

Brambles
SEAFOOD GRILL
fresh laid back dining

come for dinner
and get a free ride home!
(must be pre-booked, call us for full details)

Auchrannie Resort, Brodick
call 01770 302234 or book online at
www.auchrannie.co.uk/brambles

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran
ESTATE AGENTS

See all our properties on

s1homes.com

Zoopla.co.uk
Smarter property search



www.arranestateagents.co.uk

Tel: 01770 302310

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 15 February 2014

No 1948 60p

Jennifer launches nappy library in a bid to push cloth revolution on Arran



Jennifer drying cloth nappies on the washing line. 20_b07nappy04

REPORT

by HUGH BOAG

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Making the jump to real nappies is being made a little easier for new Arran mums.

In the past mums sick of nappy pins and boiling cloths, flocked to the revolution that was disposable nappies.

But a lot has changed in the nappy world.

Now Arran is to have its first nappy library in a bid to persuade more mums to switch to reusable.

These days cloth nappies are fun, fancy and easy to use - and wash.

Jennifer Earle, a full time mum-of-two has been converted, and the main reason is

the cost, followed by how cute they are. But the environmental aspect is also important.

Figures show new parents could save nearly £2,000 in the first three years of their baby's life if they switch to the reusable option. And that doesn't take into account the higher cost of nappies on Arran.

Jennifer, 26, who lives with husband Andrew in Kilmory, was first converted to cloth when she was still in Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock with second daughter Rowan.

Jennifer said: 'I was so bored in the hospital and just spent all the time on the internet. That is where I first found out about how reusable nappies had changed.'

She took her first trial pack home and was immediately hooked. In the last 10 months she has not bought a single disposable nappy - a huge saving.

'When Daisy', now five and in first year at Kilmory Primary School, 'was in nappies I was always skint because I was having to buy pack after pack of disposable nappies.'

'With the renewable nappies I find I have a little more cash to spare which I can use to take the girls out,' she said.

'They are also so cute and come in so many colours, designs and fabrics. Daisy helps me pick her favourite for her little sister.'

'They are also easy to wash as they come apart and can

just go in a normal wash,' she added.

'And although it is not my primary reason for using them it is also helping the environment. Every time you reuse it is one less nappy for the landfill.'

'It is estimated parents will use 3,000 disposable nappies in the first three years of their babies life and every single one is expected to take 350 to 500 years to decompose.'

Jennifer says a £200 outlay for a new born baby will see parents with enough nappies so see them through the first three years of their child's life.

Now, help is at hand for any young mums who want to try before their buy.

Jennifer has set up a new nappy library where mums can get a starter pack to see if reusable nappies are for them.

She first approached North Ayrshire Council who were supportive of the idea and who provided her with a supply of reusable nappies to get started. Since then she has received a donation from the manufacturer Little Lamb and a donation from a woman in England who runs a similar scheme.

Jennifer now has more than 100 nappies which she is making up into testers sets and gift bags for mums to try for free.

They will have three nappies, two wraps, a set of liners, a wash bag and a jar of baby barrier cream, supplied by Ar-

ran Aromatics.

Jennifer said: 'The idea is to give new mums the chance to try them. All I would ask is that if they are not for them they return the packs to me, so someone else can try it.'

She will also hire bigger kits to mums but will be asking for a donation for them to plough back into the library funds for replacements.

'I am not doing this to make any money. The reusable nappies have made such a difference to me and I just want to help and give others the chance to see that cloth nappies have come such a long way.'

Jennifer can be contacted on Facebook at Arran Fluffy Bums or through the Arran midwife or health visitor.

SKIP HIRE

Any Job
Large or
Small



Telephone: (01770) 600242

John Thomson Construction Ltd

Building & Civil Engineering Contractors, Joiners & Glaziers

Visit our website for full details of all our products and housing developments

FREE Estimates

www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk



- Full Design Service
- Extensions Alterations
- Repairs
- Joinery Glazing
- Plastering & Roughcasting
- Roofing Replacement
- Double Glazing
- Kitchens
- Roads & Bridges Construction
- Tarmacadam & Concrete Surfacing
- Excavation & Drainage

Lamlash,
Isle of Arran

www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk

Telephone:
01770 600242

Fax: 01770 600714

Runner-up Olivia is North Ayrshire singing sensation

A talented young vocalist from Arran High School just missed out on winning the prestigious title of 'North Ayrshire Young Singer of the Year 2014'.

Olivia Barker from Whiting Bay was one of the nine finalists who took part in the competition which was organised by North Ayrshire Council's Music Service and was held in the Irvine Burns Club on Thursday 6 February.

The overall title was awarded to Kayla McGregor of St Matthew's Academy after an evening of recital and performances from the finalists who were each representing one of the secondary schools within North Ayrshire.

Kayla from St Matthew's Academy overcame tough competition from the other contenders for the coveted title.

The finalists who took part in the event were all selected as winners from their own schools heat:

- Ardrossan Academy – Niomi Gallacher
- Arran High School – Olivia Barker
- Auchenharvie Academy – Samantha Frew



Runner-up Olivia Barker from Arran High School, front row left, with the other competitors. b070101NO

Garnock Academy – Becky Todd

Greenwood Academy – Alana Crawford

Kilwinning Academy – Andrew Bleakley

Largs Academy – Ruth Hutchinson

St Matthew's Academy – Kayla McGregor

Kayla gave an outstanding recital of O Del Mio Ardor by Gluck and a remarkable performance of Adelaide's Lament by Loesser, which

ultimately won her the overall title.

The competition runners up were Arran's Olivia and Ruth Hutchinson from Largs Academy.

Adjudicator Julie Carrie congratulated all finalists on the standard of their performances and Provost Joan Sturgeon awarded all nine participants with their prizes – gift vouchers for Biggars Music.

The winner and runners up were also presented with spe-

cially commissioned trophies.

Praising the event Provost Joan Sturgeon said: 'I had a fantastic evening listening to the singing talents on offer from each of the nine pupils - who were all worthy of the title.'

'I believe North Ayrshire has some rising stars and I look forward to hearing where their talents take them in the future.'

'A very big well done to everyone that took part.'

Most elusive species can be found on Arran

Some of the most elusive species of animal in the UK can regularly be seen on Arran.

And while 60 per cent of people in Britain have never seen a red squirrel they are thriving on the island.

The nightjar is at the top of the list of the UK's most elusive species, according to a new academic study, which ranks the rarest wild animal sightings in the UK for the first time, closely followed by the golden eagle.

Both can be spotted, if fortunate, on Arran.

According to island bird expert Jim Cassels the nightjar a nocturnal, silent flying, camouflaged bird, used to breed on the island, and was spotted for the first time in 15 years last June north of Brodick and reports continued until the end of the month.

He said: 'Nightjars migrate here from Africa arriving in Scotland in May and early June. Nightjars are rarely seen during daylight. As the name implies, people most often encounter the Nightjar at night.'

Also on the list is the otter, slow worm and adder and the cuckoo, raven and kingfisher, which can all be found on Arran, although the kingfisher does not breed here.

The survey also discovered

that only 36 per cent of the UK population had spotted a deer in the wild.

The Natural Curiosities Report was specially commissioned to mark the launch of the new series of David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities on digital channel Watch, which starts next week.

Sir David Attenborough, who presents the show, said: 'This report shines a spotlight on some of the most curious and interesting species at large in the UK today.'

'It is interesting to note that many of our supposedly common species are also hard to spot in the wild. The fact that a quarter of British adults have never seen a wild hedgehog suggests that we are witnessing rapidly dwindling numbers.'

The research team, led by conservationist Dr Toni Bunnell, spent a month analysing reported animal sightings in order to collate a list of the 20 most elusive indigenous species, before 2,000 British adults were asked whether they had ever seen any of them in their natural environment in the UK.

David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities, is a new and exclusive on digital channel Watch, Tuesdays at 8pm from 18 February.

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES LTD
 Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
 Tel: 01770 302777 Fax: 01770 302500
 Email: info@arranhaulage.co.uk

PARCELS Daily mainland collections and deliveries

CALOR Gas GAS DEALER FOR THE ISLAND

ANIMAL FEED

GLASGOW DEPOT Competitive rates for all building materials

Coal merchant TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED

NFU Mutual
 Campbeltown call Chris Haran on 01586 552 428 for your insurance needs.
 Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

ANDREW GRAY & CO. (FUELS) LTD
 PORTLAND DEPOT • LONDON ROAD
 KILMARNOCK • KA3 7DD
 TEL: 01563 525215 FAX: 01563 541146
 Email: andrew@graysfuels.co.uk
 www.graysfuels.org.uk
 Heating Oil Gas Oil Farm Fuels Derv
 'Due to popular demand, we are offering a regular fuel delivery service to Arran'

Lost dog lead

A visitor is offering a substantial reward after he lost a dog lead in Brodick on Saturday 8 February.

The man from Dundee was visiting friends on the island when he lost the lead for his dog Akela somewhere between the Brodick Ferry Terminal and the Co-op.

The lead which is 'of great sentimental value' is pink with a black collar.

Anyone who can help should telephone: 07985 643225.

DIRECT TAXIS
 01294 60-2005
 8-seater taxis available
 Ardrossan Harbour to:
 Glasgow Airport £35.00
 Prestwick Airport £25.00
 Return bookings and other prices on request.

Follow us on facebook
 www.facebook.com/arranbanner

It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Cicely makes her paperback debut with first crime novel

An Arran crime writer is to have her first novel published in print.

Cicely Gill has brought the mean streets of Glasgow to life with her debut detective novel Ivory.

Already available as an e-book Cicely has decided to take the next step and self-publish it in paperback, which will be available next month.

Cicely, from Whiting Bay, is perhaps better known on the island for her poetry and plays.

This, however, is her fifth novel but the first in the detective genre.

Cicely, who moved to Arran when she married her painter husband Nicky in 1968.

Brought up in Buckinghamshire she has been writing all her life, but only took it up full time when she retired from a career as a counsellor specialising in eating disorders.

Set in Glasgow Ivory tells the story of investigative journalist Zara MacDonald. While in Kelvingrove Park with her godson and a dog it finds a bone, which turns out to be human and events unfold from there.

While the book is set in Scotland the characters do not

make it to Arran. But, Cicely says with her trademark smile, 'I already have an idea for the next book when she is coming to Arran.'

She wrote her first novel in the 70s and wrote another three in the decades that followed.

But crime is a whole new ballgame and, although a detective story, Cicely says it is 'not gruesome'. But while it is meant to be escapism in the style of Edinburgh writer Ian Rankin she has some social themes running through the story.

'One of two of the characters are homeless, but they



Cicely Gill with her husband's painting which is the front cover of Ivory. 20_b07book01

just happen not to have a home. I just wanted to show homeless people can be successful, unsuccessful, good or bad just like everyone else.' Cicely added.

And keeping it in the family the cover of the book which shows Zara at the famous cast iron staircase at Kelvinbridge underground station in the west end was painted by husband Nicky Gill, a well-known artist on the island.

Cicely, who once also

worked as a jeweller, has two daughters Chloe, who lives in the south side of Glasgow and Saji who lives in Northern Ireland, and four grandchildren.

Along with her novels Cicely is still writing poetry and plays and is a leading member of the Arran Poetry and Poets group which meets once a month to read and review poetry.

Last autumn she was commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland to produce

a 25 minute play about the history, wildlife and natural setting of Brodick Castle which was performed at a conference in Glasgow.

'That was a real challenge and I only had a month to put it together, but the National Trust are going to use parts of the play in the future.'

Ivory is available as an e-book now on the Amazon Kindle store and will be available in paperback in shops on Arran from early next month.

Drugs warning after young woman dies

Police Scotland and NHS Ayrshire and Arran are issuing a warning about the dangers of drugs after a 17-year-old woman fell ill at a Glasgow nightclub and later died.

A further four people were admitted to hospital when they became ill after taking drugs.

An investigation is underway and although the inquiry is at an early stage enquiries so far have revealed that a red 'mortal kombat' tablet with a dragon stamped on it could be the common link between these incidents.

Detective Inspector Sharon

MacGregor said: 'I can't stress enough how dangerous drugs are, sadly a young woman has died and several other young people are ill in hospital.'

'Illicit drugs are unstable, unpredictable and extremely dangerous as this outcome shows, often the content of

the drugs is unknown but they could contain dangerous chemicals and people need to understand the devastating effect they can have. I would strongly advise people to avoid illicit drugs and report any information to the police.'

neil young Joinery and Building Contractor
Joinery
Joinery
 Tel: 01770 600500
 Mob: 07855 758978

New Builds, Renovations, Garages, Conservatories, UPVC & Timber Windows, Kitchens, All roof work
www.neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk
 24-hour Service. Free Quotations. Friendly Reliable Service
 Email: yneilly@aol.com - Lamlash, Isle of Arran

THE DOUGLAS
 Hotel • Bistro • Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk
 Tel: 01770 302968

OPEN ALL DAY
 NEW 2 COURSE BAR MENU £12.50
 Quick Bites Coffee & Cake
 Cocktails
 Wine & Nibbles
SUNDAY ROAST £9.50 PP
 12-3pm each week
BISTRO OPEN EACH EVENING
 FROM 6pm

WE CATER FOR ALL TYPES OF FUNCTIONS PARTIES, CELEBRATIONS, OCCASIONS PLEASE CALL US WITH YOUR ENQUIRY

VALENTINE'S DINNER
 at
 the Douglas Hotel
3 COURSE DINNER
£35 PER COUPLE
 INCLUDING A BOTTLE OF PROSECCO

Available on
FRIDAY 14th & SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY
 Please call to reserve your table
 01770 302968

ARDROSSAN HARBOUR
 TO YOUR DESTINATION

Mainland Taxis
07921 998457
01294 463556

Glasgow City Centre	£42
Glasgow Airport	£35
Prestwick Airport	£25
Irvine Central Hospital	£14
Crosshouse Hospital	£20
Ayr Hospital	£32
Troon Harbour	£22
Kilmarnock	£23
Ayr	£28

For other quotes just ask!
Friendly Reliable Service
www.mainland-taxis.co.uk

7 SEATER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE AVAILABLE

Bilslands AND THE BOOT STORE

STOCKISTS OF:
 MUSTO - BERGHAUS - ANIMAL - JOULES - EMRECO - REGATTA - TRESPASS
OPEN 7 DAYS
 9AM - 5PM MON - SAT
 10AM - 5PM SUNDAYS

SALE SALE SALE

DOWN JACKETS - BERGHAUS & JOULES 25% OFF
 25% OFF LADIES ARCTIC STORM FLEECE LINED JACKETS

REDUCTIONS IN CRAGHOPPER & BERGHAUS 3 IN 1 JACKETS

THERMAL UNDERWEAR, SOCKS, HATS AND GLOVES

KIDS WALKING SHOES & BOOTS NOW £19.99

KEEP WARM WITH AN EXTRA LAYER
 1/2 ZIP ADULTS FLEECE TOPS - £9.99
 1/2 ZIP KIDS FLEECE TOPS £4.99

LICENSED CAFE / BAR AND MINI GOLF

It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Council cuts mail service

North Ayrshire Council has stopped providing the mailing service for the Isle of Arran Elderly Forum.

As a result, last month the forum asked that any postal members able to accept e-mails now do so.

Further, the committee has now agreed to ask those without access to a computer to donate one book of second class stamps per annum, so they can be kept up to date.

'We thought this was a fair request and would ask that this be done at the earliest convenience of members,' said chairwoman Fiona Brown.

Also at a recent committee meeting it was agreed that the Brodick Golf Club would be the venue for the forum lunch, which is to be held on Wednesday 26 February at 12.30pm for 1pm start. The lunch costs £11 for two courses and £14 for three courses and members can bring a friend. Names are needed by Wednesday 19 February.

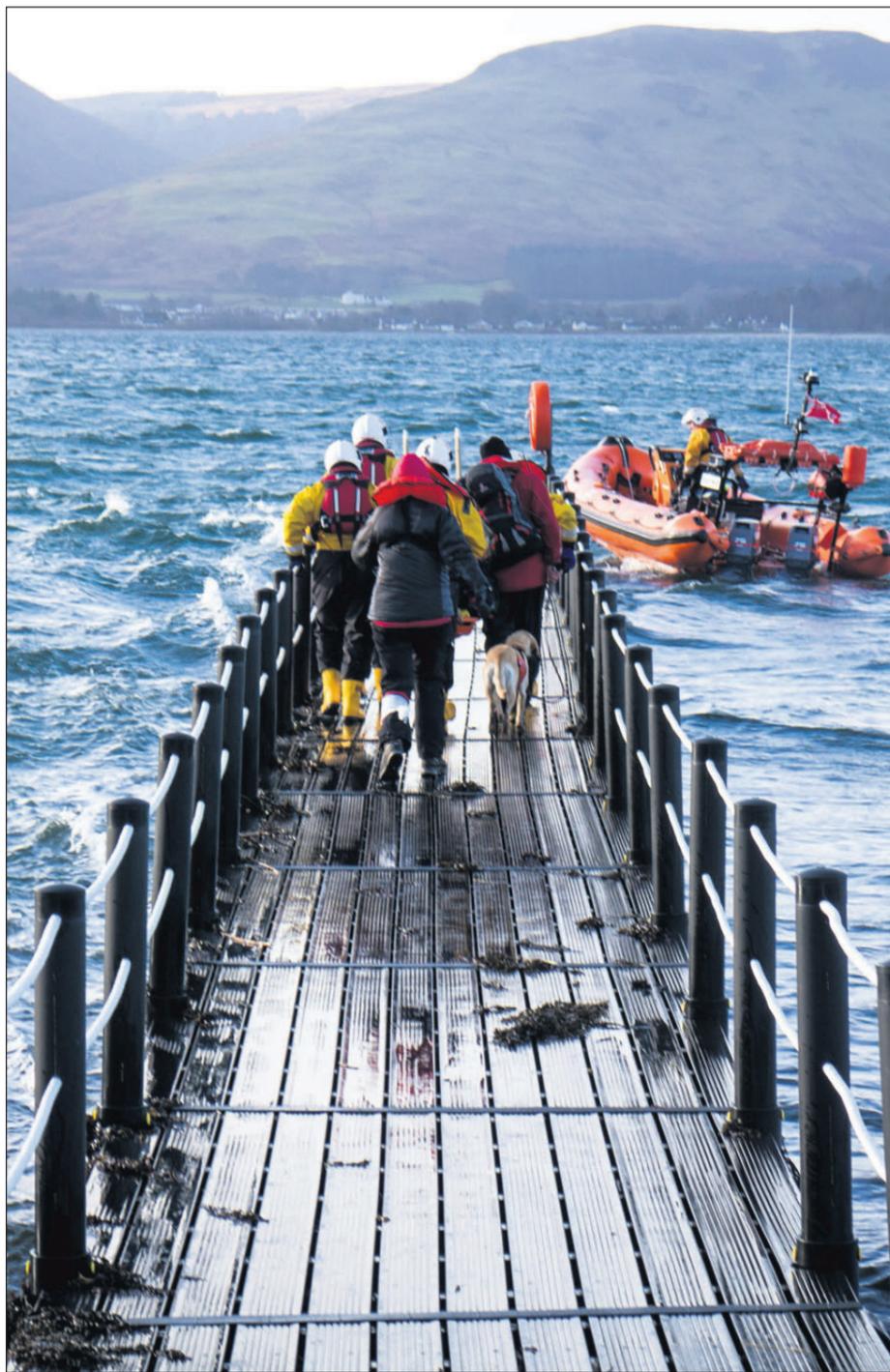
The next meeting of the elderly forum will also be held on 19 February in the Ormisdale Sports Pavilion at 11am. The speaker will be Tony Fisher, team manager for community care at North Ayrshire Council.

Island support

Argyll and Bute Council is to set up an islands initiative to identify possible increased resources and powers from both the Scottish and UK governments.

The council will work in partnership with other Scottish islands councils, such as North Ayrshire.

At a meeting last month Argyll and Bute Council agreed to set up a seven-member short life working group to meet with the Scottish and UK governments to present its case.



Rescuers on joint exercise

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) joined forces with Arran RNLI last Sunday for a joint exercise. The scenario focused on two walkers that had found themselves in difficulty whilst walking down from the summit of Holy Isle. The lifeboat was launched from the station at Lamlash and AMRT members and emergency kits were transported across to Holy Isle. Both teams then worked together to locate the casualties and remove them safely from the island. A spokesman for AMRT said: 'It was a great exercise, with both teams working together to evacuate the two walkers to safety.'

Search for shipwreck captain's relatives

Relatives of a captain who drowned in a shipwreck more than 140 years ago are being sought.

Captain James Hamilton from Arran was among the 19 men who died when the merchant ship *The Sydney* was wrecked off Glen Head at Sturrall, Donegal, Ireland, on 16 October, 1870.

The ship with a cargo of timber was on a passage from Quebec in Canada to Greenock when she struck a rock, which is now named after the ship.

Only two men survived the sinking.

Now a memorial cross to the drowned men is to be erected in the village of Port, Donegal near to where the ship sunk.

A memorial headstone already stands at the site.

The cross which is being donated by the League of Mary will be dedicated at a service conducted by the local priest Canon McAteer on 22 March.

However, in a bid to trace any living relatives of those who perished a worldwide plea to contact them has been made by Donegal County Museum.

Caroline Carr, from the museum said: 'We know that one of the victims was Captain James Hamilton from Arran, but that is all we know about him.'

'We just want to make any living relatives aware of the memorial.'

The sailors on board were from across Scotland, England and Ireland, as well as Jamaica, Norway and Portugal.

The two survivors were Willam Pascall from West Indies and Patrick Faul from Kiltrush.

Relatives of Mr Faul will be in attendance at the unveiling of the memorial headstone.

The *Sydney* was an 1,117-ton ship built in 1860 by Mr Russell for J H Watt in Glasgow.

In 1861, it was employed in the Clyde and East India trade for nine years.

It was purchased during 1870 by a Mr Hamilton and a Mr Adam of Greenock and it was put into the Quebec timber trade.

She sailed from Quebec on 15 September 1870 and it appears it had reached the entrance to the North Channel, when she was caught in the fierce gale and driven was onto the Donegal coastline.

The cargo of timber on board was salvaged by the small fishing and farming community of Port and used by the local tradesmen in the construction of houses and furniture. A memorial headstone listing the men's names was erected in 2009.

If you have any information on the relatives of Captain Hamilton please contact The Banner office 01770 302142 or e-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk.



MARRIOTT

(BUILDERS)
ESTABLISHED 30YRS



**New Builds from planning to completion
BUILDING PLOTS AVAILABLE**

SPECIALISTS IN:
Extensions, Conversions, Renovations, all trades service
Plumbing and Heating Services, Bathrooms, Multi fuel Stove Installation.

NO JOB TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL

Building Preservation Specialists
Protect Your Property

**Approved Specialists in Woodworm & Wet & Dry Rot
Damp Treatments - Full Survey and Quotation**
Registered for all bank and building society requirements
30 Year Guarantee

THE OLD PIER, WHITING BAY
TEL: (01770) 700202 FAX: (01770) 700711
MOB: 07711 297674 EMAIL: mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk



County Carpets (Arran) Ltd

Since 1970



◆ FLOORING ◆

KARNDIEN
INTERNATIONAL
DESIGN FLOORCOVERINGS

All leading makes of carpets and flooring supplied and fitted.
All contract and domestic work undertaken

◆ BEDS ◆

Sofa Beds - Divans
Bunk Beds - Futons
Metal/Pine Bedsteads - Pillows
Headboards - Duvets

◆ BLINDS ◆

VELUX

Rollers - Roman
Vertical - Pleated
Wooden - Venetian

◆ FURNITURE ◆

Bedroom - Dining
Upholstery - Leather
Occasional - Conservatory

◆ RUGS ◆

www.countycarpetsarran.co.uk
Tel: 01770 700480 Fax: 01770 700455
Email: admin@countycarpetsarran.co.uk
Whiting Bay Open 6 Days, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Brewery boss in cannabis farm find at new project

'The whole thing was very cleverly put together'

A brewery boss had a surprise in store when he took over the Drummond Hotel on the banks of Loch Earn.

For Gerald Michaluk discovered that the property which had been vacant for some time had been turned into an illegal cannabis factory.

'It looked as though it had been cleared out in a hurry, but no-one knows exactly when that was. The whole thing was very cleverly put together. It was quite an interesting warren. It looked as

though it had been cleared out in a hurry, but no-one knows exactly when that was, he said in an interview this week.

The property is set to become Arran Brewery's first mainland production site, complete with restaurants, bars, a visitor shop and accommodation for up to 30 overnight guests.

The project is the brewing company's 'top priority'.

The hotel is due to open next month, which is when Mr Michaluk also hopes to receive planning permission

for the brewery due to be installed in the Victorian boatsheds to the rear.

If all goes well, production could begin within a couple of months.

Plan

That additional capacity is one of the key pieces in Michaluk's exponential growth plan for Arran Brewery, which made just shy of £67,000 last year on sales of £835,000.

He now aims to increase production tenfold by upgrading the original Brodick brewery

while also adding two mainland production sites. As well as Loch Earn, the company has long-standing plans to build another state-of-the-art brewery at the former Rosebank distillery in Falkirk.

However, Mr Michaluk admitted that project is in 'real difficulty' over a planning dispute with Falkirk Council. But it could be revived if Arran is fully successful with its current £4 million crowdfunding drive, which is due to close in April.

Proceeds are earmarked for

a variety of projects, with Loch Earn at the top of the list.

Mr Michaluk says the company is 'fully committed' to Loch Earn, which will go ahead no matter the results of the crowdfunding. It is even taking precedence over the upgrades at Brodick.

However, he is prepared to look beyond Rosebank for a second mainland site if necessary: 'It will be producing one-third of our target, so we have got to have other alternatives.'



The residents of the Happy Children Home, near Kathmandu, whose lives have been transformed by the effort and devotion of Corrie-based artist Gordon Davidson.

Nepalese lives transformed by Corrie artist

The staff of the Arran Banner were humbled this week when they received a thank-you letter from a teenager in Nepal.

Kumar, 15, is one of the residents of the Happy Children Home, near Kathmandu, whose lives have been transformed by the effort and devotion of Corrie-based artist Gordon Davidson.

Gordon has made regular trips to the home to tutor the youngsters in painting and other craft work.

And last summer he organised a fund-raising exhibition

in the Lochranza Distillery, the opening of which was graced by the presence of the Nepalese ambassador to the UK.

Sales of the children's paintings far exceeded Gordon's expectations and the cash enabled them to expand their repertoire.

He said: 'Everyone involved is hugely grateful to the visitors to the distillers who dug into their pockets so deeply.'

'It is hard to put into words the degree of happiness how much happiness this has brought to the home.'

Malawi to benefit from Valentine's dinner

A Valentine's dinner at Arran High School is being held tonight (Friday 14 February) to raise funds for a trip to Malawi.

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

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

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

Lochranza 200 club draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club January draw were: First prize Avril Kerr, Second prize Harry Derrick.

Arran Active Outdoor Shop

SALE

GREAT PRICES ON DOWN JACKETS & BODYWARMERS, WATERPROOF JACKETS, FLEECES & FOOTWEAR and

10% OFF EVERYTHING WITH THIS VOUCHER*

* Vouchers must be redeemed by 28 February 2014.

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10 - 4
SATURDAY 10 - 5
SUNDAY 11 - 4
 Cladach Visitor Centre, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DE.
 Tel 01770 302416
 Email: Andrew@arranactive.co.uk
 Follow us on facebook

Winter Offer - Round of Golf & Soup/Sandwich Combo only £10.00



Machrie Bay

Golf - Tennis - Play Area & Home of Great Cakes

The Home of Great Cakes is Open Every Day in Winter 11 am - 4 pm

For Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, Drinks, Homebaking, Daily Specials, Functions - Free Wifi
01770 840329

MID TERM MADNESS

at the Byre at Brodick



Lots of items up to 50% off

Make way for new stock coming soon

Barbour Liddesdale jacket
~~was £89.95~~ now £49.95

Tunic top
~~was £45.00~~ now £25.00



From Sat 15th- 22nd Feb 10am - 5pm.
 Also at the Old Byre Showroom, Machrie
 Tel: 01770 840227 www.oldbyre.co.uk

f

Follow us on facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Alarm at number still not registered to vote

Around 5,800 properties in North Ayrshire and Arran still do not have anyone registered to vote in them.

Katy Clark MP released the figures as the national Voter Registration Day held on 5 February passed.

She is encouraging everyone to ensure they are registered to vote in this year's European Parliament elections and the Independence Referendum in September.

Ms Clark said: 'Almost 6,000 properties in North Ayrshire and Arran do not have anybody registered to vote in them. This is an alarming figure and although I recognise that places like Arran and Millport within my constituency have a great number of properties that are people's second homes, I am concerned that people are being disengaged with the political system. People should make sure they are registered.' She added: 'The right to vote was not won easily. This year, with the referendum on the horizon, it is even more important that everyone is engaged in the debate over our future and I would call on everyone to ensure they're registered to vote. There is still time to get on the register.'

HMS Gannet busiest search and rescue unit in Scotland

Official government statistics released this week show that HMS Gannet, the Royal Navy's search and rescue unit in Ayrshire, is Scotland's busiest.

During 2013, the base's duty Sea King Mark 5 helicopter was called out 329 times, assisting 327 people.

A number of these calls were to assist walkers who had found themselves in difficulties on Arran's hills.

Scotland's total call outs across the four units for the year were 878 – with HMS Gannet accounting for 43 per cent of these. The overall Scottish call-outs amount to 35.5 per cent of the UK total of 2,471.

During the 12 months, the Prestwick-based aircraft's average call-out lasted one hour and 57 minutes and the average distance travelled from base was 56 miles.

Figures reveal that the busiest month for call-outs was March, when the crew undertook 40 emergency sorties rescuing 56 people.

The quietest month was October with just 14 calls, assisting six people.

HMS Gannet covers a huge 98,000 square-mile area from the Lake District in the



A number of HMS Gannet's calls were to assist walkers who had found themselves in difficulties on Arran's hills.

south to Ben Nevis in the north, Edinburgh in the east to 200 miles off the coast of Northern Ireland into the Atlantic Ocean.

Treacherous

It takes in some of the UK's most hostile and treacherous stretches of water and mountain areas, as well as many of Scotland's Hebridean islands – all washed down

with the worst conditions the British weather gods have to throw at them.

Commenting on the figures, HMS Gannet's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander Andy Drodge, said: 'I am incredibly proud of HMS Gannet's contribution to Scotland and the UK's search and rescue organisation.

'This is a true testament

to the professionalism, grit and determination not only of the aircrew, but also the maintenance and support staff who keep our helicopters ready to fly at a moment's notice.

'In addition, I must also acknowledge the many agencies with which we work and commend their skill and professional capabilities. In particular, the police, ambulance, fire and coastguard services, the medical authorities, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and the enormously committed mountain rescue teams – both the RNLI and the MRTs rely entirely on volunteers to do their jobs, which makes their contribution to the search and rescue community yet more remarkable.'

The men and women of HMS Gannet and 771 Naval Air Squadron are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Tweet your way to a better water supply

Scottish Water has opened a number of new community-focused social media channels to help keep customers informed about improvements to services in their area.

Five new Twitter accounts covering the regions of Scotland have been launched, headed up by Scottish Water's regional community managers who are working to keep communities informed about campaigns on subjects such as water efficiency and water safety, as well as new projects in and around communities to provide the best possible water and waste water services.

The new community social media channel which covers Arran is: @WJaneMcKenzie.

This supports the existing Twitter account @scottish_water which provides customers with the latest service updates and has more than 7,500 followers.

Information

Customers can also telephone the Scottish Water Customer Helpline around the clock on 0845 601 8855.

The website www.scottishwater.co.uk is also kept up to date with real time information affecting customers such as burst pipes or road works as a result of improvement work.

Helen Lennox, head of corporate affairs, said: 'The increasing popularity of social media and our main website shows that there are a whole host of ways customers can get information about the work of Scottish Water.'

'We are increasingly finding many customers go to the website first rather than calling our customers' contact centre. That's why it is important we make available a variety of ways in which our customers can contact us.'

Follow us on  facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

The New Instant

THE ARRAN BANNER

Digital Edition

AVAILABLE NOW

Our new E-Edition is delivered direct to your inbox on the day of publication.

Receive it even when you're away from home - anywhere where you have internet access.

- User friendly, professional page viewer
- 'Flip' through pages
- Zoom in and out
- Print pages
- Search

SLIDDERY SUPPLIES

Stockists and Suppliers of Agricultural and General Hardware

To dispel confusion caused by last weeks incorrect notice please note:

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WE WILL BE CLOSED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY AND FROM 12NOON EVERY SATURDAY

Tel: 870 225

JOHN ROBERTSON & SONS



Joiners Ltd

Joiners, Glaziers & Building Contractors

Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran KA27 8EZ

Telephone/Fax: 01770 860243

Mob: 07799640214

Email: john.robertson2@btconnect.com

All types of Joinery & Building Work

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Building Extensions | Double Glazing |
| Alterations | Supplier of timber, plywood, plasterboard etc |
| Fitted Kitchens | Timber & UPVC Windows & Doors |
| Repairs & Maintenance | |
| Timber Frame Kits | |
| New builds | |

ESTIMATES FREE



Reg. No. S3499

GLENMAREE CONTRACTS LTD

- DRIVEWAYS • TARMAC
 - MONOBLOCK • SLABBING
 - LIGHTING
- FREE QUOTES

Joe.glenmaree@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 012929 282228 or 07801 847005

Arran's pathway heroes celebrated



Above: Colin Guthrie.
20_b07pat01



Right: Alisdair Hendry.
20_b07pat03

Meet Arran's pathway heroes.

They are the local worthies who meet up on a regular basis to help to keep the island's walking routes in tip-top condition.

Alisdair Hendry, Colin Guthrie, Kenny Morrison and Henry Murdo devote and donate a day of their time every month.

Inspired by their love of Arran - and of the great outdoors and nature - they can be spotted on the coastline or in the hills.

Lauded

And their work was this week lauded by well known Corrie woodcarver and sculptor Marvin Elliot.

He said: 'These guys do a marvellous job and they don't receive a penny for it.'

'I just hope islanders and tourists alike appreciate their efforts.'

Marvin, who frequently walks his dog Bobby on the Coastal Path between Sannox and the Fallen Rocks, added: 'These routes are such a fantastic amenity to have on our doorstep.'



Henry Murdo and Kenny Morrison. 20_b07pat02

R.C.R. SAFETY & TRAINING Ltd



- Health & Safety Advice
- First-aid Training
- Construction Safety Training
- On-site Assessment and Training
- Plant Operator Training & Assessment
- Road Transport Training
- Construction Site Management
- Vocational Qualifications



RCR can offer safety and training on the island

RCR Safety and Training Ltd is currently carrying out SQA training and first aid training on Arran for one of the island's most established companies, Murchie Sand and Gravel.

Now they would like to offer their services to others on the island. Managing director Robert Rae of New Cumnock based RCR Safety and Training has 30 years of experience and is the principal trainer.

He said: 'Our aim is to provide companies with a comprehensive range of quality training and advisory services, all of which is available

with one call. We are not an agency therefore there is no third party involvement and costs can be kept down.

'With many years of training experience in health and safety, transport, plant operations safety and customer service, we will deliver all your training requirements, to the highest possible standard of customer expectation, service and satisfaction, and equally important delivered to you, at very competitive rates.

'We can reassure companies that we are fully mobile, presently working in Aberdeen, London and with a major utility company in Seville in Spain, carrying out our

training on site, where possible, in order not to disrupt their day to day working schedule.

'We can also guarantee we can come to Arran to minimise cost and loss of earnings for any company, be they small, medium or large.'

All training provided is to national recognised standards, and in accordance with Health and Safety Executive guidelines and where appropriate accredited by the relevant industry awarding body.

All training if required, can be carried out in-house and is fully certificated with successful candidates receiving a certificate and a photographic training record card.



For all your training requirements
One Call Can Access It All!
 ROBERT MOBILE 07952 313853
 E-mail— rcrsafetytraining@btinternet.com
 Web: www.rcrsafetyandtrainingltd@yolasite.com
 Office 07741 277087 or 01290 427159

THE ARRAN BANNER

Abundance of animals

Red squirrels, deer, golden eagles, otters - these are just some of the animals that can be seen daily on Arran.

So it's incredible to think that almost 60 per cent of people in Britain have never seen a red squirrel.

Squirrels and deer in particular are mostly taken for granted by those who live here as they are so abundant on our hillsides and in our forests.

All of the above animals feature on a newly released list which names Britain's rarest animals.

Also on the list is the otter, slow worm and adder and the cuckoo, raven and kingfisher, which can all be found on Arran, although the kingfisher does not breed here.

The survey also discovered that only 36 per cent of the UK population had spotted a deer in the wild.

The fact that a quarter of British adults have also never seen a wild hedgehog suggests that sadly we are witnessing rapidly dwindling numbers of some of our country's most beautiful animals.

The force of nature

It has been hard to avoid the rapidly rising flood waters in the south of the country this week with pictures all over the news of the devastation being wreaked by the water.

With a month's worth of rain forecast to fall in the coming days this situation is only going to get worse.

This has been the wettest January for 250 years and whilst Arran has so far escaped any damage to buildings caused by flooding we've certainly been affected by heavy rainfall and high tides.

Many of our roads are crumbling into the sea; the potholes which were already dreadful are now being further eroded by heavy rain and the fields and burns are overflowing with water.

Two severe flood warnings remain in place in the crisis-hit Somerset Levels - where many residents have already been forced from their homes after weeks of heavy rain.

There are around 270 low-level flood alerts and 179 medium-risk warnings in place across Wales and central and southern England.

The government and Environment Agency have been severely criticised for not acting sooner to prevent the flooding but sometimes we need to accept that man is no match for the forces of nature.

Here's hoping for a cold, dry spell of weather soon.

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



Clarifying the myths

Sir,
I am writing in response to your story in the 25 January edition of *The Banner* covering the subject of speeding exemption proposals to include mountain rescue teams.

Although 93 per cent of people who responded to the consultation backed the exemption I wonder if they really understood what the exemption meant.

Having served in the emergency services for over 40 years I feel I must take this opportunity to clarify some of the myths around the use of emergency vehicles.

Firstly, there is no blanket exemption covering the use of emergency vehicles for all and sundry.

Only emergency personnel who have received and passed emergency driver training can be granted an exemption.

This is not a blanket exemption when they pass the driver training, but an exemption from prosecution which can only be applied for if they breach traffic regulations in the course of an emergency when they are driving to the scene of an incident which has been graded with a priority which permits the use of blues and twos.

The person driving the vehicle must prove their actions at the time of the breach was necessary and did not place anyone in danger, i.e. activating a speed camera on route to a life saving incident.

The exemption would not cover any person driving any type of emergency vehicle whose driving was considered reckless, no matter the circumstances.

It most definitely does not cover retained fire and rescue personnel, HM Coastguard, the RNLI, Mountain Rescue, Police Scotland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and First Responders who, when on call, scream through the villages to their base.

No matter how well meaning this action, which is very prevalent on the island.

Another side issue attached

to this is the insurance cover, as anyone in the emergency services who uses a private vehicle to attend an on-call or on-going incident is not covered under a private insurance agreement, unless they have requested that cover an additional premium.

This also covers the parochial blue light taxi when transporting non emergency personnel in emergency vehicles at any time, this is a clear breach of emergency services protocol.

Yours,
Terrance Dunlop,
Whiting Bay

Ferry passengers sidelined

Sir,
I noted with interest Helen McArdle's report, 'Academic says expert ferry group sidelined passengers' (*The Herald* 4 February 2014).

If the Expert Ferry Group (EFG) were looking for a group of passengers who justifiably feel sidelined they need look no further than the Isle of Arran.

Admittedly the weather since late November 2013 to the present time has been exceptionally bad and some disruption was inevitable but not to the extent that has been suffered by Arran residents, businesses, visitors and suppliers.

One hundred and forty-five sailings have been cancelled since November (a rate of 19.1 per cent cancelled in December), six days in the period with only one return sailing and seven days with no sailings at all.

The consequential damage to the island's economy as well as personal inconvenience, particularly highlighted during the festive season, has brought considerable financial loss, frustration and concern.

Arran's urgent requirements are simple i.e. far better management by the operators (state owned CFL aka CalMac), and provision by the state owned asset managers (CMAL) of a suitable

vessel(s) which is capable of making dependable passage to a reliable mainland harbour (probably a hugely improved Ardrossan) and, when required, to a usable 'port of refuge' (probably Gourock).

If they cannot or will not do that they should give way to the private sector.

This is not a criticism of any local CalMac offices or their personnel or indeed of the crews which we deal with on a daily basis - this criticism goes all the way to Holyrood via Gourock.

Alfred Baird, professor of Maritime Business at Napier University, has said: 'The on-going ferry fleet and port procurement activities sponsored by the state make the Edinburgh tram debacle look like a very good deal indeed.'

It is disappointing that while both Holyrood and our local authority, North Ayrshire Council are aware of the entire problem neither are offering a concerted effort to resolve this with any sense of urgency.

True there is a Holyrood commitment to £18m to refurbish the Brodick pier and offices but only because they have to as those facilities are coming to the end of their safe working life.

What they are not doing is committing to invest the necessary funding to resolve the real cause of the problem, namely the suitability of the mainland ports in all weathers and of suitable vessels thus making a mockery of the whole Brodick pier project and in doing so supporting Professor Kay's contention that passengers are being sidelined.

Since publication of the above letter in the *Herald* (07/02/2014) I have noted the 106 questions that have been asked in the last 15 months about the new Brodick terminal.

Conspicuous by their absence so far are two, admittedly very blunt but vital questions, namely: After the boat leaves the shiny new state of the art Brodick terminal where would it sail to and with what degree of certainty would there be that that

service would reach its destination or a designated and accessible 'port of refuge'.

Only a state run, state funded organisation would invest in half a solution especially when the half they are investing in is not the problem.

Brodick is not the problem but a combination of Ardrossan, Gourock and the boat clearly is - which part of that do the Parliament, Transport Scotland, the EFG, CFL and CMAL not understand? If they do understand it what are they doing about it?

It is essential that satisfactory answers to these questions are obtained and recorded before the Brodick construction if we are to be guaranteed a reliable service.

Yours,
Neil Arthur
Broombrae
Kilpatrick

A disastrous journey

Sir,
On Friday 31 January I travelled to Ardrossan with a group of fellow students to cross to your beautiful island to spend the weekend in a small cottage in Whiting Bay.

The group comprised of students studying a smorgasbord of subjects which included mathematicians, marine biologists, engineers and psychologists.

On arrival at the terminal at 4pm we were informed that the ferry was delayed due to high winds and low tides and it would be reviewed later.

Having travelled all over Europe at all times of the year, we were very confused by this as there was no wind to speak of at the port and that there appeared to be plenty of water in the basin.

With use of the internet and the knowledge of our fellow students who are studying marine dynamics we ascertained that the mean wind from 3pm until the ferry arrived was 21mph with no gusts exceeding 26mph.

We then checked the mean tide levels and at no time during this period was there less than 10m of water in the

Arran Deliveries

Arran Deliveries
The Parcel Point
Harbour Road,
Ardrossan
North Ayrshire
KA22 8BZ

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
Daily collection throughout Ayrshire,
Glasgow and surrounding districts

Tel: 01475 676 255
Fax: 01294 469 492

Glasgow Depot
Arran Deliveries
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow G14 0HB

Open Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Accepting goods destined
for the island

*We deliver the goods
not excuses*

Letters to the Editor



On checking the operating limits of the ferry MV Isle of Arran we discovered that these limits were well within its operating capacity and would allow the ferry to berth and deploy its vehicle ramp.

On bringing this to the attention of the staff at the terminal it was clear to my psychologist friend that the staff were apathetic, detached and disengaged from the reality of what a normal individual would perceive as an acceptable level of service.

He also deduced that this was not an individual trait of a single person but appeared to be a culture mutating from the management downwards.

He also remarked that the staff were displaying open signs of adopting victim orientation where they had no control over what their role required.

There was even mention of one of those clichés 'Dunkirk spirit' by one staff member which we found to be an irrelevant and outdated approach to modern travel.

As we were discussing this approach a lady who lives on the island said she had been stranded the previous Sunday in similar conditions and the ferry still did not run until later in the day.

Eventually the ferry arrived at 9.30pm and we boarded and met another group of students who were heading to Lochranza.

Soon we discovered that there would be no buses waiting for us at the other side and when we arrived in Brodick the terminal building was locked and in darkness.

We spoke to a local woman who said the police used to be at the pier to help but she did not know how to contact them and that you never see them anymore. We were stranded and trying to find numbers for taxis when three island people offered to take the girls to Lochranza and the rest of us to Whiting Bay.

With the help of those Samaritans we did have a lovely time, but can you imagine our surprise when we discovered that CalMac is run by the government.

With that in mind, and no buses, it does not appear that 'Scotland in Miniature' is being well run.

Yours,
Eccumati Paasuke
Student
Edinburgh University

Weather is no excuse

Sir,

I really must take exception to the comments made in your letters column by John Thompson of Ballantrae.

Yes, weather conditions have been atrocious since November, but not as often as CalMac would have us, and obviously he, believe.

If Mr Thompson had been reading the countless letters written by Arran Residents he would realise that none of us would expect, or even want the ferry to sail in atrocious conditions, but what are atrocious conditions?

Obviously both his and CalMac's interpretations are not those of the vast majority of regular travellers who more often than not do view the weather forecasts and if there is any risk of the boat not sailing we would not travel.

Unfortunately over the last three years it has become obvious that some members of CalMac management, both ashore and afloat cry off sailing if they can't light a cigarette out doors.

CalMac's senior shore management are quite happy to pass the buck by saying it is up to the captain whether he sails or not, CalMac should be saying on some occasions, 'Why didn't you sail?', the weather wasn't that bad!'

Case in point about the captain's decision to sail or not to sail in bad weather was

last week when the 'Calamity Isles' returned from her sojourn in Troon.

On one day in particular despite a bad forecast, which some would view as atrocious, the captain sailed diligently, and without an amber warning to boot.

So yes, we have had some bad weather, we have had some atrocious weather and there's still more to come but there is no reason whatsoever that a well found ship with twin screws, bow thrust and stabilisers cannot sail and manoeuvre in all but the worst conditions, oh and before anyone says it, I am well aware that the stabilisers are housed before the vessel enters port.

Yours,
John Lawson
Catacol

Ugly, expensive terminal

Sir,

When The Banner published pictures of the proposed new ferry terminal, we were shocked at its appearance.

To some of us, it looks more like a B&Q 2-3 storey warehouse than a building appropriate for Arran.

But that is not the only worry. It seems particularly unsuitable for pedestrians and the less mobile.

The walk from the bus stands will be longer, at 70m, then there will be a climb up 35 stairs, followed by a 250m walkway to the ferry.

Although there will be two lifts, they each have a capacity of only 13 people (without luggage).

Little thought as to what will happen if they break down or there is a power outage, as last March. There are also serious concerns about conflict and congestion at entry points to the port between cars, pedestrian, lorries and buses.

Many of these issues were raised at the previous pub-

lic consultations held on the island but the design of the overall facility seems to have been fixed before that. Although there have been minor tinkering since, basically Arran will be stuck with an unsatisfactory terminal at an overall cost of the new port of many millions (£18m at last count).

Last week Professor Neil Kay resigned from the Scottish Government's Expert Ferry Group claiming the interests of passengers were being ignored in favour of 'lobbying and vested interests'.

The odd thing here is that some of our interests seem to have been ignored, too.

On Monday Arran Civic Trust held a meeting with Ramsey Muirhead, project director and head of civil engineering at CMal to discuss the plans and to question the design of the terminal building, its size, its lack of pedestrian user friendliness, and its lack of aesthetic value to fit in with the rural character of Arran.

Whilst we appreciated Mr Muirhead's time, it was made clear that what we see now on the plans is what we get.

Various people have suggested we should be grateful. Of course we appreciate that the present port structure will not last forever.

But this proposed terminal is ugly, expensive, and apparently less than suitable for its purpose.

This whole process of supposed 'consultation' bodes ill for the government's policy of 'community empowerment', if the community is not approached before decisions are made and while there is still an open mind to influence.

Yours,
Sally Campbell,
Arran Civic Trust



The Arran Banner on holiday

'The Banner on Holiday' feature started six years ago, and we continue to be absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors. This week we have a lovely picture of Sara Bennie from Petworth in West Sussex at floating market near Bangkok in Thailand. Don't forget to pack your copy of The Banner if you are going on holiday. It could be from Cardiff or Cabo, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs. Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.

Glenisle
HOTEL | BISTRO

The Glenisle Bistro is hosting a large wedding

Therefore, the Glenisle is fully booked all day on Saturday 15th February 2014 and, unfortunately, will not be able to serve lunches, dinners or any snacks on Saturday.

Please do come and see us another time
www.glenislehotel.com

ARRAN CREAMERY
CHEESE SHOP
KILMORY

Closed Monday 17th February until
Monday 3rd March

For cheese orders
please call 01770 870240

ASPIRE UPHOLSTERY

Full re-upholstery and recovery
Bespoke furniture designed and built
Loose covers
All types of upholstery repairs
Extensive range of fabrics and leathers
Free estimates



Visiting Arran on Saturday 22nd February 2014
T. 01475 744477 M. 07879 636764
EMAIL: ASPIREUPHOLSTERY@GMX.COM
WWW.ASPIREUPHOLSTERY.CO.UK

Campbell Fuel Oils  DISTRIBUTOR
Your local, family run, oil distributor
for prompt and efficient service

We are now operating a weekly top-up service on the Isle of Arran supplying Heating Oil, Tractor Diesel, Derv and a wide range of Lubricants.

Call us on 01563 521925

Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

Paragon Solutions  **Web Design**
Island Based With International Clients
www.paragon-solutions.info

Contact Zabdi
07717712727
01770303899

'A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS'
Holiday Home and Property Photography



01770 700275
ANDREW SURRIDGE
PHOTOGRAPHY
www.andrewsurridgephotography.com

Flowers are the topic at gardening club talk

The Horticultural Society garden club enjoyed a successful January evening meeting.

We were fortunate to have as our guest speaker Angela Cassels, who gave us an excellent illustrated talk on 'Everything but the flowers'.

Angela is a skilled photographer and spoke eloquently about garden history and why she felt different features and aspects in various gardens enhanced their planting schemes.

She showed us examples

of water features in famous gardens to humble garden benches and even a reclining Buddha braving the elements.

Quiet weather that evening ensured a good turn out and our next evening will be on Thursday 27 February when Rev Jack Patterson will entertain us with a talk on 'Garden visits' in the Brodick Castle Ranger Centre at 7.30pm.

New members and visitors are most welcome.

Casino night for hall funds

Kilmory Hall stands to emerge a big winner from an annual night of gaming.

The hall committee is hosting a Casino Night tonight (Saturday 15 February) to raise money for their funds.

This year's event will feature the usual casino-style games - roulette, poker and blackjack - and the 1934 Club bar will be open on the night.

The ticket price includes finger buffet and fun money.

Village hall Burns celebration

Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall is the venue for a Burns Supper tonight (Saturday 15 February).

The evening will feature recitations by well-known Arran faces - including

Johnny Kelso of Whiting Bay and Fiona Crawford for Lochranza.

Traditional haggis, neeps and tatties will be served and all money raised will go towards hall funds.

Follow us on
facebook



www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Scottish Field MARCH ISSUE OUT NOW



INSIDE ST ANDREWS
the family who took Fife to their hearts

Who's afraid of Kirsty Wark?
Independence for Shetland
Swimming With Cows on Staffin
Andy Murray: Born to Run
The Ba' Game - Brutal and Bloody
The wildlife of North Ronaldsay
10 Great Scottish statesmen

WIN A LUXURY £500 WEEKEND BREAK




Arran is the setting for Kirsty Wark's novel, *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*.

Virginia Woolf decreed, in 1929, that: 'a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction'.

The luscious Jo Malone scent and original Scottish art that fill Kirsty Wark's Glasgow house suggest that the first is not a problem.

As for the second, she has a study but prefers to squat in the living room.

Her first novel, *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*, was written there, but the majority of the story takes place on Arran.

Actually getting the tale of four generations of women connected by an Edwardian villa in Lamlash down on paper had to wait until life calmed down.

It pulls together fragments and themes from Wark's own family and life story with history, geography, horticulture and tapestry in a complex pattern that was not compatible with long-distance commuting, the school run and

an ailing mother.

'When Caitlin and James went to university and my mum died, it was the right time,' she says.

'I had the knowledge, I really badly wanted to do it.'

'I couldn't have written this book when I was 25, I didn't have the life experience.'

'It's about loss, about having kids and not having kids. It's about the pull of place. Could I emigrate? Could I leave Scotland? I don't think I could.'

The Elizabeth Pringle of the title was inspired by her Aunt Roberta.

'She was one of six, the only daughter in a big tomato-growing family in the Clyde Valley. She was slightly eccentric, a wonderful woman.'

'Apart from being a VAD in the First World War, she looked after the house.'

The family was aware that there had been someone in Aunt Roberta's past.

'When she was very young,

'I couldn't have written this book when I was 25, I didn't have the life experience. It's about loss, about having kids and not having kids.'

we all knew she had been engaged to a farmer's son in Lanarkshire. And he had gone, and she hadn't. She never left. And that always struck me, the idea of the pull, leaving and not leaving, and what makes you leave. It's so difficult to imagine now.

'We know that people went for economic necessity but once they left, that was it.'

'There was no Skype, no email, there was no coming

back. There was the odd letter and that was it.'

Wark uses these ideas - and other materials from the family archive including letters written by her great uncle during the First World War - to construct a story that slowly unpicks Elizabeth Pringle's life after her death.

She leaves her lovely house in Lamlash to a free-spirited Glaswegian woman who came on holiday to Arran as a young mother and pushed



Round the Rurals

Lamlash SWRI

The first meeting of 2014 of the Lamlash SWRI took place last Wednesday evening at the village fire station.

Twenty-four members attended and after the official business the ladies enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk on basic life saving skills by paramedic and local ambulance station manager Gary Lewis.

This was followed by a lovely supper and the competition winner for a gingerbread man was Kath Turner.

Myra Frost won the exhibit prize with her interesting button.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 March and it will be Gardeners Question Time with Carol Vella-Boyle.

Shiskine SWRI

At the very well attended open meeting of Shiskine SWRI on Wednesday 5 February the guest speaker was James Murchie.

He gave a fascinating and interesting talk on the ships he has served on for more than 40 years in the Royal Artillery Fleet.

He spoke about his life at sea, which involved everything from refuelling ships at sea only 40 metres apart to supporting the Royal Yacht Britannia and the repatriation of a baby to the Falkland Islands.

The raffle winner was John Lammie.

Eunice Williamson won first prize in the exhibition and Kate Mackintosh was second.

Jenny Harper was the competition winner and Alice Anderson was second.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5 March at

7.30pm in Shiskine Hall when the speaker will be Carole Stewart with her travel slides.

Kildonan SWRI

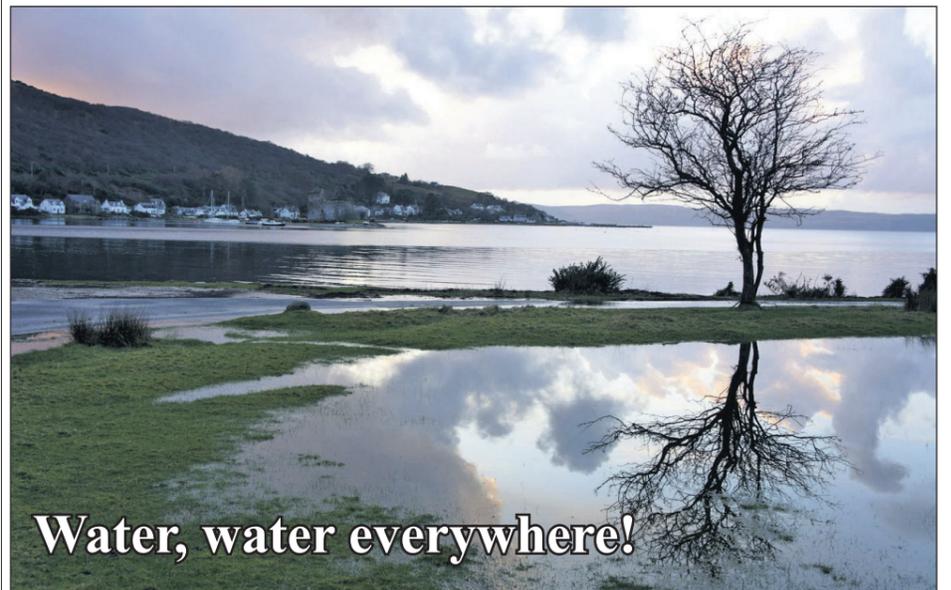
The first 2014 meeting of Kildonan SWRI took place on Tuesday 21 January in Kildonan Village Hall.

The guests for the evening were the members of Kilmory SWRI and two new ladies who had recently moved into Kildonan.

A very entertaining quiz had been lined up for the evening courtesy of Denise and Christine, but before this started members enjoyed a supper of

curries and various accompaniments. A good evening was had by all, many thanks go to all who provided the food for the evening and the quiz masters.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18 February at 7.30pm in Kildonan Village Hall for a knit and knatter.



Water, water everywhere!

So far Arran has escaped the worst of the country's flooding but as this picture from David Pott shows there is still a great deal of water lying on the ground with nowhere to go. He said: 'I got quite a decent photo from the Newton Shore at Lochranza last Thursday afternoon. After all the wet and windy weather, the afternoon was a welcome still pause. The flooded field by the shoreline allowed me to enjoy the tree and cloud reflections in late afternoon.'

her pram past the garden.

It's that daughter, now a burnt-out journalist, who takes on the property and solves the mystery at the heart of the narrative.

Hell

There are men in The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle, but in supporting roles.

'I look at women in their eighties and I think, you have been through hell. You lived through the Second World War. The privations you have faced.

'So I knew I wanted to write about a very feisty woman who was a really private person but who was really intellectually stimulated.'

For now, she is enjoying the novelty of being a published author with an actual hard-back book with her name on it on the shelf.

'It's amazing. And very strange. When you are doing TV and radio you are used to things being much more ephemeral. But here it is. It's a real thing.'

The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle by Kirsty Wark, Two Roads Books, £14.99

Read the full interview in this month's edition of Scottish Field magazine.

HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

Charity No SCO17553

Postponed from December

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday March 1st

Whiting Bay Hall

10.15am - 12.15pm

Tombola and Quiz
Entry £2

Come and enjoy company and chat and support your hospital at the same time.

The 2014 FISUpdate Almanac

NOW ON SALE!



CATCHING PROCESSING AQUACULTURE

interviews • news • surveys • movers & shakers
people on the move • days gone by • maps • events
species • contacts • company index • diary section • notes

To purchase a copy of the Almanac please call

0131 551 1000

Charity vintage afternoon tea

Islanders are invited to step back in time and relive a great British tradition.

A charity vintage afternoon tea will be held in Corrie Village Hall on Wednesday 19 March at 3pm.

There will be tea, cakes and scones accompanied by live music by The Jazz Cafe Band.

The event is in aid of Corrie Defibrillators and ArCAS.

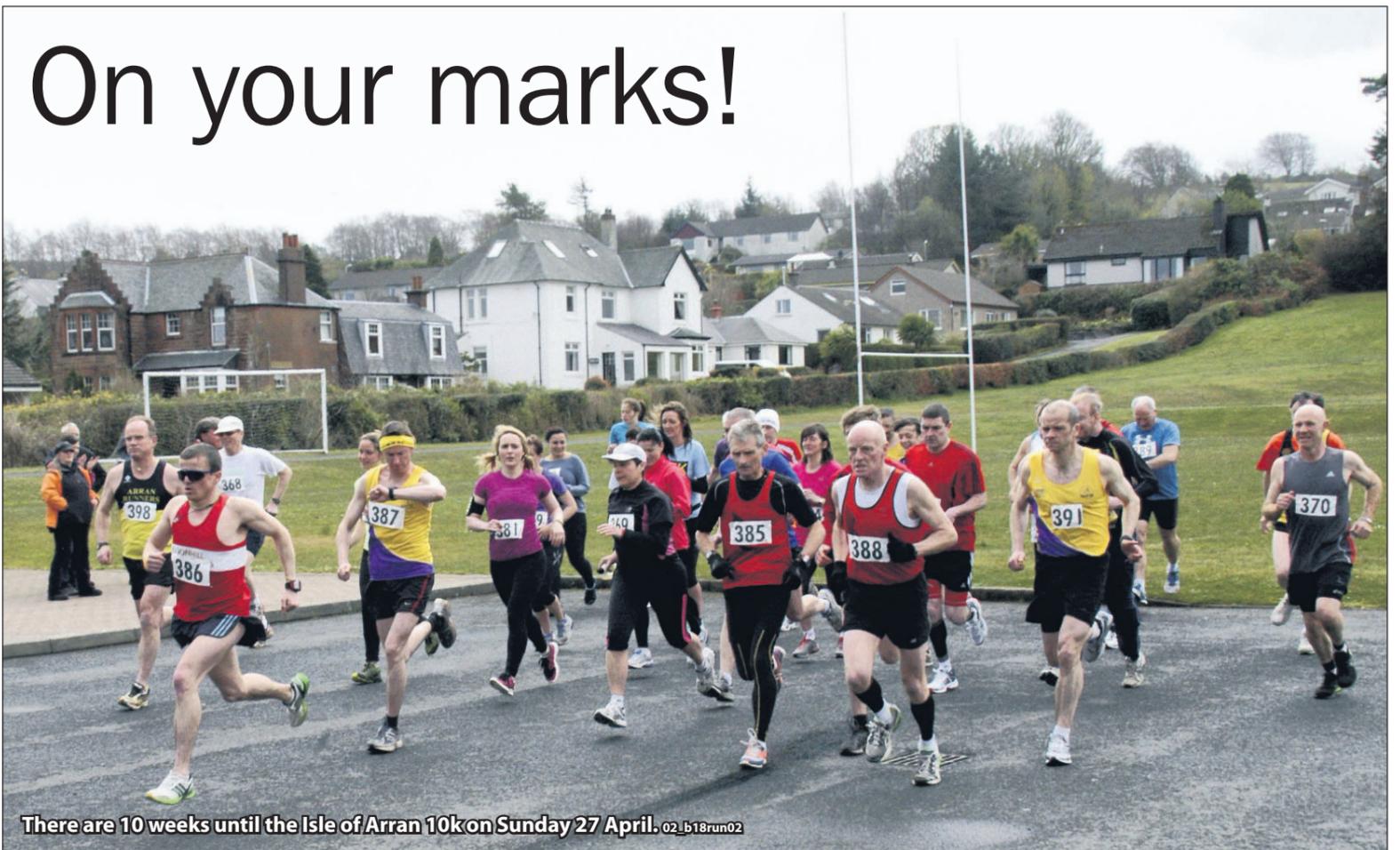
Friends meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle will take place on Wednesday 19 February.

The presentation will be: A Sort of Amateur Schoolmaster by Glenda White and will be held in the Castle Tea Room at 2.30pm.

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

On your marks!



There are 10 weeks until the Isle of Arran 10k on Sunday 27 April. 02_b18run02

Training continues for Isle of Arran 10K

The Isle of Arran 10K race is now 10 weeks away - plenty of time to start training!

The race starts at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion in Brodick where entries will be taken on the day.

There is still time to start training to complete the distance and take part in the event on Sunday 27 April.

Training plans as short as four weeks can be found on the internet but better still why not use *The Arran Banner's* schedule which is now into week two.

Whether walking or running remember to stretch your legs and joints both before and after your workout.

If you are training with a partner or group you should be able to converse comfortably. If you are too short of breath to chat, then relax and slow down.

When going it solo make sure to listen to what your body is telling you and don't push too hard - we still have plenty of time to go.

There are many advantages to training on Arran with a lack of traffic and variety of courses available with forestry trails, footpaths and tarmac roads offering different terrains.

Your first week is always the hardest week, but once you have started and have a

vision of what you intend to achieve, it doesn't take long to adopt a good routine.

As your body adjusts to the exercise, it will become easier and can eventually become addictive!

Week 2: On day 1 increase your runtime.

Run for two minutes then walk for one minute for a 30 minute session.

Repeat this for day three and five then on day six do some other form of exercise like cycling, swimming.

Days two, four and seven are rest days but don't forget about your stretching.

Remembering Bessie Sinclair - a proud islander

Obituary

Elizabeth Sinclair, known throughout her life as Bessie, has died in Glasgow in her 92nd year.

A native of Blackwaterfoot, where her father was shoemaker, she was a former pupil of Shiskine School and Rothesay Academy.

Bessie had an eventful life including family tragedy but much laughter and liveliness

too. She worked for many years in the administration of a major Anglo-Persian oil company and also spent some time in Germany after WW2 assisting in the administration and rebuilding of German society and industry.

In later years she moved to Downhill in Glasgow and after some civil service work, served at least one charity

shop before finally retiring.

She always kept in touch with other exiled Arran friends such as Janette and Nancie Bannatyne, Mary Currie, Seonaid Logan and Isa MacGregor and to the end of her days Bessie remained a proud islander.

Elizabeth died on January 24 and her funeral was held last Friday.

Unlimited Business Broadband from

£7.50
a month

Price excludes 20% VAT

Small businesses of Britain, demand a better deal.

Our Unlimited Business Broadband is available from just £7.50 a month for the first 6 months.

If your provider can't come up with the goods, get in touch.

plus.net/business
0800 0733051




We'll do you proud

Available to new Plusnet Business customers who sign up to a 24 month contract and take Plusnet Unlimited Business broadband. For customers signing up by 13th March 2014 at www.plus.net/business or by quoting promo code "biz6". If you are located in a low cost area you pay £7.50 a month for 6 months, then £15.00 a month from month 7 (otherwise £10.00 a month for the first 6 months, then £20.00 a month from month 7). Router delivery of £4.99 applies, should you choose one. Price excludes 20% VAT. Exclusions apply. Plusnet plc, Registered Office: The Balance, 2 Pinfold Street, Sheffield, S1 2GU. Registered in England no: 3279013. ©Plusnet plc. All rights reserved.

 Follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Overgrazing linked to limited hillside biodiversity

Arran Natural History Society

Conserving Scotland's hill woodlands and 'montane scrub' was the topic of conversation at the Arran Natural History Society's meeting on 6 February.

The speaker was David Mardon, who arrived at Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve in 1979 working for the National Trust for Scotland.

He quickly established a targeted programme of biological survey and monitoring which soon furnished evidence that some herb and tree species were in a terminal decline and their habitats in 'unfavourable condition'.

The trust land had grazing rights attached, held by the owners of the Loch Tayside farms - a major constraint for plant conservation, with no short-term solution available.

David proposed a number of measures, including proactive restoration projects for the habitats that were lost: montane scrub, tall herbs, and submontane woodland.

This took some time to establish, as considerable resistance had to be overcome.

Experimental enclosures were built in phases, as opportunities and funding permitted, in 1987, 1989/90, and, after acquisition of additional ground with no grazing rights, in 2000.

The latter phase was the first to include a large area, including the natural dynamics likely to encourage regeneration.

It quickly became clear that the limiting factor was not climate but overgrazing by sheep and deer.

This programme was the first attempt to restore montane willow scrub in Britain, a type of vegetation that had become almost extinct, with vestigial populations mostly



Like many Scottish places, Arran still suffers from very limited biodiversity on the hills because of sheep and deer grazing.

confined to inaccessible cliff ledges.

During that time, in 1996, a group of activists formed the Montane Scrub Action Group, led by Diana Gilbert, at that time managing a project for Highland Birchwoods, which included promotion of awareness of treeline woodlands and montane scrub.

The experience gained at Ben Lawers has contributed to the MSAG's outputs and the project now offers a unique demonstration of the potential, although the diversity of the flora at Ben Lawers is not shared by many other sites.

Here on Arran, for example, the land still suffers from very limited biodiversity in the hills because of sheep and deer grazing.

The talk drew on observations at many sites in Scotland and some in Norway.

Many of the issues discussed are relevant to most, if not all,

potential upland conservation projects, especially the following questions:

What is montane scrub? Why is there so little on Scotland's hills?

How could more be achieved?

And finally, what are the benefits of the restoration of Scotland's hill woodlands and montane scrub?

Following on from David's talk, the next outdoor event being run by the Arran Natural History Society is a 'Winter Shore Saunter'...weather permitting.

This will be an opportunity to check out the birds on the shore and on the sea in Whiting Bay in the middle of winter.

People interested in taking part are asked to meet in the car park by Glenashdalewaterfoot at the south end of Whiting Bay at 10am on Sunday 16 February. Everyone is welcome.

Bikers to return for museum rally

Following the success of last year's outstandingly successful Motorbike Show, the Arran Heritage Museum at Rosaburn, Brodick, is planning a bigger and better event this year.

The date is Sunday 6 July, so mark the calendar or diary now, as it will be an unmissable day.

The Scottish branch of the AJS and Matchless Owners Club will again be displaying their vintage motorbikes

and it is hoped that Arran's motorbike owners will again lend their support by showing their machines too.

Plans are also in hand to invite owners from other classic motorcycle clubs

on the mainland, and other interesting vehicles may well be on display as well.

Just like last year it is hoped that the Arran Pipe Band and folk music group Fish 'n' Ships will entertain throughout the afternoon.

All enquiries should be made to Tom Macleod on 302185.

THE ARRAN BANNER

reader offer

JOINT EASE LOTION

Uses a soothing blend of plant based therapeutic essential oils to combat pain and stiffness in joints. Joint Ease is a natural lotion that is applied straight to the affected area and is absorbed by your skin. The active formula of essential oils quickly starts to soothe the pain and stiffness associated commonly with arthritis, age related issues and other joint problems.

- Safe to use on all joints
- 100% natural ingredients
- No harmful chemicals
- Relieves Arthritic pain
- Simply massage onto joints.

Buy one get another half price!
 £12.50 each or two for £18.75



Testimonials

"After using Joint Ease for some months, my knee is better and I can walk quicker. My dog is pleased about that". - Mrs Middleton, Derby.

"I am finding this lotion does ease the pain in my fingers." - Mrs Grant, Grangemouth.

Call **01292 679135** quoting **OBANMG**

Post order form to **Moss-Grove Natural Products, Offer OBANMG, Craiksland, Troon, KA10 7HN**

For more information or to order visit www.moss-grove.co.uk quote **OBANMG** at checkout.

CODE	PRICE	QTY	Total
Joint Ease Lotion	£12.50		
Joint Ease Lotion - Buy 2 get one half price	£18.75		
TOTAL ORDER COST			£

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

Email address.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to **Moss-Grove** for the total amount of £.....(Please write your name and address clearly on the back of your cheque)

Or Debit my Visa/Mastercard/Delta/Maestro by £.....

Card No.....

Valid from...../..... Expiry date...../..... Issue No..... Signature.....

OBAN MG

Rare spotting of a white-tailed eagle in busy month for sightings

The weather in January was characterised by regular, sometimes storm force Atlantic fronts sweeping across the island and as a result it was mild, wet and unsettled.

A particular highlight this month was a white-tailed eagle off Kingscross Point on 16 January.

The observers watched the bird in good visibility for

about 30 minutes and this is the first record of this rare vagrant to Arran since an immature was reported being seen off by two golden eagles over Torr Nead an Eoin on 27 October 2012.

Another feature of the month was the number of gulls on the island.

There were large flocks in most bays and in adjacent fields. It is thought that many had come from the Baltic or further afield.

These included: 600 common gull in Whiting Bay on 8 January, 500 common gull in North Feorline on the 11th, 19 black-headed gull in Whiting Bay on the 17th, 150 herring gull at Kilpatrick on the 30th and 20 great black-backed



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
JANUARY

The white-tailed eagle. Photo by Gordon Boyle



There have been thousands of common gull on Arran in January. Photo Dennis Morrison

gull at Machriewaterfoot also on the 30th.

Other highlights included: 15 woodcock at Sliderry on the 8th, a puffin in Catacol Bay on the 13th, a jack snipe at Sliderry on the 19th, a tufted duck at Kingscross Point on the 20th, a male goosander in the Rosa Burn on the 29th and a bar-tailed godwit at Clauchlands on the 30th.

The jack snipe was caught and ringed and the godwit was the first Arran record since September 2012.

A winter record of puffin is most unusual but may have been a result of the recent strong southerly winds.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: two common

scoter at Blackwaterfoot on the 7th, 500 greylag geese and 25 pink-footed geese in the Shiskine valley on the 10th, a barnacle goose at Lennimore on the 12th, 30 wigeon at Sliderry on the 17th, four goldeneye at Catacol Bay on the 18th and 12 whooper swan in Feorline on the 28th.

Other winter visitors in January included: four golden plover at Sliderry on the 4th, three purple sandpiper at Kilpatrick on the 9th, a merlin at Sliderry on the 11th, 30 redwing in Shiskine on the 16th, 11 twite in Sliderry on the 17th, a greenshank at Clauchlands on the 20th, 40 fieldfare in Kilpatrick on the 26th, 32 lapwing also in Kilpatrick on

the 30th and 22 rook in Sliderry also on the 30th.

Interesting garden birds included: five yellowhammer at Shedog on the 1st, a bullfinch at Whiting Bay on the 25th and on the 26th five long-tailed tit at Glenashdale, a great spotted woodpecker in Lamlash and a blackcap in Brodick

There were some signs of approaching spring with a pair of golden eagle displaying over Lochranza on the 2nd, a gannet in Lamlash Bay on the 3rd, shags in breeding plumage with their wispy crests at Whiting Bay on the 11th, two early returning lesser black-backed Gulls at Kilpatrick on the 14th and 12 red-breasted merganser displaying off Blackwaterfoot on the 30th. 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 2012' and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk



The bar-tailed godwit at Clauchlands. Photo by Brian Couper



The male great spotted woodpecker - a winter treat for garden bird watchers. Photo Robert Lambie

SUBSCRIBE TO

THE ARRAN BANNER

and receive A FREE box of 20 Signature Collection chocolates worth £25

courtesy of Cocoa Mountain
www.cocoamountain.co.uk



Call subscriptions on 01371 851868
or visit www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscribe

QUOTE ABNS0214

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 19 February, 1993

Gas leak danger

Leaking CFC gases from an unauthorised coup on Market road, Brodick could be causing potential health hazards.

This claim has been made by two businessmen whose premises are opposite the rapidly rising heap of white goods, many of which are discarded fridges.

Tony Morrow of Arran Deliveries said: 'There was one day about two weeks ago I felt the back of my throat and nose were burning.

'I actually had to close up and go home.

'It was obviously some kind of gas that was leaking.'

CalMac conference

The ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne is to hold its port managers' conference on Arran next week at the Auchrannie Hotel.

There will be around 20 port managers attending and an interesting exercise will take place on Wednesday when 13 young people from Arran High School will be interviewed for two summer jobs at the pier.

Under inspection

There have been complaints that the police are being too active on Arran since the sergeant left his post.

A new sergeant has yet to be appointed and in the interim a series of senior officers have been working on the island.

Inspector Cliff Francis, who has responsibility for Arran, said: 'All the officers on the island are community policing officers and as a result they are part of the community.

'After taking a fresh look at the policing in the future we will be offering more support to them and we will continue to visit the island regularly.'



Police Inspector Cliff Francis promised a more robust policing system on Arran.

b07twe04



Walking to Shiskine School in a winter wonderland on a rare snowy day are Rosalie Turbett and Lindsay Stewart.

b07twe01

Cast adrift

An incident took place on board the dredger Hebblesand on Thursday night and the vessel is now landward of Brodick Pier and unable to move.

A manilla rope parted at around 9pm and hit the skipper in the face causing serious facial injuries.

The rope has now been seized by the police pending an enquiry by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.

Without a skipper the dredger cannot be moved.

Car stolen

A red Ford Escort was stolen from the car park outside Lagg Hotel on Saturday night and found damaged on the Ross Road.

Drugs seized

As a result of information received from the public, police searched a house in Kildonan on Thursday morning and removed a quantity of cannabis resin.

A 26-year-old man has now been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Festival postponed

The annual drama festival due to begin next Tuesday will not now start until Wednesday.

This is as a result of two of the 14 plays dropping out.

It now means that there will be three plays plus adjudication and prizegiving on Saturday night.

Prepare for a very long evening!



Brodick Bowling Club held its annual dinner and prizegiving at The Kingsley Hotel. The prizewinners were Jackie Donaldson, Bert Cooper, Bob Bell, Bill Hamilton, Isa Wilson, Sheila Roberts and Isabel McMillan.

b07twe03



Angus Lambie looks ruefully at the pile of dangerous waste growing rapidly opposite his garage premises on market Road, Brodick.

b07twe02

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
Daily 9am-Dusk
Open Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat 12.30-5pm
2pm

Arran Junior Football Club
Yoga
Lunch club
Yoga - Arran
Shirley & Sarah fitness class
Scottish Country Dancing
Bridge Club
Metafit

Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
Lamlash sheltered Housing, 12 noon
Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm
Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
Beginners & Improvers Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm
Shiskine Hall, 5.15 -5.45pm

Saturday 15th February

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

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm
Public Bar, Douglas hotel, 9pm
Brodick Hall, 1.30pm

Tuesday 18th February

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

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glendoy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm
Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 16th February

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

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

Monday 17th February

Quiz
Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Senior Fitness
Table Tennis
Aerobics (low impact)
Badminton

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Shiskine Hall 6pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm

Wednesday 19th February

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
RunArran mixed ability
Running Coaching
Yoga-Arran
Sports Club
Friends of Brodick Castle

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
Auchrannie car Park, 5pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm
Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm

Thursday 20th February

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

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

Friday 21st February

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

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

The ideal gift... 2014 Calendars

Arran Banner Isle of Arran



£7.50
inc. worldwide postage

Scottish Field Large



£10.95
inc. worldwide postage

Oban Times West Highland



£7.50
inc. worldwide postage

Scottish Field Miniature



£7.50
inc. worldwide postage

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call 01371 851 868



www.arranbrewery.com



Recruitment

THE ARRAN CHOCOLATE FACTORY LTD

We are looking for an enthusiastic trainee chocolate maker. The applicant should be able to demonstrate an aptitude and willingness to learn an interesting, varied and skilled job. We offer full training, a great working environment and good conditions. The job is full time and occasional weekend work will be required.

Please Apply to: **James McChlery**
The Arran Chocolate Factory Ltd
 Invercloy, Brodick KA27 8AJ
01770 302 873

Lamlash Golf Club

Has a vacancy for a full-time Bar Manager. Winter period part-time, full time summer season 40hrs.

The club would also like to offer the lease of the restaurant facility, which has a fully equipped kitchen and seating for sixty covers, on either an annual or seasonal basis (April-October) This is an ideal opportunity for someone to develop his or her own business.

The club would also consider an application to lease both bar and restaurant.

Applications in writing to the Secretary, Lamlash Golf club KA27 8JU together with CV and referees. Closing date 28th February 2014



FELICITYS

We are now recruiting enthusiastic, well presented and well motivated individuals to join our excellent team. There are full time and weekend/ school holiday positions available in both the kitchen and front of house; suitable candidates should be willing to learn a variety of positions and skill sets. Full training given.

To apply or for more information, please email a cover letter and CV to felicitys@hotmail.co.uk

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED



We are looking for reliable and conscientious housekeepers for various locations across the island. Competitive rates of pay.

If you are interested please contact Ruth on 303113 or call into our office at The Douglas Centre.

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



auchrannie job vacancies

We are currently recruiting for the following roles:

Sales & Revenue Administrators

Responsibilities of the role include handling reservations, plus assisting in revenue management and sales and marketing.

Salary around £16,000 + benefits

ASPA Receptionist (part time)

Required to assist in delivering great customer service within our very busy spa, 10-20 hours per week

for full details and to apply please visit:

www.auchrannie.co.uk/jobs

email: hr@auchrannie.co.uk

or phone: 01770 303 339

brodick isle of arran
www.auchrannie.co.uk



Arran's hills have received a hefty dusting of snow this week. On Tuesday afternoon there was a steady snowfall on the west of the island but by nightfall it had cleared. After 'snowmageddon' last March, islanders are no doubt hoping that it stays that way!

Trade Classifieds

TREES

Tree & hedge cutting and clearing
Brush Cutting and strimming.
All types of fencing

Call Jamie McKinnon:
01770 810 222 or 07760 247201

PAINTER AND DECORATOR



FULTON
decorators

LAMLASH
TEL/FAX 01770 600705
Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

COMPUTING SERVICES

Arran Computer Shop
Speedy computer repairs and upgrades

- Virus removal
- Laptop screen and keyboard replacement
- Operating system reinstallation
- Hard disk replacement
- Data transfer to new PC or hard disk
- Home networking
- Advice on backing up your data
- One-to-one tuition

Located in Brodick Post Office
01770 303623
www.arrancomputershop.co.uk

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

PLASTERER

Iain Murchie Plastering
Taping and Coving
Roughcasting and Cement work
Slating and Roof work
Floor and Wall Tiling
01770 600331

FURNITURE RESTORATION

JOHN DIVINE
FURNITURE,
RESTORATION & REPAIR
FRENCH POLISHING
UPHOLSTERY

Blackwaterfoot – Isle Of Arran
Telephone: 01770 860878
Mobile 07733 738127
Email: john@thornbankwoodcraft.co.uk

SAWMILL



Standard and Made-to-measure Pressure Treated Heavy Duty Timber, Sheds and Garages.

Sawn Pressure Treated Timber in most sizes and lengths, Fencing Stobs & Posts
Garden Gates, Field Gates, Tool Stores, Coal Bunkers, Fence Panels & Trellising
Firewood, Kindling, Sawdust and Bark Chippings.

Cladach Sawmill
Brodick. Tel/Fax: 01770 302471
Mobile: 07803 625248

BULLS FOR SALE

Bulls for sale
ABERDEEN ANGUS
AND FIMMENTAL BULL
FOR SALE
Tel: 07770746357

Drive Times

HONDA CIVIC
2.2 DIESEL SPORT



June 2006, 65,000 miles, 50 mpg
Very reliable, dealer serviced
Tel: 01770 700644 (Arran)

£4250 o.n.o.

MITSUBISHI
COLT 1.3



2001, 85k miles, Great condition,
no significant dents, rust or scratches. 6 months of tax, no MOT advisories
excel runner, a sound car. MP3/CD Player
Tel: 01770 600590 (Arran)

£750

Property

BOOST YOUR BOOKINGS



Cottageson
Arran
EscapeUnwindEnjoy

- Your text, photos & contact details
- Own website link
- Map
- Rentals
- Calendar
- Availability
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Top Google ranking

SPECIAL YEAR 1 OFFER - WAS £150 NOW £125.
SUBSEQUENT YEARS £99. NO VAT. Contact Penny Brass on email
cottagesonarran@gmail.com www.cottagesonarran.co.uk

FOR SALE

15% less valuation - unbeatable bargain for Feb/Mar offers only.

Walk-in condition, modern, can be sold fully furnished, successful small B&B and S/C business (currently 4 beds/4 baths) with potential for expansion in central Brodick, with sea views. Alternatively this would make a fabulous large family home.

Tel: 01475 675001 Ref: LA0347

SERVICE TO PROMOTE?

THE ARRAN
BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk

Classifieds

<p style="text-align: center;">UNDER £30</p> <p>Vans trainers brand new in box. Grey/dark red. Size 7 £20. Tel 860586</p> <p>Ladies walking boots DK brown leather waterproof hi-tec boots in original box worn twice size 5 £30 Tel: 830241</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OVER £30</p> <p>19" Toshiba flat screen TV with stand and wall hanging bracket included, used once very good condition £60 ovno Tel: 07795 066049</p> <p>Strider ST5D top of the range mobility scooter with battery charger bought new Feb 2013 RRP £3995 Sell for £900 ono Call: 07845 610025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FREE TO UPLIFT</p> <p>Horse Rugs (cleaned and re-proofed):5ft 9in Medium Turn-out Rugs (Horseware)4ft 9in Medium Turnout Rug, 5ft 6in waffle cooler. A wee donation to Arran RDA would be appreciated. Tel: 600752</p> <p>2x3ft Duvan bases with headboards (will convert to 6ft) Tel:303779</p> <p>Bagged Manure at Oakbank, Lamlash £1 per bag donation to Arran RDA Tel: 600752</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WANTED</p> <p>2 black or brown leather sofas - 2 seated preferred Tel: 07740 986803</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PUPPIES FOR SALE



Pedigree Siberian Husky pups for sale, micro-chipped, wormed and ready to go now. £495, call 700674

ARRAN BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!



UNDER £30 FREE!

Simply complete the form and return to the Arran Banner office

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 4.00pm
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....

DESCRIPTION.....

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

ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON

The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ
Tel: 01770 302142 Fax: 01770 302021
Email adverts@arranbanner.co.uk www.arranbanner.co.uk

Co-operative Memorials

- Traditional and modern styles
- Free quotations
- Additional inscriptions • Home visits

Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan, opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 16th February
Holy Communion, 11.30.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 16th February
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm
Lochransa and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Lochranza.
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 16th February
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Rev Dr Ian McLeod
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 16th February 2014
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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 16th February
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no. 600222.
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 16th February
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Ronnie Christie

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 16th February
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Wed.19th February
Prayer Meeting 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SALVATION ARMY

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

DEATHS

CUMMING - Peacefully, at home in Ayr, on Friday 17th January 2014, Margaret (nee Letham), late of Brandon Lodge, Arran, in her 100th year. Beloved wife of the late John Cumming M.C. (stockbroker, Glasgow), loving mother of John, Jamie, Alastair and Fiona, much loved grannie and great grannie of the family. Funeral service at Masonhill Crematorium, by Ayr, on Monday 24th February at 11.15am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Ayrshire Hospice. Will be sadly missed.

MACALISTER - Peacefully on Tuesday 28th January, aged 92 years at Cooriedoon Care Home, John MacAlister (Broomfield) beloved uncle of Duncan, Eric, David and Jennifer and the late Iain and Rena. Funeral was held on Tuesday 4th February at Lamlash Parish Church. John's family would like to thank his neighbours and friends for their support and all of the staff at Cooriedoon for their excellent care of John since June 2013.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prizes galore for Brodick's lady golfers



Brodick Golf Club's lady prize-winners for 2013 collected their trophies at the annual dinner last week. b07bro01N0



The ladies of Brodick Golf Club celebrated the end of another successful golfing sea-

son with their annual dinner and prizegiving last week.

Thirty two ladies enjoyed a beautiful dinner in front of a roaring fire with music and entertainment provided by Yvonne Brothers.

The prize-winners were: Eclectic - Lesley Murray, Birdie Tree - Susan Butchard, Par Tree - Lesley Murray,

SLGA Flag Brooch - Susan Butchard, SLGU Brooch - Brenda Livingstone, Thistle Brooch - Susan Butchard, LGU Silver Medal - Pat Adamson, LGU Bronze Medal - Gege Kroner, Stronach Cup - Pat Reid and Janette McVicar, Helen's Vases - Lesley Murray and Linda Trickett, Winter Trophy - Lesley Murray, Club Trophy - Gwen

McNicol, St Elmo Cup - Isabel McDonald, Medal Final - Susan Butchard, Wilkie Trophy - Tricia Martin, Wright Trophy - Susan Butchard, Centenary Quaich - Ann Hart, Legion Trophy - Fiona Crawford, Scratch Cup - Susan Butchard, Bronze Championship - Gege Kroner and finally Club Championship - Jillian Plenderleith.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 9 February, 9 played in the fifth round of the Winter Cup. Scoring was tight and the CSS stayed at 63. 1 Jamie MacPherson (5)61, 2 Ronnie Mann (11)64 acb, 3 Nicol Auld (3)64. Jamie won scratch with 66 and there were magic twos from Jamie MacPherson, Nicol Auld and David Morrison. With only one round remaining any one of a group of players could still win. With the best three scores from a possible six to count, the leader with three scores at the moment is Dave Hackett who is a couple of shots ahead of Bob Hastings, but there are several players with two good scores who could scoop the Trophy with a good final round in March.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 February, friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay, tee offs between 10.30am and 11am. The overall scores are very close so far with both sides making good use

of home advantage in the first two matches. All players welcome - the more the merrier!

Shiskine Golf Club

The Gents Ryder Cup was held on Sunday 9 February. Nearest the pin at the 4th, B Sherwood and at the 10th, D K Henderson.

Table after the third game with Torbeg getting the bonus point for most holes won:

Blackwaterfoot 8 pts, Shiskine 8 pts, Torbeg 7 pts, Kilpatrick 4 pts.

Next Fixture for Ryder Cup is Sunday 16 February and a double header on Sunday 16 March.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 February, 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday 10 February 1R
Burke 66-7=59, 2 J McGovern 67-7=60, 3 A MacDonald

69-7=62. Scratch R Burke 66. Magic twos A Burke (2), J McConnachie (2), R Burke.

Fixtures: Saturday 15 February, Winter Cup, tee times 8.30am and 12noon. Monday 17 February, tee-off 12noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 4 February, Winter Cup. 1 Alastair MacDonald 62, 2 David Price 63, 3 Brian Sherwood 64. Scratch Brian Sherwood 68. Twos Elizabeth Ross had two twos - after saying she never gets a two she chipped in both times!

Fixtures: The Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final was cancelled again due to the weather. It is hopefully to be played on Saturday 15 February, tee-off 12noon.

Tuesday 18 February, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 6 February, Yel-

low Medal. 1 Alan Winship 68 - 13 = 55, 2 Jon Smith 79 - 15 = 64. Magic twos Jon Smith @ 8th, Alan Winship @ 14th. Sunday 9 February, Glenburn Cup. 1 I Bremner 69 - 6 = 63, 2 R Burke 78 - 11 = 67. Magic twos A Burke @ 5th. Best Scratch I Bremner 69.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 February Winter friendly Lamlash v W/Bay at W/Bay 10.30am

Thursday 20 February Yellow Medal, ballot 11.00am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 9 February Brandon, 12 played, CSS 67. 1 D Hendry [13] 65, 2 G Hendry [6] 68, 3 T Raeside [8] 71. Scratch G Hendry 74. Brian Smith got the only two. 1st Class Brandon G Hendry, 2nd Class Brandon D Hendry.

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

Wedding stationery

Invitations, order of service, menus,
place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery

Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

krisp
print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

LAMLASH GARAGE

MOT DISCOUNT

Car MOT Fee - £40

24 HOUR RECOVERY
4 WHEEL LASER ALIGNMENT

- ✓ MOTs, repairs, servicing
- ✓ Full body repair service available
- ✓ Panel beating, spray painting

All your vehicle requirements under one roof
Contact Lamlash Garage on 01770 600328



Bid to start new women's team on the island

A bid is being made to revive a women's hockey team on the island.

If there is enough interest, the Arran Ladies Hockey Team could begin playing in a competitive league starting in September.

Backers of the new Arran Ladies Hockey Team have already been assured they could play in the Scottish Hockey Association division four west league.

Now they are looking for players to join the set up.

It is nearly 15 years since there was a women's hockey team on Arran. But all that could be about to change if keen hockey enthusiast Victoria McNicol gets her way.

With fellow youth coaches Lorraine Hewie and Cat Galbraith already on board the

core of the team is already coming together.

Victoria said: 'I know some of the players from the last team are still around and I would welcome any of them to come and join the new team but I'd also like to invite anyone interested to come and join us. Hockey is a great way to keep fit and promotes well being. Any beginners would also be welcome.'

Players have to be over 14 years old.

Victoria, who lives in Brodick, believes it is a good time to start the team with the Commonwealth Games coming to Glasgow.

'There is a lot of money around just now for sport and I would hope we could get some national funding to

start the team,' she said.

She also hopes that local businesses will give their backing in sponsorship.

Arran has a healthy youth hockey club and around 30 boys and girls turn up for training sessions every Tuesday night at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

'A few of the girls will be turning 14 in the coming year when they are too old to play in youth competitions so it would be great to have an adult team they could join,' Victoria said.

The mum of four has played hockey since she went to Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow and played for GHK in the city before coming to Arran 13 years ago.

As well as coaching she

still plays mixed indoor hockey at the Auchrannie on a Wednesday night.

But the catalyst for a new women's team came after 13 women in their 30s turned out for a friendly game for Janice Miller's 40th birthday last autumn.

'I thought if we can get that many for a friendly, then surely we must be able to start a team,' Victoria said.

Joining the league would mean Arran playing both home and away, but all the teams in division 4 are within easily travelling distance with Irvine being closest and Dumfries the farthest away. Most of the other teams are in and around Glasgow, including Stepps and Uddingston.

The only outlay for poten-

tial team members would be a £34 registration fee to the Scottish Hockey Association to cover insurance.

They also need to find an umpire who has a C Badge or who would be willing to train to get the qualification.

Anyone interested can get in touch with Victoria by e-mail at: victoriaemcallister@hotmail.com or by telephone on: 07855 394163.

Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results from Arran Bridge Club are: Thursday 6 February Aggregate Points.

N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Fiona Crawford and David Henderson

3 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone. E/W 1 John and Mary Dick, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Mel and Ellie Jones. Monday 10 February Match Points Round 5. N/S 1 John and Jan Beattie, 2 Morag Gardner and Brenda Livingstone, 3 John and Mary Dick. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Rion Culpan, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Jessmay and Jim Peacock.

Memorial darts

The annual Donald and James MacKenzie Memorial mixed doubles darts competition takes place tonight (Saturday).

The venue is Kilmory Hall with a 7.30pm start.

Anyone still wishing to take part should give their names to Margaret MacKenzie on 870309 as soon as possible.

All money raised will go to the Kilmory Village Hall and the Kilmory community bus.

The social club bar will be open and transport can be arranged following the event.



Follow us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/
arranbanner

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



9 771742 235098

07>

Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.