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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 2011

No 1794 55p

Triathlon organisers ease traffic chaos fears

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Arran Triathlon took a major step forward last Friday night and promises to be the biggest event of its kind in Scotland with up to 2,000 athletes.

When it was first announced in the Banner last month, the organisers were proposing to close the road round the Southend and over the Ross. Now they are talking of a one-way traffic management system for the duration of the cycle race.

Residents attending a public meeting in Whiting Bay Hall on Friday heard organiser Nick Scott say: 'Our thinking has changed.'

'Road closures have been the most difficult point raised to us. Now we are looking at a road control and traffic management system in Lam-lash and one way working round the Southend, roughly between 10am and 4pm.'

The Arran Triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, and will involve a 1,500 metre swim in Lam-lash Bay, a 23-mile cycle round the Southend and back down the Ross, followed by a six-mile run along the Clachlands shore.

Nick Scott was flanked by his two associates, Kevin Harvie and Stuart Ker.

Also present was Jane Moncrieff, chief operations officer of Triathlon Scotland.

She said: 'I am very keen to



The organisers of the Arran Triathlon in Whiting Bay Hall, from left, Stuart Ker, Jane Moncrieff of Triathlon Scotland, Nick Scott and Kevin Harvie. 02_b08tri01

support an event like this, but Triathlon Scotland does have the authority to sanction it or not. I want to make sure everyone goes through the proper procedures. The safety of the athletes is key to us.'

Nick added: 'Triathlon became an Olympic event at the Sydney 2000 games. There is a big triathlon community in the south-east of England and

by nature, triathletes usually have money to spend.'

Community councillor Brenda Stewart asked where the event would be based. 'There will be a big marquee on the Lam-lash front and we'll be hiring the High School for use of showers,' replied Nick. 'For the race ceilidh and dinner in the marquee we'll be using local

caterers and licensees.'

One thing was clarified; this is first and foremost a business venture. Nick said: 'This is a commercial event for us. We have a connection with charities, but this is our job. We will donate to any local organisation that helps us. The cost of entry will range from £150 for those from the south of England to £100 for

island residents.'

Councillor Margie Currie asked for information about the numbers on the road and in the water. Nick explained: 'Waves of 200 at a time will take to the water. There'll be safety boats and kayaks on hand. If the sea is too rough, the swim director will decide to cancel the swim and just do cycling and running.'

'After the swim, cyclists will be sent off in small groups. They are not allowed to bunch up and must adhere to the Highway Code. There will be 80 to 100 marshals on the bike course, and riders will be disqualified if the marshal thinks they are not in control.'

Continued on page 2



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Arran's 3,200 beds mean any hurdles should be overcome

Continued from page 1

He added: 'Inevitably people do come off. We'll put old tyres and straw bales on dangerous corners.'

Robert Crawford, of Royal Mail, pointed out that he had five post vans on the road round the Southend, going in both directions.

'We are not going to disrupt the Royal Mail and have spoken to social services about their access,' said Nick.

Southend farmer Geoff Brookes said: 'I'm all for it, but you have to understand that a farmer might be going out onto the road with a muckspreader. That could make it a bit slippery for anyone on a bike.'

Murray Boal offered the help of a dozen members of the Motocross Club as marshals.

He said: 'They will be willing to help; I haven't told them yet, right enough.'

Bruno Baumgartner asked about accommodation for all these athletes.

Claire Richardson, of Auchrannie, announced that there were 3,200 bed spaces on the island, and islanders should be able to overcome any hurdles.

When asked about the safety of cycling at speed, Nick Scott replied: 'The council has assured us that the roads will be in a better condition in September.'

'They have also agreed to make sure all roads are swept clear of grit.'

Kevin Harvie revealed that they already have 700 provisional registrations and will be making a formal proposal to NAC within six weeks.

After the meeting Nick Scott told the Banner: 'I thought it was very positive and established a good foundation for the organisers to work with local residents and businesses.'

'We had a number of good ideas from people - one of which was to hold another public meeting closer to the event which we are more than happy to do.'



Rubbish blights old centre

The derelict Lamlash Community Centre that has lain empty for three years has recently become even more of an eyesore.

John Adams, who lives in nearby McKelvie Road, said: 'It has just become a rubbish dump.'

'In the last two weeks the litter outside the hall has got worse and worse. The school kids go over there at lunch-time, eat their food and just leave the empty food packets and juice bottles.'

'It has become a blot on the village.'

Lamlash Community Councillor Brenda Stewart told the Banner that she would be looking into the problem as a matter of urgency.

Pictured are the piles of rubbish outside Lamlash Community Centre. 02_b08rub01

Campaigner's anger over state of roads

Some sections of Arran's roads are now worse than before they were re-laid, according to local roads campaigner Ian Small.

At a meeting of the island's Community Council on Tuesday night, Mr Small - who is also a councillor for Brodick - said that North Ayrshire Council have to 'take responsibility for a job done badly'.

He was referring to the section between Lamalsh and

Brodick where parts of the road have already begun to crumble.

Faulty

Completed just over two months ago, this work was to replace faulty repairs that had been made a year before.

Mr Small said he wanted to know:

- * Why this has happened?
- * When the remedial work will be done?
- * Who pays for the work?
- * Who was in charge of the

work?

* And who will be in charge in the future?

He said: 'The island was allocated £300,000 by the council to fix a job that was botched before but that money has been completely wasted as the new road surface has failed.'

He added: 'If they had laid this tar for any of us as individuals we would seek recourse. We would not pay for it.'

Mr Small said that he had contacted Angus Bodie, head of infrastructure and design for NAC, but was unhappy

with his reply.

Mr Bodie wrote: 'Remedial works will be carried out at the earliest opportunity however we have to wait until there is significant improvement in the current winter weather.'

'Ideally, to prevent future re-occurrences of this nature, resurfacing works should be carried out during summer months.'

Concerns

He then added that these months were 'generally avoided' due to local concerns about the impact of such work on the tourist season.



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Team of inspectors visits high school

A team from HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) has been at Arran High School this week.

HMIe reports on the quality of education in secondary and primary schools, as well as pre-school and community learning facilities. An inspection team normally comprises nine people.

The inspection will cover every part of the education process including special needs and health and nutrition.

The school-based inspection will last no more than four days and will involve the head teacher, teachers, the chairperson of the Parent Council and a group of parents.

Inspections are independent and focus on how children's needs and entitlements are being met within the Curriculum for Excellence.

Arran High School was inspected in September and October 2002 as part of a national sample of secondary education.

At that time the inspection reported that the proportion of pupils achieving five or more credit awards at Standard Grade was well above the national average.

Publication of a report of the inspection should be in no more than 12 weeks, but the head teacher should receive a draft copy of the report within a week.

Funfair 'too big' says community council

The island's community council has lodged a complaint about the size of the Brodick Funfair.

The councillors agreed that the attraction, which spent four weeks in Brodick last year, has grown too big.

A letter of complaint will be sent from the community council to the licensing court demanding a reduction in the fair's size and the length of time it spends here.

Harry Davidson, community councillor for Brodick, said that a number of people had

expressed concerns about the length of stay and the noise coming from the fair.

'It now occupies more of the green than ever before and there have been increasing complaints from residents nearby,' he said.

Other council members agreed that for a 'rural' setting the fair was inappropriate.

Jill Law from North Ayrshire Council's estates department told Councillor Margie Currie that she had received only one complaint about the fair - from Harry Davidson.

No dog waste bins to spare

Dog walkers in Lochranza could be waiting quite some time for dog-waste bins to be put up around the village.

Despite asking the council more than a year ago to provide two bins - one on the Newton Shore and one at the

distillery - the council say they haven't a single one to spare.

Brodie Pearcey, North Ayrshire Council's assistant island officer, said that the minute the bins come into stock they will be taken straight to Lochranza.

Pool subsidy secured - but for just a year

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

North Ayrshire Council has scrapped plans to end its subsidy to the Auchrannie swimming pool, but only for the next 12 months.

The council currently subsidises the pool by £36,000 per year.

Although the Auchrannie is a private hotel, members of the public can use the swimming pool.

Since 1991 the council has given the hotel money towards the running of the facility because there is no public swimming pool on the island.

Private

There is a private swimming pool in the Kinloch hotel but it is smaller.

Last Wednesday it was revealed that the council was looking at the possibility of ending the subsidy to save cash.

However, at a budget meeting last week it was decided they would meet the cost of the subsidy from council reserves for one year.

This means that the subsidy is only guaranteed for another year. After that it is not known what will happen.

'This decision literally came out of the blue,' said the Auchrannie's financial director, Ronnie Mann.



Both Auchrannie swimming pools are widely used by the public as well as the schools on the island. 01_b08gal01

'We had no idea that the future of the subsidy was up for discussion until the day before the meeting.

Delighted

'Needless to say we were absolutely delighted that Councillor Margie Currie was able to reverse this decision as it would have far reaching consequences for all our users.'

But as the council have only

secured the subsidy for the next 12 months, Mr Mann is concerned that they may lose it for good next year.

'Don't get me wrong, we are aware that in the grand scheme of Auchrannie £36,000 isn't a huge amount of money,' he said.

'But if we lose that as well as having to pay an extra £38,000 in rates then we will have no choice but to put

prices up.'

Council Leader David O'Neill said: 'This has been the single most difficult budget process since North Ayrshire Council was formed in 1995.

'No-one should doubt that there is a lot of pain in this budget but we have sought to minimise the negative impact on North Ayrshire communities.'

Work to improve Pirnmill Bridge possible

Pirnmill Bridge could be widened to accommodate a pedestrian crossing, according to council representatives. Angus Bodie, head of infrastructure and design

services for North Ayrshire Council, said that widening the bridge as part of strengthening and repair work was a possibility.

The road bridge in the cen-

tre of the village was damaged in September when flash flooding swept away the adjacent footbridge.

Temporary measures were put in place that saw the road

bridge narrowed to allow room for pedestrian use.

Mr Bodie said that replacing the footbridge was not an option despite local calls for its replacement.

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New members sought for Arran Hospice Fund

Members are being sought to join the board of the Arran Hospice Fund, following concerns about the management of the charity.

At a meeting two weeks ago, the directors said they wanted more Arran people to become involved in the project in order to give the fund more credibility. The board of directors has already been appointed. They are:

- * Derek Wenham: fundraiser and acting chairman;
- * Janet Redfearn: treasurer;
- * Alan Banks: former NHS project manager;
- * Alan Hill: company secretary

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

retary

* Brent Allan and Rob Williamson: website designers.

John McFaul, the founder of the fund is no longer involved.

He established the fund after his wife Judy died in February 2008 having battled breast cancer for 18 months.

The aim of the fund he said was to provide a facility at Arran War Memorial Hospital that will allow terminally ill sufferers to end their days here

in dignity rather than dying on the mainland.

John said that in the three years that have followed he has had to 'rebuild' his life and as a result he did not give the management of the fund his complete focus.

The board directors, who were all friends of Judy, praised John's efforts and said that they would do all they can to see his dream through to completion.

Those who would like to get involved in the Arran Hospice Fund will be invited to attend a meeting on Monday 18 April.

Around the rurals

Kildonan SWRI

The members of Kildonan WRI met in the village hall on Tuesday afternoon, 15 February.

The demonstrator for the afternoon was Steven Scott from Corrie Golf Club, ably aided by his wife Lindsay.

Within the short space of an hour, Steven treated us to a two course meal, starting with tasty mushroom soup, followed by chicken stuffed with haggis.

The latter was finished with a beautiful cream sauce. Both dishes were eagerly sampled by those present and no one

was disappointed with the mouthwatering flavours. Steven and Lindsay were warmly thanked by Gillian.

The competition for four cup cakes was judged by Steven and Lindsay with the winner being Mamie Stewart and Kate Templeton in second place.

After a cup of tea and home-baking, business was discussed and the afternoon brought to a close.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 15 March, at 7.30pm and it will be the AGM.

It is hoped there will be a good turn out of members.

The competition will be for a £2 parcel, wrapping to be judged.

Members are also asked to bring along a sweet or savoury dish for the end of season buffet.

Lamlash SWRI

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 2 March, at the Fire Station.

Ellie Jones will demonstrate flower arranging.

The competition is 'Edible Flowers' and the exhibition is a floral plate.

See you all there at 7.30pm.

Catch of the day is recalled in Lamlash Bay

In recent weeks the Banner's letters page has featured a number of correspondents lamenting the demise of fish in the waters around Arran.

Now Janette Hinchcliffe of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire has contacted us to say: 'Further to the discussions on the letters pages regarding fishing on Arran in the past, I thought this picture would be an interesting addition.'

'This photo shows Alfred (on the right) and Kathleen Ellis (my grandparents) and a friend showing off what was presumably the day's catch on the lawn of the Marine House at Lamlash.

'We think this was taken in the early 1930s and we still own the rods!

'I don't ever remember seeing ray in the sea but I do remember catching flat fish and having them cooked for my breakfast by Mrs Colquhoun of the Marine House. I also remember a Jackie Clarke who was also staying at the Marine House catching a conger eel for which he got his picture in the paper in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

'It is a sort of tradition that each member of the family has their photo taken with their first ever fish caught on Arran.

'By the time my son went for his first fishing expedition, we needed to hire an expert



Alfred and Kathleen Ellis and a friend on the lawn of Marine House, Lamlash with the catch of the day in the 1930s.

to help us find them, and two people brought back two fish after a couple of hours on the water.

'Despite our history of fishing in the bay, we are happy to see the no-take zone and feel

honoured to be able to support it by leaving Grandad Ellis's rods in the loft.

'Then maybe my future grandchildren will see ray, plaice and conger eels when they visit.'

Tune in as Arran hits airwaves

Arran will be on the airwaves for a week in early April.

The Macclesfield and District Amateur Radio Society will be operating from Arran

from Saturday 2 to Thursday 7 April.

This is part of the international 'Islands on the Air' (IOTA) annual exercise.

Four society members will be transmitting on the HF bands and making as many contacts as possible across the UK and worldwide.

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Arran Cadets honoured with two awards

Two Arran cadets received special awards last week.

New award

Fourteen-year-old Conner Reid of Brodick was presented with the new award for Arran Cadet of the Year. This award is in the form of a shield and has been given to the Arran Cadet force by the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion.

In handing over the shield, Sergeant Dawn Burke said: 'Connor is the first cadet to

receive this award.

'All year he has exhibited diligence, exemplary conduct and 100 percent attendance.' Connor passed his first aid exam in December.

Cadet lance corporal Pdraigh Gerraghty also received a presentation at the weekly meeting of the Arran cadets in the hut in Auchrannie Road.

Sergeant Burke said: 'Paddy passed his NCO cadre in December and has just attained his First Aid qualification.'

Sergeant Burke with Pdraigh Gerraghty and his First Aid certificate. 02_b08cad02

Shiskine Hall auction

Shiskine Hall committee will be holding their annual auction for hall funds on the afternoon of Saturday 26 March.

Diana Turbett said: 'Please bear this in mind if having a spring clean-out. We will be able to uplift, and accept most items other than mattresses.

'Watch the Banner for more details.'



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Connor Reid receiving the Cadet of the Year shield from Sergeant Dawn Burke. 02_b08cad01

Better path plan for Whiting Bay

Whiting Bay and District Improvements Association are currently working on improving the paths around Whiting Bay.

Local interested people carried out an informal audit of the condition of the paths last autumn in a 'walk around Whiting Bay' day.

As a result of this, several paths have been improved, notably the Fairy Glen path.

Village tidy up

The Association is most grateful to Arran Access Trust for their support in this work. It is hoped to produce a comprehensive map of the Whiting Bay paths in time for Easter. These maps will be available in local shops for a small charge, and would enable holidaymakers to explore the beautiful environs of Whiting Bay, beyond the best-known walks to Glenashdale Falls and the Giants Graves.

As a further improvement event, a 'Beach Clean and Village Tidy' is planned for the week beginning Sunday 6 March to which everyone is warmly invited. This will be a family event, and everyone is invited to meet at the putting

green shed at 10.30am on Sunday 6 March.

Jan McGregor said: 'Please bring with you rubber or gardening gloves, secateurs and appropriate clothing and footwear. Black plastic bags and litter-pickers will be provided and you will be rewarded with a bowl of soup at the end.'

'Volunteers will be allocated, or choose, an area of the beach, and/or village to concentrate on and all rubbish will be collected. It is hoped to tidy up brambles and weeds around the bus shelters.'

'The Whiting Bay bus shelters are distinctive and unique to Whiting Bay and are now the village's responsibility, so we want to maintain them. If you cannot manage along on Sunday litter-pickers and bags will be available anytime through the week - simply contact Liz (700552), Jan (700249) or Barbara (700411) to arrange to collect.'

'Even if you can only manage to help clear a small area this will make a big difference. The more people who come and help, the easier the job will be, so please join us.'

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Life changing work by Arran's Save the Children branch

'Preserving the right to survive.'

That is the aim of the Arran branch of the Save the Children charity, according to their chairman Carol Burge.

At the AGM of the charity on Monday 7 February, Carol thanked all members for supporting her during her first year as chair.

In her report she said: 'Although we do not have direct contact with the children we are raising money for, we still derive a sense of achievement knowing that the work we do helps to preserve the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.'

Carol mentioned the support given by husbands, partners and friends and thanked them all while welcoming all present including Irene Graham, Scotland Programme Manager and Elsie Paton from Troon.

A warm welcome was also

given to Margaret Wright from Whiting Bay.

In her report, the secretary, Margaret Shaw, began by expressing sadness at the loss of one of the committee's very hard working members, Judy McAllister, who died after a long illness at the end of May last year.

She then gave a resume of the year's activities, which were all very successful with good support from the public.

Myrna Boal, Treasurer, reported that as a result of events they were able to send £9,500 to the Scottish Council in Edinburgh.

Office bearers

The office bearers were elected as follows: chairman - Carol Burge, secretary - Margaret Shaw, treasurer - Myrna Boal, trading - Barbara Leckey, collection agent - Kath Turner, press - Jean Robertson, art work - Jean Bowden and school representatives - Elinor Kinnaird, Irene Rollo and Aileen Wright.

Following the business, Irene Graham gave an interesting talk on the work of Save the Children in Scotland.

She explained the projects being run in Scotland in detail, including the most recent one called FAST (Families and Schools Together).

General behaviour and achievement has been the result of this project designed for children living in poverty.

This has proved so successful it is to be repeated very soon involving double the number of families.

Another very successful project is Fathers United.

Photographs were passed round showing single parent fathers enjoying activities with their children, activities that would not normally have been available to them without the help and guidance of Save the Children.

As most of us connect the work of Save the Children with projects abroad in places such as Asia, Africa and South America it was very interesting to hear how much work and funds are being channelled into Scotland.

Carol thanked Irene for a most enlightening talk and brought the meeting to a close.



Michael Lee on his bike on Brodick Castle drive.

Brodick gardener to cycle 1,000 miles against vintage tractors

Michael Lee of Brodick is setting off on a 1,000 mile cycle ride for cancer research in April.

Michael is a keen and experienced cyclist and he and four friends did the John O'Groats to Lands End trip two years ago. This time the five friends will be racing for time against another three on vintage tractors.

Michael said: 'We all know someone who has suffered from breast cancer, bowel cancer or testicular cancer, so the BBB Challenge was born. It came out of a conversation about our 2009 charity ride. Three friends with tractors said they could do Lands End to John O'Groats quicker than us on our modern bikes. It was too good a challenge to miss.'

The tractors are a Fordson Super Major, BMC

Nuffield, Massey Ferguson 165, and Fordson Super Dexta.

The event will start at the Lizard Point in Cornwall on Thursday 7 April and should finish at Dunnet Head, John O'Groats on 16 April. As well as the riders and drivers, there will be a small support team.

Forty-two-year-old Michael is a self-employed gardener and is an ex bike racer who has competed all over the UK.

He added: 'I've never done anything quite like this. Racing against tractors will be a new experience. But we aim to raise £30,000 for cancer research.'

To find out more about Michael's challenge, visit www.bbbchallenge.co.uk.

HMS Diamond back in Clyde to re-fuel enroute for Aberdeen

Observant islanders will have noticed one of the Royal Navy's latest warships cruising in the Clyde again last week.

She was HMS Diamond, left, the third Daring class Type 45 destroyer built by BAE Systems in Govan.

She underwent extensive sea trials in the Clyde last year and was accepted off contract at Portsmouth for



HMS Diamond cruising in the Clyde last week.

a formal handover to the Navy last September. Now

she has called back in the Clyde for a refuelling stop before continuing her journey round the top of Scotland to Aberdeen.

She will be fully commissioned into the Royal Navy in May and joins her sister ships HMS Daring and HMS Dauntless as the most advanced air-defence warships in the world.

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Winners at Druid last Saturday: George Tod with the Drumadoon Trophy, and Wullie Stevenson with Druid Cup, Hirsell Cup, J C Picken Cup, Cnoc Shield and Alba Trophy. b08dog01

Wullie and Dusk to represent Arran at national sheepdog finals

Wullie Stevenson of Whiting Bay and his dog Dusk will be representing Arran at the Scottish National Nursery sheepdog trial finals next Saturday 5 March.

The final two nursery trials of Kildonan and District Sheepdog Association were held at Druid, Machrie, last Saturday courtesy of Duncan and Liz Robertson, and Wullie and Dusk won both.

The judge for the day was Alex Miller and clerk Margie

Currie. Other results were: Sweepstake 1 Geoff Brookes and Shona 88pts, 2 John Murchie and Bob 82pts (better time), 3 Wullie Stevenson and Dusk 82pts, 4 George Tod and Spice 79pts.

Winners

Trophy winners for the season were: Druid Cup, Hirsell Cup for Nursery overall, J C Picken Cup for dog under 18 months, Cnoc Shield for outrun and lift, Alba Trophy for overall winner of the winter league all

won by Wullie Stevenson and Dusk. Drumadoon Trophy for best handler not having won an open prize went to George Tod and Spice, and winner of the Wilson Trophy for summer league was Niall McMaster with Ann.

The Arran and Kintyre team for the Scottish Nursery finals is W Stevenson and Dusk, A McCuish and Rock, M McNally and Finn, K Grieve and Bet, P Clark and Jill, reserve B Strachan and Bill.

Silage and turnips on the menu for Southend sheep

Last autumn we featured a photograph of an unusual long line of wrapped silage bales spread out evenly in a turnip field at Corriecravie.

A number of people had been intrigued as to their significance and wondered why they were so carefully placed, running right down the centre of the field.

Now that winter is well and truly here, the mystery of the bales has been revealed.

Farmer Charlie McAllister has an electric fence across the field and is strip grazing the turnips. Whenever he moves the fence another few metres, he is able to open up another silage bale and slot a feeding ring over the top of it.

So the sheep are able to graze on a balanced diet of neeps and silage.



The line of silage bales being fed to Southend sheep in a turnip field. 02_b08shp01

COAST group gains charitable status

The Board of Directors of COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust) are pleased to announce that the organisation has now gained charitable status which reinforces the importance for the public benefit of the works it carries out.

COAST is a non-profit making voluntary community group established in 1995 by local divers Howard Wood and Don Macneish. Its aim is to protect and improve the marine environment and in particular the important maerl beds in Lamlash Bay thus regenerating fish and scallop stocks.

After campaigning for several years, Scotland's first No Take Zone was designated in the northend of Lamlash Bay in September 2008.

Sally Campbell, vice chair of COAST, commented: 'We are delighted that the new status has finally been achieved.'

'The main benefit of this is that significant funding is becoming available from previously untapped sources which will allow the work of COAST to continue and develop.'

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Earthquake tremors felt on Arran

It was shocking to see the images of a devastated Christchurch this week after a huge earthquake rocked New Zealand's second city.

Natural disasters like this are happening more and more but when it happens in a country where many people from Arran now live it somehow feels even more destructive.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those from Arran living in the city and their families back here on the island.

The 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Christchurch on Tuesday morning was considerably less powerful than the 7.1 magnitude shake that hit last September, and yet it had far more deadly consequences, killing at least 65 people and trapping 200.

This has been attributed to the fact that New Zealand sits on the 'Pacific Ring of Fire', a vast zone of seismic and volcanic activity that stretches from Chile on one side to Japan and Indonesia on the other.

Arran on the other hand, sits on the Eurasian plate, and is thousands of miles from any serious fault lines.

As many as 100 specific faults have been identified around New Zealand, some as close as 12 miles from central Christchurch, with modelling by the New Zealand Earthquake Commission indicating that a major seismic event could hit Christchurch once every 55 years.

Since the September 2010 quake, Christchurch has suffered some 4,000 aftershocks of varying magnitudes and seismologists predict there will be many more to come.

A third factor that almost certainly determined the scale of the death toll in Christchurch was random chance – that being the time at which the two quakes occurred.

Tuesday's event occurred at 12.51pm, in the middle of a busy weekday, with correspondingly more lethal consequences.

With an event like this comes a natural re-evaluation of our lives.

Here on Arran we are lucky to live somewhere that has very little experience of natural disasters.

Yes Britain does feel earthquakes from time to time but they have never been very high on the Richter scale.

On Arran we occasionally have very strong winds that damage buildings or high tides that wash away roads and bridges, but to date there have been no hurricanes, typhoons, major earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.

We can sleep easy tonight knowing that the chances of a hurricane, typhoon, earthquake or volcanic eruption hitting us during the night are very slim indeed.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Who among the gods is like You, O LORD? Who is like You - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (Exodus 15:11)

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.co.uk

Letters to the Editor



Budget underspend claim

Sir,
Thank you for your coverage of the NAC budget meeting.

Since then I have had many enquiries regarding my amendment to reject the budget. This may be due to the brutal guillotining of debate at the meeting that meant that I was unable to deliver all the figures to the full council.

The reported budget gap, that is the amount received versus the expected outgoings, was presented as £7m. This figure excluded two amounts. First the budget line ascribing £1m to 'right-sizing'. Second the NAC budget for 2010/11 was underspent to the tune of £5m. Adding these we can see that NAC's budget for 2011/12 is only in deficit by £1m.

That raises the question of why the Executive of the council find it necessary to squirrel away £6m to fund unnecessary cuts of £7m. Who in their right mind spends six pounds to save seven?

One argument that would be made is that the changes will have long-term ramifications to the running of the council. Leaving aside the argument that if the changes need to be made then the ruling Labour councillors should have made them many years ago, we have to examine this claim in light of the other claims, not least the hysterical trumpeting of a £64M shortfall that was made by the council leader. All claims of future deficits should be seen in this light and taken with more than a pinch of salt.

For my own part I see no downside to preserving front

line jobs for as long as possible. The wages feed back into the local economy and support further jobs while saving unnecessary calls on the public purse.

What, then, is going on? It seems clear that even the wreckers in charge of this council can't squander £6M on unnecessary 're-structuring'. So what will the money (plus any under spend for financial year 2011/12) be used for?

I will leave it to your readers to make up their own minds but we may find a clue in the scheduled local election due in May 2012, three months after next year's budget. A budget where up to £10m may be available to squander on pet projects in marginal wards ahead of the election.

If that is the case I look forward to the union funders of the Labour party asking why their members have to lose their jobs today so that councillors can save their jobs next year as much as I look forward to the electorate's judgement.

Yours,
Councillor Tony Gurney

Newspaper names

Sir,
Arran is not the only place to be hit by rocketing fuel-oil prices last December.

The Hexham Courant led then on a very similar story from south-west Northumberland. Likewise, deliveries there were erratic then, too.

I presume the Hexham Courant is in the BBC poll on which you report (12 February). Enniskillen's paper in the troubles, (1960 to 1990s or beyond) needed to be impartial; and the Unterrified

Democrat was probably then in Republican territory when begun.

A weekly in the mid-west was 'The Astonisher and Terminator'.

The Ashbourne News Telegraph in rural Derbyshire is 'The Stunner' locally, from its general lack of stunning news. The West Highland Free Press, founded and edited by Brian Wilson, later MP, was free of control by press barons, hence its name. The Keswick Reminder (founded 1896) is not one of Britain's oldest newspapers.

Most were founded long before 1896.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers Lane
Penrith

Common Sense lamented

Sir,
The extract below was sent to me by an ex-shipmate of the HMS Gambia Association and I for one think it is true.

Maybe our MPs should take heed of these words and perhaps people would place more faith in them.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who had been with us for many years.

No one knows for certain how old he was but he will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird catches the worm and life isn't always fair but maybe that wasn't my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple and sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable strategies (adults not children

in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place – reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly pupil – only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or aspirin to a student but were not allowed to inform parents when girls became pregnant and wanted an abortion.

Common Sense took a beating when you could not defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and if you did, the burglar could sue for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot.

She spilt a little on her lap and was awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, and by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility and by his son Reason.

He is however survived by four step-brothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame and of course I Am The Victim.

Yours,
W Welsh
Brathwic Terrace
Brodick



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HMS Dasher memorial on horizon

Alan Milligan, chairman of the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion wants to remind members of the forthcoming annual memorial for the sinking of *HMS Dasher*.

Alan said: 'Whilst there is no social meeting of the branch in March, members and friends are reminded that

the annual *HMS Dasher* memorial service will take place at the CalMac pier, Brodick, on Saturday 26 March.'

Memorial service

When the *MV Caledonian Isles* arrives at approx 10.40am members of the Branch will be in attendance with members of the Dasher

Association for a short memorial service.

Alan added: 'Our next social meeting will take place on Thursday 7 April 2pm in the MacLaren Hotel, Brodick when Sergeant Bob MacKay will speak on 'Policing on Arran'

'All are welcome.'

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Cheese and wine raises vital Save the Children funds

The Arran branch of the Save the Children raised the incredible sum of £780 at their annual 'Cheese and Wine' night recently.

Included in the total were £262 from the large raffle and £60 from a special whisky raffle.

Brodick Golf Club was once again the venue for this event and all those present appreciated an excellent finger buffet.

Speaking at the event was Dorothy Parker, Save the Children's West of Scotland fundraiser.

She spoke about the work of the charity and congratulated the Arran Branch on raising the magnificent sum of £10,000 in 2010.

The chairman, Carol Burge, thanked everyone for their continuing support.

Got a story for The Banner?
Call our reporters on 01770 302142.



Second World War veteran Joe Parker, 90, presented Miss UK Katharine Brown with a bunch of the new Erskine Veteran Roses when she visited Erskine Garden Centre on Valentine's Day for the launch of this new variety of rose.

Special new veterans rose offer for Banner readers

Flower exclusive to Erskine Hospital Garden Centre

The Arran Banner has a great offer for keen gardeners.

We have three sturdy new rose bushes to give away in a simple competition.

They are named 'Erskine Veteran', a brand new hybrid tea rose exclusive to Erskine Hospital Garden Centre and bred by specialist rose man Paul Chesham from Bedfordshire.

Bob McCaw, Banner gardening correspondent, works at the Erskine Garden Centre and has donated these special roses for Banner readers' enjoyment.

The garden centre sits at the entrance to Bishopton estate in the shadow of the Erskine Bridge.

All profits raised in the centre go directly towards respite and long-term care in five purpose-built homes across Scotland.

Erskine was founded in 1916 as the Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers.

It continues to care for over 1,350 ex-servicemen and women and veterans who have been injured in conflicts in the Gulf War, Northern Ireland, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Erskine Veteran is described as a vibrant red hybrid tea that will thrive in most well-drained soils.

Roses

To win one of these three roses, just tell us what year Erskine was founded.

Answers by post to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ, or email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk.

The first three correct answers drawn on Wednesday 2 March will each win an Erskine Veteran rose.

Arran's bad girls promote writers' island connection

The cast of the Arran Music and Drama Club are promoting a tentative island connection to their summer production 'Bad Girls.'

They have discovered that the jail-based musical was adapted from a television series of the same name written by an Arran visitor.

Ann McManus, whose sister Veronica has a house in Whiting Bay, wrote the award winning series Bad Girls which the local drama club will be performing this summer.

The show written by Ann has been turned into a musical and is proving very popular with audiences all over the country.

Ann McManus has been involved in many popular programmes such as 'Coronation Street', 'Footballers' Wives', 'Take the High Road' and the school drama 'Waterloo Road'.

Educated in Ayr, Ann came

from a family of teachers and after reading English at Glasgow University; she began teaching in Castlemilk, Rutherglen and Easterhouse in 1984, but became disillusioned so retrained as a computer teacher.

While struggling as a teacher she did a correspondence course 'Learn to be a writer' and eventually gained a contract as a dialogue writer for television soaps, making enough money to give up teaching.

Successful

Ann was so successful at this that she was able to form a production company along with her old school friend, Eileen Gallacher.

They named it 'Shed Media' and now have offices in four cities including Los Angeles but live in London, in the fashionable area of Islington.

This certainly is a success story worthy of an Ann McManus script.



Arran visitor, Ann McManus, is the brains behind the drama club's summer musical 'Bad Girls'.

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It ain't half cold here!



Antarctic expedition in the steps of Captain Scott for CPO Andy Scott of Lochranza

Lochranza man Andy Scott is following in the footsteps of the legendary explorer Captain Scott.

He is currently serving as a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy on board HMS Scott in the Antarctic.

Last Thursday he emailed the Banner to say: 'My parents Bill and Gail Scott from Lochranza sent me last month's Banners.

'I still like to keep up with events on Arran even at the bottom of the world!'

Andy has sent photographs of himself, his ship and some penguins in the frozen wastes of the southern seas, close to the South Pole.

The pictures were taken at Port Lockroy, Antarctica, on February 14. Port Lockroy is maintained by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and is of such historical importance

it was designated as Historic Site and monument No61 under the Antarctic treaty.

It is a former British Survey Station that was abandoned in the 1950s and restored as a museum in 1996. The site has a gift shop and the only post office in the Antarctic.

HMS Scott is the Royal Navy's only deep ocean survey vessel and is named after the explorer Captain Scott who made his final and fatal expedition to the South Pole 100 years ago next month.

HMS Scott and her 78 crew left Plymouth on November 25 last year.

Andy said: 'I flew down and rejoined the ship in Cape Town just before New Year; we work a three-watch system so one watch is always on leave and the other two are on board.

'We then sailed to the Falk-

land Islands for a week's stop before setting off south across Drake's Passage, notoriously the roughest seas in the world, and towards Antarctica.

'We are only down here for a month as we are only ice-strengthened, not an ice-breaker, so we have a small weather window to carry out our tasking.

'We arrive back in the Falklands in early March and from there I fly home to RAF Brize Norton.'

Andy explained: 'The penguins in the photos are Gentoos and are closely monitored the whole year round. In the background is my ship HMS Scott which is currently deployed to the Antarctic region supporting the British Antarctic Survey and UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Andy Scott catches up with Banner news in Antarctica in the company of penguins.

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HMS Scott in the bay, watched by two lonely penguin.

'It could be no more fitting that HMS Scott, named after Captain Scott, is conducting operations in the Antarctic in the 100th anniversary year of Captain Scott's final Antarctic expedition.'

'Also sailing on board is Captain Scott's granddaughter, Daphila Scott.'

'I return back to the UK and Arran in time for Easter. Tell Dougie to get his golf clubs ready!'

The ship's Commanding Officer, Commander Gary Hestling, said: 'The fact that HMS

Scott can undertake useful and valuable tasking, despite not being an ice-breaker, shows the utility and flexibility of the Royal Navy.'

'It could be no more fitting that HMS Scott, named after Captain Scott, is conducting operations in the Antarctic in the 100th anniversary year of Captain Scott's final Antarctic expedition.'

Andy added: 'Most of what we do is classified because of our surveying ops, so I can't really say where we are off to next, but suffice to say it's a hell of a lot warmer.'

'If you cast your mind back to 2004 when you covered me in the Banner retracing the voyage of an old Arran local, then you will get the general area!'



CPO Andy Scott, right, and Officer Cadet Ian Stubbs, grandson of Derek and the late Marjorie Stubbs of Kings Cross, on the deck of HMS Exeter in the South China Seas.



A penguin stands guard as the Union flag flies over the Antarctic Historic Site.



CPO Andy Scott appeared in the Banner in July 2004 standing on the quayside in Vladivostok with his ship HMS Exeter.



Gentoo penguins are monitored to see if they are affected by contact with humans.

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Classical accordion and violin masterclass in Brodick Hall



Classical accordionist Djordje Gajic.

Brodick Hall was packed on Saturday night for a special concert by the talented Djordje and Andrea Gajic on classical accordion and violin.

The Banner's music correspondent Harry Ross was clearly impressed by the evening's performance.

How many superlatives are there in the English language, or how long is a piece of string?

The answer to the first question is very many indeed and I would need to use almost all of them to adequately describe what was a performance of

such superlative quality and expression; it almost defied belief. The first half of the concert was a duet by both musicians which largely featured Andrea Gajic. She was able to combine full chord structures and string plucking with amazing dexterity in Pablo Sarasate's Gypsy Airs that it could be said to sound like dancing on the strings.

In Massenet's Meditation Thais, she played with beautiful light and shade, and in her final piece by Piazzolla, Le Grand Tango, she combined waltz rhythm with tango; brilliant.

The second half was a solo performance by Djordje of Scarlatti's three sonatas that was quite superbly interpreted. In Semenov's Bulgarian Suite there was wonderful syncopation in 4,5 time.

Huge chords were played by Djordje's talented hands, and with Flying Fingers he ended with a traditional folk piece, Seagull by Yuri Dranga.

Thanks to the committee of the Isle of Arran Music Society we are privileged to hear and enjoy some of the finest musicians, which we might not otherwise be able to do at mainland prices.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with an encore of Rossini's Figaro that had the audience on their feet applauding.

The concert was sponsored by the Isle of Arran Cheese Company. HR



Violinist Andrea Gajic.

MP supports Climate Week

Katy Clark, Member of Parliament for North Ayrshire and Arran, has pledged her support to Climate Week which is taking place from 21 to 27 March this year.

The campaign, which is backed by the Prime Minister and First Minister as well as a range of charities, businesses and other public figures, aims to highlight the challenges posed by climate change as well as the practical steps which individuals and organisations can take to reduce their own carbon emissions.

Speaking on the subject Ms Clark said: 'I welcome the introduction of Climate Week which will help engage local communities with initiatives that will help combat climate change.'

'Given the seriousness of the threat posed by climate change it is vital that the issue is kept on the public agenda and Climate Week will go a long way to ensuring that this occurs.'

'Climate Week events will be taking place across the United Kingdom and I would encourage any individual or organisation in North Ayrshire and Arran interested in running one to visit www.climateweek.com for more information.'



Arran's MP Katy Clark.
b08kat01

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£3.75

Tel: 01770 302142 for details



Isle of Arran Drama Association
2011
ONE ACT
DRAMA FESTIVAL



Adjudicator: Brian Marjoriebanks

Arran High School Theatre

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th February
Doors open 7.00pm Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets on sale at the door

ORDER OF PLAYS

Friday	'Tam's Tale' adapted by Sheila Gilmore Shiskine Junior Drama	
	'Drama' by Anton Chekhov Castaways	
	'Principal girls' by Emma Louise Akiens Shiskine WRI	
Saturday	'Between mouthfuls' by Alan Ayckbourn Lamlash Junior Drama	
	'The Performance' by Anton Chekhov Castaways	

.....followed by the prizegiving

Strictly no admittance during a performance

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

A view from the Clyde at COAST meeting



Howard Wood of COAST. 02_b08show01



The COAST symposium at Arran Outdoor Centre last October. 02_b44coa03

On Thursday 3 March, COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust) is holding an evening of news and discussion at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick.

Starting at 7pm there will be a short AGM. The last year has been eventful with a student doing underwater research in summer in the No Take Zone and around the Bay.

There was a successful and interesting symposium, run by COAST at the Arran Outdoor Centre in October, when 45 people came from all around the UK and further afield to discuss marine community stakeholders and marine protected areas.

Sally Campbell said: 'In addition we have supported outdoor events on the island, launched a monthly newsletter www.arrancoast.com, met with government scientists, been involved with several media events and launched a range of merchandise.

'The latest news is that the organisation is now registered as a Scottish Charity. Following the AGM, Howard Wood will give an illustrated talk called *A View from the Clyde: the reality of fisheries and ecosystem decline*.

'We all know the Clyde needs help in restoring the

ecosystem; that dredging for scallops and bottom trawling for *Nephrops* (large prawns) has done, and continues to do, untold damage to the sea bed and the creatures that live in the sand and gravels.

'COAST now hopes to be part of a movement to bring back the three mile limit on dredging and bottom trawling.

'This ban would not affect sea angling or creeling. However, there is every hope that an inshore three mile ban of dredging and bottom trawling would give the marine environment time to recover from the damage to seabed and bycatch, and increase stocks of white fish, sea trout and other species.

'It has in other areas of the world. Maybe, in time, a sea-angling festival could again be held on Arran.'

There will be coffee and discussion after Howard's talk and everyone is invited.

" Maybe, in time, a sea-angling festival could again be held on Arran. "

Arran Antiquarians amused by Sir Kenneth Calman

It is always something to look forward to when the speaker at our monthly meeting is one of our own members.

Last Monday, 21 February, there was a frisson of anticipation because the member was none other than Sir Kenneth Calman, a man of many achievements, respected doctor and oncologist, lecturer, Chancellor of Glasgow University, Chairman of the Calman Commission and recently appointed Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland.

Upwards of 90 members and visitors were fascinated and amused by his talk about 'Medical cartoons and caricatures', the collection of which is one of his hobbies.

The sources of his materials were many, from classical cartoons of the 15th Century to seaside postcards and The Sunday Post.

An audience of our age has had much experience of the world of medicine over the

years, and the pictures were greeted with great hilarity.

Probably Brodick Hall has not seen and heard so much humour concentrated into an hour since Billy Connolly performed there!

There was, however, often a more serious message behind the cartoons over and above the obvious humour. Sir Kenneth told us that for this reason he had used many of these cartoons in lectures to young doctors and medical students as teaching aids.

After initial amusement the students were told to go away and think about how their patients perceive their doctors and medicine in general.

Sir Kenneth answered audience questions, then we all partook of our tea and biscuits and went out into a dreich February afternoon with a smile on our faces and a gratitude that our wonderful doctors in Arran resemble in no way the ones we had seen portrayed. HD



Sir Kenneth Calman addressing Arran Antiquarians. b08ken01

2011 Calendars

 <p>Scottish Field - £5.95 £3.83*</p>	 <p>The Oban Times - £5.25 £2.62*</p>	 <p>Scottish Field Mini - £5.25 £2.62*</p>
1/2 price sale!		
 <p>East Coast Scenes - £5.25 £2.62*</p>	 <p>Isle of Arran - £5.25 £2.62*</p>	 <p>West Coast Scenes - £5.25 £2.62*</p>

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The Arran Banner on Holiday



Margaret Robertson in Perth, Western Australia. b08ban03

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

Arran residents and holidaymakers are making sure that they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

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

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

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

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

This week we have submissions from the island of Madeira, Monza in Italy, Perth in Western Australia and Rannoch Moor.

Margaret Jackson of Whitehaven in Cumbria is a regular Arran visitor but is seen here catching up with the news while making the hair-raising wickerwork toboggan

ride down the steep streets of Funchal on the island of Madeira.

Margaret Robertson of Gourrock sent us this photo of herself visiting her grandchildren Jack, Lucy and Amy in Perth, Western Australia.

Rannoch Moor

Johnny Wallwork of Slidery is seen reading his Banner in the snow on Rannoch Moor on Christmas Day.

Tony Curtis of Whiting Bay took his Banner to the Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

He said: 'This photo was

taken in the Williams' hospitality tent at the Grand Prix. Directly behind the Banner is Rubens Barrichello, who signed my Brazilian flag, and Nico Hulkenberg, the two Williams drivers.

'The ticket price of £1,500 for the day gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet Lewis Hamilton, Fernando Alonso, Eddie Jordan, David Coulthard and Bruno Senna.

'As my big day in Formula One will always stay with me, I would love to share it with all my friends and Banner readers.'



Tony Curtis at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza. b08ban01

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Margaret Jackson in Madeira. b08ban04



Johnny Wallwork on Rannoch Moor on Christmas Day. b08ban02

Island celebrates World Day of Prayer 2011

Friday 4 March is the date for the World Day of Prayer service in 2011.

There will be a service that day at 2.30pm in St Molio's Church, Shiskine where Arran people, in common with people around the world, will be asked to consider the question: 'How many loaves have you?' Will you be there?

Women, men, old and young from around the world are

invited to share in this service which will take place from sunrise in the Tonga Islands until sunset over Alaska 36 hours later. People in over 180 countries make time to come together to sing, think and pray around a common theme every year at this time.

Bearing in mind the horrific earthquake which occurred just off the coast of Chile on 27 February last year, it is

highly appropriate that the world-wide service has been written by Christian women of Chile. Buildings, bridges and roads were destroyed in many parts of Chile at that time, and yet the resilience of the people looking ahead to a restored nation is echoed in the service which they have written.

Taking as its theme 'How many loaves have you?' the service for 2011 looks at those

in countries where food and possessions are in abundance, and sets that against places where the people are poor and starving.

Services will be held in many venues around the world - schools, hospitals, nursing homes, universities, shopping centres and prisons. There will be a service held here on Arran at 2.30pm on 4 March, in St. Molio's Church, Shiskine,

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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, February 23, 1991

Same old tune

The age old excuse of 'there isn't enough money' was thrown out by members of the public at a meeting to discuss the island's storm damage on Monday night.

Jim Allison of Blackwaterfoot said: 'I'm surprised you didn't come in with a piper and play a dirge.'

'We get the same story from every official; 'there's no money'. Well I want to know what is being done to get the money.'

The official concerned, John Ferguson of SRC Roads department was unable to answer this question.

Car crash

Two local people were slightly injured at 4pm on Monday when a car drove into a stationary vehicle at Lamalsh.

In another incident two vehicles collided on the Lamalsh to Whiting Bay road at the Heights on Wednesday.

This is yet another in a spate of accidents on this stretch of road.

Anxious wait

Following the war in the Gulf with even more interest and anxiety than most Arran families are Sheena Ingram and her four children in Whiting Bay.

For husband Hugh is a maintenance fitter with the Aramco Oil Company and he returned to work, a little reluctantly on January 12, just four days before the war began.

What makes it so worrying is that he is based 30 miles north of Dhuran, which is very near to Kuwait.

Ferry returns

The MV Isle of Arran returned from her annual overhaul on Wednesday, three days later than planned.

Unlike last year when a shop was added and a lounge altered, there is little change.

The only addition are inflatable chutes which passengers will slide down to get into life rafts.

Tourist Board Ltd

The Tourist Board will be disbanded next Wednesday

but within minutes will rise again as the Arran Tourist Board Ltd. The reason for it is quite simple. If the Tourist Board incurred bad debts all of its 270 members would be liable but this move will limit members' liability.

Brodick WRI

Wednesday's meeting of the WRI was members night.

Margaret Davidson, Marion McRorie, Sheila Roberts, Grace Sillars, Elma Proudfoot and Margaret Anderson entertained the ladies with stories and poems about the various ages of women.

Birth

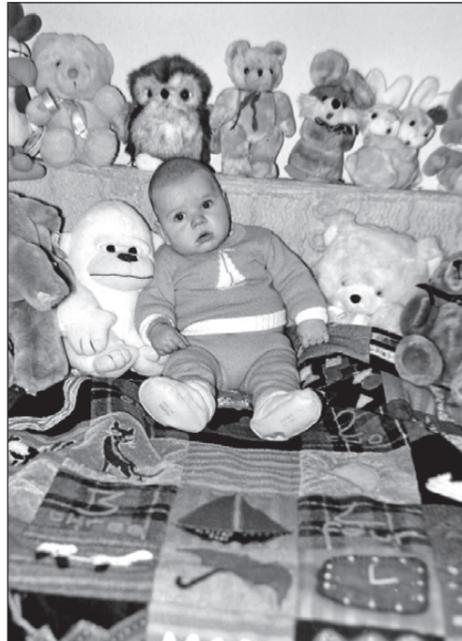
To Henry and Rhonda Tait a son, Neal, and baby brother for Laura. Born 6 February, 1991 at the Queen mother's Hospital, Glasgow.

Pool league

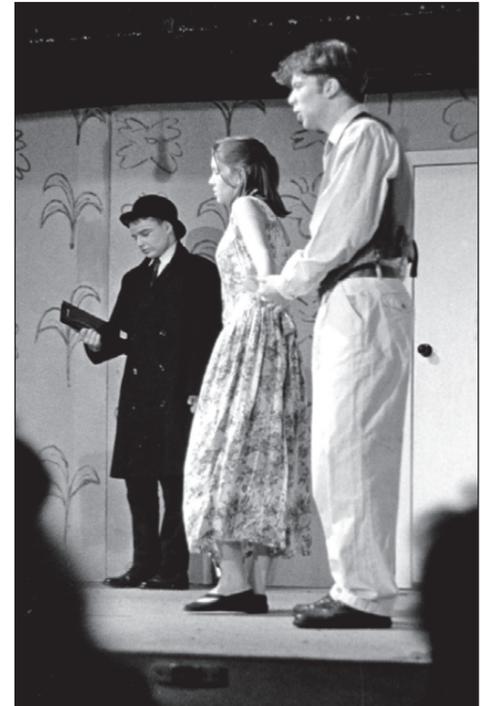
Results from 14 February: Drift Out 7 Aldersyde 5, Drift Inn 7 Corrie 5, Breadalbane 6 Kinloch 6, Catacol 2 Nags 10, Andy's 5 Lochranza 7, PHT 7 Anchor 5.



Sheena Ingram of Whiting Bay is pictured with her youngest daughter Lynn. Sheena's husband Hugh is currently working for Aramco Oil Company near Kuwait. b08twe03



Peggy Lunan of Mid Mayish presented baby Alastair Warner with a beautiful handmade rug last week. There may be many decades between the pair but they both share the same birthday, September 5. b08twe01



The 1991 One Act drama Festival got off to a supernatural start as four out of the six plays performed so far have all been about ghosts! b08twe04



Usable cast-offs are often found at the Brodick coup and people looking for something of value would have been especially interested in this last Wednesday. However, it wasn't a throw-away but an error of judgement by the driver. b08twe02

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel

Saturday 26th February

Due to a private function Bar Evening Meals will not be available.
Lunches will be served from 12pm - 2pm
Leisure facilities also closed to the public all day.
Public Bar open 11.30am-2.00pm and 4.30pm-12.30am.

Saturday 5th March

No lunches or Bar Evening Meals available due to a private function.
Leisure facilities also closed to the public all day.
Public Bar open 11.30am-2.00pm and 4.30pm-12.30am.

Tel: 860444

Where's Archie?

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editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Shep from Crewe e-mailed us this week and said he thinks Archie is waiting to go for a walk at the Dyemill Forest Walk track in Lamalsh. 'He may be going up to Urie Loch if he is feeling very energetic,' he said. This week Archie is on a sandy beach but where is it? 02_b08arc01

Whats on

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SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY

Karate
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)
Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs)
Film Festival. Lunch and Supper provided.
Live Music - Naked Sunday
Cool Club Coffee Morning
Drama Festival

Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am
High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm
Corrie Hall 10am - 10pm
Eden Lodge Hotel, Whiting Bay, from 9pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm
High School Theatre, 7pm

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY

Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Quiz

Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
Library Annexe, 1.45pm
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

MONDAY 28th FEBRUARY

Over 50's Badminton
Badminton
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games
Citizens Advice
Junior Basketball (P1 - P7)
Senior Fitness
BreathWalk Class
Quiz
Volleyball - over 16's
Lamlash Bridge Club
Circuit Training
Table Tennis
Badminton
Scottish Country Dancing (Beginners & Improvers)
Mums and Tots Swimming Lessons
Hatha Yoga

Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm
Open 10am - 2pm
Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym
Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
High School Games Hall, 8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 11am
Arran High School, 6pm - 7.30pm

TUESDAY 1st MARCH

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets

Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm



Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Junior Hockey Club
Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
Scottish Country Dancing
Indoor Bowls
Youth Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Open 10am - 2pm
Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Selt Making Class
Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Yoga for Every Body
Senior Badminton
Museum, Archives & Genealogy Service
Aquafizz
Yogalates
Circuit Training
Coffee Morning
Lamlash WRI - Flower arranging with Ellie Jones
Arran Farmers Society AGM

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10am - 11.30am
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Lamlash Church, 10.15am - 12pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm
Kinloch Hotel, 8pm

THURSDAY 3rd MARCH

General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Music & Drama Rehearsals
Lochranza Craft Club
Coffee Morning
Table Tennis
Youth Club
Brodick Bridge Club
Athletics
Senior Fitness
Ladies Night
Pilates
Pub Quiz
Brodick Embroidery Group
Arran Youth Foundations
The Wee Blether - soup & sandwiches
COAST AGM and talk on the Firth of Clyde

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Hall, 2pm
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
Golf Clubhouse
High School Games Hall, 4.45pm - 6pm
9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay
6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio
Kinloch Hotel, 9pm
Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Behind Library, 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 12pm - 1.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 7pm

FRIDAY 4th MARCH

Arran Pipe Band Practice
Quiz
Aquafizz
Yogalates
DJ
Seniors Badminton (Over 50)
Ladies Indoor Bowls
Mens Indoor Bowls
Over 21's Disco
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Arran Youth Foundations
Northend Thistle AGM

Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm - 10pm
Behind Library, 7pm - 9pm
Catacol Bay Hotel, 7.30pm

SATURDAY 5th MARCH

Cllr Currie Surgery

Brodick Library, 1pm - 2pm

To appear in What's On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine* between the hours of 9am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the address below by 18 March 2011. Any representations received will be open to public view. *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of application to be published under regulation 20(1)

Application No: 11/00077/PP Address: Seaview Cottage, Clauchlands Road, Lamlash, Brodict Isle Of Arran KA27 8LG Proposed Development: Demolition of existing dwelling house and erection of storey and a half detached dwelling house

Application No: 11/00005/PP Address: Riverside Cottage, Lamlash, Brodict, Isle Of Arran KA27 8LS Proposed Development: Erection of single storey extension to side of detached dwelling house

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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Isle of Arran Homes
And
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Isle of Arran Homes will reopen on Thursday 3 March 2011

Arran Care and Repair office will reopen on Monday 7 March 2011

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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 27 February

Shiskine, 11am
Sunday School in the Church Hall
(Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Rev David Karoon

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 27 February
Holy Communion 11am.
Rev'd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar
Coffee after service
Wednesday 2 March
Holy Communion 12.15pm.
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SCO15072)

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 27 February
Rev. Dr. Ian MacLeod
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In both churches:
All welcome, including families; children's area

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 27 February
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 7pm
13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
Rev. J Miller
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

Ormidale Pavilion
Brodick.
Sunday 27 February
10.45am Communion
Tea and Coffee from 11.10am
11.30am - For all the family
Speaker: David Nash

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Minister
Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome
Sunday 27 February
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church 12pm
Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am at Lochranza
Shiskine Church 12pm
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SCO14005)

Sunday 27 February
Worship will be led by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson., at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass
11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 27 February
Meeting for worship and discussion, 11am
11, Glen Estate, Brodick.
Enquiries to Jeny 302 779.
All very welcome.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

TAIZÉ. Please note that for March ONLY, Taizé worship will be conducted on the SECOND THURSDAY, 10th March, at 7.30 pm in St Margaret's Episcopal Church., and NOT on 3rd, as previously arranged.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 4 March
St Molios Church, Shiskine, 2.30pm. This year: Chile - Theme: "How many loaves have you?"
All welcome

DEATHS

RIDLEY - RUTH

Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday 18th February 2011.
Ruth, beloved wife of the late Clive and dear mother of Ray and mother-in-law of Julie.
Funeral service at Lamlash Cemetery on Wednesday 2nd March at 11.30am to which all friends are invited.

MEMORIAMS

Michael Lindsay 26/2/07

Miss you as much today as I did yesterday
Love always
Mother
X

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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News from the golf scene

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday Winter Cup: Sixteen turned up on a fine February morning and with only six more weeks to play it was decided to play for the Norman Peach Salver, a stableford competition, as well as the sweep.

Apologies to those who did not know it was also a stableford and stopped marking their cards.

The scoring was fairly good and there were three magic twos from Bryce Walker, Donald Rudge and John Beattie all getting one each.

In the sweep Bryce Walker was back for a well-earned holiday from captaining his cruise ship on the Clyde. He was first with 75-14=61, Eric Thompson was second on 73-11=62 and Wolfie Kroner was third with 78-15=63.

The Norman Peach Salver was very close with three players all attaining the same score on 35 points; Bryce Walker, Len (Lenny) Hartley and Eric Thompson with Bryce Walker winning the salver on the better inward half.

In the Winter Cup itself what looked like a two horse race between Charlie O'Neill and Dougie Robertson has been blown apart by Eric Thompson who in three weeks has come from nowhere to lead the field; will he stay there? Watch out for another thrilling installment next week.

Fixtures: Sunday 27 February, Winter Cup, open draws at 9am and 12pm. Sunday 6 March, AGA Duncan Trophy. Also Sweep at Brodick, open draws at 9am and 12pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 15 February, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Mark Sherwood 38 points, 2 Sally Brooks 35 points, 3 Campbell Laing 32 points. Scratch Mark Sherwood 69.

Fixtures: Tuesday 1 March, Winter Cup, tee-off at 12pm. Saturday 5 March, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 20 February, despite

PERSONALS

Happy 21st Melissa



Love from all the family xx



Teeing off at the first at the Machrie Bay open. 02_b08mac01

a rather low turnout of Whiting Bay members for the friendly with Lamlash the final result was Lamlash 1 Whiting Bay 4.

Many thanks to the Lamlash players who played so successfully for Whiting Bay - if the transfer window was still open we would certainly be putting in a few transfer bids!

Hopefully we will have a better turnout for the final match in March, although probably not such a good result!

Fixtures: Sunday 27 February, Winter Cup round five, rearranged from Sunday 13 February. Sunday 6 March,

Winter League at Whiting Bay.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 19 February, Winter Cup, 10 played, CSS 62. 1 J McGovern 67-7=60 BIH, 2 A Smith 70-10=60. Best scratch J McGovern 67. There were twos J McGovern and M Elliott. Monday 21, Monday Cup, 8 played off yellow tees. 1 S Woods 74-17=57, 2 E Cannon 71-11=60. Best scratch J McGovern 65. There were twos from J McGovern and E Cannon.

Fixtures: Saturday 26 February, Winter Cup at 8.30am and 12pm, counting round. Monday 28 February, Monday

Cup from yellow tees.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 20 February, Lamlash v Whiting Bay, 19 played, Stableford.

1 Ian Bremner 38pts, 2 Derek Robertson 36pts, 3 Neil Young 34pts BIH over Mark Wren. Best Scratch Ian Bremner 67. Result Of Match: Lamlash 1 Whiting Bay 4.

Fixtures: Sunday 27 February, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 11am starts. This is a counting round for handicaps. Don't lift ball at 6th and 7th fairways. Thursday 3 March, 15 Hole Medal make up own groups.

Gap narrows at top of league

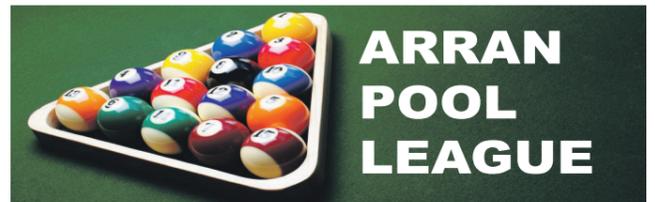
The Bar Eden's position at the top of the Arran Pool League became a little uncertain this week after a draw with the Drift Inn left them just one point ahead of nearest rivals Catacol.

The northend team defeated the PHT 7-3 at home on Thursday giving them a total of 23 points while the Bar Eden have 24.

A draw between PT1934 and Bar Eden B means that the Kilmory team must beat Catacol this Thursday to jump into second place.

The results from Thursday were: teamGoil (G) 6 Kildonan 4, Catacol 7 PHT (G) 3, PT1934 (G) 5 Bar Eden B 5, Bar Eden 5 Drift (G) 5.

The draw for the quarterfinals of the Singles Competition has



ARRAN POOL LEAGUE

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eden A	11	7	1	3	24
Catacol	11	7	2	2	23
PT1934	11	6	2	3	21
Eden B	12	6	5	1	19
PHT	12	5	5	2	17
teamGoil	12	4	4	4	16
Drift	12	2	4	6	12
Kildonan	12	2	9	1	7
Mac's	11	2	9	0	6

now been completed.

All games should be played on or by Sunday 6 March.

It is as follows: J McKechnie (Goil) v S Scott (Drift) at

PHT, D Bell (Cat) v P Stewart (PHT) at Mac's, J Ferguson (Drift) v J Picken (PT) at Kildonan, A Picken (PT) v D Hackett (Eden) at Kildonan.

Around the rurals

Whiting Bay WRI

The guest speaker at the February meeting was Jo Totty of the National trust.

She had prepared a power point presentation of beautiful pictures of Arran wildlife of land, sea and air.

She also brought along a selection of objects, which we were able to handle and

learn more about the creatures we are privileged to see regularly.

Thank you Jo; your enthusiasm for your subject is infectious.

Pam Holmes won the competition for a winter photograph.

The next meeting of Whiting Bay WRI will be on Wednes-

day 2 March.

This is the AGM and voting papers, if needed, will be distributed as well as show schedules.

The competition is for tablet and the exhibition is 'your warmest scarf'.

We hope as many members as possible can attend this important meeting.

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Steely showing from under-18s

Arran 15 Cambuslang 7

The island's under 18s rugby team played with flair and ingenuity on Saturday when they secured a 15-7 win over Cambuslang RFC.

The mainland team strolled on to the pitch with great confidence and the Arran supporters were preparing themselves for a tough game.

But when Liam Boal scored Arran's first try of the match within minutes of the game starting, it soon became clear that Arran were on to a win-

ner.

Scrum-half Babbies McNeil was superb throughout the match with constant turnovers and try-saving kicks of the ball.

His brother Alexander 'Nugget' MacNeil also played superbly when he scored the second try of the match with an epic run down the left-hand wing. 10-0

Another Arran try from Stuart McMaster before the halftime whistle gave the home team a very comfort-

able 15-0 lead.

Cambuslang pulled back a try 10 minutes into the second half after mauling on the Arran line for a considerable length of time.

As the second half progressed Arran were penalised after failing to adhere to the referees instructions and Iain Bain was yellow carded.

But despite being down to just 14 men, Arran's defence was held strongly in place showing commitment and determination not to be beaten.

Arran Rugby Club's vice-president, Bill McLaughlin, said: 'This was a terrific performance in which there wasn't a weak link. The team work and fighting spirit were a joy to watch.'

The man of the match after an impressive performance was Liam Boal.

This weekend Arran's U18s will be playing Hamilton at Ormidale Park.

Kick-off is at 2.15pm, please come along and support the team.



A strong performance from the Arran U18s saw them defeat Cambuslang on Saturday. 01_b08rug01

Niall and Jenny bang on target

The 23rd annual Donald MacKenzie Memorial mixed doubles darts competition was won by Niall McMaster and Jennifer Logan on Saturday night.

Held in Kilmory Hall for the first time, the tournament saw 25 men and 14 women competing for the top spot.

After playing with a number of different partners and being knocked out, young Jenni was finally paired with Niall and the two claimed the trophy after beating Lorna McKelvie and Gordon Stewart in the final.

More than £390 was raised on the night for charity.

Since Donald died suddenly 23 years ago, his family has arranged the darts tournament in his memory.

The event was first held in Lagg Hotel in 1988 before moving to the Breadalbane and then the Kildonan Hotel.

Margaret MacKenzie decided to use Kilmory Hall this year as she said three dartboards were needed due to the increasing number of people taking part.



Niall McMaster and Jenni Logan, winners of the 23rd Donald MacKenzie darts tournament. Photo by Lindsay Patrick.

Bridge club results

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 21 February were as follows: N/S 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie -770, 2 J and J Beattie -1560, 3 D and M Bruce -1900.

E/W 1 R Thompson and P Thompson +2970, 2 H Boyd and M McGill +2920, 3 J Barclay and J McArthur +2800.

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