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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 14 February 2015 No 2000 60p

# Battlelines drawn in Machrie wood fight

Timber station would be permanent

**REPORT**  
by **HUGH BOAG**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A controversial proposal to ship thousands of trees a year from Machrie has divided opinion on the west coast of Arran.

Many local residents have grave concerns at the plans to build a slipway and timber transfer station claiming it will 'destroy' the tranquility of the quiet side of the island and ruin tourism.

There are also worries about the big increase in timber trucks on the unclassified Machrie Moor Road and damage to fragile animal and bird habitats.

Around 40 residents from Machrie, and as far north as Pirnmill, attended a drop-in public consultation meeting held by the Forestry Commission in Machrie Tearoom on Monday night.

And while the majority of those at the meeting clearly oppose the plans there are others who support the move with the rest yet to be convinced one way or the other.

Representatives explained the proposals, which they insist are at a very early stage.



The Forestry Commission's Jim Lauder (right) makes a point. 20\_b07machrie01

They have a 10-year plan to extract 25,000 tonnes of Sitka Spruce trees from the Machrie, Clauchan and Kilpatrick forests, the equivalent of 1,000 lorry loads a year.

But it was confirmed this week that the slipway would be a permanent structure and also used to ship private sector timber off the island in the years ahead.

A third slipway is also planned for the south west of the island to reduce the reliability on the main Brodick transfer station.

The facility would be built on a site just north of Machrie Garage with the timber being taken across the main A841 to a slipway which can accommodate timber barges.

Among those opposed to the plans is resident Iain Mackenzie.

He said: 'The whole thing doesn't make sense. They are trying to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Why would

they consider such a damaging proposal to save nine miles over the String Road to Brodick?'

'There are two beaches here which attract older people and foreign visitors for their natural beauty. We have otters and porpoises in the sea, fulmars and owls on the cliffs.'

'Why would anyone consider any kind of industrial development?'

Mr Mackenzie, who is the treasurer of Machrie Im-

provements Association, also said he was concerned at the 'destruction' and danger posed on the Machrie Moor road by the big increase in timber trucks.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said bluntly: 'It will ruin the peace and tranquility of this side of the island and ruin our tourism.'

Another opponent is Lorna Mansfield, who runs the Old Byre Visitor Centre. She

## Bus stop worries are eased

Claims that passengers can no longer board buses outwith the island's villages have been refuted by the operator this week.

It had been claimed that after the creation of a number of new bus stops on Arran, passengers would have to use a designated bus stop.

This would mean people living in outlying rural areas would have to walk up to five miles to catch a bus.

However, Stagecoach wants to reassure passengers that this is not the case.

Emma McNae, marketing manager for Stagecoach West Scotland, said: 'Due to the forthcoming introduction of new low floor vehicles on the island, new bus stops are being installed within some villages to offer ease of boarding and alighting for passengers and to provide better hard standing areas for wheelchair users.'

'Where bus stops are situated within villages, passengers are requested to use their nearest bus stop.'

'However, due to the rural nature of the island, buses will be stopping as usual at locations where there are no bus stops, provided it is safe for the driver to do so.'

## New brewing bid

The Arran Brewery has revealed it will launch a second round of crowdfunding to pay for its proposed development of a sake brewery and bottling facility in Dreghorn Ayrshire.

The company will invite existing shareholders to invest in the campaign, before extending the offer to the wider public around Easter.

Continued on page 2



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# SNP select candidate to fight sitting Labour MP

Following an intense round of hustings meetings from Brodick to Beith, Patricia Gibson has been selected in a secret ballot to stand as the SNP candidate for the general election in the North Ayrshire and Arran constituency.

Almost 2,000 SNP members in the region chose from an original list of seven nominees to contest the seat in May, taking on sitting Labour MP Katy Clark.

Mrs Gibson, a teacher who lives with her husband Kenneth Gibson MSP in Kilbirnie, secured 11,965 votes when she stood in 2010.

Following her selection she told The Banner that this election offers a chance for local people to vote to secure the powers Scotland was promised after the independence referendum.

'I am delighted that local members have again put their trust in me to be the SNP

candidate in May and I'm looking forward to taking the SNP's positive message to the people of North Ayrshire and Arran,' said Mrs Gibson.

'If I'm elected in May I will always stand up for Arran and its people whilst fighting for Scotland to secure the extensive powers needed to transform Scotland into a fairer, more prosperous and equal society.'

'I will also oppose unfair Westminster policies like the bedroom tax and the moral and economic absurdity of spending £100bn on Trident renewal.'

SNP leader and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'I campaigned with Patricia back in 2010; I know her as a doughty fighter and I look forward to campaigning with her again soon.'

'In this election the SNP will make sure Scotland's interests are promoted at every turn.'

'With Labour and the Tories joined at the hip for two years leading to the referendum and voting together last month for a further £30 billion in cuts, electing a strong team of SNP MPs will mean that the people of Scotland can vote to get rid of the Tories, stand up to austerity economics and make the Westminster parties stick to their vow and deliver real home rule to Scotland.'



Patricia Gibson.



Andy Walker amid the throng of the meeting. 20\_b07machrie03

# Community views split over wood issue

Continued from page 1

said: 'The proposal is detrimental to the whole community and it could discourage tourists from coming over to this side of the island which is a real issue for me.'

'I am also concerned at the noise and disruption of up to 150 crossings of lorries across the main road during the night and the prospect of traffic lights during the day.'

Meanwhile, another resident, David Price, was annoyed at the format of the meeting which he argued would have been better as a public meeting.

But there are supporters of the proposal including tenant farmers Liz and Duncan Robertson, who would be losing one of their sheep grazing

fields, and subsidy, as a result of the development.

Mrs Robertson said: 'I have lived here for 59 years and worked in farming for 35 years and I think it is a great idea. It is good for Machrie to see some work and good for the environment to ship it from here rather than driving it over the String.' This was also the position supported by neighbouring farmer John Murchie.

The Forestry Commission meeting was hosted by Jim Lauder, assistant operations manager for South West Scotland, and head Arran forester Andy Walker.

Following the meeting they said they thought it had been 'worthwhile' and defended the format of the meeting ar-

guing that it had given everyone the chance to have their say and ask questions.

Mr Lauder said: 'I think it was quite positive. People have genuine concerns, some very understandable and I don't want to play that down. These people live there. But these proposals are at a very early stage and we want to bring people on board with them.'

'What the transfer station at Sannox has shown is that it is a very effective way to get timber off the island and that is why it is our long-term

strategy to have four stations on the island where timber can be transported from.'

This will see 40,000 tonnes of timber transferred off the island 'in perpetuity'.

He said preparatory work would continue with a view to applying for a marine licence in mid March followed by a planning application to North Ayrshire Council.

Mr Lauder said they had been invited to attend the next meeting of Arran Community Council where they expected to make a more formal presentation of the plans.



Andy Walker, front right, and Jim Lauder, back left, explain the proposals with interested resident. 20\_b07machrie02

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## Troon is considered a possible port of refuge

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne is considering Troon as a possible port of refuge for the main Arran service.

The company has confirmed it is an option which is being considered in a bid to find an alternative to Ardrossan in severe weather.

Sailings have been badly disrupted this winter with high winds seeing the ferry tied up in Brodick on a number of days.

CalMac has always insisted Gourock remains the preferred port of refuge for the MV Caledonian Isles if Ardrossan is weather bound - but it has only sailed there twice in the last year.

Troon has previously been ruled out given the distance between the port and the railway station.

A CalMac spokesman confirmed: 'We are constantly looking at ways of improving service resilience. As part of this process we have been exploring the option of using Troon harbour as an alternative to Gourock as a port of refuge in bad weather. As yet no decision has been made on its potential suitability.'

However, Cunninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson is unsure of its viability. He said: 'The winds and swells that impact upon Ardrossan and Gourock usually have the same effect on Troon, so it is a moot point if it would be suitable.'

'There is no harm in looking at it but I believe it is likely to be used, if at all, only in rare and exceptional circumstances.'

Meanwhile, at a recent meeting of the Cumbræ Ferry Users Group, Guy Dale-Smith, head of marine at CalMac, said that upgrading Ardrossan harbour would cost 'hundreds of millions' and that was assuming Clydeport agreed to any works.



Ciara Wood and James Reid show off their cross country medals.

## Cross country success

Two Arran youngsters have finished top in the North Ayrshire Schools cross country league 2014-15.

The fourth and final race of the season was held at the Beach Park in Irvine on Saturday 31 January.

Four pupils from Lamlash primary school took part in the competition which features schools from all over North Ayrshire.

Ciara Wood finished first in the P7 girls race 4 with a time of 6 minutes 12 seconds and was the overall champion after four races with a score of four points finishing first twice and second twice. The worst result of the four is discounted.

James Reid finished top of the P7 boys overall table with a score of three points. He finished first in the first three races and his fourth race score was discounted.

Aalbin Robin of Lamlash finished with a respectable overall score of 1,018 finishing in mid table in the P6 boys event, while Alea Rojan finished with a score of 2,021 in the P7 girls league.

## Music festival date change

Arran Music Festival, scheduled to take place next month, has not been cancelled, according to organisers. The event is now taking place in early June at the request of some schools and teachers who believed this will work better.

Lorna Buchanan, committee member, said: 'There is a slightly more streamlined syllabus and two new classes, open and non competitive for primary and secondary pupils.'

'We were delighted at the amount of entries last year aided by parental and school support and hope that with a little extra time to prepare that even more young people will be encouraged to take part and have the rewarding experience of showcasing their talents.'

The syllabus will be available within the next few weeks and more information published in The Banner over the coming months.

## Plea for funding falls on deaf ears

A project which helps the deaf on Arran is facing closure when their funding runs out at the end of next month.

Now the Hear to Help initiative has launched a campaign to get public support to allow it to continue.

The Kilmarnock-based scheme, run by Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, has been lobbying the Scottish Government, MSPs, NHS health boards, local authorities and other organisations during the last year or so to try to secure more funding.

Project co-ordinator Donna McSwiggan said: 'Unfortunately, our applications for continuation funding haven't been successful and the charity now needs your support for

a campaign to persuade the NHS health board to provide money to save Hear to Help - especially as our community-based hearing aid support means their audiology services are saving time and money.'

### Write

They are urging anyone who uses the service, be they clients, residents or customers, to write to their local MSPs as well as health secretary Shona Robison and the

chief executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran John Burns to let them know how the loss of the service will affect them.

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# Chemotherapy services to be reviewed

NHS Ayrshire and Arran is reviewing the way in which it provides chemotherapy services, and is asking for members of the public to get involved.

There are around 8,500 people living with cancer in Ayrshire and Arran.

These people are cared for by local cancer services in hospital and in the community.

The chemotherapy units at University Hospitals Ayr and Crosshouse Hospital carry out around 180 chemotherapy treatments each week.

However, as the incidence of cancer is expected to rise by 1.4 per cent each year, it is anticipated that the number of chemotherapy treatments will significantly increase in the future.

Peter MacLean, clinical

director for cancer services, said: 'As we expect to carry out more treatments in the future and help more people to use outpatient and day chemotherapy services rather than inpatient services, we are now looking at how we can redesign our current services to meet the needs of those living with cancer into the future.'

**Speak**

'We plan to speak to as many cancer patients, families, carers, cancer services staff, other services that work with the cancer service, and members of the public as possible.'

'We will then use this information to help us identify some possible options for improvement to the service.'

Option appraisal is a process that is often used when

considering a new way to provide services. Option appraisals allow a wide number of views to be considered in order to create as robust an assessment of options as possible.

The group involved in the option appraisal will include a range of clinicians (doctors, nurses and allied health professionals), managers, support service staff, representatives from other services that work with the chemotherapy service, patients, family members, carers and other members of the public.

Following the option appraisal process, it is hoped the group will have selected a preferred option by the end of summer 2015.

There will then be a period of working on the design of a new service model.

Once this is complete, Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board will decide if the model should go out for consultation with both cancer services staff and the public before the service model is taken forward.



Whiting Bay School's eco committee show off their bird cakes.

## Hungry birds get a treat at Whiting Bay School

Eco Savvy was delighted to help with a special 'Bird Cake Day', organised by the Whiting Bay Primary School's eco committee this week.

The Pillar Box Post Office in Whiting Bay kindly donated a sack of bird seed and Eco Savvy worked with the Village Shop to supply the lard.

Daisy May, secretary of the committee, said: 'The eco committee wanted to make bird cakes to attract birds to the playground for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Big Schools' Bird watch. All the children in the school had the chance to help. 'We mixed seeds and lard and put it into milk cartons that we had saved.'

'I really liked making them. It was fun,' said Iona Kirsty added: 'I liked

squishing the mixture.' 'I'm glad that the birds have something yummy to eat for the winter,' added Daisy May.

Esther Brown and Keith Robertson of Eco Savvy volunteered on the day and supported Mrs Smith and Mrs McCallum.

The bird cakes are being hung around the school grounds to help attract more birds and form part of their work towards keeping their green flag.

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### Brewery boss is new chairman

Gerald Michaluk of the Arran Brewery has been elected chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA).

Mr Michaluk takes over from Tuggy Delap of Fyne Ales. Gerald paid tribute to the work that Tuggy has done for SIBA over the years and hoped her retirement would not end her involvement with the society.

Also elected to the board to represent Scotland was Rob Jenner of Loch Ness Brewery, who joins Stuart Cail of Harviestoun Brewery Ltd as Scotland's third trustee.

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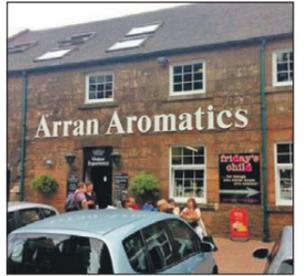
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# Arran Aromatics planned growth not hit by losses



Its products are sold in more than 30 countries and it is also one of Scotland's biggest exporters to Saudi Arabia

Arran Aromatics Ltd may have recently reported losses but it remains in a healthy position for its planned growth strategy.

The company has reported losses of £598,000 for the year to 28 February 2014.

However finance director Gillian Fernie said in a statement: 'The business has invested considerably in its people, marketing and operating capability over the recent period in preparation for the planned growth of the brand.'

'This includes a new flagship store in Buchanan Galleries and e-commerce website.'

The company, which makes luxury toiletries, lifestyle

products and gifts from its factory at Home Farm, was rescued in 2009 just days from being wound up by the tax man for an unpaid tax bill.

Arran Aromatic Holdings Ltd was set up in July 2013 and acquired Arran Aromatics Ltd the following month in a £772,305 deal.

At that time the company reported it had secured £2.8 million from the Business Growth Fund in return for an equity stake, to fund brand development, launch a new e-commerce website and add another four retail stores within two years.

In abbreviated accounts now filed with Companies House for the year to February 28, 2014, the company

notes it received a £2 million loan from its parent company Arran Aromatics Holdings Ltd in the financial year, of which £1.86 million remains outstanding and falls due after one year.

Arran Aromatics was founded by Janet and Iain Russell in 1988 and currently employs around 120 staff and has 10 retail stores on the mainland.

Its products are sold in more than 30 countries and it is also one of Scotland's biggest exporters to Saudi Arabia.

Arran Aromatics also creates bespoke products for several hotel groups including Abode Hotels, Macdonald Hotels, Cameron House and the DeVere Group.

## Arran gets its first black hack

It might seem more at home on the streets of London or Glasgow but Arran has its first ever black hackney taxi cab.

The island's only taxi firm, owned and operated by George Lammie, has taken delivery of the brand new Peugeot Tepee which has been specially converted for taxi use.

It is also the first cab on



George Lammie with Arran's first black hack. 20\_b07taxi01



The wheelchair access of the new taxi. 20\_b97taxi02

the island to be fully wheelchair accessible with a side door ramp and pulley system.

The cab can take up to seven passengers, or five and a wheelchair, and is fully metered in accordance with North Ayrshire Council taxi licensing laws.

George said: 'The new vehi-

cle will help us continue to provide a safe and reliable service to all our customers and we think the wheelchair facility will be a great asset for the island.'

Several private hire firms also operate on the island but all bookings with them have to be made in advance.

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# Funding plea for Canadian monument to the clearances

A Canadian town is raising money to build a monument to the Highland Clearances.

And it has appealed to the people of Arran to help it raise the money in the county where 400 immigrants from the island made their new home.

The Caledonian Society of Restigouche has been fundraising for the last four years to build a Scottish monument on the bank of the Restigouche River in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

The monument will also have a sign informing the visitors of the Scottish settlers who came to be the area. But the society has been struggling to raise funds for the originally proposed monument. Now a new proposal has been put forward by artist Darren Byers which would be within the \$15,000 (£9,988) mark.

At a recent information session the society heard that \$10,000 has already been raised for the statue to be known as the 'Mahogany Scotsman'.

Ground breaking work will start in the spring and the society hopes to have it ready to unveil at the end of June.

More than 700 Arran res-

idents emigrated to Canada during the clearance years 1829 to 1840. The largest group of 400 settlers made their homes in the Restigouche Bay Chaleur district; the rest mainly settled in Megantic County in the neighbouring Province of Quebec.

James Thompson, president of the monument committee, said: 'The membership voted in favour of starting the wheels in motion for Mr Byers to start work on the project.

'We shall continue to fundraise as there will be other expenses, such as landscaping, information signs and a flag-

pole. A donor plaque made of bronze will be placed on one of the stones surrounding the monument. Donors of \$200 (£133) or more will have their names printed on the plaque, with the top donors being listed first.

There are four categories for donations: Major contributors \$2000+, benefactors \$1000+, patrons \$500+, and friends \$200. All donations can be made by sending a cheque or money order to: The Caledonian Society of Restigouche, Scottish Monument Chairman, c/o James Thompson, 37 Andrew Street, Campbellton, E3N 2B3.



An artist's impression of how the finished monument will look.

## Boost for island dairy farmers welcomed

Arran's hard-working dairy farmers are to receive additional support from a Scottish dairy brand which will be launched later this year.

Kenneth Gibson MSP has welcomed a move to promote Scottish produce at home and abroad and provide additional support to dairy farmers.

Cabinet secretary for rural affairs Richard Lochhead has announced he will publish a detailed dairy action plan

which will outline plans for the brand, in addition to other measures to promote Scottish products.

Mr Gibson said: 'This is a very welcome announcement by the government and will provide real support for dairy farmers while further boosting the Scottish economy and making it easier for consumers to choose Scottish products.

'Scottish food and drink has an exceptional reputation across the world and this new

dairy brand will help showcase Scotland's produce and allow our farmers to further capitalise on this proud reputation and access more export opportunities.

'Dairy farmers play an important role in Arran and Scotland's economies and I know this increased Scottish government support will be welcomed by farmers who can now face the future with an increased sense of confidence in the face of the changing price of milk.'

## Opportunities for school leavers at all-time high

A record number of pupils from Arran are finding 'positive destinations' when leaving school.

Figures show that nearly 95 per cent of leavers in North Ayrshire are getting further education, carrying out voluntary work, undertaking training or taking part in activity agreements.

As well as being above the national average, the figures are the highest recorded in North Ayrshire and reflect a number of initiatives adopted by the council.

The council is ranked fifth in Scotland.

North Ayrshire Council can track the destinations of all young people and have a range of early-intervention initiatives that identify those at risk of not achieving a post-school destination.

The skills centres operating in three North Ayrshire schools also provide invaluable vocational support to pupils.

Councillor John Bruce, cabinet member for education, attainment and achievement, said: 'These figures are fantastic and highlight the work being done by North Ayrshire Council and our partners.

'School is not just about the here and now. It is about preparing youngsters for the real world and giving them the tools, skills and experience as they move forward with their life.

'The Wood Report called for change, with a new focus on vocational subjects.

'We are embracing this and ensuring there is a healthy balance between vocational and traditional academic pathways.'

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# New Balmichael centre to offer fun for all the family

'We have a lot of exciting plans,' - new owner James Clark

A family fun park is under development at a former island visitor centre and should be open in time for Easter.

American entrepreneur James Clark and his family aim to turn the site at Balmichael near Shiskine into one of Arran's biggest and best entertainment venues.

When it opens it will be family friendly and fun with the emphasis firmly on the fun - with kids the biggest beneficiaries.

#### Attractions

Among the attractions will be an ice rink, a thrilling 15 metre pole drop, zip wires, a 'Go Ape' type high ropes course and go karts.

The former visitor centre will have a coffee shop, candy store, toy shop and other retail outlets let to local businesses.

Add jumping pillows, grass sledging and Arran's only Zorse - a cross between a zebra and a horse - and it is plain to see there will be a lot going on.

James, along with business partner Callum Ford, a property developer from Clackmannanshire, have bought the former visitor centre and golf driving range which they are to rename The Arran Family Fun Park at the Balmichael Centre.

And James, along with wife Cherie and 18-year-old son



Cherie, Jamie and James try out one of the go karts for size. 20\_b07fun05

Jamie, have a lot of work to do if they are going to have the park ready for a 'soft' opening at Easter.

But James said: 'We have a lot of exciting plans and I am looking forward to getting on with them. I had only been

where Jamie lived until he was eight. James, who is ex-military, was studying for a master's degree in business administration.

'We want to create an attraction that will have something for everyone but we really want it to be kid friendly,' said James.

'We aim to attract both visitors to the island and locals to come and use the attractions. There will be retail outlets but it will not be a craft centre. Instead it will be somewhere where quality produce will be available at a reasonable price.'

The coffee shop will be self service, modern, fresh and bright with both an American and Scottish theme with, initially at least, a bring your own beer garden outside.

But the most exciting new attractions will be outside where James plans to build an ice rink, a zip slid, high ropes course and an adventure playground.

#### Descender

But first will be the pole drop, or to give it its correct title, a 15-metre Powerfan descender. Used in the film industry, the descender sees participants climb to the top of the 15 metre pole and jump off with the Powerfan slowing their descent just in time.

Subject to planning permission, the drop will be the first part of the high level fun to be followed by a double 200 metre zipline and a 16 pole high ropes course, with work expected to start in the summer.

The drop pole and some of the other equipment James bought from the Jedforest Deer and Farm Park which closed at the end of last season.

The skating rink will also be a first for Arran using the latest synthetic material widely used now in the States, providing a skating facility for up to 40 skaters at a time at a fraction of the cost of a real rink.

There will also be a go-kart track with the possibility of motocross as James is in talks with Arran Motocross Club.

Planning permission is still to be sought for the project which will be applied for in the next couple of weeks but James says that in informal talks North Ayrshire Council officials have been 'incredibly supportive'.

He added: 'If it was not for my best friend Callum and his wife Liza none of this would be possible and I want to say on the record a huge thank you to them.'

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Part of the site being cleared for the high rope course and go-kart track. 20\_b07fun03

here once before for 24 hours but we are delighted to be here and everyone has been so friendly and welcoming.'

The couple, who are living at the centre, are originally from California but previously lived in Dundee,



Jamie Clark with the pole used for the Powerfan descender. 20\_b07fun01

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Timber issue needs an island wide debate

The proposal to ship thousands of tonnes of timber off the island from Machrie shore has sparked quite a row - and with good reason.

There are many aspects of this which need to be considered and, no matter what the eventual decision is, it clearly will not please everyone.

Already three camps have emerged. The one which is dead against the idea, the one which is all for it and the third is the 'don't know's'. Many have simply not come to a decision because they do not yet know enough about the proposals.

At Monday night's consultation event, what 40 people gained is not quite clear after standing around Machrie Cafe drinking coffee while two Forestry Commission officials tried their best to explain the project in an informal way - but instead had to answer the same questions over and over again.

A presentation and a formal question and answer session might have been a better way to get the information across and take away the concerns of residents.

But it is understood there were concerns this may have been 'too confrontational', although forestry bosses have not ruled out such a format down the line.

What is important is that all the issues - for and against - are debated over the coming weeks and months to make sure the right solution is found to the removal of harvested timber from Forestry Commission and private land which is going to be a fact of Arran life for many years to come.

The commission's preferred long-term option is to have four outlets to ship timber off the island, to prevent clogging up the island's roads with more and more timber trucks.

They would be the existing main Brodick yard, the new and 'very effective' North Sannox slipway, the Machrie proposal and a fourth planned for the south west of the island. So the situation should not be viewed as a Machrie problem and not seen in isolation but a topic which needs an island wide debate.

## A fond farewell to Sea King

It's the end of an era as Arran Mountain Rescue Team says a fond farewell to the beloved Sea King helicopter which has been such a mainstay of Scotland's search and rescue service for 40 years.

While the Sea King will be around for the rest of the year, it will be retired when the new private contractor Bristow takes over at Prestwick next year with Augusta Westland 189s - which do not have the same ring but must be up to the job of fully maintaining such an essential service.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Jesus said: 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone.' (John 8:7)

### 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



### We will survive

Sir,  
Regards the report two weeks ago on the banking frauds being committed on Arran.

As one who prides themselves in being very aware of internet, email and telephone fraud, I was devastated to find I had been a victim of one on January 13.

As reported, the caller was very polite and extremely convincing when she addressed me by name, introducing herself as Katie from Bank of Scotland fraud department.

She said there had been three instances of suspicious activity on my account and could I go online to my banking page and check it out.

The thought of this being true unnerved me slightly and as I had, some time previously had a similar experience, I did as I was asked.

She seemed to know my personal details, only asking for my sort code and account number, as any other online transaction requires.

I was not at anytime asked for, nor did I give, my password to the account as this would have aroused my suspicions.

My account was then secured by transferring the entire amount to a 'safe' temporary account, as she talked me through each stage online.

The bank then phoned my mobile with the relevant code for setting up a new account. 'Katie' asked if I had received this and asked what it was so that we could complete the transaction, keeping everything safe with me!

This was done and she said she would phone me back once all the direct debits etc had been sorted out - and so she did - three more times that afternoon, keeping me updated with the progress.

Suffice to say, when I phoned the fraud department of the bank that evening to check it out we were penniless!

Not only had they cleaned out all of our money, the entire overdraft had been usurped also!

I was sick to my stomach

and got very little sleep as I realised I had been defrauded in my own home.

I felt angry at myself for being so gullible and devastated for my husband as we have worked hard all our lives, raising a family and only in recent years have finances been a little easier.

The fraud department of the bank phoned us back to say they were sorry but as I had been complicit they could not help us!

I understood our money was safe online and that banks guarantee customers would never lose out in case of fraud.

The play seems to be on words as they regard this as a scam and not fraud, despite the police and CID who were also involved, stating that in law this most definitely is fraud.

Needless to say, we are not taking this lying down and have taken it to the Financial Ombudsman who can overrule the bank's decision if they see fit, although this is not guaranteed and can take many months.

I would urge anyone in a similar situation to do the same. It costs nothing to make a complaint - just as well - and in many cases is successful.

We have suffered extreme financial hardship, having to take out a loan to cover the stolen overdraft limit and our outgoings until our next pay goes in. And not only that, the emotional stress and sleepless nights worrying about it have been hard, but, we will survive.

No one has died or been struck down with serious illness, we have each other, family and friends around us and a caring community and we have had to focus our minds on that to try and get through this.

There is little, if any, chance of finding the people involved in this disgusting crime and we have only a very slight chance of recouping our loss.

My big disappointment is with the bank's attitude of 'we understand your situation but sorry we can't help'.

These faceless people have no idea how it feels to be left with only the little money you have in your purse and nothing to replace it for almost a month while the 'fatcat' bankers continue to award themselves outrageous bonuses.

Maybe I'm being bitter but I feel that way over the bank's attitude to customers of over 40 years being dismissed so easily when in real hardship.

I do have to say that the police and our local branch manager in Brodick have been extremely supportive and have done everything they could to help.

I just hope that by clarifying what happened to us, other people may not be fooled into believing what seems to be a genuine phone call offering help.

If only the bank would not call from 'number withheld', I may not have been so easily fooled.

Please take care of what is rightfully yours and don't let this happen to you.

Yours,  
**Maureen Smith  
Lamlash**

### Subverted service

Sir,  
I too was targeted in this scam, on Monday 19 January. She was convincing - particularly as there seems to be some method whereby the 1471 service on BT can be subverted. Within a minute or so of being called, I asked for confirmation of the caller. She suggested that I put the phone down and ring 1471 to check the number she was calling from.

I did, and the number given was that on the back of the Visa card - to be contacted in emergencies. At the time, this seemed reasonable evidence of the caller's identity. I was still sceptical as the actions she said to be necessary seemed extreme.

I suggested she put the phone down and I would call her back but found that calling out was impossible - presumably because she kept the line open.

She kept recalling me and eventually asked for my bank ID - which the bank knows.

I then played 'silly old woman' and told her the phone was clearly out of order and the internet down.

I called my telephone banking service from a neighbour's phone and was reassured. What does concern me was the subversion of the 1471 service. I tried calling BT's help line but the operator clearly could not understand my concern.

When I saw your recent article, I called both Crime-stoppers and 101 and neither appeared concerned about the 1471 problem. I consider this dangerous as we can now no longer believe the information provided by this service. Yours,

**Elizabeth White  
Plas Cebo  
Cordon**

### Live and let live

Sir,  
I have a certain amount of sympathy but not much for the keen runner who is having problems with dogs. (Letters February 7)

In my experience runners are of two types: those who smile, say hello and possibly slow down as they pass and those who pound past expecting all to scatter in front of them.

The second type are asking for trouble as far as dogs are concerned.

They send aggressive messages and may upset otherwise perfectly docile animals who may in turn react aggressively.

We dog owners do have a responsibility to keep our dogs under control but we must also give them enough exercise to keep them healthy which in the case of some breeds, means giving them a good run off the lead.

As a retired GP, I know perfectly well the health benefits of exercise to the human animal.

Unsurprisingly this applies to dog owners and others who get their regular 30 minutes or more (winter and summer) as well as runners.

Continued on page 9

# Arran Deliveries

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We are both in our own way trying to live a little longer without getting bitten by ill health or dogs.  
Live and let live.

Yours,  
**John Cruickshank**  
Whiting Bay

**Alternative fuel source**

Sir,  
I do think the real reason for the fuel company not to serve the island from November to early spring is because the ferry service via Lochranza needs an overnight stay for the driver or a vastly longer journey over the mainland to Ardrossan and back.

This is because from 2 No-

# Letters to the Editor



vember to 2 April there is only one ferry to Lochranza leaving Tarbert at 12.15pm, arriving Lochranza at 1.40pm, leaving Lochranza at 1.45pm and finally arriving back at Tarbert at 3.10pm.

This does not allow the driver to deliver the fuel and return on the same day.

All other arguments are just PR-speak and I wonder why the company speakers cannot tell the truth.

As bad as ferry interruptions are, there would never be, even in really bad times,

a longer service interruption for more that about two or three days.

And a management which lets reserves fall lower than a month's supply is not worthy to be supplier to Arran anyway.

Consequence: We need another company to supply our petrol and diesel, preferably based on the Clyde coast, which could react quickly to any adverse ferry situations.

Yours,  
**Bruno Baumgärtner**  
Corrie cravie

**Ferry swindle**

Sir,  
Having just returned from a month away, I am catching up with my Banners and find, yet again, that correspondence is dominated by the ongoing ferry problems.

While on holiday, I read a book by Roy Pedersen, the architect of RET, entitled 'Who Pays the Ferryman', and subtitled 'The Great Scottish Ferry Swindle'.

This book should be mandatory reading for everyone who uses a Scottish ferry.

It exposes out-dated trade union practices, it implies collusion between civil servants and CalMac to maintain the status quo, it reveals the advantages of the private sector, as demonstrated by Western Ferries and Pentland Ferries, in both cost-effectiveness and in reduction of carbon footprint.

It outlines the solutions needed to provide all Scottish

islands with a faster, more effective and cheaper ferry service.

I could go on, but please, read this book for yourselves and then write to your MSP demanding that action be taken.

Your,  
**John Rankin,**  
Bridge of Allan and  
Whiting Bay

**Honesty and kindness**

Sir,  
I lost a £2 coin on entering the Brodick Co-operative and despite my best efforts could not find it.

Unknown to me some of the staff witnessed this and the following day when I returned, I was delighted and surprised to be given my £2 coin wrapped in a small envelope with my name on the cover.

In this day and age it is so good to see honesty and kindness shown and I would like

to thank the staff at Brodick.  
Yours,  
**Nancy MacLeod**  
Corrie

**Knitting/crochet group**

Sir,  
We are having a meeting on Wednesday 18 February at 4.30pm in the Arran Library to discuss the setting up of a knitting/crochet/chat group.

It could meet in the library 4.30pm - 6pm on Wednesdays or we could discuss alternative venues and days/times.

If you're interested but can't come on the 18th, phone 303607.

Yours,  
**Alison Barr**  
Brodick

**Correction**

In last week's Arran Banner the letter from PW Yates of Yorkshire made reference to a letter written by Bernie Jackson the previous week.

This was incorrect, the letter Mr Yates was referring to was written by Dave Black.

We apologise for the confusion.

## THE ARRAN BANNER ON HOLIDAY



Alex and Liz Dale from Pirnmill pictured with grandchildren Fionn and Ceitidh at Samoens in the French Alps.



Alice Lennox of Brodick and her daughter Catherine Mcleod, centre, pictured with Alice's son and daughter-in-law, Ian and Janis Lennox, while Alice and Catherine were visiting them in Perth Australia last year.

Since 'The Banner on Holiday' feature started almost seven years ago, we have been overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

Whilst we try to print these superb pictures as often as we can, there often isn't room.

So this week as a special treat, here are three great Banner on Holiday photos from around the globe.

Arran residents and holiday-makers are still ensuring they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going 'off island'.

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

When space permits we will continue to print the photos we have on file.

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

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As part of a work trip to Bangladesh and Thailand to visit projects supported by The Leprosy Mission Scotland, Jill Bain of Catacol took time to do some sightseeing in Chiang Mai with two staff members from The Leprosy Mission Myanmar. Jill said: 'We found an additional use for The Banner as a sunshade on a hot day, the temperature that day being somewhat higher than I am used to.'





The mountain rescue team make their way across Cir Mhor.



Ewan McKinnon and Ally Hume check their equipment.



The last likely photograph of the mountain rescue team with the Sea King helicopter and crew.

# End of an era rescue team says to Sea King with

A recent mountain rescue exercise is likely to have been the last ever involving an iconic Royal Navy Sea King helicopter.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team only train with the Sea King R177 squad based at HMS Gannet in Prestwick once a year, but the base is to shut at the end of the year. Then a private company will take over helicopter search and rescue operations.

During the training day members of the team were flown in

small groups from Glen Rosa to the Caisteal Abhail area and then winched individually onto the ridge.

From there the team waved goodbye to R177 and made their way across to Cir Mhor and down out through Glen Rosa.

A team member said: 'Royal Navy Sea King helicopters have been operating in search and rescue for the last 40 years. They are the work-horse of SAR and the skills and capability of the crews who oper-

'We had training c

ate and assist mountain rescue teams in sometimes extreme weather conditions is commendable. This is the end of an era for the Sea King helicopters that we all know so well.

'We had a superb day training and the chance to experience the Arran mountains at their



The Sea King lands some of the team on the snow covered ridge.



Ruby the rescue team dog.

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FEW. All photographs courtesy of AMRT



The Sea King makes a careful descent on to Caisteal Abhail.



Two of the team watch the Sea King approaching.

# As mountain day farewell work-horse

a superb  
day'

best.  
Aberdeen-based Bristow Helicopters secured a £1.6bn deal to take over the UK's search and rescue service from April and will operate 22 helicopters from 10 locations around the UK.

They will replace the age-

ing RAF and Royal Navy Sea King helicopters with modern Sikorsky S-92s and AgustaWestland 189s.

They will take over the operations from HMS Gannet from a new hanger at Prestwick Airport on 1 January 2016 from where they will operate two AW189s.

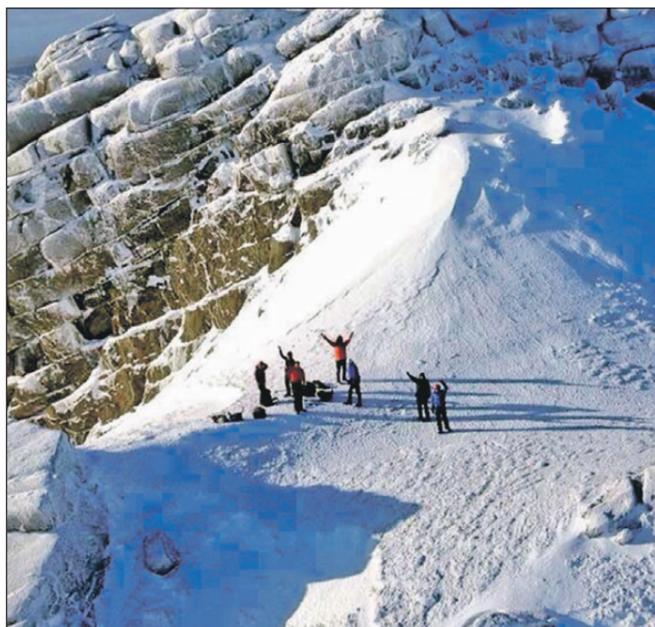
Work is due to start on the facility later this month and the new service will be fully rolled out across the country by the summer of 2017.

RAF and Royal Navy Per-

sonnel currently involved in search and rescue could be transferred to other jobs in the military when Bristow take over.

However, under a programme of 'managed transition' military pilots and crew will be able to apply to leave their service and take a job, if offered, with the private contractor.

A spokeswoman confirmed that Bristow would continue to conduct training exercises with the ARMT when they took over at Prestwick.



The team wave farewell to the Sea King.

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# Woolly surprises spring up in Brodick woods

A bid is being made to bring the woods on Arran alive with some amazing woolly creations.

Organisers want everyone to help them create a woolly wildflower meadow filled with knitted, crocheted and felt minibeasts, birds and animals to be displayed along wood trails.

Brodick Castle and the Roots of Arran Community Woodland are working in partnership with arts, community and school groups on the island, including the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, to create The Woollen Woods in Bloom - an outdoor art installation supporting The Campaign for Wool.

And for anyone who can't knit, crochet or felt, help is at hand with a drop-in session at Brodick Castle and Country Park tomorrow (Saturday 14 February) to give people a chance to learn.

Local artists Alison Barr and Tricia Sloss and the rangers will be on hand to help

people unleash their creativity, and be part of this amazing project.

Suitable for families, participants can drop into the Brodick Country Park ranger centre anytime between 2pm and 5pm.

Next Sunday, 22 February, from 10.30am till 4pm Eco Savvy is hosting a Woolly Woods workshop with an up-cycle twist in Whiting Bay Village Hall.

For the project to be a success the organisers have made a plea for wool, felt or any other material people may have that they would be willing to donate.

Project coordinator at Brodick Castle Sue Mills said: 'We are looking forward to working with lots of groups on the island and inviting people from further afield to explore Arran's natural landscape in a creative and exciting way.'

The project will be launched at the Roots of Arran Community Woodland and at Brodick Castle during Volun-



A tree decorated with woolen flowers.

tary Arts Week 2015 which will run from 15 to 24 May.

Two contrasting areas in the grounds of Brodick Castle have been selected for Woollen Woods that reflect the native and non-native habitat.

To complement this theme, two signature flowers have been identified - the Scottish Thistle (native to Arran) and Rhododendron Magnificum (non-native species).

#### Linked

Other plans include working with schools and community groups on the island to create a wildflower meadow, mini beasts and midgies, watery wildlife, tropical wildlife and extinct flora and fauna (for the Bronze Age Roundhouse area) that will be linked by a Woollen Woods trail.

Volunteers at the Roots of Arran will focus on dressing the community woodland with hand-crafted native flora and fauna and also plan to work with local arts groups to create elements of nature-inspired sculpture.

Any group or school would

like to take on a whole tree or find out more about how to take part in the Arran Woollen Woods, please contact [smills@nts.org.uk](mailto:smills@nts.org.uk).

A special pack with various patterns is being made available from Sue at the same email address.

Also see the Woollen Woods Pinterest Board for ideas and inspiration.

Anyone with any wool or materials can hand it in at the castle or the Eco Savvy shop in Whiting Bay or contact Sue on 302202 for collection in Brodick or 700417 for collection in Whiting Bay.

The deadline for submissions is 8 May, 2015 and the artworks will be installed in the trees from 15 May.

More information at [www.voluntaryartsweek.org/arran-woollen-woods/](http://www.voluntaryartsweek.org/arran-woollen-woods/)

## Bulb show organisers anticipate increased entries

The Arran Horticultural Society has finalised details for the Spring Flower and Bulb Show to be held in Brodick Village Hall on Saturday 28 March.

Organisers say that early indicators show a likelihood of increased entries, with the usual massive efforts by the schools and nurseries.

There will also be a new trophy this year for the school or nursery gaining most points.

John Sillars, president of the horticultural society, said: 'Going into the new year the society membership stands at 80 with new applications coming in regularly.'

'We will also be organising our regular coach trip to the Scottish garden show at Ingliston at the end of May, and schedules for the bulb show will be available at the usual outlets in early March.'

## A day enjoyed in Gaelic conservation

Sixteen members of Na h-Arainnich enjoyed a conversation day last Saturday at Arran High School.

The programme included listening to short stories read by the Rev Donald MacLeod in Gaelic, then translated by Alistair Paul, word games, chatting with each other about holiday destinations, using the computers for Gaelic programmes, and generally immersing themselves in the language.

The day was helpful to everyone who took part as they are at different stages of learning. Special thanks went to Sheila Blain for arranging the day and to the singing group who delighted the participants with their lovely Gaelic songs.

Na h-Arainnich is for anyone on Arran interested in Gaelic, and the group can be contacted on 302881 (Alistair) or 860234 (Margaret).



A felt bird like the ones which will be created for the Woollen Woods project.

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# Stick it and flick it - just don't leave the dog's mess behind

Nearly 30 green bags of dog dirt have been left behind on a small stretch of path leading to the Glenashdale Falls in

Whiting Bay. Dog owners are picking up after their animals but then leaving the bags behind.

One concerned walker said: 'From the doggy bin at the bottom of the path to about 300 yards up, there were 27

bags of poo hanging on fences and trees and blocking ditches.

'It is an age old and ongoing problem for Arran, but this is just taking it too far and is nothing but a plastic midden.'

Whilst it is an offence not to pick up dog waste on public footpaths, the Forestry Commission advocate a policy of 'Stick and Flick'.

A spokesman for Forestry Commission Scotland said: 'No one likes to see discarded dog waste bags.

'We are trying to encourage people to use 'stick and flick' in the forest.

'If your dog fouls the path in the forest please use a stick to remove the waste from the path into the undergrowth where it can break down naturally.

'If your dog fouls near the forest centre, car parks or other sensitive areas we ask you pick up the waste and use dog bins and other waste deposit areas within the villages.'



The mess that has been left behind.



An unsightly number of plastic dog waste bags have been left behind on the Glenashdale Falls path.

## Atlas presents 'bare bones' of island's bird life but many questions still need answered

The February meeting of Arran Natural History Society (ANHS) was entitled Beyond The Maps, the maps in question being those of the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012.

Dr Jim Cassels, bird recorder for Arran, described how the atlas came about and the huge amount of work by many people that lay behind it. Jim remembered speaking to Arran Natural History Society in 2006 about the special nature of Arran and its birds, and the idea of mapping the bird life of the island grew from then on. Jim had published the 2006 annual bird report, the first one he was responsible for, on the basis of 2,000 bird records sent in to him. It is a measure of the increasing awareness of our wildlife and the influence that the atlas has had that for the latest annual report 9,500 records were submitted.

### Records submitted

For the atlas, 139 grid squares covering the island were surveyed, 177 avian species were noted and a total of 36,000 records submitted by 700 people were collated. The final result was published in June 2014 as the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012, and has attracted excellent reviews. Scottish Birds said: 'This superb atlas reflects

both the diversity of birdlife on this Clyde island and the enthusiasm and determination of the Arran Natural History Society.' British Birds said: 'Attractively priced... easy reference...useful companion for any visit.' And reviews in French and Dutch journals echoed this praise: 'A tremendous effort... very succinct.... a very worthy publication...' Jim was awarded the Marsh Local Ornithology Award for 2013 for his work on the atlas.

After giving the meeting a summary of all this work, Jim reminded us that the atlas presents the bare bones of the island's bird life but that many questions remain to be investigated, for example, about why different species are distributed as they are and about the reasons for changes over time.

He then suggested to the meeting that the society might consider giving grants for projects that further our knowledge of these and other questions. The society could set up a grant system to help develop a range of activities, each of which would promote one or more of the aims of the ANHS. The size and nature of the grant would be flexible and reflect the nature of the activity. The awarding

and monitoring of the use of any grant would be the responsibility of the committee of ANHS and a condition of the receipt of the grant would be providing ANHS with a report of the activity, which could be a written report for publication or a presentation to members or both.

### Suggestion

Jim's suggestion will be considered by members of the society over the coming weeks and at the AGM, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Jim and all the many other folk who had brought the work on the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 to such a successful fruition.

The next meeting of Arran Natural History Society will be on Thursday 5 March at 8pm at the Ranger Centre, Brodick Country Park, when Gordon Riddle will be talking about the natural history of the Isle of Canna.

Before that, however, on Sunday 22 February, there will be a winter shore and bird walk, led by local experts. This will start from the council offices car park in Lamlash at 9.30am. Whether you are an island resident or are visiting Arran, everyone is welcome to join the society members for these forthcoming events.

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# Winter is not over yet

The weather in January was characterised by regular, sometimes storm force, Atlantic fronts sweeping across the island.

It was a little colder and a little drier than January 2014 but unsettled.

This month particular high-

lights were reports of snow bunting, ptarmigan and long-tailed duck. There were two reports of snow bunting, two at Clauchlands Point on the 18th January and two at Drumadoon Point on the 22nd.

There was only one report in the whole of 2014.

Six ptarmigan on Beinn Nuis on the 21st was the largest group of this species reported in a number of years and a long-tailed duck between Whitefarland and Pirnmill between the 19th and 21st was only the second record of this Arctic breeding duck since 1998.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: 250 greylag geese in Shiskine on the 18th, eight wigeon on Cleats Shore on the 22nd, a brent goose at the Rodden on the 25th and two male goldeneye in Loch Ranza from the 11th to 27th.

Other winter visitors included a greenshank at Clauchlands on the 18th and seven purple sandpiper in Kildonan on the 28th.

All three divers were reported: two black-throated diver and two great northern diver off Pirnmill on the 21st and a red-throated diver in Sannox Bay on the 27th.

Other highlights included:



There have been big flocks of lapwing around at the moment. Photo: Dennis Morrison.



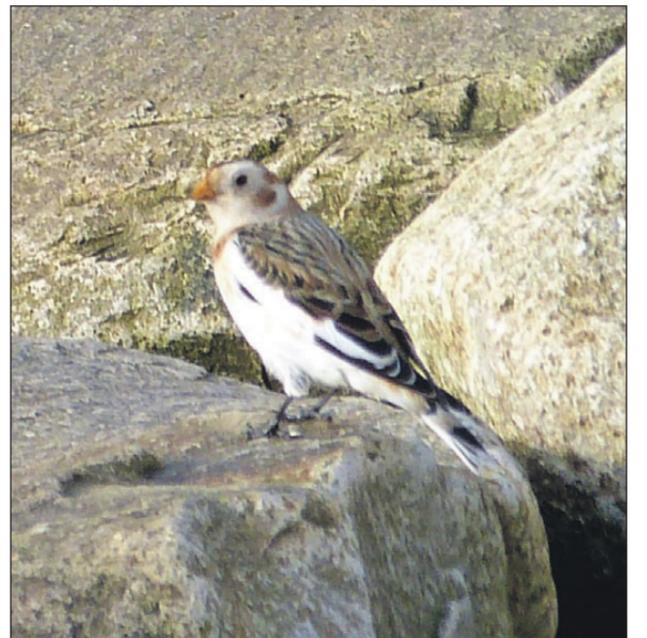
**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
JANUARY

This ptarmigan was snapped by Tony Church some time ago. The birds seen recently were not photographed.

five little grebe in Loch Ranza on the 10th, a kingfisher on the Fisherman's Walk on the 13th, 87 lapwing on Cleats Shore on the 22nd and three reports of merlin, one on Kildonan shore on the 2nd, one at Bennecarrigan on the 8th and one on Machrie Golf Course on the 27th.

Interesting garden birds included: two great spotted woodpecker in Lamlash on the 12th, five yellowhammer in Shiskine on the 14th, a goldcrest in Alma Park on the 15th and a blackcap in Corrie, four bullfinch in Lochranza and 11 long-tailed tit in Whiting Bay all on the 25th.

There were some signs of approaching spring with chaffinch singing in Kildonan on the 4th, a golden eagle displaying over An Tunna also



This snow bunting was spotted on the shore at Machrie. Photo: Angela Cassels.



An Arctic breeding duck. This is only the second Arran record of a long-tailed duck since 1998. Photo: Fiona Laing.

on the 4th, mistle thrush singing in Lamlash on the 6th, red-breasted merganser displaying off Sandbraes on the 18th and raven nest building in Catacol 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 email me at james.cassels@virgin.net

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran, purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)

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# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 18 February, 1995

## Minor miracle

A new supermarket opened in Brodick on Friday - and no it was not the Co-op.

Curries of Brodick, closed for two weeks now, opened on schedule after more than 40 people - Curries' staff and tradesmen - worked around the clock for 12 days.

As recently as Wednesday afternoon, owner Alastair Bilsland was unable to say when it would reopen.

Sunday at the latest, Saturday he hoped.

They had to wait for the plaster to dry before tiling and painting, whilst others stocked the shelves.

But by Friday morning they'd got it all together and the doors were opened to the public at 10am.

## Burnt out

Firemen from Corriecravie, Lamlash and Brodick were called to a fire at Auchareoch early on Sunday afternoon.

Although the blaze was virtually out by around 4pm and the house was still standing, the inside was completely burnt out.

Despite Auchareoch being the most remote property on the island, there is a water hydrant on the property for Forestry Commission use.

Firemen used this but also had to pump water from the burn.

It is thought that a wood burning stove start-

ed the fire which smouldered for some time before a man working outside became aware of it.

## Ferry cancellations

The ferry has been diverted to Gourrock or cancelled on only five days so far this year.

In comparison to previous Januarys, this is an excellent record.

Only two years ago, the last year of the MV Isle of Arran, the ferry was diverted or cancelled on more than 20 days in January alone.

## Public opinion sought

A public meeting is to be held in The Kingsley Hotel, Brodick on Monday evening to gauge opinions on the proposals for the redevelopment of the Coralyn/Charters Towers site.

Organised by community councillors John Sillars and Stewart Walls, it is scheduled to take place after Ms Celia Urquhart has shown her plans in Brodick Hall.

## Baton training

Arran's police officers are currently undergoing training for use of new American-style batons - ninja training as they are colloquially calling it.

## Fight cancels dance

A dance in Lochranza Village Hall last Saturday night finished early after a fight broke out.

The fight began between two youths from Lamlash but soon more people got involved.

As a result the organisers called the buses early, they arrived at 11.15pm and most of the revellers then left.

## Shore ticketing

Soon passengers will be unable to buy a ticket on board the Ardrossan ferry.

Pier manager Robbie Brown tells us that shore ticketing is imminent and will be fully operational within six weeks.

First discussed 18 months ago, the idea met with much opposition.

But throughout the period CalMac have held firm in their determination to introduce it.



Charles and Alasdair Hendry took delivery of a new £23,000 16-seater minibus on Wednesday from CM Weir and Sons of Machrie. DG Weir is seen here handing over the keys to Charles. b07twe01



Just 36 hours before opening time Jackie Donaldson is still painting the interior at Curries supermarket while hands on proprietor Alastair gives advice. b07twe04



Last Tuesday was Valentine's Day and romance is alive and well in Lamlash. A packed Valentine's coffee morning in the church hall helped to raise more funds for the roof restoration. In the picture Graeme and Hettie Hood and former high school rector David Oakes sample some of the heart shaped cakes on offer. b07twe02

Right: Seven-year-old Fiona Tinto of Lamlash is the lucky young writer who has been chosen to open the new Brodick Co-op at the end of the month. Pupils from all the island's primary schools were asked to write a short story on being 'A celebrity for a day' and Fiona won. b07twe03



# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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



## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing  
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open  
 Arran Brewery  
 Arran Brewery tour  
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 9am-Dusk  
 Mon, Wed & Fri 12.30-5pm Sat 10-5pm  
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
 Open all day

## Saturday 14th February

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s Disco  
 Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Live music  
 Brodick Market  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, from 8pm  
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm

## Sunday 15th February

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 AA Meeting  
 Mackerel Lottery  
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm  
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 2.30pm

## Monday 16th February

Over 50s Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Citizens Advice  
 Morning Fitness  
 Table Tennis  
 Badminton  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Yoga  
 Circuit Training  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 10/10 Total Body workout

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavillion, 9.30-1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
 Beginners & Improvers, Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm

## Tuesday 17th February

Pop Quiz  
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth Club  
 Rotary club  
 Healthy Outdoors  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
 RunArran  
 Bridge for beginners  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Metafit  
 Lamlash Church Guild

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm  
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Learning Centre, Lamlash, 7-9pm  
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash 6pm  
 Trust Housing, Lamlash, 2pm

## Wednesday 18th February

Rock & Pop Bingo  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Yogalates  
 Aquafizz  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 RunArran  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Drift Inn Quiz  
 Mixed Hockey  
 Dog classes  
 Friends of Brodick Castle - Women & war talk  
 Arran Elderly Forum

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Lamlash, 9pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Castle Tearoom, Brodick, 2.30pm  
 Brodick Pavillion, 11am

## Thursday 19th February

Morning Fitness  
 General Knowledge Quiz  
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends  
 Yoga  
 Bridge Club  
 Open Music session  
 Ladies Hockey  
 RunArran Beginners  
 Pilates  
 Country Park Volunteer Day  
 Brodick Embroidery Group  
 QuiltArran  
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
 Metafit  
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals  
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals  
 Unison AGM

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm  
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Pavillion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm  
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Auchrannie, 6pm  
 Lamlash church Hall, 4pm - 4.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.15pm - 5.45pm  
 Lamlash Council Offices, 5pm

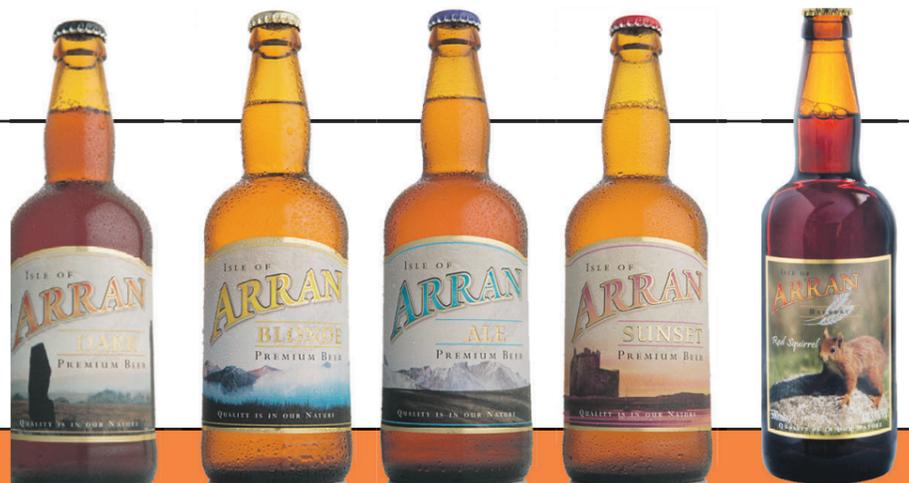
## Friday 20th February

Aqua Fizz  
 Yogalates  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Live music  
 Lochranza Kids Badminton  
 Lochranza Adults Badminton  
 Family fun night  
 Brodick Market  
 AA Meeting  
 Live music

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Church Hall, Brodick, 7pm-9pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 4.45pm  
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm



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# Recruitment



## Part Time Development Officer

The Arran Community Land Initiative (Charity reg. SC043886) has acquired and aims to bring back into use 80 acres of farmland above Whiting Bay village for outdoor educational purposes, pursuits and activities.

The Board of Trustees now wishes to appoint a Development Officer to drive the project forward. The ideal candidate will have experience of working on similar community projects, a proven record of securing grant funding and experience in countryside management. Excellent financial management, verbal and written communication skills and ICT literacy are also required.

The post is offered on an initial fixed term 12 month contract, which may be extendable subject to additional funding being secured. The salary offered is £24,000 per annum pro-rata three days a week. Some evening and weekend work will be required.

Applications in writing, including a current CV to: The Treasurer ACLI, c/o Primrose Cottage, Whiting Bay, KA27 8RH or by email to [info@arranland.org](mailto:info@arranland.org). ACLI is an equal opportunities employer. This post is supported by a grant from the Scottish Land Fund. A job description is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ktnftoa>

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27th February.



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01770 302202 [brodickcastle@nts.org.uk](mailto:brodickcastle@nts.org.uk)



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[morven.buckby@arrancvs.org.uk](mailto:morven.buckby@arrancvs.org.uk)

Closing date 20th February

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# Public Notices

**Unison AGM**

Lamlash Council Offices  
Thursday 19th February 2015  
at 5pm  
All welcome

**ARRAN BRASS AGM**

Wednesday 25th February  
Brodick Church Hall  
7pm

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX**

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2015/16.

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	768.00	576.00
B	896.00	672.00
C	1,024.00	768.00
D	1,152.00	864.00
E	1,408.00	1,056.00
F	1,664.00	1,248.00
G	1,920.00	1,440.00
H	2,304.00	1,728.00

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland. North Ayrshire Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water.

The level of discount on second homes and unoccupied properties is 10% in accordance with the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

The 2015-16 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2015.

L Friel  
Chief Financial Officer

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

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 06.03.15. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

15/00039/PP; Corriecrievie Muir House, Slidery, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of 50kW wind turbine, 27m to blade tip and inverter house.  
15/00046/PP; Oakbank Farm, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of log cabin for tourist accommodation.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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UNDER £30

Motorcycle helmet - Spada, black, never used £30, 12 string guitar - needs attention £30 Tel: 700369

MFI Black ash office furniture - desk £15, mini filing cabinet £15, bookcases x 4 £10 each. Tel: 860222

Large white bath - excellent condition £30 Tel: 860276

Electric Panel Heaters Selection of 1, 2 and 3 Km Panel heaters - all working £15 each Tel: 860202, Electric Towel Rails - Selection of electrically heated towel rails - all working £30 each (ONO) Tel: 860202

Bench grinder 2 x 6" wheels - £14, 12V car battery charger £6 Tel: 600238

Folding wheelchair, as new £25, ALCO electric garden shredder £20, VHS video player £9 Tel: 600694

1 oval mirror - blue frame £10, 2 rectangular mirrors - brown frame £10 each, 4 built-in ceiling lights £10 (still in box), 2 shaver/lights £10 each, electric heaters £10 each, 1 trouser press £30 Tel: 302383

Wooden unit (old style) with two drawers plus one long

drawer below. Width 36", Depth 17", Height 18" would be suitable for TV unit - £25 Tel: 600238

OVER £30

1200 litre heating oil tank £150, Central heating boiler grant comber 20kw 70,000btu (little used) £480 Tel: 810655

Super king mattress 6'x6'6" Nulife zenith latex- as new only 3 months old cost £495 selling for £200 ono Tel: 600037

L200 Tyres 4 almost new Bridgestone Dueller H/T M+S 245/70R16. Half price Tel 07850 600202

2 X 3 seater dark grey brushed cotton modern sofas 2 years old £120 each Tel: 01770860246 or 07738011366

FREE TO UPLIFT

2 and 3 seater sofa's - cream leather with scratches to seats Tel: 860303

Quantity of car magazines, Car Mechanics, Practical Classics Tel: 600694

WANTED

Gardening tools gratefully received Tel: 700511

N-gauge model railway wanted for bored islander, not dealer. Tel 601319

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 15th February**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
Coffee after service, with Bible discussion.

**Wednesday 18th February**  
(Ash Wednesday)  
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.  
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 15th February**  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches. 10.15am  
Morning Worship in Lochranza Shiskine Church, 12noon  
Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am  
Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am  
Prayer Meeting  
12noon Morning Worship.  
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 15th February**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Mrs Sharon Macleod  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 15th February**  
Morning Service, 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 18th February**  
at 7pm  
5 Glen Road  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 15th February**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev John Mann

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number SC014005)  
**Sunday 15th February**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.  
All welcome.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.

There will be a range of Traidcraft goods available for sale.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday mass 11am

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 15th February**  
1am Morning Worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**DEATHS**

**DONNELLY** - William.  
Billy passed away Thursday 8th January 2015, formally from Blairbeth residing in Arran. Loving husband of the late Mary & much loved father of Andrew. Funeral service to be held at 2.45pm on Monday 16th February 2015 at the Linn Crematorium, Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow to which all friends are respectfully invited. Enquires to Fosters Funeral Directors 0141 6478080.

**HART** - Agnes (nee Brown). Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Saturday, 7th February 2015, aged 94 years. Beloved wife of the late Richard, dear mother of Robbie and Mary.

**POINTER** - Isobel (nee Tennant). Died peacefully on 10th February aged 97. Adored wife of the late Eddie and much loved mum of Susan and the late Margot and devoted gran and greatgran to all the family. Funeral at Kilbride Cemetery, Lamlash, Isle of Arran at 11.30am on Wednesday, 18th February and thereafter at Whitehill, Corriegills. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Montrose House Sunshine Fund.



**Shiskine Golf Club**  
Ryder Cup final day results from Sunday 8 February.

Morning results: Kilpatrick 3 v Blackwaterfoot 1, Torbeg 3 v Shiskine 1.

Torbeg win bonus point.  
Table after fifth game: 1 Blackwaterfoot 20 pts, 2 Kilpatrick 19.5 pts, 3 Shiskine 11.5 pts, 4 Torbeg 10 pts.

Afternoon results: Blackwaterfoot 5 v Kilpatrick 3, Shiskine 5 v Torbeg 3.

Blackwaterfoot win bonus point.

Final table reads: 1 Blackwaterfoot 26 pts, 2 Kilpatrick 22.5 pts, 3 Torbeg 13 pts, 4 Shiskine 12.5 pts.

Well done to Blackwaterfoot who are the champions. Shiskine were docked four points for bad management (not turning up at meeting) and were given the wooden spoon.

Captains for next year are: Blackwaterfoot - G Andrew, Kilpatrick - N Henderson,

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**KIRK** - Vera and family would like to thank everyone for all their kindness, care and attention especially hospital staff, doctors and home carers and David and Clair for the funeral arrangements. Also to the Auchrannie for drinks and refreshments. All monies raised in lieu of flowers have been given to the Arran Heritage Museum at Jims request. Once again thanks to all at this sad and difficult time.

**ROBERTSON** - Donald and family would like to sincerely thank all relatives and friends who attended Cathie's funeral, sent cards and flowers. Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be gratefully remembered and deeply appreciated.

Thank you to all Doctors, Nurses and District Nurses for their kind, compassionate and gentle care of Cathie during her illness. Thanks also to Reverend McLeod and Reverend Gracie for their spiritual comfort, Hendry Funeral Services for their sympathetic handling of the funeral arrangements and Kinloch Hotel for providing hospitality.

We as a family are truly humbled by the support we have received during this difficult time.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Torbeg - J Milesi, Shiskine - Jock Kelso.

Thursday 5 February, ladies 18 hole medal, CSS 69, nine played: 1 Sally Brookes 89-22=67, 2 Liz Kerr 88-16=72. Scratch - Fiona Henderson 87.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 February, Stableford, 1pm. Sunday 22 February, 12-hole medal and Winter Cup, 1pm.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday 8 February, 15 played in the fifth round of the Winter Cup, CSS 63. 1 Wolfi Kroner (12)63, 2 David Morrison (10)64, 3 Dave Hackett (12)65 acb. Jamie MacPherson won scratch with 72 and there were magic twos from outgoing captain Gus Macleod and incoming captain David Brookens.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 February, friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash. Rolling start from 10.30-11am.

A good turnout from Whiting Bay players would be appreciated as there is a large deficit to peg back.

**Brodick Golf Club**

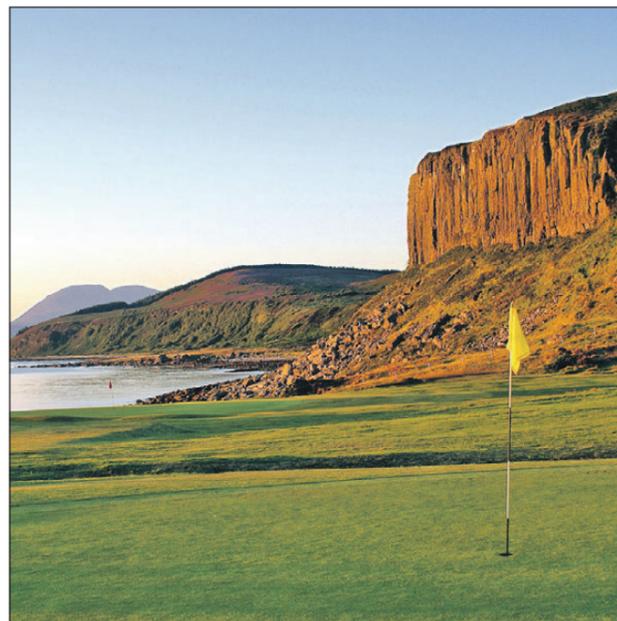
Wednesday 4 February, seven played in the first game for seven weeks.

J Green won the Norman Peach salver with a good score of 42pts: 1 J Green 76-18=58, 2 B Allison 81-17=64.

Sunday 8 February, Brandon and Winter Cup, 17 played: 1 J Armit (8)62, 2 D Hendry (14)63, 3 R McCrae (8)67 BIH from G Hendry. There were five magic twos, Iain MacDonald got two, Kenny McMillan, Jimmy Armit and Gordon Hendry got the rest.

1st Class Brandon Jimmy Armit, 2nd Class Brandon David Hendry.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 February, Clochendichter. Sunday 22 February, Winter Cup.



The 8th hole at Shiskine Golf Club

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday 5 February, Yellow Medal: 1 John O'Sullivan 78-23=55(BIH), 2 Jim Young 68-13=55. Magic twos Jim Young at 9th and 14th.

Sunday 8 February, Glenburn Cup: 1 Alan Smith 72-10=62, 2 Ian Bremner 73-5=68. Magic twos: A Smith and I Bremner at 13th.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 February, winter friendly, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Lamlash, 10.30am for 11am start. Thursday 19 February, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Monday 2 February, 12 played from yellow tees: 1 R Jeffrey 68-16=52, 2 P Moran 24-18=56, 3 A Smith 64-7=57. Best scratch - A Smith 64. Magic twos from J McConnachie, J Adams, A Smith, L Hartley and A McDonald.

Saturday 7 February, medal round from white tees, 11 played.

1 B Lewis 34-36=70-10=60, 2 A Smith 37-34=71-10=61,

3 J McGovern 37-38=75-11=64 BIH over A Cumming. Best scratch - B Lewis, 70. One magic two at the 10th from A Smith.

Monday 9 February, nine played: 1 A Smith 63-4=59, 2 B Lewis 69-4=55. Best scratch A Smith 63. Magic two from R Burke.

Fixtures: Saturday 14 February, medal rounds at 8.30am and 12.30pm from white tees. Monday 16 February, noon start from yellow tees.

**Arran Ladies Golf Union**

After a two week delay due to snow and ice on the course 13 ladies played the third of the five Drumadon competitions last Saturday at Whiting Bay Golf Club.

Results: 1 Kema Genda 77-11=66. 2 Mary Jo Tod 93-26=67. Kema also won the scratch prize.

Thanks to the club for the courtesy of the course and to the greenkeeping staff for its excellent condition. A huge thanks to John in the clubhouse for the superb soup, rolls and coffee, and for keeping us informed about the state of the course.

Fixtures: Drumadon competition, Brodick Golf Club, Saturday 28 February.

**Arran Bridge Club results**

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows: Brodick, Thursday 5 February, N/S 1 Jean Barclay and Morag Gardner, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce. E/W 1 Janette McBride and Douglas Chase, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

Lamlash, Monday 9 February, round five match points. 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 3 John Baraclough and Janette McBride.

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

Alistair and Kathleen thank all their friends and relations for all the many gifts and beautiful cards on their Golden wedding anniversary. Also thanks to the Kinloch Hotel and their very efficient staff for the catering.

**CONGRATULATIONS**



*After an unfortunate and regretted 'blip' in their 24 year relationship - William Muir, of the Auchrannie and Elaine Kilpatrick, of 8 Anne Crescent in Lenzie, with deepest love, wish to announce their engagement.*

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# Sport

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Fraser Thomson gets the ball over the line for Arran's first try. 20\_b07rugby01

## Arran back up to second with a solid home win

**Arran 28 Loch Lomond 7**  
What a day for rugby! The sun shone, there was no wind, Arran won. God was in His heaven and all was right with the world!

The visitors, Loch Lomond, were here to play rugby and their vigour, enthusiasm and talent made for a great game and they possibly deserved a better scoreline. Unfortunately,

ly, they lacked the killer finish which saw Arran win by two converted tries, one unconverted try and three penalty goals, to one converted try to the visitors, and returns them to second in the league.

Arran took a while to get going with both sides keeping a clean sheet until late in the first half. But, in the usual way, the scoring was opened

by a penalty right in front of the posts by the ever reliable Iain Keen.

Fraser Thomson scored the first try – the sort of thing he has been threatening to do all season – 15 yards out, three men to beat, but it proved no problem for the speedy winger.

### Venerable age

The second was from a line out maul which ended with the touchdown by Donald (Addie) Adamson at the venerable age of 52 and this one was converted from near the touchline by Iain Keen. So, half time arrived with Arran leading 12-0.

The second half began with Lomond getting a try back making the score 12-7, but after that Arran were much more in control of the game due, to a large extent to the arrival of Lachlan Jones, and Ian Keen kicked two more penalties.

The try scoring was completed by Gregor Adamson with a burst through the middle and a final stretch to touch down under the posts to give Keeno a simple task with which he made no mistake.

What was amazing in this game was that Arran got away with playing a weakened scrum – lock Stuart McMaster at loose head, number 8 Jamie Picken in the second row, however, a truly great effort by all eight made them more than hold their own up front.

Next week Arran travel to play Millbrae at Ayr and the next home game is against runaway league leaders Strathaven on Saturday 21 February when everyone is encouraged to come along and support the team. Thanks to the hockey girls for doing just that on Saturday. The screams of encouragement really helped!



A Lomond player shows grim determination to stop Jack Barbour. 20\_b07rugby07



Charlie Boal heads for the try line, pursued by three defenders. 20\_b07rugby02

### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.