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Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 2007 | No 1584

Fiona Laing making one of the last deliveries of daily newspapers and bread to the shop at Kilmory

Kilmory shop to close

Villagers say it will be a sad day next Wednesday when Kilmory shop, tearoom and post office closes for good after providing a service for generations of customers. Owners John Sullivan and Linda Rose took over the business in December 2005, refurbishing the tearoom and starting a popular chip shop service at weekends, but John says it is no longer viable.

He said: 'We've shown our commitment but if I was looking to feed my family from the business I would have closed it sooner.'

Shop assistants Linda Wallwork, Paula Jackson and Cathy Campbell received redundancy notices this week.

'This Friday will be the last chippie night,' said Paula. 'I've been here since they opened in 2005 but I think I'll take some time out.'

Local community councillor Alastair Yates said: 'It's sad that it has come to this. There's nothing else in the village.

'God help Kilmory. What will happen to the old folk? My mother gets her pension down here.'

Customer Phyllis Picken said: 'There are 17 new houses being built in the village; surely someone could make a go of it. As far as I know it was not on the Post Office list to be shut as it is within an amenity.'

The closure was discussed at a village hall meeting on Monday night. Phyllis said: 'There is a plan to shunt the post office service up to the village hall like in Lochranza. Between the shop closing and getting C class roads the southend is becoming a third world. The shop was always a meeting place, particularly for the older folk.'

Kilmory shop has seen several owners since 1987. Then owner Gerry Ambler built the flat above the shop. Paul and Alison Bagnall took over in 1989 and the post office closed temporarily. Bernard and Kate Duffy bought it in 1993 and tried to build up the grocery side. In 1997 John and Jean Fitzpatrick bought the business and started the weekend chippie.

John said: 'It's not for sale. We'll keep it and see what we can do with it. It looks like the village doesn't need a shop. It's very sad and it's not worth the aggravation.'

Liquidation costs museum £5,000

'All of us at the museum are devastated but we are determined to bounce back'

The Arran Heritage Museum may have lost £5,000 as a result of a supplier going into liquidation.

In January the museum was awarded £10,000 lottery funding under the Awards for All scheme. This money, along with other funds, was to provide a new shop and reception building. The concrete base was laid at the left hand side of the car park and the wooden building should have arrived in the week commencing 12 February.

Liquidation

Honorary secretary and manager Tom Macleod said: 'Unfortunately, we received a letter on 9 February which informed us that the company supplying the building had gone into liquidation.

'The liquidator was extremely sympathetic but there seems no chance of us getting back our deposit of £5,000. It was to have been similar to the wooden building at Cladach.

'All of us at the museum are devastated but we are determined to bounce back.'

He added that within hours of hearing of the problem a Brodick couple presented them with a cheque for £1,000.

'Our faith was restored and the new shop and reception will be built.' Said Tom.

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Black rabbit on the loose in Shiskine

A large black rabbit appeared in a Shiskine garden last Friday morning.

Householder, Diana Turbett, said: 'He's very tame and is eating mainly grass at the moment but we really feel that he would be better off in a good home. Perhaps the owner would like to reclaim him, or if not, anyone else who likes rabbits can have him.'

Anyone who could give this friendly rabbit a home should contact Diana on 860427.

The Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* in Brodick Bay last Saturday afternoon with *MV Caledonian Isles* approaching the pier. b08gre1

Greenpeace ship in Brodick Bay

The Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* was seen at anchor in Brodick Bay last Saturday 17 February. The bright green and rainbow coloured vessel was taking a break from her five-week 'Trident – we don't buy it' UK tour campaigning against the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons programme.

Jo Cooper is part-time cook and press officer on board and she told *The Banner:* 'We left Leith docks last Wednesday but ran into rough weather off the Orkneys and came into Brodick Bay for a rest.'

Four fast inflatable boats could be seen whizzing around the ship and Jo explained: 'The crew took advantage of the lovely Arran weather to do some training in driving and boat handling. We left Arran on Sunday and headed across to Faslane to pick up some MSPs and clergy.'

When Jo spoke to *The Banner* on Wednesday the *Arctic Sunrise* was berthed in Greenock. She said: 'There is an open day on board the ship on Sunday and then we are sailing down to Stranraer.'

When not on board the ship, Jo Cooper is a full-time press officer at Greenpeace headquarters in London. The *Arctic Sunrise* was built in 1995 and started its life as a seal hunting ship in the Antarctic.

Brodick hotel boarded up

The McAlpine Hotel in Brodick is being boarded up this week. It was purchased three weeks ago by property developer Sean Henry who says that he plans to convert it into a boutique luxury hotel. On Thursday contractor Stuart Robson from Kilbarchan said he was boarding up the windows to prevent vandalism.

Ferry passengers miss the train after Ardrossan gangway fault

Foot passengers on *MV Caledonian Isles* have had to disembark at Ardrossan via the car ramp since Thursday 15 February.

This is because of a fault in the gangway which is normally hoisted up to the side of the vessel.

Caledonian MacBrayne Brodick pier manager Colin McCort said: 'It is a safety issue.

'We have been waiting for parts to arrive and it should be fixed by the end of the week.'

Foot passengers have to wait until the car deck is empty before walking off along the car ramp. In some cases this has meant passengers missing the train from Ardrossan harbour which has been unable to wait.

'We have no control over the train service whatsoever,' said Colin McCort.

Police files

Breach of bail

A 33-year-old Lamlash man was arrested in Lamlash on Friday 16 February and charged with alleged breach of bail. He was detained in custody to appear at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

Youths targeted

Local police report that they have been called out several times during the week to deal with groups of youths congregating in the vicinity of Brodick Co-op.

In some cases youngsters are approaching adults and trying to get them to buy alcoholic drink for them.

A spokesman said: 'I would ask anyone who is approached to give a description of the youths to the police. People caught knowingly buying alcohol for minors will be charged under the Licensing Scotland Act.

'We have taken some youths home and sent letters to parents but it doesn't seem to make any difference. We are looking for the public to assist us with this problem.'

He confirmed that such groups would be seriously targeted by police.

Drama festival

The annual one-act drama festival takes place in Lamlash Community Centre this week.

Nine plays are scheduled over three nights with four of them being junior productions.

Festival chairperson Sheila Gilmore said: 'This will be our last-ever time in the community centre, but it won't be the last festival; the show will go on somewhere next year, but we are not sure where.'

The adjudicator for this year's plays will be Ms Jane Peebles from Logierait, Pitlochry.

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Children of Shiskine Nursery with their Come and Play resource packs. They are, from left, back row, Owen Popplewell, Amelia Robertson, James Smith, Leah Brown, Malley Robertson, Maya Hamilton and Cara Crawford. Front row, Louie Urquhart-Dixon, Finlay Elliott, Neve Dee, Eilidh Hamill, Rory Currie and Daisy Urquhart-Dixon. Not in the photograph is Scott Fotheringham. b08nur1

Shiskine tots to pilot council scheme

Shiskine Nursery Group is one of six nurseries in North Ayrshire to take part in a pilot parent and child play scheme.

'Come and Play' is an early years physical activity resource pack which is full of ideas for parents and children to get active together whilst having as much fun as possible.

The resource pack contains equipment and cards designed to help parents and nursery age children play together.

All the ideas, games and activities have been designed by primary five and primary six pupils of Loudoun Montgomery Primary School in Irvine.

Glossy Games

The pupils set up their own company called Glossy Games in which each child was given a specific business role to carry out.

All were involved in helping to plan, design and ultimately create the 'Come and Play' resource pack and cards. The pack began as an enterprise initiative between North Ayrshire's Active School team and the Irvine pupils.

The primary five and primary six pupils spent time in the school gym with nursery children in order to gauge their physical capabilities and familiarise themselves with different equipment.

Now six nursery groups will be receiving these resource packs and on Thursday 15 February North Ayrshire sports co-ordinator Ann Hart met the parents and children of Shiskine Nursery to hand out packs and explain the scheme.

Successful

If the project is successful other Island nursery groups may be included.

The other five groups taking part in the pilot scheme are Beith, West Kilbride, St Bridget's, Broomlands and Castlepark.

Lamlash man denies breaking bail conditions

An Arran man has been charged with breaking bail conditions banning him from contacting a woman.

Accused

Michael Lindsay, 33, is accused of sending text messages to his alleged victim on a number of occasions between February 5 and 9.

Lindsay, of Benlister Road, Lamlash, is also charged with texting the woman several times on February 16, despite earlier being bailed on condition he did not communicate with her. He denied both offences at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and was bailed for trial next month.

Whiting Bay ditch work halted

Work on filling in a ditch between MBS Building Supplies and Joshua's in Whiting Bay was halted last Tuesday.

Andy and Helen Sampson, who are selling Joshua's Bistro, said they arranged for a contractor to connect a pipe to the culvert under the road and fill in the ditch. On Monday, 16 tonnes of ready-mix concrete was tipped on top of it. North Ayrshire Council (NAC) officers visited the site and on Tuesday 20 February a council spokesman said: 'This requires planning permission so the council has advised that work stops until the issue can be resolved. Concerns about the risk of flooding have also been expressed by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the council's roads service.' Andy Sampson said: 'The end joint of the pipe is adrift but it will be connected properly. Hopefully the council will see sense.'

Council tax to rise 2.4 per cent

North Ayrshire Council (NAC) has approved an increase of 2.4 percent in council tax for the next financial year 2007/2008.

This represents an increase of £27 for properties in Band D. There are 589 residences in Band D on Arran which will now be liable to council tax of £1,152 a year. The valuation band with most Arran properties is B and E where 712 houses will be liable to council tax of £1,408. Only two Island properties are in the top Band H and they will be paying £2,304 a year.

There are 2,882 properties in total on Arran and NAC estimates the collection rate of council tax throughout the council area to be 96 percent.

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Peace vigil in Brodick

Keith Robertson leads the peace vigil at Brodick slipway with a rendition of Blowin' in the Wind. b08bin2

❒ Forty people gather to give anti-Trident message

A peace vigil at Brodick slipway last Friday evening 16 February attracted a gathering of about 40 people.

Organised by the Arran Peace, Justice and Environment Group, it took place at 6.50pm to coincide with the ferry arriving at Brodick pier.

The two main slogans were Strident against Trident and Bin the Bomb.

Keith Robertson started the demonstration with a spirited rendition of Bob Dylan's classic protest song, Blowin'' in the Wind.

Speech

Gus Smith then gave a speech extolling all the reasons for not getting a replacement for the Trident nuclear submarines based at Faslane. Isla Blair gave an impromptu and impassioned plea for an end to nuclear deterrents.

She said that she grew up with the threat of nuclear war and didn't want her own son to have the same experience. Father Noel Colford said two prayers and Mandy Simseck sang a peace song.

Many motorists tooted support as they drove past, either to or from the ferry, and a few passing walkers stopped to listen to the speakers.

Colin Turbett told *The Banner* that he expected many of those at the vigil to be travelling to the mainland on Saturday to take part in the Bin the Bomb demonstration in George Square, Glasgow.

Road forum meets as public concern grows

Call for forum to address the 'issue of the minute'

The reclassification by North Ayrshire Council (NAC) of the west coast A841 from Lochranza to Whiting Bay to a class C road was reported in *The Banner* three weeks ago and continues to cause concern among residents.

On page seven of last week's *Banner* local North Ayrshire councillor Margie Currie stressed that this is not a sinister plot by NAC to neglect the road on the west side of Arran.

She also indicated that a working party of members of the business and tourism industries, members of the community council, local officers and herself should be set up to look into proposals to improve the roads infrastructure.

The working party or forum has its first meeting this Friday 25 February and it is believed that NAC head of roads Ronnie Small will be present.

Kildonan community councillor Alastair Yates will sit on this forum and said: 'Yes, I am supportive of the forum but it is not addressing the issue of this minute. Why should we have to try and find ways of saving money?

'What did they do with our community council roads survey? The people of the southend still want a meeting to address this downgrading to C class.

'This forum is not dealing with the present problem.'

In an article on page 10 of this week's *Banner*, community councillor Neil Arthur describes himself as being perhaps cynical and suspicious about the timing of NAC's speedy response and the forthcoming May elections.

He adds that to have any success the proposed forum must immediately establish its purpose to avoid becoming just another talking shop.

He said: 'An early success in forcing an NAC U-turn on this roads reclassification may help prove that there is a need for a dedicated Island-based councillor.'

Councillor Currie said: 'Any outcome or proposal of this group will be reported to the wider community.'

Kilmory WRI ladies celebrate the bard

Kilmory WRI ladies were joined by 40 members from Shiskine, Kildonan and Whiting Bay rurals on Monday 13 February for a Burns supper in Kilmory Hall.

The evening was started by Andrew Earle piping in the haggis which was then addressed and stabbed by Alan Nicol.

The ladies then enjoyed a supper of haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by oatcakes, cheese, shortbread and tablet.

The excellent entertainment was provided by Pat Adamson's Burns verse speaking.

Isabelle Adamson read two of her poems, Joan Stewart sang and Linzi Nicol and Hazel Thomas recited a poem called Piddling Pete.

The evening concluded with the ladies, accompanied by Jo Earle on the accordion, singing Auld Lang Syne.

Andrew Earle piped the ladies on their way home after a very enjoyable evening.

Secretary Sarah Thomas said: 'The ladies of Kilmory WRI would like to thank everyone who contributed, and all their guests, for making it such a special event.'

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Grant approvals from HIE Argyll and the Islands

One Arran application for financial support for new business start-up has been approved in the December 2006 approvals list of HIE Argyll and the Islands.

Daniel Steel and Victoria Rand of Lamlash have been approved for a grant of £3,500 for their Arran Events and Weddings project.

Approved

Three Arran applications have been approved in the January 2007 list of HIE Argyll and the Islands.

The amount of grant is £3,500 in each case and the successful applicants are Murray Picken of Kilmory for Murray Picken Joinery, Trevor Bambridge of Shiskine for Arran Fire Consultancy and Ingrid Demazeux of Brodick for ID Web Design.

The sums relate to approvals not payments.

The approval shows that funds have been made available by HIE Argyll and the Islands but they will not be released until evidence is received that the project or activity has gone ahead.

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Distillery open for visitors

The Isle of Arran Distillery visitor centre at Lochranza will be reopening for the season next Friday 2 March.

Manager Robin Bell told *The Banner*: 'The visitor centre and Eagles Nest restaurant will be open seven days a week. There is a range of new products in the shop and a new video in the Old Crofters Inn.

'We also have a new cask strength malt whisky being bottled at the moment.'

Wullie, Bill and Arran Mist to represent Island

Wullie Stevenson will be representing the Island at the Scottish Nursery Sheepdog Final at Auchterarder next Saturday 3 March.

He will take two of his dogs, Bill and Arran Mist, and join the Arran and Kintyre team.

The final two nursery sheepdog trials for the winter were held at Druid, Machrie last Saturday 17 February by kind permission of Liz and Duncan Robertson.

The judge for both trials was Alex Miller of Margenaish, Kildonan.

Winner of the first trial and the Druid Cup was Wullie Stevenson of the Arran Sheepdog Centre with Bill on 83 points. Second was Wullie again, this time with Arran Mist on 80 points. Third was George Tod with Spice on 66 points and fourth was Geoff Brookes with Shona on 40 points.

Arran Mist stepped up a place winning the second trial, with her kennel mate Arran Star on 77 points giving Wullie another first and second. Third was Jack Murchie with Moss on 67 points and fourth George Tod and Spice on 66 points.

The sweepstake including older dogs was won by Wullie with Bill on 83 points.

John Craig and Midge were second on 80 points on time, and also on 80 points Wullie Stevenson and Arran Mist came third.

Trophies for the winter series were presented to the winners by Liz Clarke.

The Hirsel Cup for the nursery section was won by Wullie Stevenson and Arran Mist. Geoff Brookes and Shona won the J C Picken Cup for dogs under 18 months and the Cnoc Shield for outrun and lift over the six trials was won by Wullie and Bill. The Alba Cup for overall winner went to Jack Murchie and Gem.

After the final trial at Druid the handlers enjoyed the kind hospitality of the Clarke family at Swallowbrae.

Wullie with both Bill and Arran Mist will represent the joint team of handlers and dogs from Arran and Kintyre at the Scottish Nursery Sheepdog final to be held at Auchterarder in Perthshire on Saturday 3 March.

The three Kintyre handlers joining Wullie are John Casey with Ben, James H Weir with Rock and Brian Strachan with Megan.

Trophy winners after the final Arran Sheepdog Nursery Trial at Druid, Machrie last Saturday. They are pictured at Swallowbrae, from left, Willie McConnell and Wisp with the Glenrosa Cup, Wullie Stevenson and Arran Mist and Bill with the Hirsel Cup and Cnoc trophy, John Craig and Midge with the Drumadoon quaich including presentation decanter of whisky and Jack Murchie and Gem with the Alba Cup. b08dog1

Pupils prepare for the big move

Sixty years ago Arran High School at Lamlash took in its first pupils, but the present intake will be leaving for good this summer.

For the school is flitting to a new home nearby. The massive moving operation will take place over the summer holidays, with the school's 300 or so pupils enjoying an extra few days' holiday, announced North Ayrshire Council.

Last day

The last day of session will be Monday, 25 June, instead of Wednesday 27, after which a carefully planned moving operation will take place.

The new school will then open for its first term on Thursday, 16 August instead of the previous day for fourth, fifth and sixth-year pupils.

The remaining pupils will return on 17 August.

The timings have been approved by the council's education services committee, with the extra time off being partly achieved by transferring an in-service day to reduce the loss of educational time for pupils.

Dr Jim Tulips, head of the council's Partnership for Schools project, said the school was conscious of the significant challenge presented by the move and the loss of school time.

Reward

'Nevertheless, the ultimate reward of a new school will, I am sure, be worth the temporary inconvenience.'

The new school, being built under a PPP project, will be a community school housing a theatre, a playgroup, a sports centre to be run by North Ayrshire Leisure in the evenings and at weekends, as well as a distance learning centre and other facilities.

Work on the new school began in November 2005 and by January 2008 nothing of the old high school will be left.

It pays to advertise in the ARRAN BANNER

SAR drops in on *Caley Isles*

A Royal Navy Sea King search and rescue helicopter in a winching exercise on the stern of *MV Caledonian Isles*. b08fer1

A Royal Navy officer was winched down onto the aft deck of the Arran ferry last Wednesday morning.

Brodick pier manager Colin McCort said: 'It is something that we do with most of the major search and rescue (SAR) units across the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) network.

'This gives the opportunity for practice winching from vessels at sea in case of emergency.

'It also provides an interesting spectacle for passengers on board the ferry.'

Brian Wade took the photograph at 11.42am and said: 'We were just having breakfast in the cafeteria when I saw a Sea King helicopter flying past the window.

'The crew cleared people off the rear deck and a man was lowered down and then taken up again. I've always had a fascination with helicopters and it was great entertainment.'

Brian and his partner Sue had been on Arran for her parents', Maureen and Dick Browell's golden wedding anniversary celebrations in Whiting Bay Church Hall and were returning to their home in Morpeth. They come to the Island two or three time a year but this was the highlight of them all.

Gillian McKeith's memories of Arran

Naked bathing and rescued at sea

Skinny-dipping and being rescued from Holy Isle – these are two of TV health presenter Gillian McKeith's memories of holidays on Arran.

Gillian, who grew up in Perth, is known for her forthright ways to tackle the bad ways in which people eat and says one of her favourite haunts was Arran which she used to visit with friends.

Hill walking

Writing in a country magazine she said they would spend their days hill-walking and even going skinny-dipping in the rivers as it was so remote.

'One day, my boyfriend and I hired a rowing boat to go out to Holy Isle, a tiny island off the cost of Arran,' she wrote.

On the island they were surrounded by some fierce-looking Highland cattle with calves so they made a detour back to the boat but once they launched the tide had turned as they kept being dragged further and further away from Arran.

Dark

As the sky started getting dark I began to worry,' said Gillian.

'The shore seemed tantalisingly close to us in our little boat, and yet no one there could see us because to them we were just a dot out at sea.'

After two hours another boat came by and they yelled for help.

Eventually they were rowed ashore by the coastguard.

Writing in Country Living magazine, Gillian said she found Arran 'an incredible place, like Scotland in miniature'.

Man fined £180 at Kilmarnock after Lamlash assault

A MAN who carried out a drunken attack on a Lamlash man during a disturbance on Arran has been fined £180.

Andrew Mackenzie, 34, admitted pulling a man to the ground before kicking him repeatedly at Lamlash pier last August.

However, Mackenzie, of Shuma Court, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire, was cleared of punching his victim in the face and head after appearing for sentence at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

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Make better use of Ormidale - it's your park

The Ormidale Sports Pavilion in Brodick will soon be 10 years old. It is run by a group of local volunteers known as the Arran Sports Association - and they need more of the public to make use of the excellent facilities.

The Association committee is responsible for letting the building and the grass and artificial turf pitches.

Committee member Judy Draycott told *The Banner* that there is still a popular misconception that the facility is owned and run by North Ayrshire Council (NAC).

She said: 'No financial help comes from North Ayrshire Council so the Association committee has to raise its own income.

'We need more people and groups to use the pavilion and park.'

The field now known as Ormidale Park was originally owned by the 11th Duke of Hamilton. He built a sandstone house to the south of the field and named it Ormidale House. The field gradually became known as Ormidale Park.

Brodick's first golf course had opened on 10 July 1897 in fields higher up the hill at West Mayish. This survived until 1914 when a new course opened on it's present site on 27 July 1913.

The Ormidale Park site was used for the first three holes of the new course The whole area remained almost unchanged for the next 80 years but continued to serve the community of Arran as a dual purpose area where the golf existed in harmony with other activities such as the Highland Games and football.

In 1992 negotiations began which would radically change the Ormidale Park.

Four -years of fundraising

A group of Arran's sports enthusiasts got together for the purpose of building a modern sports field and facilities for the whole Island on the site of the Ormidale Park. It took some four years of fund-raising by the group, now known as Arran Sports Association, to make the dream a reality.

The large pavilion with full size grass and astroturf pitches was completed and opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 9 August 1997. The golf holes were moved to land on the north of Rosa burn. The Ormidale Park has continued to be a community facility enjoyed by many groups such as rugby, football and skateboarders and has at some time been used and enjoyed by most youngsters on the Island in some way.

Judy Draycott said: 'What you may not know is that the Ormidale is available for hire; it can be the whole complex for two days as did the Microsoft Challenge last year or just an hour in the pleasant surroundings of the meeting room.

'The committee tries to accommodate most needs and budgets, all you have to do is let them know your requirements.

'Still there are people who think that it is owned by the Council, this is not so. The council does cut the grass but charges the Sports Association over £1,800 a year.

'Last year the facility was used during the summer months to capacity which meant that the shower pumps had to be replaced at a cost of over £1,000. This all adds up, plus the water and sewage rates, electricity and heating, insurance and maintenance of the building and grounds. Charges to local clubs are kept to a minimum so that they can afford to use them.'

The facilities include the use of the well laid out kitchen and excellent parking. Further information is available from Andy Ingham on 860421.

Judy added: 'The committee needs the support of the people on the Island to maintain this lovely facility for the benefit of everyone. That is why they are asking for help in producing the little booklet as done last year.

'If you wish to support this booklet, please make contact with Judy Draycott, telephone number 700424.

'Remember when weed killer was accidentally sprayed on the field? People from all walks of life turned out to remove the poisoned turf and lay new. It took a huge amount of manhours and hard work to get it right again.

'The Ormidale sports pavilion was built for the benefit of the whole Island, so please consider it when looking for somewhere to hire or information for their booklet.'

Her Majesty the Queen officially opening the Ormidale Pavilion and Park on 9 August 1997, accompanied by Arran Sports Association chairman Alastair Dobson and Deputy Lord Lieutenant the Lady Jean Fforde. b08orm2

Her Majesty the Queen officially opening the Ormidale Pavilion and Park on 9 August 1997, accompanied by Arran Sports Association chairman Alastair Dobson and Major Richard Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran. b08orm1

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BANNER
ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER Saturday 24th Feb, 2007

MSP Allan Wilson, in his occasional 'boastsheet' in which he keeps us up to speed on all the marvellous things he is doing to improve our humble lives mentions, under the heading Road Improvements in North Ayrshire, all the money being spent on road improvement schemes.

Does he not know that this will not go down at all well on Arran just as we have heard that we are having the greater part of the main road downgraded?

There is much distress being expressed at possible redundancies as one of Glasgow's most respected and long established engineering firms, Weir's Pumps of Cathcart, (formerly G & J Weir) is taken over by a Swiss firm.

This was a name always familiar to us, my father having served his engineering apprenticeship there during the twenties.

The one thing he told us about it, which greatly appealed to us and which we will all remember forever, was that each of the tools used by men and apprentices was stamped with the legend, 'Stolen from G & J Weir'.

Imagine the high dudgeon that would create today!

The Irish News has been ordered to pay £25,000 to a Belfast restaurant because the paper's food critic, in their view, unfairly insulted them.

In the summer of 1982 we decided to visit one Arran restaurant every week and write a piece about it. It was sheer hell. Not so much the food, which for the most part was ordinary beyond belief, but the pressure and the cost of five of us eating out every week.

'I'd love to do that for you', said a lot of people, 'it must be great getting all these free meals.' But it wasn't like that at all. We paid for every one.

Well, a couple of hoteliers offered us a free bottle of wine but we always refused. One could hardly be impartial just after accepting what might be taken as a bribe.

There was one hotelier though (the hotel in question now no longer stands) who forgot to charge us for the wine and we only found this out when he came up to *The Banner* office on Monday morning and asked us for the money!

The worst bit, however, was trying to say something meaningful which wasn't a complete lie, and which distinguished one place from the next.

These hotels were our advertisers and describing an eatery as bland, or worse, wasn't really on the agenda. So it all had to be between the lines.

But even the plainest text is read differently by different people. Imagine my embarrassment when, after damning one place with the faintest of faint praise the proprieter was ecstatic about all the nice things I'd said.

It goes to show that there's no such thing as free speech. There certainly won't be now in restaurant reviews after *The Irish News* case. People asked us why we did not repeat the exercise of that summer. We'd quickly decided, never again.

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner,* Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor

Stationary shop

Sir,
I was pleased to read on Page 5 of issue 1582 of The Banner that The Harbour Shop at Blackwaterfoot is now under new management.

A village shop is saved from closure.

It was interesting to see that Mrs Ingham will be selling, among other things, stationary. Stationary what? I ask.

It is these little errors that add to the pleasure of reading this great wee newspaper.

Yours,
Robin Cairns
53 Kingsbarns Drive
King's Park
Glasgow

Threat of privatisation?

Sir,
Is Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries the fatted calf to slaughter or privatisation?

With the withdrawal of V Ships from the bidding process Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is left as the only interested party in tendering for services required by the European Commission, but not, readers may recall, the European Parliament, for the west coast ferry routes including Arran.

With the tendering apparently out of the way, the Executive can give serious consideration to privatising CalMac as another sop to New Labour's love affair with big business.

Privatisation will give this company's rivals the opportunity to snap up the more profitable routes cheaply and offer an inferior service to the Island communities presently serviced by CalMac.

To make the company more viable for the tendering process, some £16 million of Scottish Executive money has been committed to paying for the establishment of an offshore company Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing which will employ the crews.

This will save £9 million in National Insurance payments for the 800 seafarers involved. At a stroke and at huge cost to us, the government deprives its own National Insurance system of income in order to make its own asset more marketable.

Strange or what!

Is it any wonder we're suspicious?

Only adverse publicity and public pressure will end the threat of privatisation and we should not wait until it is thrust upon us.

Yours,
Nigel Hunter
1 Benlister Terrace
Lamlash
Isle of Arran

First class C-class road

Sir,
There has been much discussion in the last two weeks over the down-grading of much of Arran's road network.

However, it may not be as bad as many people anticipate. The Newton Shore road in Lochranza has always been a C-class road and despite the fact that the surface was reasonably good it was resurfaced from end to end just a short while ago.

The surface is now immaculate and the job was done with real tarmac, not just the tar and chippings that are often applied to patch up the current A-class roads.

So look on the bright side; downgrading to C-class may mean much faster upgrading for Arran's appalling roads, by NAC's dedicated road maintenance staff.

Yours,
John Baraclough
Crimond
Strathwhillan
Brodick

Museum setback fuels a determined fight to continue

Sir,
We would like, through your columns, to inform your readers, many of whom are our members and supporters, about the difficulties that are facing us with regard to the planned building of a new shop/reception at the Museum.

We have spent the last two years raising the required funds for the project.

This has been achieved by the hard work of our volunteers, constantly making the Museum more attractive to visitors of all ages, and raising money on special event days, and the great support we receive from so many folk on the Island, contributing in many ways to the raising of the money.

We have also received grants from the national lottery 'Awards For All Scheme' and the Hilden Foundation.

The concrete base has been laid and the wooden building should have arrived in the week commencing 12th February.

Unfortunately, we received a letter on 9th February which informed us that the company supplying the building had gone into liquidation.

I'm sure you have all read of this type of thing happening - it seems more frequently nowadays, never thinking that it can happen to you.

In our case it has happened, we have spoken to the company handling the liquidation and it seems there is no chance of us redeeming our deposit, which was in excess of £5,000.

All of us at the Museum are devastated by this loss after all the effort, but we are also determined to bounce back.

Indeed, only hours after hearing of our problems a Brodick couple who are both long-term members of the Museum have presented us with a cheque for £1,000. This is a great start to the fight back which we will continue until our loss has been recouped.

We give our assurance to the people of the Island, who have always been greatly supportive of the Museum, that the shop/reception will be built, even if the opening has to be delayed.

Yours,
Tom Macleod
Honorary Secretary/Manager
Isle of Arran Heritage Museum

Highlighting Island's lack of low-cost housing

Sir,
Lack of low cost housing is now recognised as being a nationwide problem and one of the aims of HIFAR (Housing Initiative For Arran Residents) is to highlight this problem on Arran.

The contributions from those who have already helped with information for the website – www.hifar.co.uk - are greatly appreciated but we know there are lots more people out there who deserve to be counted and whose stories need to be told.

Visit the website, fill in the questionnaire and if you think you should be in the 'rogues' gallery' please contact me on 302680 or Henry on 302393.

Yours,
Margo McLellan
Hillcrest
Whiting Bay

Don't forget cyclists and walkers in roads campaign

Sir,
Whilst I sympathise with concerns regarding the damage incurred to cars by the appalling road surface and the A841 on the west side of the Island being a lifeline route, the potential dangers to pedestrians and cyclists must also be highlighted.

My children came home from school last week with a leaflet entitled 'Walking And Cycling To School' and a reflector belt as modelled by primary school children on the front page of the Banner (17th February).

Published by North Ayrshire Council, Saferoutes and Sustrans, the aim is to encourage children to travel to school in a way that benefits their health, the environment and is safe.

I agree in principle with this initiative, but if a car or indeed a child on a bike hit a pothole or swerved to avoid one, the result may be catastrophic, regardless of reflective and safety gear.

If, as Councillor Margie Currie claims, the reclassification of the A841 is the beginning of a campaign to improve our roads, may I suggest that safety be put in the forefront of her fight.

Yours,
Liz Jardine,
Rowallan,
Whiting Bay

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Letters to the Editor

Accolade for disco dynamo Chris

Sir,
I attended a disco on Tuesday, February 13th in the Auchrannie and this is one of the best discos I have attended.

As a travelling agent I often attend these events and this was excellent.

The music chosen by the DJ, Chris, who I understand lives in Lochranza, was excellent and his lighting effects could not have been bettered by a professional.

The people of Arran are indeed lucky to have a local person to run such events.

Thanks for a great evening.
Yours,
Thomas Giles
Regent Street
London

Call to Islanders to ensure flower show success

Sir,
After such a windy, wet winter it is wonderful to see the signs of spring appearing.

Once again Arran Horticultural Society is preparing to host its Annual Spring Flower and Bulb Show on Saturday 17 March at Brodick Hall.

This community event is always a delight, bringing together a beautiful array of spring flowers nurtured by both adults and children, alongside decorative floral art displays.

To ensure the continued success of the show we do need as many entries as possible.

Please will you have a look round your gardens and greenhouses in case you have any possible entries emerging.

Schedules giving full details of all the classes will be available from March in all the post offices, The Ship House, Lamlash and myself.

Even if you have not put in any entries we do hope you will come and have a look and enjoy tea and cakes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any queries (tel. 600552).
Yours,
Carol Vella-Boyle
Claveron
Lamlash

Arran bridge results

Lamlash Bridge
19 February
N/S: 1 T Martin & A Bilsland +500; 2 E Sillars & l Primrose -1820; 3 E McConnell & C Mason -1930. E/W: 1 J McClure & A McKelvie +2720; 2 H Boyd & J Murchie +2500; 3 P Sloan & P Adamson +2440.

Brodick Bridge Club
N/S 1 J & J Beattie -330; 2 T Martin and E McNiven -1120; 3 H Boyd and E Sillars -1380. E/W 1 D Bruce & D Scobie +2480; 2 A Bilsland & E Duncan +2410; 3 P Sloan & J Barclay +2330.

Planning applications considered

❒ NAC grants two applications but refuses three projects

At the meetings of North Ayrshire Council (NAC) planning committee in Cunninghame House on Monday 5 February and Monday 15 January five Arran applications were considered.

Two applications granted with conditions

The committee agreed to conditionally grant an application to extend the time limit for siting a caravan on land in the Kiscadale area at Tor Alvey.

The application was for an extension of 12 months from 5 December 2006 to 5 December 2007 but the committee agreed to extend the time limit to 5 August 2007.

The site shall be restored to the satisfaction of NAC prior to the occupation of the house to be erected on the site or by 5 August 2007, whichever date is the earlier.

It was agreed to grant an application for a one-and-a-half storey extension to the side of a detached house at Lenamhor Cottage, Kilmory, subject to conditions that the east-facing windows and door shall be obscure-glazed to the satisfaction of NAC.

Three applications refused

It was agreed to refuse an application for a house to the west of Greyholme, Brodick, on the grounds that it would result in the loss of trees and mature landscaping which would be contrary to the Isle of Arran Local Plan.

The committee felt that a new house would also have an adverse impact on the setting of Greyholme which is a category B listed building and that it would be detrimental to the character and amenity of the area.

The committee agreed to refuse an application for redevelopment of a disused farm building, including alterations and extensions to form two houses at Glencloy Farm Cottages, Brodick, on the grounds that it is contrary to the Isle of Arran Local Plan.

Also that it comprises unnecessary residential development within the countryside and that the existing building has insufficient residual fabric to justify conversion or rehabilitation.

An application for the conversion of a vacant barn, including alterations and extensions to form two houses at Tor Nan Euan, Shannochie, was refused on the ground that it would be contrary to the Isle of Arran Local Plan and that the existing building has insufficient residual fabric to justify conversion or rehabilitation.

Also that it would represent unnecessary residential development within the countryside.

Councillor Margie Currie tabled an amendment that the committee should grant the application but it was defeated by nine votes to three on a division.

Wood fuel sessions coming to Arran

FARMERS, foresters or other Islanders interested in the merits of wood fuel are being invited to an information session next month.

Rural Development Initiatives is running a series of free information sessions about Ignite: HI '07 which is the UK's first formal woodfuel training programme.

Ignite is designed for those wanting to know more about wood fuel, and to equip new and existing wood fuel businesses with all the skills and knowledge they need to take advantage of the rapidly increasing demand for wood fuel. The course, which is scheduled to take place in May on Arran, covers a background to the wood fuel industry; how to run an efficient and profitable wood fuel business; how, where and when to start out in wood fuel; and the technology and systems used to produce and utilise woodfuel.

An information session about the course will be held on the Island on April 3 at a venue to be decided.

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Isle of Arran Drama Association
2007
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Adjudicator: Jane Nelson Peebles
to be held in
LAMLASH COMMUNITY CENTRE
Thursday 22nd February – Saturday 24th February
Doors open 6.30 pm Curtain up 7.00 pm
Tickets: £6.00 (Soft seats), £4.00 (All other seats)
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ORDER OF PLAYS
Wednesday
Lamlash Junior Drama Club - The Devil, the Writer and the Angry Ghost
Lamlash Dram Club - Norman is an Island
Shiskine WRI - The Other Other Woman
Friday
Lamlash Junior Drama Club - Ernie's Incredible Illucinations
The Arran High Players - The Romantic Legend of Don Quixote
Whiting Bay Club of Drama & Music - Confessions of Veiled Voices
Saturday
Shiskine Junior Drama - Romeo and Juliet
Arran Torch players - The Mayor of Torontal
Lamlash Drama Club - Don't Tell Me, I'll Tell You
Strictly no admittance during a performance
Any parent doubting the suitability of the content of any play for viewing by their children should contact either the producer or a committee member.

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Roads forum must not be talking shop

Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot community councillor Neil Arthur calls for a stop to the reclassification of the A841 to a C road

Not for first time the Arran roads have hit the *Banner* headlines.

What is unusual on this occasion is that the elected member has immediately swung into action inviting a selected forum to discuss the issue.

NAC director of roads, who has for years studiously ignored the Island's pleas for better maintained roads, also appears to have instantly shown a more caring attitude this time.

At the risk of being described as a cynic, I am suspicious about the timing of their speedy response and the forthcoming May elections.

It was George Bernard Shaw who observed that 'the power of accurate observation is commonly called cynicism by those who have *not* got it.'

If it is to have any success it is essential that the proposed forum *immediately* establishes its purpose, its terms of reference if it is to avoid becoming just another talking shop and is to remain as a viable, effective group post election.

It is a pity that the councillor did not make any comment when roads reclassification was raised in a report which was circulated to her as a member of the Property Services Committee.

Disappointingly, despite the report recording that 'The local member has been informed that a request has been made to Transport Scotland to commence the formal procedure' there is no record that she raised any observations or objection and is recorded in apologies for absence from the meeting on the 23 January 2007 at which this important matter was discussed. An early success in forcing an NAC U-turn on this roads reclassification may help to prove that there is a need for a dedicated Island-based councillor.

Any other outcome will mean that we may as well have the Ardrossan-based representative which Holyrood and Irvine are trying to foist on us while neighbouring Bute retains exclusive, island-based, non-mainland representation.

NAC has lumbered Arran with a number of unnecessary, expensive, badly managed projects over the years, not least the recent waste transfer system.

It is not too late for NAC to recognise that the proposal to reclassify the roads is ridiculous and contrary to the needs of the whole Island, not only the west coast.

In Blackwaterfoot, for instance, there is a thriving, active and growing community with a tourist economy and several successful retail, tourist and service based businesses.

In addition, there are 65 new houses either being built or in the planning process. There is an increasing population.

All of this represents commercial and personal commitment to the community while at the same time NAC feels that it can arbitrarily reduce its levels of service whilst introducing one of the highest community charge increases in Scotland.

Councillor Currie's closing paragraph last week would have us believe that the Arran roads could, in time, be brought up to the standard of those in the HIE region. That is almost the ultimate insult because the money was for many years available for Arran through the HIE initiatives within the Objective One funding schemes but it was only very late in the day when North Ayrshire chose to take the opportunity to apply for some of the funds.

Neil Arthur, Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot. b08art1

Had they done so earlier the Arran roads would not be in their present mess.

Neil Arthur

MARCH ISSUE ON SALE NOW

Win a copy of 'Scotland's Lost Houses'

Arran Garden Club uplifted by castle gardener

Laughter, heart-warming and spirit-lifting laughter, epitomises some of the character of Arran Garden Club's January meeting.

It was a wonderful start to the new year's programme for the near capacity attendance of members and visitors in the Castle's Rangers' Centre.

Highly entertaining, instructive, informative and educative, Colin Totty, head gardener at Brodick Castle, thoroughly engaged the audience through his warm, friendly, enthusiastic personality.

Deftly demonstrating plant propagation with skill, clarity and authority borne out of dedicated experience, Colin gave of himself and added much to those at his feet.

Not only appropriate techniques but guidance as to most suitable tools, especially knives, best seed trays and pans and effective planting and sowing mediums was generously given typically of a genuine professional.

Members learned how to deal with cuttings from softwood, hardwood and evergreens alongside seed sowing, use of cold frames and the right time of year for such tasks. Colin, by amusingly exposing some common practices, caused a little guilty squirming amongst some of those present.

All in all a thoroughly prepared and sound exposition by a committed and expert and natural teacher to whom everyone present responded with joyous applause and warm gratitude.

After refreshments, voluntarily served by Ann McLean and Jean Peacock, and the regular successful raffle for Club funds, the also regular 'Any Questions' session was led by Colin supported by the Club's own Jim Jack and Neil McLean.

This continued and concluded the humour-full liveliness of the evening.

Colin Totty, head gardener at Brodick Castle, who gave an entertaining talk to members of Arran Garden Club. b07tot1

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Shiskine WRI's history lesson

Joan Stewart welcomed Colin Bannatyne, speaker for the February meeting of Shiskine WRI.

He gave a talk on local history and spoke of his childhood in Shiskine. He attended Shiskine School and visited Granny Brown's sweetie shop.

He told us of the census returns in 1851 from Derneneach to Kilpatrick, where there were 143 households with 695 people. Shedog was the hub of the community. The beginning of the 20th century saw a significant increase in building at Blackwaterfoot. The ladies hope Colin can return with more of his tales from the past. Eleanor Kinnaird proposed the vote of thanks. Competition results: Valentine cake, 1 Eunice Williamson, 2 Jerry Arthur. Exhibition local picture, 1 Morag Murchie, 2 Wilma Robertson. The raffle was won by Alice Anderson. Next meeting is Wednesday 7 March.

Springboard for Arran businesses

Hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism businesses across Arran, Argyll and the Islands have an exciting opportunity to benchmark the region as a 'Great place to Work.'

Springboard Charitable Trust (Scotland) expanded its operation throughout Highlands and Islands this year following another successful European Social Fund (ESF) application and have appointed Jamie Spencer, as their new Project Manager based in Argyll to help businesses achieve their potential.

Jamie Spencer, Project Manager, Argyll and the Islands, which covers Arran,will assist the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industry in his region with recruitment and retention issues through a number of focused activities.

Recruits

He will work in collaboration with local support agencies, schools and colleges, and provide future potential recruits access to information to help guide them to the right opportunities.

With regards to Jamie's appointment with Springboard he said: 'This is a very exciting time for tourism in the Islands region.

'It is set to soar.

'Factors like climate change, increased airfares, international security problems and the rest of Europe crowded-out, make it all the more a dream destination.

'We know what we have to offer and everybody wants to come. If we make sure we give visitors the best of experiences and build on our friendly and generous reputation they will come and they will pay.

'It is our biggest private sector industry and an ocean of opportunity. There is huge potential for interesting and rewarding careers in the industry.

'The nature of tourism in the region has come a long way in scope and direction, offering a wide range of new activities such as cultural tourism, adventure tourism, sports and leisure activities and eco-tourism.'

Businesses can receive assistance with their Recruitment and Retention issues with Springboard offering a full audit of their Recruitment practices.

Qualitative and quantative data will be analysed and a detailed Recruitment and Retention Plan will be offered which can include such elements as Best Practice visits to high profile establishments, activities to raise the profile of their businesses to become an 'Employer of Choice', through to advice on annualised pay and generating links to schools and colleges.

Springboard's programmes and activities are all individually tailored to suit the regional demand in the Argyll and the Islands.

Springboard project manager Jamie Spencer. b08spr1

Schools across Argyll and the Islands can also benefit from Springboard's Education Programme.

This includes activities for pupils from S1 through to S6 complementing Determined to Succeed Initiatives creating stronger Business Links. Springboard Scotland offer a range of support materials to support the Scottish Curriculum at Key Stage 5-14 and S4, S5 and S6 pupils studying Travel and Tourism, Business Studies, Hospitality and Geography courses whether studying Standard Grades, National Qualifications or Highers.

If you think you, your school or your business could use such assistance call Springboard today to help you on your path to success!

For further information regarding Springboard Scotland programmes and activities please contact: Jamie Spencer, Project Manager on 07796 264628 or e-mail jamies@springboarduk.org.uk

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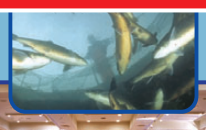


TUESDAY 17 APRIL

19:00 – 21:00 Evening Welcome Drinks Reception and Registration –Banqueting Foyer, Edinburgh Suite

WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL

08:30 – 09:30 Registration – Banqueting Foyer, Edinburgh Suite
REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION

OFFICIAL OPENING

CHAIRMAN Bob Kennedy, Senior Editor, Fish Farmer Magazine
09:30 Introduction to Conference
09:40 Keynote Speech – Dr Michael Crawford PhD, CBiol, FIBiol, FRCPath

REACHING THE CONSUMER

Focus on seafood, the brand: our industry's PR, our health message and attitudes of consumers today

GUEST CHAIRMAN Alistair Lane, Executive Director, European Aquaculture Society
10:00 Karol Rzepkowski, Managing Director, Johnson Seafarms
10:30 Doug McLeod, Chairman, Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers

11:00 REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION

11:30 Mark Burgham, Aquaculture Management Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
12:00 Steven Tait, Head of Sales and Marketing, Freedom Food
12:30 Questions & Answers

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH – TERRACE & GRILL RESTAURANT

MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

Focus on the UK market within an international context: new markets, prices, legislation, trade restrictions and export potential

GUEST CHAIRMAN Clive Askew, Chairman, Shellfish Association of Great Britain
14:30 Karen Galloway, Marketing Director, Sea Fish Industry Authority
15:00 Martin Jaffa of Callander McDowell

15:30 REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION

16:00 Prof Colin A Galbraith, Director of Policy & Advice, Scottish Natural Heritage
16:30 Birgitte Sorheim, Marketing Manager, Fish Pool ASA
17:00 Questions & Answers

19:30 GALA INDUSTRY AWARDS DINNER – EDINBURGH SUITE

THURSDAY 19 APRIL

08:30 – 09:15 Registration – Banqueting Foyer
REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION
09:15 Keynote Speech – Ian Grant, Chairman, The Crown Estate

FISH WELFARE & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Focus on key research including Seventh Framework Programme, diseases and their prevention, vaccinations and environmental management systems

GUEST CHAIRMAN Prof Randolph Richards, Director, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling
09:30 Mario Santos, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, EU Commission, Brussels
10:00 Dr David Verner-Jeffreys, CEFAS

10:30 REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION

11:00 Prof Patrick Smith, Scientific Advisor, Schering Plough
11:30 Mark Taylor, Environmental Management Consultant, Thistle Environmental
12:00 Questions & Answers

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH – TERRACE & GRILL RESTAURANT

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Focus on new products, technologies and systems worldwide, developing markets and off-shore opportunities

GUEST CHAIRMAN Dr Malcolm Dickson, International Fish Farm Consultant
13:30 Arun Lavi, Business Development Manager, Atlantium Ltd, Israel
14:00 Neil Manchester, Operations Director, Landcatch Natural Selection

14:30 REFRESHMENTS & EXHIBITION

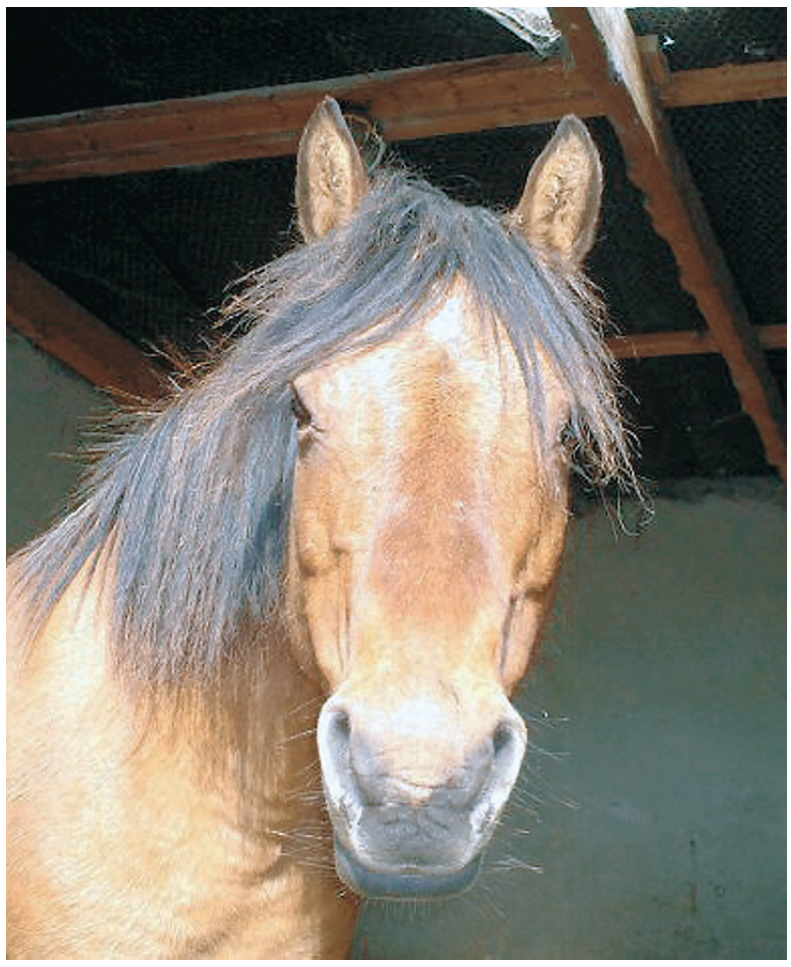
15:00 Donal Maguire, Aquaculture Development Manager, BIM
15:30 Dr Kim Jauncey, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling
16:00 Questions & Answers

16:30 SUMMARY & CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

3rd SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Arran on its guard against 'strangles'

A killer horse disease could be brought to the Island as mainland cases rise



Horse lovers on Arran are being vigilant against a possible case of a potentially lethal equine disease on the increase on the Scottish mainland gaining a 'hoofhold' on Arran.

Strangles, which kills in extreme cases, is regarded by many horse experts as the equivalent of the human plague as it spreads like wildfire, especially among a large concentration of equines such as riding stables. Now a campaign has been launched to raise at least £250,000 to try to find a cure to stamp the disease out.

Bacterial disease

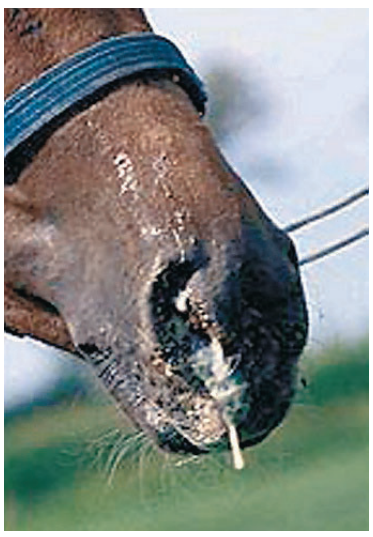
Strangles, so-called because its victims find it hard to breathe and swallow, is a bacterial disease passed from equine to equine. Highly contagious and very distressing, its symptoms are an excessive nasal discharge, abscesses round the throat and loss of appetite and energy.

In severe cases where a horse, pony or donkey develops abscesses internally it can kill. A vaccine is available but is not totally effective, and horses which have recovered can be carriers. Hence the need to find a better one.

Luckily for Arran's 200 or so equine population no outbreaks have so far been recorded although horse owners are constantly alert for it.

Spreading as rapidly as it does it could mean the temporary closure of a riding establishment, possibly for months, and the cancellation of horse events, hence the need for vigilance. Foals and other equines under the age of five are particularly susceptible. It kills in roughly 10 per cent of cases and can leave sufferers permanently damaged, though most recover.

In 2006 veterinary surgeons recorded a 10 per cent increase in cases in British Horse Society approved riding establishments in mainland Scotland. Earlier this month a UK-wide campaign to raise money to find a better vaccine was launched by the BHS and The Animal Health Trust. Horse owners and lovers throughout Scotland are being asked to help with donations.



Although strangles is passed on from horse to horse through discharges from the nose or through burst abscesses it can be contracted through things which comes into contact with an afflicted equine: for example, fencing, flies, water troughs, riding tack, feed buckets, even a person's riding gear.

An infected animal has to be isolated in a quarantined area. Isolation can be for up to several months. Everything an infected animal comes into contact with has to be disinfected. Bedding has to be burnt or otherwise properly got rid of to avoid the spread of the disease by flies.

Yollie Campbell of Arran Riding Club says to watch for strangles and other horse diseases such as equine influenza

Contaminated pasture areas should be rested for four weeks to enable the organism to be killed through natural drying and ultra-marine light.

Movement of horses

Yollie Campbell, of Arran Riding Club, which has about 70 members, said as far as she was aware there have been no cases of strangles on the Island, one reason being the lack of moving horses about.

'As a result there is not nearly the same potential for getting strangles,' said Yollie.

'The only thing we have to watch out for is if someone is bringing something in, as to where it has come from, or if someone goes away somewhere.

'But as the Island goes we don't have a problem with strangles.'

Yollie added that strangles was something that would be watched out for with any equine being brought to the Island in the same way as owners would look for other horse diseases, such as equine influenza.

Dawn Murchie, who runs Cairnhouse Riding Centre, where she keeps 20 horses, said she had never had an instance of strangles.

Any horses she would acquire would have been vetted and would have a vet's certificate, and she obtained them more by word of mouth by people she knew rather than any that may be advertised as care had to be taken.

Arran's only vet, Malcolm Wheeler, told *The Banner* he had not seen a case of strangles in the 25 years he has practised on the Island.

At the campaign's Scottish launch at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh on February 7, British Horse Society Development Officer Helen Mauchline said: 'During 2006 more than 10 per cent of the BHS approved establishments in Scotland were struck by strangles. This unprecedented rise in the incidence of the disease has sparked calls for new research into a fully effective vaccine and spurred Scottish vets and welfare organisations to develop a five-pronged strategy to tackle the disease.

'The efforts of the Scottish Strangles Strategy Group are concentrated on the seeking of funding to improve the diagnosis of shedders (carrier status equines with masked symptoms), improving surveillance to properly gauge the prevalence of the disease in Scotland, ongoing discussions of reportable status, improving educational resources and a high-profile Strangles Awareness Week.'

A spokesman for The Animal Health Trust said: 'Strangles not only causes great pain and distress to horses … it can also be an economic disaster for affected yards which often have to shut down for months. Getting rid of strangles depends on new and pioneering research. Scientists at the AHT are currently developing blood tests capable of

identifying long-term carriers of strangles. This will enable us to reduce disease spread. Safe and effective strangles vaccines are also being designed at the AHT that can be widely used throughout the equine community. One vaccine product from our research was recently found to be safe on intramuscular administration to horses and we are now raising funds to continue the development of this exciting new strangles vaccine.'

Donations can be made via the trust's website or by sending a cheque to Strangles Appeal, Animal Health Trust, FREEPOST CB360, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7BR, or by telephoning 08700 502380.

Dawn Murchie of Cairnhouse Riding Centre advises that care should to be taken when purchasing horses

Bird Notes Counting

by Jim Cassels

In the Bird Notes for January, I mentioned the RSPB Garden Bird Count.

Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK took part in this exercise.

While it cannot be entirely accurate, it does provide a valuable snapshot of bird species visiting gardens.

There was another survey that took place last month that involved waterbirds. On one designated Sunday each month all the waterbirds at identified sites across the UK are counted as part of the Wetland Bird Survey.

This is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK.

The survey is dependent on the thousands of volunteers. Six of these sites are on Arran; the coastlines at Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Kildonan, Blackwaterfoot, and Machrie. As part of an extended national survey, in January with the help of additional volunteers, the whole of the Arran coastline was covered.

What kind of information comes from this survey?

The size of waterbird populations. For example on one Sunday last month there were 130 oystercatchers at Clauchlands and 106 curlew at Port na Feannaiche.

As well as size the information can assess trends in numbers.

For example while the numbers of wigeon in the UK in winter showed an increasing trend from 1995 to 2005, in Arran numbers fell from 1995 to almost zero in 1999, and then increased again from 2000 to 2005.

This may have been related to climate variation or food availability.

The information provided can also assess the importance of individual sites. For example Arran is a site of national importance for black-throated divers in autumn, and it is a site of national importance for red-breasted merganser.

National importance means it regularly holds one percent or more of the British population.

If you would like to find out more visit www.bto.org/survey/webs

In addition counting can help identify concerns. In January on Arran numbers of dead razorbill bodies were found including 14 at Kildonan, 13 between Kilmory and Sliddery, 11 between Kilpatrick and Blackwaterfoot, and eight between Machrie and Imachar.

This information has been shared with the Clyde Bird Recorder and like the similar situation with guillemots in the autumn may be related to food shortage.

Counting is important even for our common birds and I would encourage you to count and keep a note of the numbers of birds that you see.

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, or telephone 01770 860316. You can leave a message. I look forward to hearing from you.

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For reservations please telephone 860596

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Highland dancing instructer Alison Miller shows Morven Ross-Bain how to put her best foot forward. b08twe1

Goatfell Murder film wanted

Wanted: A copy of the book Arran of the Bens, the Glens and the Brave by Mackenzie MacBride published in 1911.

Also a video recording of the BBC programme *Murder not Proven* broadcast on Thursday 24 May 1984 which featured the Goatfell Murder.

Reasonable price paid and reimbursement of postage costs. Box number 611.

More Highland dancers wanted

Alison Miller has been coming to Arran fortnightly to take classes in Highland dancing.

The classes started 10 years ago under Linda Rankin who was a teacher at the High School.

At the time Linda was world champion Highland dancer, the title which goes to the overall champion of the Cowal Games.

The Arran group is looking for more recruits.

Constable at rural

The meeting of Kildonan WRI on 11 February included friends from Kilmory Rural and the ladies were welcomed by president Mrs W Stewart.

The speaker for the evening was local Strathclyde Police Constable Ede.

PC Ede covered a large area of work in his speech including vehicle maintenance, the breathalyser and fouling of footpaths and play areas by dogs.

Marathon man Nicol

The Arran branch of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council (ARC) is grateful to Nicol Hume who ran in the Glasgow Marathon.

Through his sponsors Nicol has raised £259 for ARC funds.

Food handouts

The Red Cross on Arran has been asked by the Salvation Army in Glasgow to be responsible for European Economic Community surplus food distribution on the Island.

Those eligible are anyone on supplementary benefit, family income supplement and old age pensioners.

The surplus food will be butter, beef, milk and cheese.

Any questions

The ladies of Shiskine WRI were treated to an 'Any Question' night at their meeting on 11 February.

Members of the panel were Rev E Watson, Rev A Barrie, Miss I Sillars, Mrs J Scott and Mr C Bannatyne. They gave knowledgable answers to a great variety of topics. Competition winners were; Victoria sponge, Mrs J Robertson, collage, Mrs J Lammie.

Jimmy's Banner Star Profile

Jimmy Morrison is the first member of Arran Rugby Club to come under the spotlight in our *Banner* star profile. He describes himself as a 27 year-old unmarried wood technician driving a souped-up Marina van. b08twe3

Saturday 21 February 1987

School pool still possible in plans

Building work at the High School is likely to finish in four months time.

There is still a chance that a swimming pool may be incorporated in the plans before the contactors leave the site.

Following a proposal for a pool by the contractors, French Kier, Strathclyde Regional Council will make a final decision.

Donald Dewar to speak in Brodick

Shadow Secretary of State Donald Dewar will address a public meeting in the Douglas Hotel, Brodick on Friday 6 March.

He will be joined on the platform by the Labour prospective parliamentary candidate Brian Wilson.

Goatfell plaque

A new plaque is to be erected on top of Goatfell.

The original one was put up by the *Daily Record* in 1929 had to be removed following vandalism.

The new one will be made of a durable plastic rather than metal.

Oily seabirds

Seabirds have been found on Arran beaches covered in oil.

A guillemot was rescued from Sannox beach last week and handed in to the ranger centre at Brodick Castle. After a bath with washing up liquid most of the oil has been removed from the bird and he has been released again.

Shiskine Hall reborn

Reports of the demise of Shiskine Village Hall have been premature.

A new committee has been elected and the first function under this regime will be a quiz night on Friday 6 March to compete for the Shiskine Hall quiz challenge trophy which is currently held by Bann's All Stars.

Support is looked for from the whole Island and anyone interested should contact Irene Currie.

Car help needed

Wanted in Lamlash. A local lady requests instruction on how to put an Opel Manta into reverse gear. Contact Magdalene at Andy's.

Ladies darts

Ladies darts results: Montana 4 Rock 8, Lochranza 6 Kinloch 6.

Shopkeeper Jimmy Gordon shares a joke with Scottish Secretary of State Malcolm Rifkind when he popped into the Ship House during his walkabout in Lamlash. The Secretary popped into Jimmy's shop where Aileen and Jake Thomson asked him why Island businesses were now having to pay to have rubbish removed. b08twe2

High School News

Mixed flavour at Coca-Cola 7s

Arran High School's under-13 boys and under-14 girls seven-a-side Coca-Cola football competition took place in Whitlet's Park, Ayr on Tuesday 6 February.

Mr Evans and Mrs Hart selected the teams, choosing those who were thought most suitable.

It was an interesting day, with a mixture of success and defeat.

The under-13 boys met fierce competition. They played to the best of their abilities, but not even Mr. Evans' amazing line-up could take down the opposition. They lost three games and drew one, with results being two two-nil bouts, one one-nil defeat and a draw against Garnock Acadmey.

The girls' group played excellently and only just missed going through to the next stage by one point as they won two games and lost one.

There were some other successes too - the three keepie-uppie competitions saw James Todd winning once, and Matthew Evans coming second in the other two.

As we, Vicky and Holly, took part a few years a go we can tell you that both the girls and boys of the opposition teams are certainly talented individuals and the Arran youngsters played well and bravely, and didn't give in without a fight.

Here at *High School News*, we can only give our greatest commiserations to both teams, and good luck for the next competition.

Vicky Wetton, S5, Holly Weir, Peter Johnston, S4 and John Tilbury, S3

The Arran High School under-13 boys football team which competed in the Coca-Cola competition; they are, Matthew Evans, James Todd, Christopher MacNeil, Grant Adamson, Jamie Miller, Todd Jameson, Craig Thomson, Calum Armstrong, Donald McEachern and Jamie Leese. Pictured with the boys are Scottish Schools Football Association coaches Chic Charnley and Gary Mackay. b08soc2

Golden Wedding celebration

Maureen & Dick Browell of Whiting Bay, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They married on 12th February 1957 in Morpeth, Northumberland but have lived on the Isle of Arran for the past 22 years.

Youth theatre project for Lamlash Green

The National Theatre of Scotland and Borderline Theatre will be working on Arran from 21 January until the end of April on an exciting new theatre project called *Transform North Ayrshire: Footprint!* and are hoping to involve as many local people as possible.

Working with pupils from Arran High School and Brodick and Lamlash Primaries the creative team will be using drama, music, live and recorded sound and art to create a free public production that will be shown on Lamlash Village Green on Saturday 28 April 2007.

Footprint! will celebrate Arran's rich heritage, taking the audience on a journey exploring the footprints that have shaped the Island and will continue to shape the Island in the future.

As part of the project the creative team will be leading evening workshops for anyone over 12 years old who would like to take part in the project and the performances.

Sarah Cook, an Arran drama specialist who is part of the Transform North Ayrshire creative team would encourage anyone who has an interest in acting, music, art or who are just curious to get in touch.

She said: 'This is a great opportunity for the people of Arran to take part in an exciting, innovative creative local event that will also be part of a national organisation.'

Further information is available from Emma Schad at the National Theatre of Scotland on 0141 227 9016 or by email at emma.schad@nationaltheatrescotland.com

Wedding

Parker - Thompson

Married on Thursday 25 January at Lamlash Register Office by registrar Susan Barr were David, son of Gail and David Thompson of Whiting Bay and Helen, daughter of Krispina and Alan Parker of Brisbane, Australia. Helen and David met whilst studying for their PhDs at Glasgow University. They are starting their married life together back in Helen's homeland in Brisbane. b08wed1

WHAT'S ON... BANNER

EVERYDAY

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park 11am - 4pm
Trout fishing, banks, Loch Garbad
Hawk Walks, Lamlash

SATURDAY 24th February

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers Brodick Primary School 11am - 4.15pm.
Over 21's Christmas disco, 10pm, Ormidale Hotel
Machrie Table Tennis & Games Club, Machrie Hall, 7.30-9pm
Karate Club Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am & 12.30pm
Winter indoor bowls, Auchrannie 2pm
Jazz Cafe, Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm
Table Top Sale, Kilmory Hall, 11am - 2pm
Drama Festival, Community Centre, Lamlash 7pm

SUNDAY 25th February

Alcoholics Anonymous, St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults. Auchrannie Games Hall 2 - 3pm
Arran Ladies Pool Open, lag, 3pm

MONDAY 26th February

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie, 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50s Badminton, Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Football coaching, Ormidale Park, 6 7.30pm (8-16yrs)
Badminton, Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Quiz, Cameronia 9.30pm
Weightwise, Hospital bungalow 6.30pm-7pm
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie, 12.45
Circuit Training. Auchrannie 6pm
Scottish Country Dancing,Corrie Hall, 2pm
Lamlash Bridge, Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm
Indoor Cricket, Auchrannie Games Hall, 7pm
Badminton, Auchrannie Sports Hall 8pm - 10pm
Salsa Dancercise, Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm
Arran Conservative & Unionist Association, AGM, Glencloy Suite, 7pm

TUESDAY 27th February

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am
Lochranza Swimming Club, Kinloch, 11am-noon
Pirmill Guild meeting - village hall 2pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm
Army Cadets, Auchrannie Road, 7.30-9.30pm
Pop quiz, Ormidale Hotel 10pm
Loch & Cat Coffee morning, hall 10am - 12pm
Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Winter Bowls 3 carpets, Auchrannie 7pm
Scottish country dancing, Brodick church hall 7.30pm
Pop Quiz, Ormidale Hotel
Arran Rotary, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Citizens Advice open 10am -2pm 4 - 6pm by appointment only

WEDNESDAY 28th February

Youth Club, youth centre Lamlash 7-9pm
Aerobics class, High School 8pm - 9pm
Jnr Rugby Training, S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am
Accoustic Jam Session, McAlpine Hotel
Circuit Training. Auchrannie 6pm
Arran Heritage Museum, archives and genealogy 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm
Shiskine Beavers, Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Shapers Slimming Club, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Beginners Yoga, Kilmory Hall, 10.30am
Salsa Dancercise,Lamlash Community Centre, 6.30pm
Mixed Hockey, Auchrannie Games Hall, 7pm

THURSDAY 1st March

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am
Pilates, Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Rock school, youth centre. Lamlash 7 - 9pm
Brodick Bridge Club,McLaren Hotel 7.15pm
Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm
Badminton, Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm Adults 7.30 - 9pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Hall 2pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am & 1.45pm
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie, 12.45
Outdoor run, Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates, Auchrannie 6pm
Belly Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Embroidery Club, Library, 7.30pm
Winter indoor bowls, Auchrannie sports hall 7pm
Arran Junior Singers practice, Whiting Bay School, 6.45pm
Brodick Toddlers, Church Hall, 10.30 - 12pm
Isle of Arran Society of Music & drama, rehearsal, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Aerobics, Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Arran Natural History Society, 8pm Ranger Centre, Small mammals of Scottish Isles by Jerry Harmen
Pontoon Public Meeting, Lochranza hall, 7.30pm
Arran Dancers AGM, Brodick school, 7pm

FRIDAY 2nd March

Arran Pipe Band practice, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Quiz night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9.00pm
Loch & Cat Coffee morning 10am - 12pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club Quiz nights 9pm
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Over 21's disco, 10pm, Ormidale Hotel
Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm
Senior Badminton, Auchrannie Sports Hall, 2 - 4pm

SATURDAY 3rd March

Lochranza Ladies Lunch Club, Catacol Bay Hotel, 12.30pm

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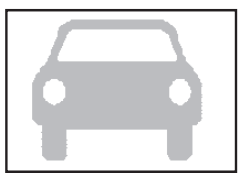
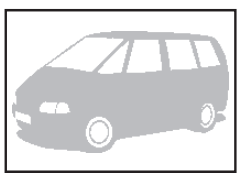


2001 4 door auto, only 20,000 miles, Full service history, Immaculate condition

Telephone: 01770 302230

£4500

RENAULT SCENIC RXE DTI



1998 diesel 50mpg alloys ABS, Sunroof 6cd changer air conditioning, 87k miles MOT Sept 07

Telephone: 01292 266248 07850 600202 (Arran)

£1500 o.n.o. 2

YAMAHA RD 125LC

Collectors bike. Excellent condition, 1 year m.o.t. Many new parts

Telephone: 01770 700709

£775

SUBARU FORESTER

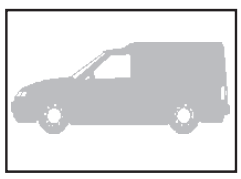
V Reg 1999 silver, MOT/ Taxed, 76000 miles

Telephone: 01770 302625 07879 024046

2

£3700 o.n.o.

2000 PEUGEOT PARTNER DIESEL VAN



5 Speed, White, Full MOT, 6 months Tax, 110K, immaculate condition. Drives just like a car.

Telephone: 01586 810252 07990 974026

£2350 o.n.o. no vat

MITSUBISHI GALANT

1998, 7 months mot, in all round good condition, aircon, cruise control, ABS, remote central locking/alarm, towbar, metallic paint, electric windows all round, alloy wheels

Telephone: 01546 810262

email richardandlynne@tiscali.co.uk

£1650 o.n.o. 2

£1960 o.n.o.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 FINESSE

2000 (W reg), 3 door, Sunroof, 39,000 miles, Radio / cassette, Immobiliser, Silver, Taxed & MOT'd, Service history, Very economical, Beautiful condition

Tel: 01546 870336

ELDDIS WHIRLWIND CARAVAN

1994 XL 2 Berth V.G.C. End kitchen, spare wheel, awning, plus many extra's. No smokers/pets. One owner from new. Motor mover optional extra.

Telephone: 01546 886305 (after 6pm)

£2950

ASTRA 1.7 TURBO DIESEL

N reg, MOT August 2007, Very reliable and economical 138,000 miles

Telephone: 01546 850236 (after 7pm)

£495 o.n.o.

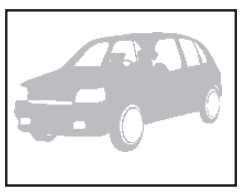
HOBBY PRESTIGE TWIN AXLE

£7800 o.n.o.

2003 model,
Excellent condition,
Hardly used,
Fully equipped with full awning

Tel: 01546 602993 07909 541500

FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI



£6850 o.n.o.

2004, diesel, as new, 21,000miles

Tel: 01567 820484 or 07767 852618

MITSUBISHI CARISMA MIRAGE 1.6

5 dr hatchback. '02 plate. Metallic Grey. One owner. Only 31000 miles. Mot'd. Taxed April 2007. F.S.H. V.G.C.

Telephone: 01586 552231 07917 007595

£2950 o.n.o. 2

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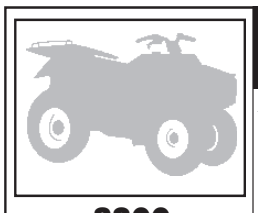

HONDA QUAD BIKE

400/450 FOREMEN 4x4

£800

Tel: 01866 822675

REDBAY RIB 6.5

2003, Mercury Optimax 200Hp engine, only 380 hrs on the clock since new. Mint condition, range of extra features.

Telephone: 07717 710237

2

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Well maintained.
Plus Honda 6HP L/S O/B

Telephone: 07798 574890

£1500 o.n.o.

16FT ORKNEY LONGLINER

£3250 o.n.o.

15hp, Tohatsu outboard with tank, only used 6 times, still 14months warranty, galvanised trailer, new bearings, tyres and jockey wheel, oars, rowlocks etc. Excellent condition.

Tel: 07788 718096

Buy to Let helps, not hinders, first-time buyers claims property economics expert

Only building houses that people want to live in, where they want to live in will reduce property prices

THE BELIEF that buy to let investors are pricing first time buyers out of the housing market was dismissed by a leading expert in property economics at the Annual Conference of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA).

Professor Michael Ball, Professor of Urban and Property Economics at the University of Reading Business School, told delegates that there is only one way to lower house prices.

'It is to build more houses that people actually want to live in and in places where they want to live,' he said.

Stability

Professor Ball said that Buy to Let has substantially improved housing market stability. Without Buy to Let and a stable rental market, young householders would be forced to enter owner-occupation earlier, at a more financially precarious time of their lives.

'Buy to Let has increased the size of the private rented sector and extended the alternatives to both owner-occupier and social housing,'

As a result, Professor Ball said that it is not clear that house prices would have been lower without Buy to Let, as housing demand is still with us but supply is likely to have been less.

Turning to the effect of Buy to Let on tenants, Professor Ball said that it has sheltered many households from the full impact of house price rises, as renting is often a cheaper monthly money outgoings option.

'It enables householders to build up their own equity and, although tenants do not share in capital gains directly, they do so through lower rents and lower risk. They can do this while living in good standard accommodation as competition in the rental market is now greater. This appeals to young, mobile people in employment. Overwhelmingly these are the client base of the Buy to Let Landlord.'

Professor Ball pointed out that more younger people rent rather than own property compared to previous decades. He said that this is due to changing lifestyles, employment patterns and affluence, as well as other financial circumstances, including the rising costs of equity requirements for house purchase.

Two thirds of rented property is owned by private individuals. This is up from 50 per cent ten years ago when Buy to Let was initiated. This change has occurred as corporate landlords have left the market but more individuals have wanted to invest in residential property.

'Without Buy to Let, the private tenant sector would probably be much smaller. The quitters would have exceeded new entrants,' Professor Ball said.

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

Arran Dancers
AGM
Thursday 1st March 7 – 9 pm
Brodick Primary School
All club members needed !

Comb & Curl
Hairdressers, Lamlash
Closed Tuesday 27 February
Open Tuesday 6 March
1

Arran Parents Support Group
A.G.M.
Monday 26th March 2007
Brodick Church Hall 11.00am
Please make an effort to attend
1

AGM
Arran Conservative and Unionist Association
Monday 26th February at 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie Hotel
All Welcome
1

Auchrannie Tourist Information
With Easter approaching fast we at the Auchrannie would like to update our tourist information boards with any new or updated tourist attractions from around the island, if you would like to have your information posted/updated on our information boards please contact us on
01770 3022020
www.auchrannie.co.uk

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 2007/2008

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 Commissioner 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 (Discount for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

The 2007/2008 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2007.

A J Herbert, Chief Financial Officer

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

Applications to be considered at the Meeting of the above Licensing Board to be held within the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CUNNINGHAME HOUSE, IRVING, on March 19, 2007, at 10 a.m.

FOR REGULAR EXTENSION OF PERMITTED HOURS

Name, designation and address of applicant or names, designation and addresses of both persons named in the application	Address of premises	Type of Licence	Nature of extension applied for
Jane McLaren Lohengrin, Lamlash Isle of Arran	McAlpine Hotel Brodick Isle of Arran	Hotel	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 p.m. to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Iain McFadzean Loudoun House Douglas Place, Brodick Isle of Arran	Brodick Bar Brodick Isle of Arran	Public House	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 p.m. to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Jane McFadzean Loudoun House, Brodick Isle of Arran	The Wine Port Cladach Brodick Isle of Arran	Public House	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 p.m. to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Harbour Havens Limited and Waldo Rodrigo Acuna c/o Tods Murray, 33 Bothwell Street, Glasgow	Kildonan Hotel Kildonan Isle of Arran	Hotel	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 p.m. to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Lochranza Hotel Limited Lochranza, Isle of Arran and George Stewart Lochranza Hotel, Lochranza Isle of Arran	Lochranza Hotel Lochranza Isle of Arran	Hotel	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 pm to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Victoria McAllister Eden Lodge Hotel Shore Road, Whiting Bay Isle of Arran	Eden Lodge Hotel Shore Road Whiting Bay Isle of Arran	Hotel	Sunday to Wednesday, 11 pm to midnight; Thursday to Saturday, 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Applications for GRANT (INCLUDING PROVISIONAL GRANT) OF NEW LICENCE

Victoria McAllister, Eden Lodge Hotel, Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran	Eden Lodge Hotel, Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran	Hotel (Provisional Grant)

The applicant intends the premises to be open for the sale of alcoholic liquor during permitted hours on a Sunday

Harbour Havens Limited, and Waldo Rodrigo Acuna, c/o Tods Murray, 33 Bothwell Street, Glasgow	Kildonan Hotel Kildonan Isle of Arran	Hotel (Provisional Grant)

Applications are reminded that they should attend personally or be represented at the meeting

Any objections, in terms of Section 16 of the Act, should be lodged with the undernoted and a copy of the objection sent to the applicant concerned in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 no later than Friday, March 9, 2007. OBJEECTORS MUST SPECIFY THE GROUND(S) OF THEIR OBJECTION. An information leaflet may be obtained from the Board Office containing guidance for any person wishing to object to any application.

February 13, 2007

A. A. FRASER, Clerk to the Licensing Board
Town House, 66 High Street, Irvine, KA12 0AZ

MEETING TO PUBLICISE?
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all-year-round holiday let
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on **0779 698 2492** or
0777 5591 325
Brochure available,contact by telephone or
E-mail:
arrancastaways69@hotmail.co.uk

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Six-Bedroomed
Year's Lease
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Gillian Langley
830 224

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Offers over £265,000

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TORR NAN UAIN DEVELOPMENT, SHANNOCHIE

Torr Nan Uain is a former **farmhouse with outbuildings** which has been carefully renovated and extended to create a most attractive development in a spectacular location at Shannochie on the outskirts of Kilmory. Access to the farm is by a track which leads for about 500 metres from the public road. On completion the development will comprise the **Main Farmhouse** with the **Bothy** at the rear and the **Two Cottages** which link the farmhouse and the Bothy creating a sheltered courtyard.

THE FARMHOUSE — Offers over £325,000

Presently available for sale the Farmhouse has commodious accommodation comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, Sun Lounge, Bedroom and Bathroom and on the upper floor 2 Bedrooms both with En-Suite Shower Rooms. Oil fired central heating. Beautiful family home in picturesque rural location enjoying uninterrupted views to Firth of Clyde, Ayrshire Coast and Ailsa Craig.

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Land required for purchase
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TWO-BEDROOM FURNISHED
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or **01546 602 185**

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BUILDING PLOT
(Kintyre)
with full planning consent
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TOWN CENTRE,
LOCHGILPHEAD
Living room/kitchen
Prospective purchaser should take into account that a large quantity of itinerary can be included in the sale
Offers over £60,000
Telephone **07887 527 663**

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Modern Three-Bedroom End Semi-Detached Bungalow with large mature garden ground, situated in a small private residential development in the picturesque fishing village of Tarbert
The accommodation comprises living/dining-room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and recently refurbished bathroom
Total Control electric central heating
All floor coverings included in price
Plans prepared for extension to provide additional bedroom and shower room
Offers over £165,000
To view telephone **01880 820 076** after 5 p.m.

BANNER PROPERTY BANNER BANNER PROPERTY BANNER

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CAMPBELTOWN
Two-Bedroom Ground-Floor Unfurnished
FLAT
£300 p.c.m.
Contact
Stewart Balfour
Telephone
01586 553737

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Las Farolas
Costa Del Sol, Spain
– also –
June 22-Jun 29
One-Bedroom Apartment
Paradise/Monetery
Tenerife
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Brand New Semi-Detached House

Fully furnished
Two bedrooms
Large garden to rear
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This will mainly involve working in our busy shop but may also include other duties.

Please contact James McChlery by telephoning 302873

or in writing to Arran Chocolate Factory. 1

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

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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.

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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.

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CHURCH NEWS

Arran Free Church of Scotland

Sunday 18 February,
Shiskine 11am
Brodick 7pm
Rev David Karoon
All welcome

Church of Scotland

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Sunday 18 February
Minister Rev Angus Adamson. Parish Asst Mrs jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times.
All welcome.
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, noon,
Lochranza Church, 9.30am
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am,
Shiskine Church, noon
WORLD DAY OF PARYER
The Service for the East of Arran will be held in Corrie Parish Church on 2 March at 2pm. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Paraguay and all are welcome. Tea served after service
Shiskine World day of Prayer, 3.30pm

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept immediately after the service.All welcome.
At 6.30pm in the Church, there will be an informal evening service of praise and discussion
All welcome

Arran Open Gate Ministries
(Linked with New Life Church Prestwick)

We are a group of like minded people from various Christian denominations who meet on Wednesday evenings. We enjoy lively meaningful worship and great company in a warm, friendly atmosphere.
New to Arran, or would like to know more about us. Telephone: 700424.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11am.

Kilmory Parish Church

'A faith to proclaim. A fellowship to share'.
Sunday 25 February, 10am.
Public worship
All are invited.
Kilmory Church dates back to the mid 16th century. It is situated at the Southend of the island in a charming rural setting and is well worth finding. Look for the road side signs in Kilmory near the creamery. Holiday visitors of all faiths or none will be especially welcome.
Rev John Webster, locum.

Arran Churches Together Church

Thursday 1 March
7.30pm. Meeting in
Brodick Church

Scottish Episcopal Church
(in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 25 February: 11am Holy Communion.
Dr Tony Martin
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 28 February 12.15pm HolyCommunion,
All Welcome.

Lamlash Church

Sunday 25 February.
You are invited to worship in Lamlash Church at 11 am.
Mr Alan Saunderson
All welcome.

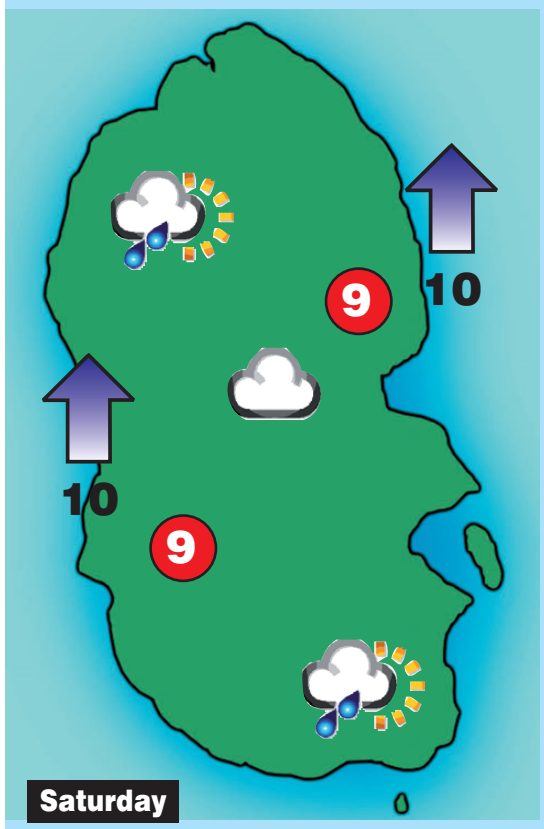
Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 25 February
Trust Housing Lounge,
Brodick, 11am
Evening Service,7pm
5 Glen Road
Mr G Furzer
All Welcome.

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 25 February
11am, Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick
Rev Andrew Rollinson
(Baptist Union of Scotland)
"Grasping the Nettle of Sin"
Nehemiah 13
Everyone very welcome

Tides



Date	am				pm			
Sat	0412	2.9	1014	0.6	1637	2.9	2300	0.7
Sun	0455	2.8	1118	0.8	1728	3.3	****	**
Mon	0022	0.9	0548	2.6	1259	0.9	1854	2.3
Tues	0154	1.0	0713	2.4	1436	0.8	2142	2.4
Wed	0306	0.9	0940	2.6	1541	0.6	2245	2.6
Thur	0404	0.7	1039	2.8	1631	0.4	2335	2.7
Fri	0452	0.6	1126	3.0	1713	0.3	****	**

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

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20
Whiting Bay	-0.02
Kildonan	-0.05

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, February 24 2007** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

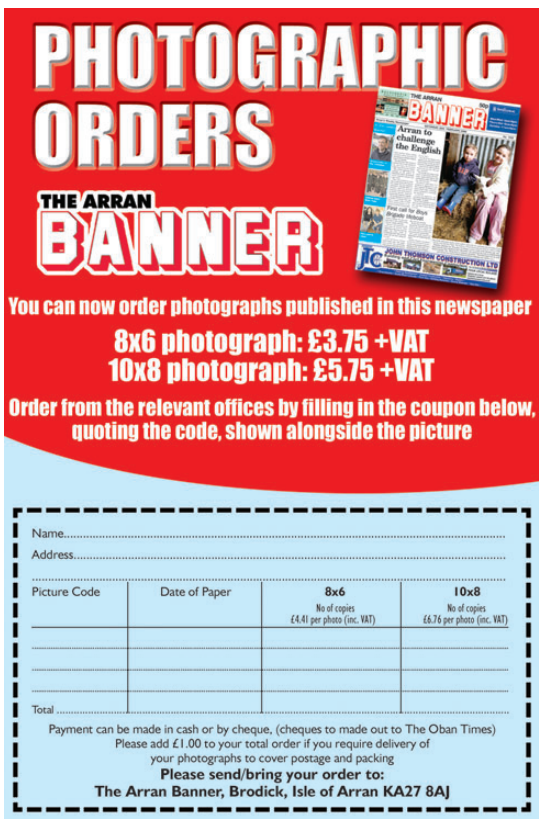
Saturday, February 24
Showers and sunny periods throughout the day with light to moderate southerly winds
Temperature 9ºC.
Sunday, February 25
Continuing showers and sunny spells
Temperatures around 11ºC.
Monday and Tuesday
Unsettled few days with the threat of showers on a southwesterly wind
9ºC
Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate
Claonaig/ Lochranza - Moderate

PERSONALS

Alan and Susan Kelly
are delighted to announce the engagement of the daughter Leigh to Seb, son of Serge and Catherine Verdot of Vercel, France

Pete and Tessa Kennedy,
formerly of Bennan and Lamlash
are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Rebecca to Randall Hutchins of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, Canada
1

MAY COOK
Angus, Stewart & Anne and family would like to thank the emergency services for their prompt response to the recent tragic events
Thank you to Dr Tinto and staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital,to the Medical centre staff for their recent care & attention and to Peter Mc Arthur for funeral arrangements.
Friends & Family for all the kindness shown to May over the years and for their support, floral tributes and sympathy expressed at this sad time.
A special thanks to our minister Elizabeth Watson for providing her very unique and comforting service.



Reid – Kynoch
Aileen and Andy are extremely happy to announce the safe arrival of their little daughter Evie Jane, 7lbs 3ozs at The Princess Royal Hospital, West Sussex.
David & Pat of Lamlash are thrilled to have their first grandchild.
1

Arran to choose sports team

❒ Sportshall fun at Auchrannie

Children from all seven Arran primary schools took part in the annual Sports Hall Athletics Festival at Auchrannie last Friday.

The competition is used to select a composite Isle of Arran Schools team to take part in the final of the North Ayrshire Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics competition at the Magnum Leisure Centre in Irvine on Thursday 29 March.

Sports Hall Athletics was created by George Bunner in Cheshire in 1976 to introduce younger children to the joys of athletics.

George and a few friends were members of Frodsham Harriers and had noticed that dark winter nights deterred athletes from practising due to the limitations of sport in the local village hall.

In 1976 he invented the reversaboard which was a simple board fixed to an inside wall at an angle enabling athletes to strike it and turn in the same movement and run in the opposite direction.

Soon other ideas followed that made most athletic events possible within a sports hall environment.

North Ayrshire Sports Development team took up the Sports Hall Athletics concept 11 years ago and while it was initially catering for mainland schools only, in 1998 the Arran Primary Festival was included with all seven local schools taking part.

Scott Barbour is quick off the mark in the boys two-lap relay. b08spo1

Kristina Colwell led the field in the standing long jump. b08spo2

Previous winners of the North Ayrshire competition have been Beith, St Mark's, Kelburn, Castlepark and West Kilbride Primary Schools.

Keen

Ann Hart, Arran active schools co-ordinator, said: 'The competition amongst local youngsters is very keen. Each school cheers on its own fellow pupils very loudly when they are competing!

'The composite Arran team has come second for the past two years running and we are hoping to do even better this year.'

The competition last Friday included seven track and five field events.

Track events were single lap, two lap and circuit relays and field events were shot putt, vertical jump, speed bounce, standing long jump and standing triple jump.

The Arran Composite Primary team will comprise 10 boys and 10 girls plus two reserves, each taking part in two track and two field events.

Team selection will be made by a co-ordinator for the Arran schools in discussion with the Sports Development team, based on results from last Friday.

The final of North Ayrshire Primary School's Sports Athletics competition will take place on Thursday 29 March at 10am in the Magnum Leisure Centre, Irvine.

Kate Jenks and Gordon Allsop oversee competitors in the standing long jump. b08spo3

Pool singles down to last 16

The Arran Singles pool tournament is down to the last 16 with the following matchups: M. Wallbank v E Picken, A Duncan v E Ingram, B MacKay v A Neill, L Girbow v T Curtis, D Kemp v C Galloway, J Ainsworth v D Symington.

M Picken and J Picken have received byes.

Arran Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GOB	Pts
Cameronia	16	11	3	2	110	82	8	36
Aldersyde	16	11	2	3	110	82	10	35
Bar Eden	16	9	2	5	111	81	9	29
Breadalbane	16	7	2	7	98	94	6	23
PHT	16	5	3	8	98	93	6	22
Lagg	16	6	0	10	87	105	8	18
Corrie	16	4	2	10	82	110	6	14
Catacol	16	2	1	13	67	125	10	7

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Jennifer's Scottish silver

Pounding round the muddy Falkirk circuit, Jennifer Emsley is fourth from right. b08run1

Jennifer Emsley of Whiting Bay flew back from France to take part in the Scottish Cross Country Championships and put in a great effort to win a silver medal in the under-20 ladies race over 4,800 metres.

Jennifer, who gained many running honours while at Arran High School and with Arran Runners, is currently in her third year of a five year degree course in International Business Studies at Stirling University.

The third year is spent at business school in Strasbourg and most of the lectures she attends are in French. With Germany just a short walk across one of the Rhine bridges, she also gets a chance to practise her German-speaking.

The timing of her lectures means that she has not been able to link up with a local club and so has to do all her training on her own. Her dedication obviously paid off with such a great result in the Scottish Championships.

Jennifer's father Paul said: 'She has had very little racing experience this winter, limited to the National Cross Country relay in October and an appearance with Scotland under-23 ladies in the Celtic International in Belfast in January.

'For last Saturday's race Jennifer had to fly back the day before, from Strasbourg to Edinburgh, via Amsterdam, reversing her journey on Sunday, to be ready for an 8am lecture on Monday morning.'

Over 1,800 runners in total took part in the Scottish Cross Country Championships which were held at Callander Park in Falkirk on Saturday 10 February.

Jennifer was race number 310, running for the Central Athletic Club and Arran Runners.

Golf...Golf...Golf...Golf...Golf...Golf...Golf...

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 14th February, 2007: 1 K Robertson 73-13=60; 2 W Frost 81-20=61; 3 H Davidson 75-13=62. 1 Magic '2' G Jameson.

Brodick Golf Club, Clochendichter Report: Jimmy Armit's Village team is poised to lift the much coveted Clochendichter Trophy after the final round of matches next month following a fine 10-6 victory over last year's champions Knowe.

This allowed Village almost to double the points difference over Knowe and with Stevie Bunyan's Street team belatedly wakening up to score a decisive 10-6 victory over joint second Alma things are looking good for the team.

Team captains Iain MacDonald (Knowe) and Gus Robertson (Alma) are both talking up their chances in public of a bizarre combination of final round results which could see one of them top the table, but deep down they must know that come 18th March Jasper will hold the Clochendichter aloft to celebrate a first Village victory after ten years of trying, during which time the wooden spoon was Village property more often than not.

League table: Village 37, Alma 28, Knowe 28, Street 19.

Lamlash Golf Club

Saturday 17 Glenburn Trophy, 7 played CSS. Best scratch Ian Bremner 68. Sweep: 1 Ian Bremner 68-5=63, 2 Maurice Appleby 81-17=64. Magic twos: 1 at 16th Ian Bremner.

Sunday 18 Lamlash v Whiting Bay monthly friendly, 28 played non q/round. Sweep: Jim Stewart 77-14=63 b.i.h., 2 Neil Mitchell 81-18=63, 3 John O' Sullivan 74-11=63. Best scratch Malcolm Pennycott 67.

Magic twos: 1 at 16th J O' Sullivan, 1 at 16th A Smith, 1 at 16th M Pennycott, 1 at 16th J Taylor, 1 at 13th A Winship, 1 at 4th I Bremner, 1 at 13th S McLaren. Results of Game: Lamlash 6½, Whiting Bay ½.

Sunday 25 Glenburn Cup at 9.30am and 11am, Saturday 3 March, Glenburn Cup 9.30am and 11am.

Sunday 4th March AGA Association Winter League.

Final Day; Lamlash v March at 10am; Brodick v Whiting Bay at 10.50am, Shiskine v Corrie at 11.40am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Ryder Cup final day, Sunday 18 February.

1 Torbeg 45 pts, 2 Shiskine 37 pts, 3 Blackwaterfoot 32 pts, 4 Kilpatrick 30 pts.

Congratulations to the winning Torbeg team and commiserations to Kilpatrick who get the wooden spoon. There was an exemplary turnout every Sunday for all six rounds throughout the winter. Fixtures: Saturday 24 February, ALGU Drumadoon. Sunday 25 February, 12 hole medal and winter cup.

Machrie Bay Golf

Tuesday 13 February Winter cup yellow tees. 1 Mark Sherwood 65 bih; 2 Miki Hesp 65; 3 Drew Crawford 66. Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 72. Fixtures: Tuesday 27 February Winter cup.

Saturday 3 March Lochranza Hotel cup. Both noon start.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 17 February, Stableford: 1 E Cannon 39pts, 2 J Adams 37pts. Monday, 19 February, 1 A MacDonald 64, 2 E Cannon 66, 3 D Price 67.

Fixtures: Saturday, 24 February, Winter Cup, tee-off 1pm, shotgun start. Monday, 26 February, Monday Cup, tee-off noon.

Whiting Bay Ladies'

Whiting Bay Ladies held their annual dinner in Viewbank on Friday, 16th February.

Thanks to Julie, Mal and Nick for a lovely meal, Jean and Margaret for organisation and to Susan for her guest appearance!

June Curtis kindly presented bottles of wine to the competition winners.

It was noted with pleasure that many ladies were on the winning list.

Winners of competitions not previously announced were Eclectic - Susan Kidston, Birdie Tree - Margaret Auld, joint medal winners - Gege Kroner and Jean Davidson.

Whiting Bay Golf

Sunday, 18 February. Whiting Bay played at Lamlash in the third round of our winter friendlies and enjoyed the course, the hospitality and a sound thrashing from the hosts – again!

Fixtures; Sunday 25 - medal. Sunday, 4 March, final round of the winter league at Lamlash against Brodick.

Jennifer Emsley with her silver medal on the left, with Lorna Young, gold medal, City of Glasgow and Leeds University and Cara Sloss, bronze medal, Kilbarchan Athletic Club. b08run2

Coca-Cola champs

Footballers from Arran High School were looking to progress in the Coca-Cola 7s tournament at Whitlets Park, Ayr. The school fielded a boys' under-13 team and a girls' under-14 team.

❒ See page 15

SPORTSDESK
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