, 3 Allan Smith 70-8=62. Best scratch John Adams 64. Magic twos P Bremner, A Smith and A Napier. It was excellent scoring for this time of year.

Monday 11 February Monday Cup 16 played, yellow tees. Sweep 1 Len Hartley 74-15=59, 2 Steve Wood 75-14=61, 3 Harold Taylor 86-24=62 (bih over Ian McMillan). Magic twos John McGovern, P Bremner, J Adams Len Hartley and John Kerr 2.

Fixtures: Saturday 16 February Winter Cup 8.30am and 12noon. Monday 18 February Monday Cup at 12noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Results: Thursday 7 February, Yellow Medal. 1 R Burke 70-12=58, 2 QJ Young 71-13=58, 3 W O'Connor 78-19=59. Twos from Alan Smith at the 13th and W O'Connor at the 4th.

Fixtures: Sunday 17 February, Winter Friendly, Lamlash v W/Bay, 10.30am for 11am start. Thursday 21 February, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

**PERSONALS**



**Happy 80th Birthday Papa Bill!!**



**Golden Oldie**  
**Happy 50th Stuart Gordon Macfarlane**  
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# Sport

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## Three in a row for lucky Niall

The competition raised £450 which will be given to the Arran Defib project

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Donald MacKenzie Memorial mixed doubles darts competition was won by Niall McMaster and his partner for the third year in a row on Saturday night.

Held in Kilmory Hall, the tournament saw around 50 men and women competing for the top spot.

Niall was drawn with partner Irene Binnie and the pair stormed through to the final where they beat Eddie Picken and Becky Lacey.

The competition is organised each year by Margaret MacKenzie and her family in

memory of her late husband Donald.

As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations Margaret's grandchildren donated a new trophy in memory of their father James who died a few years ago.

The James MacKenzie trophy will be given each year to the person with the highest checkout and this year it was Eddie Picken who won it with a checkout of 112.

It was a good night for runner-up Eddie who also won the hamper in the raffle.

The competition raised £450

that will be given to the Arran Defib Project to help pay for the installation of the Kilmory defibrillator.

Margaret said: 'I would like to thank everyone who came along the tournament and helped to make it such a great success.'

'Thanks to Jimmy, Tommy, Laura, Karen and Gill for running the competition and Elisabeth and Wilma for all their help.'

'As always thank you for your kind donations and for making this one of the best tournaments so far.'



The children of the late James MacKenzie present a trophy in his honour to Eddie Picken who had the highest checkout of the night. b07dar02NO



Niall McMaster, left, won the MacKenzie Darts tournament for the third year in a row. This year he was partnered with Irene Binnie who is pictured alongside runners-up Becky Lacey and Eddie Picken.

## Arran Bridge results:

### Lamlash Bridge Club

The Peggy Currie Cup Competition involving teams of four was played on Monday 28 January.

The winners with 34 points were Isobel McArthur, Elizabeth McKellar, Jean Barclay and John Baraclough.

Runners-up with 33 points and winning the Ann Cook Salver were Trish Martin, Douglas Hamilton, Margaret and Douglas Bruce. Apologies for the delay in results.

Monday 11 February:  
 N/S 1 Trish Martin and Elizabeth McKellar +2100, 2 John and Jan Beattie +1890, 3 Jeanette McBride and Evelyn Sillars +1500.

### E/W 1 Jennifer McArthur

and Jean Barclay +1250, 2 Pat Adamson and Elizabeth McConnell -610, 3 Linda Trickett and Jennifer Wales -1690.

### Brodict Bridge Club

The results for Thursday 7 February were as follows:

### N/S 1 Jean Murchie and

Helen Boyd -1120, 2 John Dick and Mary Dick -2270, 3 Isobel McArthur and Elizabeth McKellar -3600.

E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton +4750, 2 Morag Gardner and Jean Barclay +3840, 3 Pat Adamson and Vic Iutz +3390.

### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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