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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 7 MARCH, 2009

No 1690

Magnum may put £1m hole in roads budget

Brodick hotel lifts top Scottish award

Kilmichael has just been named the Scottish Country House Hotel of the Year 2009.

This elegant Brodick hotel situated at the end of a quiet track in Glencloy was lavishly praised at a gala 2009 Scottish Hotel Awards ceremony in the Crowne Plaza at the SECC on Sunday night.

Proprietors Geoffrey Botterill and Antony Butterworth and their hotel manager Helen Driver were on hand to go on stage to collect the prestigious award at an evening known as the 'Oscars night' of the Scottish hospitality industry.

Geoffrey said: 'We are pleased and very proud. This is an acknowledgement of the effort and teamwork of our dedicated staff.'

'This award is special because it is not just judged on an inspector's visit. They look at Tripadvisor and other guest references, check



Geoffrey Botterill, Helen Driver and Antony Butterworth receive their award for Scottish Country House Hotel of the Year 2009 at a gala dinner. b10hot01

and cross check customer feedback and then have an inspection visit.

'It was a very upbeat gala evening intending to promote tourism and underline the importance of tourism to the Scottish economy.'

The award certificate says it is 'recognition of high achievement and progress in this category of Scotland's most thorough annual hotel awards scheme and founded on a year's critic and consumer opinion plus expert judging'.

Around 400 hoteliers from

all over Scotland were represented at the event on the banks of the River Clyde.

After a champagne reception and dinner, the guests were entertained with a Scottish flavour cabaret and dancing until 2am.

Kilmichael is a past winner of the Taste of Scotland Country House Hotel of the Year Award as well as the Macallan 25 award which honoured just 25 restaurants.

Geoffrey said: 'We are also an AA Inspector's Choice Hotel having featured in their

Premier Hotels and Britain's Best Hotels list for 12 years in succession.' It is the only hotel on the island to achieve the gold star award in the Scottish Tourist Board's grading and classification scheme.

Kilmichael is believed to be the oldest house on Arran and is described in its title deeds as a fine Scottish mansion house.

Geoffrey and Antony bought the Brodick hotel in January 1991 when it was little more than a guest house, and Helen Driver has been hotel manager for 14 years.

Arran faces missing out on vital repairs

by
HOWARD DRIVER

VITAL money for the repair of Arran's roads faces being diverted towards building a new Magnum Centre in Irvine.

At a recent meeting of the executive of North Ayrshire Council it was proposed to move £1 million from the 'roads pressures budget' of £1.4 million to help towards the costs of a replacement leisure centre.

The Magnum Centre is one of Scotland's largest purpose built leisure facilities. When it was built about 35 years ago, local roads campaigner Ian Small was involved in the project as an electrical contractor.

'Disgusting'

He told the *Banner* this week: 'I think its disgusting that they are thinking of taking money away from roads for this. I would hate to see the roads budget robbed for a new leisure centre in Irvine.'

Tom Orr, corporate director, property services NAC said: 'When finalising the 2009/10 budget the council decided to begin preparing for the replacement to the Magnum building.'

'Sums provisionally identified to increase the roads budget were reviewed. As a result in the finalised budget £1 million was set aside to assist

with the Magnum replacement and £0.4 million included as additional spending for roads. This means the roads budget was increased, though not to the levels suggested earlier.'

He continued: 'A review of the road network will be made at the end of winter to see if there has been additional deterioration as a result of the recent extensive cold periods.'

'It will then be a matter for the council to decide whether it can contribute more funds to the roads budget.'

'Responsibility'

Philip Lardner, Tory Westminster candidate said: 'NAC has a reasonable track record in maintaining the roads on the mainland but they must remember their responsibility to rural and island communities.'

'Building a new Magnum Centre should not be used as an excuse for cutting the roads budget or leaving Arran's roads to drag down the economy and quality of life.'

Island councillor Margie Currie said: 'We will have to wait for the outcome of the review. Until then, there is some uncertainty about funding for Arran roads.'



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Police files

Window smashed

A window at the Arran Yacht Club in Lamlash was broken and the wheelie bins damaged between midnight on Wednesday February 25 and midnight the next day. Police are appealing for witnesses.

Failing to report an accident

An elderly Whiting Bay man was reported to the procurator fiscal for failing to report a road accident after a collision between two cars at 5pm on Wednesday, February 25.

Driving without care and attention

A young Corrie man was reported for driving without due care and attention and failing to report a road accident at 10pm on Saturday, February 28.

Road Safety Enforcement Day

Eight people were issued with £30 conditional offer tickets for not wearing a seatbelt on Friday, February 27 which was National Road Safety Enforcement Day.

Six were given conditional offer tickets for vehicle defects and tickets were also issued for various faults ranging from lights to defective tyres.

Police sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'The initiative will continue throughout March with particular attention being paid to the areas around schools.'

Field Centre to fill youth hostel void

The Field Centre in Lochranza will be opening its doors to paying customers this Easter in a bid to fill the void left by the closure of the village youth hostel.

The Lochranza Youth Hostel has been closed since last September and will apparently not reopen until 2010.

Public

Chris Traill, centre operations manager, said that as the Field Centre is empty during the Easter school holidays it made sense to open to the public.

'We have no schools booked

in to use the centre over Easter so we decided to open it to the public for a couple of weeks,' said Chris. 'We're offering the same sort of accommodation that you would expect at the youth hostel - single, twin and bunk rooms with breakfast, pack lunches and dinners available.'

During the six-week school holidays in the summer the Centre already runs family holidays for the public. The Easter opening will be similar to this but without the daily itinerary of events.



Kirstie Smith, a member of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, removes the rescue post sign from the hut behind the old Brodick Police Station.

Mountain rescue team moves into new base

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team moved into their new operations base at Cladach last Saturday afternoon.

The team's two Landrovers as well as emergency equipment and furniture had to be moved from the hut behind the old police station in Brodick to the new base.

Since the 1960s the team has been based in a hut that had no

toilet and it was too small to hold training sessions in or to store all of their equipment.

The new base not only has toilets but also has shower facilities for both male and female members as well as plenty of storage and office space.

A spokesman for the team said: 'It's great to see the base fully operational now. On Sunday we held our first rescue ex-

ercise since moving to the new hut and it was great to use it properly for the first time.'

The majority of the funding for the new base was contributed by the charity The Order of St John.

The team plan to hold an official opening of the base sometime in the next few months, which members of The Order of St John will attend.

Community council has vacancy

The Isle of Arran Community Council has a vacancy for a community councillor after the recent resignation of Neil Arthur, the representative for the areas of Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot.

Campbell Laing, chairman of the Isle of Arran Community Council said: 'The community council is an apolitical body which exists as a link between local communities and other government bodies. To qualify for the role the applicant must be 18 years or over and they must be listed on the electoral register for the area concerned.'

If their name does not appear on the register, they must prove to the local authority that they live within the boundary of the community council.'

If there is more than one person interested in the position, a by-election will be held.

In the case of one person volunteering then that person will be co-opted on to the community council.

For further information or to express an interest in the post please contact the chairman of the Community Council: Campbell Laing, Woodside, Pirmill. Telephone 850216.

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New walkway will shelter passengers

A new covered walkway from the ferry to the train will soon be in use at Ardrossan.

For many years there have been calls for some protection from the elements for those foot passengers making their way across to the train platform to continue their journey to Glasgow or Ayr. The distance of around 200 metres is just enough to get soaked if the rain is lashing down.

This walkway will have a perspex roof and be covered in on one side.

Councillor Margie Currie said: 'It will be covered on the right hand side when walking towards the train platform. Part of it is against the existing brick wall so will be covered on both sides for that stretch.'

'It was decided not to enclose it completely because it might have become a refuge for undesirables at nighttime.'

'The covered side is where most of the prevailing winds come from. The wall will be see-through and the whole length will be illuminated.'

The project has been jointly funded by North Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) and Clydeport.

The total cost of the works is expected to be £82,612 and NAC will contribute 20 percent of that figure amounting to £16,522.40 excluding VAT.

The new Ardrossan walkway should be operational in two weeks.

Salmond's first visit

Scotland's first minister is set to make his first visit to the island later this month as part of the 'National Conversation' scheme.

John Swinney and Stewart Stevenson will join the first minister for the event at Arran High School on Monday March 23.

A spokesman for Mr Salmond said: 'The government is committed to ensuring that the National Conversation is an open, inclusive process, where

everyone who has an interest in Scotland's future, whether they support any particular options or none, has the opportunity to engage in the debate.'

The meeting will allow members of the local community and representatives of local civic organisations to tell the government their views on Scotland's constitutional future and ask questions of the Ministers.

This event will be held between 5.30 pm and 6.30 pm on March 23.



Stewart McKay with Steve Bellis the founder of the Nuts Poker League and Norman Bond, one of the proprietors of the Catacol Bay Hotel. b10pok01

Catacol hotel is nuts about poker

The game of poker tends to conjure up images of Monte Carlo, James Bond and glamorous women playing for astronomically high amounts of money.

But the Catacol Bay Hotel has now emerged as an unusual home for the card game.

A pub poker league, which allows experts and beginners alike to compete, has taken the bar by storm and on Monday night, Steve Bellis the founder of the Nuts Poker League came to Arran. In just over two years, the league has become a social phenomenon, going from nothing to 80 venues, with new ones opening every month.

In October Norman Bond, one of the proprietors of Catacol Bay Hotel, decided to join the league and since then he regu-

larly has 15 or more players in the tournament each week.

Speaking to *The Banner* Steve Bellis said: 'I saw the idea on a trip to Canada in October 2005 to see my father and thought 'that's just what the UK needs!' So I started The Nuts Poker League in November 2005.

Prizes

'The idea is simple, we find pubs/bars which have quiet nights and put bums on seats. Each player is registered to a venue and their results are entered onto a league table. The top players from each venue are then invited to play in the

finals, for prizes. The format is tournament poker, so there is a winner at each event.'

Steve found fame and fortune in 2005 when he managed to gain investment for his idea on the BBC2's *Dragon's Den* show.

Norman Bond said that he was pleased that Steve had decided to visit the Arran and see first hand how the league operates. 'It's brought together people who would typically sit apart in the pub', he said. 'And it's not just for men, you can see there are plenty of women playing here tonight too.'

Friends of Brodick Castle

The Friends of Brodick Castle are arranging a day trip to Hill House in Helensburgh on Friday May 15 at a cost of £10 for the coach from Ardrossan.

Anyone wishing to join this trip should contact Morag Watson on 302751.

Coffee morning

At the Lamlash Church's Cool Club's coffee morning last week £382 was raised for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club

The winners of the February draw of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club Fund are as follows. First prize (No 57) Lesley Brown, second prize (No 110) Chris Siddle.

Music Festival

Please could all former winners of the Arran Music Festival return their cups and trophies to A Hannah of Brodick, T Smith at the Sheeans in Whiting Bay or to your local school.

The committee will once again get the engraving done this year.

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Cruise ship visits Arran

One of Britain's most unique and luxurious cruise ships visited Arran on Friday as part of her 20th anniversary journey around the Scottish islands.

The Hebridean Princess, which is often described as a floating Scottish country house, sailed into Lamlash bay on Friday morning after sheltering at Fairlie harbour on Thursday night.

Around 50 of her most loyal guests were invited to join the ship for the special cruise from Fairlie to Oban via Islay and Mull to celebrate 20 years as a cruise ship.

The passengers disembarked at Lamlash pier and they were taken by bus to the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza before stopping at Arran Aromatics then returning to the ship.

The five-star luxury cruise ship was built in Aberdeen in 1964 as a Caledonian MacBrayne ferry.

She was converted to a small cruise ship 20 years ago and joined the fleet of Hebridean International Cruises.

The Hebridean Princess spends the year cruising around the west coast of Scotland and was on a five-day trip from Fairlie pier on the north Ayrshire coast.

Her complement is 38 crew and 49 passengers accommodated in 30 cabins.



The Hebridean Princess docked in Lamlash bay on Friday as part of her 20th anniversary cruise. b10heb01

Raku fun at Balmichael

A Raku workshop held by local potter Simon Thorburn at the Balmichael Visitor Centre last weekend proved to be a great success.

Over the two-day course, seven students were taught the techniques used to make and fire pots with the Raku method.

Anne Curtis, who attended the course in Shiskine, said: 'This was my first course as a new member of Arran Visual Arts and I know I can speak for the whole group when I say how enjoyable it was.'

Process

'Simon is a great teacher with lots of patience. He let us do every part of the process whilst keeping a close eye to check that every safety precaution was being taken. He gave us so much encouragement and also a free hand to create our won designs.'

Raku pottery is created with a specific firing process that uses both fire and smoke to create unique patterns and designs.

The piece is first bisque fired then it is glazed and undergoes a Raku firing process which is done in a kiln fuelled by propane.

Once fired, the piece still consumes oxygen and this



Seven students were taught the techniques used to make and fire pots with the Raku method by Simon Thorburn at the pottery in Shiskine. b10rek01NO

creates the unique look of Raku pottery. The seven students created some impressive pieces of pottery, which included

tiles, bowls, pots, and three sculptures of a penguin, a hare and a foot.

'I would like to thank Simon

and the organisers of the course for two really great days,' said Anne. 'I really hope to be able to attend many more.'

Coming soon...

holiday arran

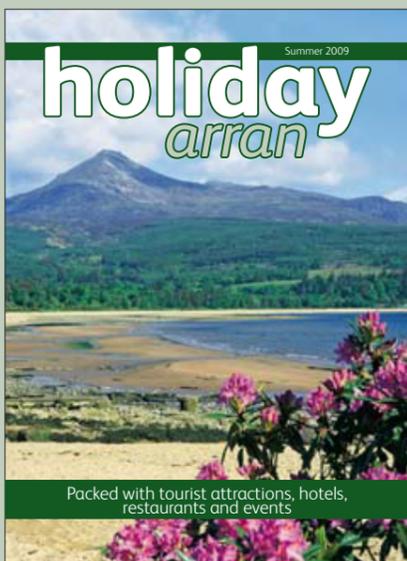
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Cleaner, fresher water for Lochranza

Residents in Lochranza are enjoying clearer, fresher drinking water after the completion of improvements to the local water treatment works.

Scottish Water's £300,000 investment at the works, which serves more than 380 customers in the northern end of Arran, started last August and has just been completed.

Paul Maxwell, Scottish Water's regional manager, said: 'Scottish Water is delighted to have completed this important project in Lochranza which means customers in the area are now receiving drinking water which is clearer and fresher than it has ever been.'

The work at Lochranza was carried out by

contractors for Scottish Water Solutions, took longer than anticipated to complete.

Project manager, Toni Ferretti said: 'it is often difficult to work around a live plant and this was the case here. However, the commitment of the contractors and Scottish Water was excellent and we ensured that there was no disruption to the local water supply or traffic while work was being carried out.'

The second phase of work on the Lochranza site is due to begin soon. Maintenance work estimated to cost around £200,000 will include the installation of new membranes to improve continuity and security of the water supply.

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Ellis, Saskia, Jamie, Dee, Fraser and Aidan at the top table of Corrie Primary School's Burns supper. b10cor01

Corrie Primary has a super supper!

Corrie Primary School celebrated the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns birth by holding a Burns supper on Wednesday afternoon.

Pupils raised money themselves to pay for the food which included cock-a-leekie soup to start with, traditional haggis, neeps and

tatties for main course, a delicious pudding of trifle and homemade tablet.

The Island Cheese Shop very kindly donated all the cheese for the supper.

Pupils from primary six and seven performed songs and poems written by Robert Burns.

Aidan Gold presented a very funny Toast to the Lassies. In it he said: 'Thankfully, I have no sisters, but unfortunately I am surrounded by girls at school.'

During the reply by the lassies, Ellis McKelvie said: 'Despite all their very annoying habits they're still our Corrie boys.'

Primary healthcare in spotlight

The future of primary health care on Arran was discussed at a meeting of the island's community council on Tuesday night.

David Rowland from the Arran and Arran Health Trust said: 'I am here tonight so that you can tell me how to develop the primary care services available to you here on Arran.'

Concerns

Community councillors and members of the public were given the opportunity to voice concerns they have with the current system and were asked to contribute ideas about how this system can be improved.

Issues that were discussed included the provision of care on Arran for patients with dementia and Alzheimer's as well as the need for an on-call community psychiatric nurse.

Yellow lines plans go to public consultation

Plans drawn up by North Ayrshire Council for Arran's first double yellow lines in Brodick are available for public consultation at the council offices in Lamlash.

The local authority wants to introduce waiting restrictions on the A841 Main Road and Market Road as problems have arisen with illegal and inconsiderate parking at the pier area.

Double yellow lines will extend from the bottom of Alma Road by the Co-op along to the bus workshop on Market Road.

On the section of Market Road that forms part of the main vehicular access to and from the ferry-loading ramp, all waiting and loading of vehicles will be prohibited.

At the other end of the village double yellow lines will be introduced from the Alma Road end at Kames Corner along the shore side to just beyond Alexander's shop.

The A841 Main Road is the main vehicle access to a number of side roads providing access to residential areas and off street parking. Other roads that will have waiting restrictions are Mayish Road and the west side of Alma Road past the Brodick Bar.

The plans are available for viewing until Wednesday March 18.



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Farmers lose access to advisory group

A Scottish agriculture advisory group which has worked closely with farmers on Arran has been forced into administration after its funding was cut.

The future of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) had been uncertain for months after a last-minute reduction in the money it receives from Scottish National Heritage.

Funds

The charity expected to receive £100,000 from SNH and had already planned how the funds were to be spent.

It was announced on Tuesday that the group had gone into administration.

A spokeswoman said: 'Board

members wish to sincerely thank all FWAG Scotland's supporters all advisors and staff for their continued, professional support of clients and members.'

'The closure of FWAG Scotland today ends a relationship with Scottish farming which has we believe been of true value to Scottish farming, Scotland's landscape and the wider environment for many, many years.'

Tommy Loudon, one of 120 farm conservation advisers employed by FWAG, often visited Arran to provide independent environmental and conservation advice for farmers and landowners.

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The Higher French students from Arran High School on top of the Eiffel Tower. b10ahs01NO

High School News



Bonjour Paris!

The February holiday provided the perfect opportunity for the eight Higher French students to head off to Paris in the tender care of Mr Garraway and Mrs Gregg.

Despite adverse weather conditions, with snow on Arran and high winds closing airports in France, the group arrived safely at a very clean and comfortable hostel on the outskirts of Paris.

It was quite an experience travelling on the métro with so much luggage!

We had two days intensive sight-seeing with visits including Notre Dame, the Louvre and the Arc de Triomphe.

We felt a sense of achievement going up the Eiffel Tower (despite the vertigo) and were

privileged to witness a service in Sacré Coeur.

Montmartre proved to be our favourite area; we particularly loved the cafés and mime artists.

Crêpe stands were popular with us all although some preferred waffles and French cuisine in general was a big hit.

Interesting

We had fun in the touristy shops and despite the disdainful attitude of sales assistants, we found it interesting to see the designer stores – we can always dream of being able to buy *la couture française*. Everyone wanted to stay on – yes even the staff; a big thank you from them for being such a terrific group.

SG

Donald the duck, looking for love

The colourful mandarin duck featured in the Banner two weeks ago has gone home.

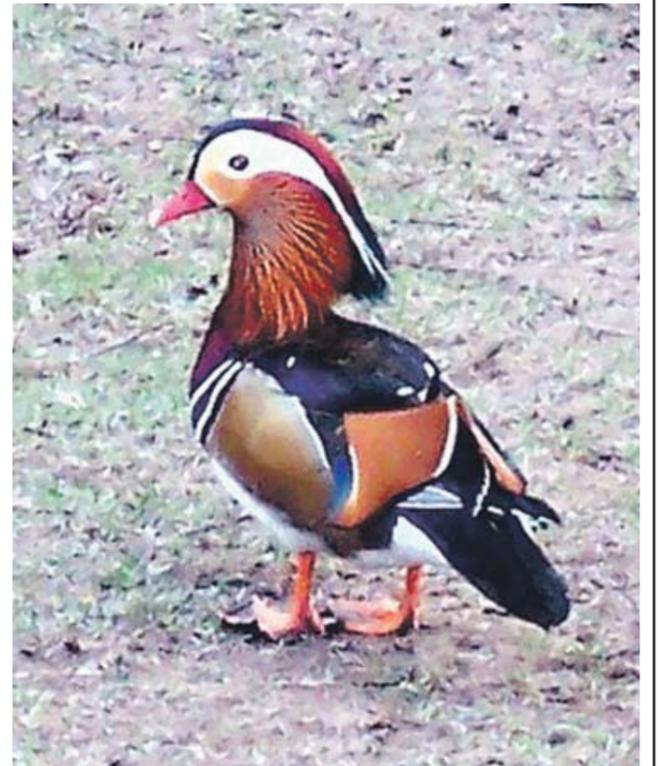
At the time we reported that Celia Sillars of Brodick had found the duck among her own local ducks in her back garden which runs down to the Rosa Burn. She said: 'I have no idea whether this is a wild bird or whether it belongs to someone who rears them.'

Now Geoff Brookes of Southbank Farm has phoned

to say that the duck is one of his and is a regular wanderer.

Geoff said: 'The duck turned up again yesterday. I got him from Barbara Hendry of Brodick a few years ago. Maybe he was trying to go back there.'

'We call him Donald and he comes and goes as he pleases; I think he goes off courting but it's a long way to go from Bennan to Brodick looking for love!'



The mandarin duck visiting Celia Sillars' garden.

b08duk01



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Corrie movie fans can enjoy 'the greatest film of all time'

Corrie Film Club Film of the Month –
The Third Man (Cert PG)

Corrie Film Club's March offering has been voted by some as the greatest film of all time.

Directed by Carol Reed in 1949, this film noir charts European post-Second World War malaise.

Orson Welles, at his immaculate best, stars as Harry Lime, the mysterious friend of writer, Holly Martins, played by Joseph Cotton.

Martins becomes embroiled with British agents and unknown would be assassins in Vienna as he discovers dark secrets about his old friend that he would rather not know.

'The Third Man' has an excellent screenplay by Graham Greene and Oscar winning cinematography – not to mention wonderful theme music.

View this at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Sunday March 8 at 8.00pm.

Community Service: It's Working

Community Service: what does it mean to you? Is it just the 'soft option'? An easy way for offenders to temporarily pay for a crime before they go on to re-offend? Do you think it's an ineffective way to deal with offenders or are you unsure about what Community Service actually is?

The South West Scotland Community Justice Authority wants to challenge and change these views. It wants to raise awareness of Community Service and how it can benefit not just offenders, but whole communities and individuals as well. Here are just a few stories to show you how it can do this:

• **Benefits to the community**

Everyone knows that graffiti is an eyesore and can make an area seem less safe than it might be. Offenders on Community Service in Ayrshire have worked to paint out graffiti in two underpasses restoring them to a pristine condition. The local Police Sergeant and Constable initiated the project and will be working to make sure that the underpasses stay in good condition while a local housing association Atrium Homes providing the paint making this a real partnership effort.



• **Benefits to individuals**

A phone call went to a Community Service team in Ayrshire to say that a member of the public had a large number of concrete slabs left over following the

landscaping of their garden. A team of offenders uplifted the slabs and remembered that they had been asked to tidy up the garden of a single mother who had young children, including a child

with disabilities who was in a wheelchair. They used the slabs to provide the lady with a patio area for the children and, of course, there was no cost to her for this service. This story is not unusual – when Community Service receive calls offering donations of construction materials, wooden benches and other items, they take the donation (providing they can find a storage facility), refurbish it and pass it on to someone who really needs it.

Community Service is a credible alternative to imprisonment – it combines robust punishment for offenders with an opportunity for rehabilitation – leading to reduced re-offending. Criminal Justice is moving into a new era where the community improvement projects carried out by Community Service teams will be more visible, so watch out for the good work that may be going on in your area.

Visit www.swscja.org.uk for more information about Community Service projects and how you can vote on future projects.

Community Service: It's Working

Community Service

It's working



This Ayrshire beach has been restored to its pre-war condition by the work of offenders paying back to the community for their crimes



It's better • It's working

THE ARRAN

BANNER

Is last orders being called on cheap drink?

A huge row over alcohol is brewing in Scotland as ministers push for a minimum price for alcohol and a set price per unit, in an attempt to reduce the country's heavy drinking culture.

The new rules would mean that deals such as 'buy one get one free' and 'three for the price of two' in supermarkets and off licences would be banned.

The moves come after figures suggested Scots are the eighth biggest boozers in the world. Last year, there were 42,000 drink-related hospital admissions. Ministers claim alcohol abuse is costing the economy £2 billion a year.

The legally enforceable minimum price, to be set later this year, would see the price of cheap supermarket, own-brand whisky, rise by more than 40 per cent.

Those who like spirits and strong cider will be hardest hit in the pocket by the moves which would put an end to price deals in shops and supermarkets.

In recent years the cheap price of alcohol in the Co-op has been blamed for the reduction in numbers of people going to the island's pubs.

Once thriving centres of Arran's communities, most villages are lucky to have one public house these days and even then it may not open in the winter months.

In Wales, instead of simply focusing on increasing the price of alcohol as a solution to binge drinking, the assembly is considering a rescue plan for rural pubs. The plan could see pubs providing community services such as post offices and shops. The Pub is the Hub scheme is actually the brainchild of Prince Charles and has helped save many pubs in England since it was launched in 2001.

It is estimated five pubs are closing every day in the UK and almost 2,000 closed last year in rural areas.

Brodick once had more than 10 pubs now there are just three. With the recent closure of the Cameronia in Whiting Bay and the temporary closure of the Drift Inn in Lamblash, both villages now only have one pub.

It may be difficult at first glance to recognise the role a pub has in curbing binge drinking but a pub landlord has control over how much their patrons consume.

In many rural areas the pub is the heart of the community - providing not just a place to socialise but also a venue for charity and sporting events.

One can only hope that by increasing supermarket alcohol prices, we will once again see punters drinking in their local pub.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Come to me and listen to my words; hear me and you will have life.' (Isaiah 55:3)

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Birdbrained

Sir,
I am puzzled by the decision of the Forestry Commission to move timber via the String Road after the operation with NAC to repair the Ross Road in preparation for timber extraction.

To cross the String with loaded lorries must create a hazard for all road users. I can imagine a very trying time for drivers in the timber lorries having to pull in to allow large vehicles to pass.

If a 12-foot wide road had been cut to connect to the Ross this would only have amounted to 10 acres out of several thousand acres that would have left plenty of space for the harriers to roam. A good road would have been in place to serve future extractions in 50 years time.

Once again are we to see progress halted because of a couple of birds?

SNH and forestry should be able to help a little by putting human beings before a few birds.

Yours,
Sandy Mutch
Burnside Road
Brodick

Looking for Lilly

Sir,
I was wondering if someone could help.

My mother-in-law Mary Running, maiden name Harkins, is trying to get in touch with her cousin called Lilly Seamore, maiden name Begley.

They were in touch about 10 years ago but have lost contact. I know that Lilly stayed in Brodick but not much else.

If anyone has any information that would be great. They could telephone me at 01236 451871.

Yours,
Debbie Running
73 Wallbrae Road
Cumbernauld
Lanarkshire

Omission or inaccuracy

Sir,
In the *Banner* MSP Kenneth Gibson claimed he was guilty of an omission rather than the inaccuracy I accused him of during his rant against opposi-

tion parties the previous week in which he failed to acknowledge firm (if conditional) Tory support for the SNP's budget.

Omission it may have been, but it made his attack inaccurate.

Your paper's report clearly stated, as Mr Gibson now repeats, that Scottish Tory leader Annabel Goldie is yet to meet with the first minister to agree the exact criteria for eligibility and distribution of funds, but he is wrong to imply the 'HelpOurHighStreet.com' website will have no bearing on Arran's chances of securing funding.

The £60 million regeneration fund was a Tory proposal that was accepted by finance secretary John Swinney following negotiations to secure our backing for the SNP's budget.

It was one of several measures which were agreed, and £234million of real gains were achieved towards Tory manifesto commitments - including the acceleration of the cuts in rates for small businesses and an extra 500 police officers on top of the 500 which the SNP had initially proposed.

We made sensible, budgeted proposals in our manifesto for the 2007 Holyrood elections, and are making good progress in having them implemented in Edinburgh.

As John Swinney said when the SNP budget was finally passed, 'When necessary, government and opposition can find common ground.'

Yours,
Philip Lardner
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party
Westminster candidate
for North Ayrshire
and Arran

Dangerous roads

Sir,
Yet another mild winter has almost passed, and even after so few frosts, once again the roads on Arran are so bad they have passed into a standard most road users (and road and council tax payers) would consider dangerous.

I am not going to list the holes, crumbling verges and 'jet patched' lumps; many others are doing that as I write.

My concern and worry are the ever-expanding chasms in the centre of the road in many

areas of the main island trunk road particularly the Brodick to Lamblash section up from the pier and from the Corriegills road end to past the cemetery.

Along the top of the heights down to Altardoch corner is also very bad.

The level of disintegration has got so bad and the channel so deep that if your off-side wheels go into the gash, the steering wheel is almost pulled out of your hands and control is hard to maintain even at a reasonable speed in good conditions.

If a cyclist or motorcyclist was forced into these, the consequences could very easily be fatal.

These problems are all on relatively recently resurfaced sections of road and I can only suppose the job, which was welcome at the time, was done to an unsatisfactory standard.

You may take this letter as an indication of a lack of confidence in North Ayrshire Council's commitment to doing anything about the abysmal and increasingly dangerous state of Arran's roads.

I must also stress that turning a three-inch deep ditch into a two-inch jet-patcher scar is not a solution!

Yours,
Nigel Walker
Dunan Croft
Corriegills
Brodick

Chairman's reply

Sir,
May I reply to some of the points made by Mr Cummings.

It is fairly obvious from some of his comments that he is not acquainted with the construction and make up of a community council.

A community council is by law an a-political body. Therefore the chairperson has no recourse to a three line whip, as he states.

Neither the chairperson nor any other member of the community council is allowed to play politics and therefore there is no political gesturing as he puts it; politics plays no part in the decisions of a community council.

The community council as a body was not aware of the type of protest Ian Small was about

to make but when I realised and saw his type of protest I told him that I could not condone such practices and therefore the community council would not be supporting his actions.

As long as I have been chairman, and as long as I am chairman of Arran Community Council we as a body have used and will continue to use all the proper mechanisms to liaise with North Ayrshire Council and any other body.

I am sorry that Mr Cummings makes such general statements about the community council being arrogant and out of touch with the community.

The community council is made up of volunteers who have an interest in not only the community they are elected to represent but also the island of Arran as a whole.

Arran is very well served by the members of the community council.

He will be more than welcome to attend any of our meetings, as will any other interested member of the public, to see what we do and how we carry out our business.

Yours,
Campbell Laing
Woodside
Pirnmill

Money better spent

Sir,
So North Ayrshire Council is to waste time and money serving an enforcement notice on a tax payer who is so fed up with the damage being caused to his vehicle that he has had the audacity to try to bring the deteriorating state of some of Arran's roads to prominence.

Would the repair of the roads not be a better use of this time and money?

Perhaps the bureaucrats of NAC just cannot be bothered although another verb, recently introduced into the dictionary, springs to mind.

Yours,
P W Yates
Tarnside Barn
Nosterfield
Bedale
North Yorkshire

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Specialist shop sells Arran whisky

Robin Russell is actively promoting the sale of Arran whisky from his shop in Ayr.

Robin is the proprietor of Robbie's Drams, a specialist whisky outlet that he set up 25 years ago. His shop in the old quarter of Sandgate, Ayr has a window entirely given over to whiskies from the Lochranza distillery.

He told the Banner: 'I do regular displays and had promised Arran a window for some time. Every month we do a different distillery and it is Arran's turn now.'

We're all Ayrshire people together and with it being the 250th anniversary of the birth

of Robert Burns it seemed appropriate. I'm really proud of the Arran distillery and the special whisky brought out by them for the occasion.

'I'm a great fan of the island and an ambassador for Arran.'

On Saturday January 24 the company hosted an Arran whisky masterclass at the Loudoun Hall in Ayr.

Extensive

Robbie's Drams has an extensive online shop and sends Arran whiskies all over the world.

'We stock 16 different Arran lines,' said Robin. 'When folk come into our shop I tell them to go over to Arran on

the Waverley in summer; visit Brodick Castle, the distillery, the heritage museum and the Arran brewery.

The Arran Burns' 250th anniversary bottling is a 43per-cent liquor produced for the Robert Burns Foundation. It is described as being vanilla and citrus on the nose with baked apples and heather honey on the palate for light and easy drinking. There is a limited edition of 6,000 bottles with only 1,800 bottles available in the UK. Robin Russell's shop has the largest range of whiskies in Ayrshire, including the Bowmore White 43-year-old at £2,550 a bottle.

MP promotes better money management

Arran's MP has welcomed moves by the Government to introduce Saving Gateway Accounts.

The accounts are aimed at those on the lowest incomes to help them save and build a more secure future.

Katy Clark said: 'I strongly support this Bill which is specifically directed at those who, due to their economic circumstances, have previously found it extremely difficult to save.'

Saving Gateway Accounts will be available from 2010 onwards for two years and are

aimed at getting people to save who normally would not.

The government will make a tax free contribution of 50p for every £1 that the saver puts in their account.

Contribution

Over a period of two years an account holder can save up to £600 and benefit from a government contribution of up to £300.

Around eight million people on the lowest incomes will benefit from this, including those on benefits and tax credits.

The accounts will be run

through the Post Office, credit unions, banks and building societies.

Katy Clark MP added: 'This scheme is a worthwhile investment. Hopefully it will really encourage those eligible to put a big effort into trying to save, promoting better money management and teaching people the benefits of saving.'

'Most importantly it provides a credible alternative to more risky saving schemes which target vulnerable groups and take advantage of their financial situation.'



Robin Russell, owner and Derek Sweeney, manager with the 250th anniversary Burns Arran whisky. b10ayr01

Recycling...

Thank you for your continued support.

Remember to keep using your blue bin and recycling banks.

Reduce Reuse Recycle



GLENISLE Hotel & Restaurant



After four months of refurbishment the Glenisle Hotel & Restaurant will re-open at 6:00pm on Saturday 7th March.

The hotel has a completely new look and so does the menu. Why not join us for lunch or dinner in the calm and relaxing atmosphere of the new Glenisle Restaurant.

In mid-March we will be having an open day so that you can explore our newly decorated bedrooms.

Watch this space for details.

Re-opening 7th March, 2009
Lamlash

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Antiquarians hear about ornithological history

Jim Cassels, the island's own 'birdman' and well known for his regular articles in the Banner gave February's talk to the Arran Antiquarians.

He called his talk 'A Brief History of Ornithology - Standing on the shoulders of giants' but said it was really his personal history of ornithology, being more about people than birds.

From childhood he had always been interested in birds and lately has had the opportunity to travel and see birds in other parts of the world.

He explained that the first 'bird' was archaeopteryx, which really was a flying dinosaur, which developed into all the birds we know today.

Birds have always been a

source of food for humans and their feather have been used as human adornments.

In 1889 this led to protests about wearing feathers and



Jim Cassels, the island's own 'birdman' and well known for his regular articles in the Banner gave February's talk to the Arran Antiquarians. b10jim01

subsequently to the formation of the Royal Society for the protection of Birds.

Some of the people who have influenced Jim included David Attenborough, Peter Scott and American writer and illustrator Roger Paterson.

Another of his 'giants' was Linnaeus, who classified plants and animals and the ornithologist Audubon who produced the wonderful illustrated book 'Birds of America'.

Further influences were Charles Darwin - who laid the foundations of natural selection - and John Muir, the American conservationist as well as Peter Scott the founder of the World Wildlife Trust. In the 17th century it was realised that birds migrated and did not hibernate as previously thought.

Until the invention of binoculars and telescopes the only way to examine birds was to shoot them but now they are ringed and some even have radio transmitters attached, connected to a satellite.

The next meeting of the Arran Antiquarians will be in Brodick Village Hall at 2pm on Monday March 16 when Derek Alexander an National Trust for Scotland archaeologist will present the talk titled 'In the shadow of Goat Fell - Archaeology of the NTS Brodick estate'.

Non-members and visitors welcome.



Alan Hollick gives some sound advice to a novice shooter at Balnacool. b10gun01

Sunday shoot at Balnacool

Arran Gun Club has a regularly monthly clay pigeon shoot at Balnacool, Shiskine, just off the forestry track up the Clauchan Glen.

Last Sunday, although some regulars couldn't make it, 14 members turned up and enjoyed a couple of hours shooting at the flying clay targets.

Club member Judy Draycott

said: 'We had five people for their second time and they all shot very well. Two of the ladies got tuition from seasoned shooters Henry Tait and Alan Hollick.'

Ladies Team

'In fact we may have the beginnings of a good ladies team!'

'Three of the teenagers are

also doing exceptionally well and it was a lovely day between the showers. The sunshine was much welcomed and the views from Balnacool shooting ground were amazing.

'New members are always welcome at the shoots which are held on the first Sunday of each month from noon to 2pm.'

Arran livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 2,466 prime hoggets, 1,400 prime ewes, 1,386 store hoggets and breeding sheep and 762 store cattle at their Stirling Auction Mart at Kildean last Wednesday.

Aberdeen Angus bullocks £700 Moor. Aberdeen Angus heifers £730 Moor.

Texel cross hoggs £73 Kilpatrick, £72 Moor, £59.50 Burican and Bridge.

Grit ewes £47 Ceithar Gaithe.

Suffolk cross ewes £45 Moor.

Texel cross ewes £69 Burican, £66 Kilpatrick, £58 Auchenhew, £64.50 Cosyden.

Cheviot ewes £60 Cosyden.

Mule ewes £55 Burican, £44.50 Auchenhew, £48 Bridge.

Blackface ewes £45 Bridge, £41.50 Burican, £30 Cosyden.

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Arran One-Act Drama Festival 2009



Adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks with Zoe Tomalin and Douglas Sillars trophy. b01trp01



Wilma Morton, producer of the winning play from Pirnmill Players. b01trp05



Jerry Arthur picking up her third trophy from Brian Marjoribanks. b10trp04



Sheila Gilmore with the Monie Kelso trophy. b10trp02

Best play honours go to Pirnmill Players

Pirnmill Players took the coveted Archie Kerr Wooley trophy for best play at this year's One-Act Drama Festival.

By sheer coincidence, they also won the trophy when adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks was here for the 2001 festival.

Sheila Gilmore won the Monie Kelso trophy for best acting performance in an adult play for her role as Tracy in *That Old Black Magic* by Shiskine Drama Club.

Other results were:

Millhill Players trophy for team with highest marks in a play of contrasting type to that winning the Archie Kerr Wooley trophy – Shiskine Drama Club with *That Old Black Magic*.

Mary Stewart Orr trophy for best youth team – Lamlash Junior Drama Club with *Choice*.

Douglas Sillars trophy for best performance in a youth play – Zoe Tomalin in *Choice*.

Jean Bannatyne trophy for best supporting performance in a youth play – Cameron Flewitt in *Choice*.

Mattie Gillies trophy for best supporting performance in an adult play – Morven Hedley in *Four and Twenty Blackbirds*.

Jane McBride Brown bowl for best WRI play – Shiskine WRI with *Slim Chance*.

Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music golden anniversary trophy for best moment of theatre – 'Oh my God' in *That Old Black Magic*.



Mary Young, producer of the best youth play. b10trp03



Mary Young, chairperson of the festival brings proceedings to a close on Saturday night. b10trp06

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Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens

COFFEE AFTERNOON

In Kinloch Hotel
On Wednesday 11th March
From 2.00pm – 4.00pm,

Arran One-Act Drama Festival 2009



Gloria, Julie Nelson; Ivor, Allan Nicol; and Dracula, Michael Collins in Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music's 'Mayhem Players present Love in a Transylvanian Mist'.
b10dra02

Play within a play creates merry mayhem

The first play of the 2009 festival, Snow White and the Mini Miners, was reviewed in last week's *Banner*.

The second play was 'Mayhem Players present Love in a Transylvanian Mist'.

It was performed by Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music and was clearly going to be a play within a play. The Mayhem Players were obviously not very well rehearsed and the action lurched from mistake to mistake in a staccato manner.

The audience very quickly picked up on the plot and there was much laughter at ineptness of the actors and the incompetent production.

Incongruous

A modern electric fire was incongruous in a Transylvanian castle, the entrance archway was so low that the players had to bend down to come in, and the costumes were quite over the top.

Adjudicator Mr Marjoribanks said: 'I liked Ivor's (Allan

Nicol) opening attack and exaggerated movement, Gloria (Julie Nelson) was a commanding presence on stage, and Dracula's (Michael Collins) death scene that he played twice was very good.

'The producers used every inch of the stage with a relatively small cast and they captured the humour and ridiculousness of it.

'Playing badly like this is a very challenging thing to do and this cast made it work.'



Allan Nicol and Morven Hedley warm themselves by the fire in Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music's 'Four and Twenty Blackbirds'. b10dra03

Dark, tense, yet entertaining with lots of laughter

'Four and Twenty Blackbirds' by Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music was a very entertaining tense and dramatic play.

Set in the Highlands of Scotland in 1928 the country house backdrop on the stage was very impressive.

The play followed the arrival of a young couple – Morven Hedley and Allan Nicol – look-

ing for the woman's brother.

In what appeared at first to be quite a dark, tense play there was actually a lot of laughter.

Stylish

It was a stylish production and the adjudicator especially liked Allan Nicol's 'lovely, relaxed movement' on stage.

It was a story of double-crossing and murder that ended up

with Allan faking his death so that he could murder his wife with a little help from his aunt Trubbie (Sheila Nicol).

Mr Marjoribanks praised the acting but said at times the play could have done with a little more pace especially during the poison speech when Charlotte Flynn (Morven) killed her husband Geoffrey (Allan).



Eilidh Kerr, Hannah Dobson and Eilidh Blair in Shiskine Junior Drama Club production of 'The Star Dusters'. b10dra08

Six characters all captivating in their own way

Shiskine Junior Drama Club opened the proceedings on Thursday night with an imaginative and funny play.

'The Star Dusters' followed six cleaning ladies in their pursuit of stardom on the Arran Community theatre stage and the shenanigans that follow.

The adjudicator praised Hannah Dobson for her imaginative

and extremely expressive face when playing the jaded Mrs Atkins.

Domineering

Eilidh Kerr took charge as the domineering Mrs Emms and Mr Marjoribanks particularly liked her comedic timing.

'I liked Mrs Emms' vocal variety, especially when she was playing the posh lord,' he

said. 'With an accent like that it was obvious you came from Shiskine.'

The adjudicator did say that with a farce of this kind the actors needed to use a little more pace to keep the action moving along but he said the six characters were all captivating in their own way and very funny.

Shiskine Hall AUCTION

Sat 14th March
at 7pm

Entry £2 – includes cheese & wine
All proceeds towards hall funds
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Saturday 14th March
From 7pm




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Arran One-Act Drama Festival 2009



Chris (Gavin Davidson) commits suicide on screen in front of his shocked family. b10may01

Performances grab judge's attention

May I Have Your Attention Please was a production by Lamplash Junior Drama Club and the first offering on Friday night.

It was a social drama set in an American middle class home with a strong message.

The whole play revolved around Chris, played by Gavin Davidson, who is the misfit son of the family.

For years he has lived in the shadow of his gifted brother Brent who has a cabinet full of trophies won on the sports fields. Dad, played by Cameron Flewitt, said: 'Brent was a child prodigy; all I've ever had from Chris is misery.'

Always overlooked

Sister Jill, Zoe Tomalin, opened a DVD from Chris which proved to be a desperate message from the boy. When they play it, Chris appears in person on a large television screen. He tells them that his mundane achievements were always overlooked in favour of his brother.

The action culminates with him pulling a gun to commit suicide on screen. Seven people appeared in a row, front of stage, dressed in black cloaks and each gave a statistic about American youngsters trying and succeeding to commit suicide.

The adjudicator said: 'There were at least four very good performances in this young cast. Chris had a variety of pace and vocal range, Jill was bright and lively; a bit of a spitfire, and Charlie played by Mark Tinto, made a lovely entrance and gave the play a lift.'



Allan Nicol, Isla Blair, Campbell Seaton and Laura Selkirk in Teamwork. b10tea01

Teamwork brings petty office jealousies to the fore

Teamwork was the next play, performed by four members of Clanjamfrie.

The action took place in a military dugout and the audience was led to believe that there was a genuine war going on outside.

Isla Blair was Kaylee with an almost butch character, Campbell Seaton was an imposing Captain Steele, Allan Nicol

played a cook with very camp character and Laura Selkirk was the somewhat dainty Yvonne.

Halfway through it became clear that this was just a paintball bonding exercise for bickering office colleagues.

Team leader Captain Steele made a splendid entrance carrying the role with style. As we became aware that the military action was not for real, the

petty office jealousies came to the fore.

Mr Marjoribanks said: 'Kaylee had a lovely element of comedy timing; she was the real character. Yvonne developed her part and I loved her flirting with Captain Steele.'

He criticised elements of the interpretation and production of this comedy drama, but the audience loved it.



Sheila Gilmore and Deborah Robertson in Shiskine Drama Club's 'That Old Black Magic'. b10dra10

Touch of magic from Gilmore, Robertson and Crawford

The final play on Thursday night proved to be well worth the wait as Deborah Robertson and Sheila Gilmore took to the stage in 'That Old Black Magic'.

The hilarious black comedy saw Annabelle (Deborah) the wife of the Great Majestica and Tracy (Sheila) his assistant, ac-

identally murdering him.

The acting was absolutely superb and the two characters bounced off each other spectacularly.

One scene in particular when Tracy was concentrating on writing 'threatening' letters while Annabelle cut up the Great Majestica with a chain-

saw, off stage, was superbly acted.

The comedic timing of the two characters was enhanced by Fiona Crawford's solid performance as the investigating police officer. The adjudicator clearly agreed as he said the pace, rhythm and tempo of the whole play was spot on.

Arran One-Act Drama Festival 2009



Deborah Robertson and Ruth Betley lead the ladies into a disco sequence in Slim Chance. b10dra06

Slim Chance was fat with laughter

Slim Chance by Shiskine SWRI was the last play on Friday night.

The cast of eight were all experienced and clearly comfortable with each other as a team. The action took place at a meeting of slimming club that was not very successful.

Sheila Gilmore as Jean was the group leader and tried to organise and encourage her charges to seriously lose some weight but without much luck. Mr Marjoribanks said: 'The bitchy lines made me think what they must be like at the WRI! The lovely range of characters developed well and bounced off each other. Jean had a good sense of comedy timing and lovely exaggerated facial responses.'

'The script of 29 pages was a bit on the long side but this group held the audience attention to the end.'

There were lots of laughs and the sing-a-long and disco sequences were hilarious. 'This group has instinctive comedy timing,' said the adjudicator.



Elsbeth MacDonald and Hilary McMaster in Playing With Daisy. b10pir02

Pirnmill's Playing with Daisy comes up roses

Playing With Daisy by Pirnmill Players was the final offering of the festival.

With just two characters, Elspeth MacDonald as middle-aged Esther and Hilary McMaster as Daisy, it held the attention of the audience throughout.

Esther was hoping to meet her mother in the park but the person who turned up was Daisy, her invisible friend from her youth.

Dumped

She told a shocked Esther: 'You dumped me, remember, because your Mother told you not to play with me no more.'

The characters alternated from Esther and

invisible friend Daisy to a young Esther and her tyrannical mother.

Mr Marjoribanks said: 'The producer of this play knew what she was orchestrating. First one character dominated and then the other took over. The movement was perfect and the producer reversed pitches of voice. It was most unusual but was needed to sustain the belief.'

'As an adjudicator, you want the final play in a festival to be pretty poor, so that after five minutes you can mentally turn off and work out the prize winners. Pirnmill Players excellent production did not allow me this privilege.'

Good Choice of characters, says judge

Choice was the second offering by Lam-lash Junior Drama Club and the first play on Saturday night.

It was a satirical comedy set in the future and a well written play about social issues with a large cast of 19 characters.

The story revolved around the malpractice of the Steadfast Shoe Company and the manipulation of the public by the government.

Powerful

Gavin Davidson was a very powerful and confident shop steward and Zoe Tomalin was Miss Ruth Less with splendid projection and excellent eye contact with the audience. Cameron Flewitt played a manipulative smoothy as the minister of health.

The adjudicator said: 'This had rhythm and some sparkling individual performances. The timing of the unveiling of the crutches by Cinderella and the Fairy Godmother was superb.'

'There wasn't a single solitary weakness in these characters.'



Zoe Tomalin as Miss Ruth Less in Choice, a role that won her the award for best performance in a youth play.

b10fri01



Megan McGill as Monique and Zoe Tomalin hold court in Choice. b10lam01

Arran Garden Birds - chaffinch, blue tit and blackbirds abound

Bird Notes - by Jim Cassels

The weekend of 24-25 January was the weekend when many of you stocked up your bird feeders, watched your garden birds for an hour, and noted down the highest number that you saw of each bird species.

That was the weekend of the RSPB 'Big Garden Bird-Watch'.

My thanks to those of you who shared your Garden Birdwatch sightings with me. From this information, 25 species of birds were noted in gardens on Arran that weekend.

These included bullfinch, goldfinch, song thrush, long-tailed tit, and sparrowhawk. Three species were noted in every garden. These were chaffinch, blue tit and blackbird. In terms of overall numbers of birds recorded the 'top five' were chaffinch 252, house sparrow 76, blue tit 44, coal tit 38 and blackbird 31.

By far the most numerous Arran garden bird that weekend was chaffinch, with counts of more than 30 in Brodick, Sannox and Shiskine.

If you enjoy your garden birds and taking part in this once a year survey you should think about taking part in the weekly Garden BirdWatch.

This is run by the British Trust for Ornithology. It is a year-round project that gathers important information on how different species of birds use gardens and how this use changes over time.

Gardens are an important

habitat for many wild birds, providing a useful refuge for those affected by changes in the management of our countryside.

Some 16,500 participants in the UK currently take part in the BTO's Garden Birdwatch.



To encourage birds to come into your garden think about putting up a nest box. b09box01NO

All participants send in simple weekly records of the bird species using their gardens. This information is either submitted on paper count forms or by using Garden Birdwatch online.

Each participant also supports the project financially through an annual contribution of £15.

In return, they receive the quarterly colour magazine Bird

Table, count forms and access to advice on feeding and attracting garden birds.

All new members will receive a free copy of the 128-page BTO/CJ Garden Birdwatch Book.

At present there are only

ple recording techniques.

The forms are easy to complete and all you need to do is keep a simple note of the birds seen during the course of the week.

You can note the birds you see over your morning cup of coffee or while working in the garden.

How much time you spend recording is up to you. All that is asked is that you try to be consistent from one week to the next.

The observations that are received are added to the national Garden Birdwatch database, building up a pattern, showing how bird species change their use of gardens throughout the year and from one year to the next.

To further encourage birds to come into your garden, this is the time of year when you should be thinking about putting up nest boxes.

You can make your own or buy one ready made. The BTO Nestbox Guide is a good place to start www.bto.org/notices/nestbox_guide.htm

Nest boxes are best sited about 10 feet from the ground and should be somewhere that predators such as cats cannot reach.

Fix the nest box to a wall or a tree and try to ensure it is in a place where you can watch and enjoy it.



Blue tits were recorded in every garden that participated in the annual Garden Birdwatch. b09tit01NO

It is best to face the box to the east or north, avoiding west since most rain comes from that direction and avoiding south as the sun might shine in and overheat the young.

Finally the Arran Natural History Society in conjunction with the Rangers Service at Brodick Country Park are hoping to establish nest cameras in a barn owl nest box and in a kestrel nest box this year.

Enjoy your garden bird watching

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Frogs have been spotted in the pond at Brodick Castle showing that spring is on its way. b10fro01NO

'Spring is in the air'

Nature Notes - by Kate Sampson

This week the warm weather has brought our frolicking frogs out of hibernation, and we have the first frogspawn in the wildlife garden pond.

Frogs were not present on Arran until the 1980s. It was Jean Bowden, the Brodick Castle recruiter, who first brought frogs to Arran.

She fished out frog spawn from a pond in Leicester, then travelled by train with her haul in a plastic bag.

Tadpoles

By the time she reached Arran, most of the spawn had hatched out and she had a bag full of tadpoles.

Since then frogs have become widespread on Arran. These days we would not recommend moving frog spawn about the country, particularly to places where there are no frogs.

Even moving frogs about Arran can help to spread invasive aquatic plants such as the Australian 'Crassula helmsii' and it may also spread the frog virus, often called 'red-leg', that kills thousands of frogs across Britain every year.

However, with the snowdrops and daffodils coming out, the early rhododendrons in flower and the frogs croaking in the pond, Brodick Castle Gardens are certainly showing us that Spring is here!

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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, March 4, 1989

For early risers?

The Arran Ferry Committee will have its annual meeting with CalMac next Wednesday and for the meeting it is proposing for discussion a whole rescheduling of the ferry times, which could change the business and tourist rhythm of the entire island.

The proposals for discussion include what has long been known as 'turning the ferry round' and, if implemented in any form, would come into force in 1990.

Broadly they involve the ferry staying overnight at Brodick all year round; they include winter sailings from Brodick at the early hour of 6.45am, then 9.15am, 3.15pm and 6.15pm.

The high summer timetable would be the same plus an additional 12.15pm sailing from Brodick.

The committee stress that these are being put forward for discussion only at the annual meeting but clearly feel that it would make a worthwhile change to the island's ferry service.

David Bridge, secretary of the Ferry Committee, said: 'The feeling we get is that these changes would be welcomed by the haulage and commercial vehicle people and in the summer it would be a great benefit to tourism.'

Permission granted

The fish farm expansion proposed for Lamlash Bay is to go ahead, but with modifications. The Crown Estate Commis-

sion announced the plans this week while Cunninghame District Council have given their approval, in principle, for the building of the onshore base.

The main restriction is that the area quoted for use by Marine Harvest will be smaller than originally proposed.

Special conditions attached to the planning permission state that a maximum of three groups of 10 salmon cages are allowed for the duration of the 20 year



Anthony Brookes, best youth actor of the festival. b10twe04

lease, to reduce the effects on the landscape.

The superstructure on the cages should be kept as low as possible and dark matt grey colours should be used.

NTS Ranger Derrick Warner, who has been prominent amongst Arran's objectors to the plans, said: 'Speaking per-

sonally, I find it unbelievable that the Crown Estate were happy with the environmental statement submitted by Marine Harvest.'

'The lease application was reduced on the grounds of amenity and yachting anchorages but to appears to make no mention of the major environmental fears expressed at the public meeting.'

Talking Banner

Following our article two weeks ago about Celia Sillars of Brodick's weekly labour of love in taping the Banner for blind friend Jack Cooper, we are now told that the new Information and Advice Service's Disability section have picked up the idea and plan to extend it.

There are 17 registered blind people on Arran, said Jan Schofield who is organising the taping.

She said that they have had calls from people offering to record the Banner and of course they have their own volunteers within the Lamlash office.

ACC protest

Arran's community councillors agreed to send a letter to Colin Paterson, the chief executive of Caledonian MacBrayne, at their meeting on Tuesday night in protest over the number of times the ferry has sailed to Gourrock in recent weeks.

'What we are saying,' said one of the community councillors later, 'is that it is unacceptable in moderate circumstances for the ferry to sail to Gourrock.'



Margo Wheeler accepts a cheque for £500 on behalf of Corrie Nursery class from the Reverend Iain McLeod. b10twe06

School improvements

Strathclyde Regional Council has agreed to spend £16,000 on Whiting Bay School to improve the drainage in the playground and erect a fence.

Parents have been asking for improvements in playground safety for almost 10 years but recent requests have been made to the education department both by MP Brian Wilson and Regional Councillor Fergus Clarkson.

Printing threatened

The early printing of The Arran Banner was threatened on Friday morning when a contractor working at Cladach accidentally dug up the main electricity cable plunging areas of Brodick into darkness and rendering The Banner office nearly helpless. Thankfully the electricity came back on an hour later.



Julie Nelson receives the best actress trophy at the Arran Drama Festival from adjudicator Miss Margaret Tomlinson. b10twe03



Miss Tomlinson presents the best actor award to Stan Huyton. b10twe05



Stan Huyton, Alan Little and Heather Johnstone in 'Act of Murder'. b10twe02



Allan Nicol and Jane Thomson in 'Interior Designs', Whiting Bay Drama Club's festival winner. b10twe01

The Arran **BANNER** abroad



Kathleen Sowden from Whiting Bay took her Banner all the way to the pyramids near Cairo in Egypt. b09ban01

We have been inundated with pictures of Arran Banner readers reading the newspaper at some wonderful locations around the globe.

This week we have six pictures from different parts of the world showing that Banner readers like to keep in touch with island issues even when on holiday.

If you are planning a holiday remember to take your copy of the Banner with you. It could be from Newcastle or Nice, it really doesn't matter, we would love to see your photographs.

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



Fran Hadden from Troon and Whiting Bay reading her Banner in Monument Valley on the Utah/Arizona border. The valley is the setting of many famous Western films starring actors like John Wayne. b09ban02



Andy and Robin Lyon catch up on Arran's news while at the Stade de France in Paris. Scotland's rugby team can be seen warming up in the background before their Six Nations match against France. b09ban07



Shirley Anderson took her Banner skiing to Sauze d'Oulx in Italy. b09ban03



Bill Roberts of Whiting Bay is pictured with his Arran Banner while overlooking Patagonia's Glacier Perito Moreno. Moreno is one of only two advancing glaciers in South America and one of very few on the planet. b09ban04



Margaret Browne with her Banner in Noosa, Queensland on Australia's Sunshine Coast.

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BANNER**WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park	11am - 4pm
Trout fishing	Loch Garbad, Bank
Hawk Walks	Lamlash
Fitness Assessments, Gym Induction, Personal Training	Auchrannie Spa & Gym

SATURDAY 7th MARCH

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years	Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Highland Dancing Lesson	Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Youth Cafe	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm
Arran Ceilidh Dancers	Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Councillor Currie Surgery	Brodick Library 1-2pm

SUNDAY 8th MARCH

Alcoholics Anonymous	St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes	Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games	Arran High School 1 - 4pm
Live Music - Country/Blues	Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

MONDAY 9th MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Badminton	Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie Spa, 7.00 - 7.20pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club	Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
AB Attack	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Indoor Cricket	Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Weight Wise	Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm

TUESDAY 10th MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.30am
Lochranza Swimming Club	Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Legs Bums & Tums	Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 6.45pm
Army Cadets	Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Pop Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Rotary Club	Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Pulmonary Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Open Music Session	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Indoor Bowling	Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Body Conditioning Class	KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Country Dancing	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Shapers	Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm
Brodick Highland Games Committee AGM	Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH

Mixed Hockey	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training	P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers	Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm
Yogalates	Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy	10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training	Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal	Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group	Village Hall 10am - 12pm
Lamlash Beaver Scouts	High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Corrie & Sannox Wednesday Club AGM	Village Hall, 2pm
Poultry Club AGM	Ormidale Hotel, 7pm
Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens Coffee Afternoon	Kinloch, 2pm

THURSDAY 12th MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club	Hall, 2pm
Outdoor Run	Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates	Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Aerobics	Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Coffee Morning	St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Table Tennis	Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog	KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class	KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise	Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs	Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts	Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Embroidery Group	Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Lamlash Cubs	Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Brodick Bridge Club	Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp	Ormidale Park 7pm
Corrie & Sannox SWRI AGM	Village Hall, 7.30pm
Heritage Museum AGM	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

FRIDAY 13th MARCH

Arran Pipe Band Practice	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning	10am - 12pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Lochranza Mooring Owners Association AGM	Lochranza Field Centre, 8pm
Quiz	Whiting Bay Golf Club 9pm

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Auction	Shiskine Hall, 7pm
Irish Folk Band	Macs Bar, 7pm
Arran Motocross Fun Day	Southbank Farm, Shannochie, 12pm

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Guest Speaker:
John Forgie



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SANDPLANT CAR PARK, MARKET ROAD

In order to carry out essential maintenance work it will be necessary to close the "Sandplant" car park, Market Road from Friday 20th March 2009.

The works will take approximately one week and we would ask that persons that have vehicles parked in this car park remove them prior to Friday 20th March.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause and appreciate your cooperation.

Caledonian MacBrayne and CalMac are trading names of CalMac Ferries Ltd.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**THE WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the 2005 Regulations")**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the 2005 Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by LIGHTHOUSE CALEDONIA LTD for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1) - Discharge of trade effluent to waters at NGR NS 0443 2921 from a Marine Cage Fish Farm at St.Molio's Salmon Fish Farm, Lamash, Isle of Arran.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address: The Registry, SEPA, East Kilbride Office, 5 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP quoting reference number CAR/L/1015850.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Ayr Office, 31 Miller Rd, Ayr, KA7 2AX, telephone number 01292 294000, or at Arran Library, by Brodick Hall, Brodick, KA27 9DL, telephone number 01770 302835.

Written representation received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in the public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been subject of such a request.

Arran Angling Association

Would all members please note that current year subscriptions is now due.

Neil C. McLean

Lochranza Mooring Owners Association**AGM**

Friday 13th March 2009
At 8pm
Lochranza Field Centre
New members welcome

Poultry Club AGM

Ormidale Hotel
11th March
7pm
New and old members welcome

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**

Surgeries will be held on the following dates, venues and times.

No appointment necessary

Monday 9th March	Kildonan Village Hall	11.30-12.30
	Shiskine Village Hall	13.15-14.15
	Lamash Fire Station	15.15-16.15
Monday 6th April	Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.30-12.30
	Corrie & Sannox Village Hall	13.30-14.30
	Brodick Health Centre	15.15-16.15

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office: 15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL
Tel: 01294 833 687 Fax: 01294 835 662
Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Brodick Highland Games Association**Committee AGM**

Will be held on
Tuesday 10th March
In the Ormidale Hotel at 7.30pm



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ADAM - MARGARET

At Arran War Memorial Hospital on 26th February, Margaret much loved mother of Susan and Judy, sons in law Paul and Finlay, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Formerly of Breadalbane Hotel Kildonan, Smiddy Brae Whiting Bay, and Lamlash

minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 8 March

Holy Communion.

11am

Mrs Janis Gallagher
Coffee after service.

Wednesday 11 March

Holy Communion 12.15 pm.

All Welcome.

MEMORIUMS

MORROW

In memory of Beverley.

You are always in our thoughts.

Sandra, Tony and Colin.

CHURCH NOTICES

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

Sunday 8 March

Brodick Church 10.30am

Corrie Church 12pm.

Lochranza 10.15am.

Shiskine Church 12pm.

A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 8 March

(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)

Shiskine 11am

Sunday School meets in the Church Hall

Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)

Rev David Karoon

All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH

Sunday 8 March

Worship will be conducted by the

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 8 March

Rev. Gillean Maclean

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30am

All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 8 March

11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service, 7pm

5 Glen Road.

Mr G Furzer

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 11 March

7pm

Rev. D.Macleod

All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Ormidale Pavilion,

Brodick.

Sunday 8 March

10.45 Communion

Tea and coffee from 11.10

11.30 Worship and Word

Speaker: Tom Hutchison

Everyone warmly invited.

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PERSONALS

I would like to thank the many people who have assisted me during the last two months. Firstly the members of the Emergency Services including the helicopter crew, the staff of the A&E Departments both in the island and at Crosshouse and the doctors and nurses for their skilful attention at the start.

I thank all members of staff at AWMH for the excellent treatment, for their kindness, help and support and the companionship of my fellow patients.

Finally but not least to family, friends and neighbours for their visits, cards and letters of encouragement all of which meant a great deal to me – and the lovely flowers I received were much appreciated.

To all I owe a tremendous debt and can only thank you all most sincerely

Margaret McArthur, Cordon, Lamlash

Guess who's "The Big Four-0"



It's the Window Cleaners Wife and Best Mum! Love Gaz, Ryan and Zara

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Last week Archie was at the front door of Brodick Castle. This week he is sitting in the snow and getting a cold bottom. Do you know where he is?

Tides

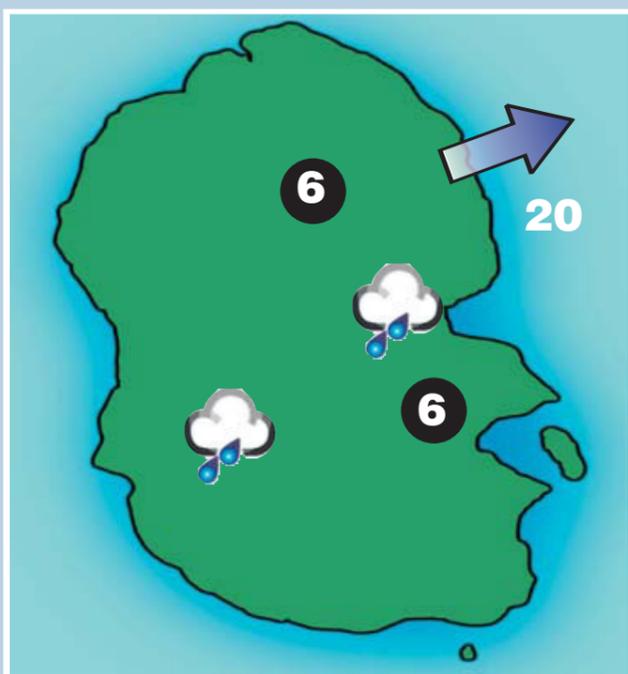
Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, March 7 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	0.9	0804	2.5	1431	0.6	2146	2.6
		0.7	0943	2.7	1539	0.3	2245	2.8
Sat	0154							
Sun	0310							
Mon	0407	0.4	1042	3.0	1631	0.0	2326	3.0
Tues	0455	0.2	1131	3.2	1714	-0.1	****	**
Wed	0018	3.0	0538	0.1	1215	3.3	1755	-0.1
Thur	0058	3.1	0617	0.0	1255	3.3	1830	-0.1
Fri	0132	3.0	0653	0.0	1331	3.3	1904	0.0

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

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodick Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



Weather

Saturday, March 7

Light snow giving way to moderate rain

Maximum Temp 6°C.

Sunday, March 8

Heavy rain with strong winds.

Maximum Temp 8°C.

Monday and Tuesday

Remaining unsettled, Mild 5°C

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Ardrossan/ Brodick - Rough

Claonaig/ Lochranza - Rough

Arran's young athletes shine at the Magnum

Pupils from Arran's primary schools came fifth in the North Ayrshire Sports Hall Athletics final at the Magnum in Irvine last week.

A combined team of primary six and seven pupils was selected from those who performed well at the Sports Hall Athletics Festival in January at the Auchrannie.

The 10 boys and 10 girls from Arran competed in two running events and two field events.

All of their practice at the Arran Athletics Club paid off as the youngsters made it to the final of five of the 12 running events.

Athletics Club coach, Gordon Allsop, said: 'The best result of the day was from Peter Gillson and Ker Rankin in the final of the 2x1 lap hurdle race. both ran a perfect race to come home comfortable winners.'

'Peter was especially pleased after misjudging his laps in the

2x2 lap relay heats.' In the girls 2x2 lap relay final, Abbie Jackson and Eilidh McNeil were just pipped into second place.

It was just one race to many for Eilidh who minutes earlier had come fourth with Ellie Miller, Isla Sillars and Alyssa Colwell in the 4x1 lap relay final.

Ailsa McMillan and Sarah MacNeil also came second in their final of the 2x1 relay and Ian Clarke, Alastair Innes, Roy Soong and Jamie McLaren came third in the boys 4x1 lap relay final.

Boys reserve Ben Leslie was given a run in the 4x1 lap over/under relay race and competed well.

In the six-lap paarlauf Lyle Bunyan and Ian Rankin ran the second fastest time of the eight teams.

In the girl's paarlauf, Ailsa McMillan and Sarah MacNeil

ran the fifth fastest time of the day earning more valuable points for the team.

In the field events, four boys and four girls competed in each discipline, which includes standing, long and triple jump, chest throw and the exhausting speed bounce.

'All the children received certificates for attending the finals and although some were a bit disappointed at coming fifth, they should all be pleased at equalling last year's performance with only six weeks of training this winter,' said Gordon. 'All the team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and many will hopefully return next year as primary sevens.'

The hard work of the pupils as well as the coaches and their teachers is a credit to the island and the children's performance at the finals reflected the effort they had put in. Well done to you all!



The 10 boys and 10 girls from Arran competed in two running events and two field events at the North Ayrshire Sports Hall athletics competition in Irvine b10mag01NO



Brodiek Golf Club

Sunday March 1, Sweep, 11 played, CSS 67.

1 A Dobson (10)65, 2 R McCrae (6)68, 3 L McCrindle (9)69, scratch R McCrae 74.

There were only two magic twos, the mighty McCrae getting them both.

Congratulations to the team who defeated Whiting Bay to win the Winter League.

Fixtures: Sunday March 8, Brandon and Winter Cup - draws at 9am and 12 noon.

Winter Wednesday Cup: Brian Boal won the Walter Bainbridge Plate (Stableford) on January 28. Brian beat a field of 17 players on the day and won with 36 points.

Wednesday February 18, the Norman Peach Salver was played for in a stableford competition. Twelve played in reasonably dry conditions. Gordon Sillars was at his best and won with a very good score of 38 points. He also won the sweep 81-22=59, second was Douglas Robertson with 37 points 76-16=60 and Wolfi Kroner was third with 35 points 73-10=63. Wolfi Kroner also got two magic twos.

On Wednesday February 25, it was back to the bread and butter sweep and major controversy as handicaps were adjusted in the clubhouse to stop Mr Sillars winning for the second week in a row.

1 John Hartley 88-24+64, 2

Gordon Sillars 80-16=64, 3 David Reid 88-22=66.

There were three magic twos with Gordon Roxburgh getting two and Gordon Sillars the other.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday March 1. In a nail-biting final game of this year's Winter League, Whiting Bay narrowly lost by two and a half points to one and a half to the hosts, Brodiek, a result which saw Brodiek become this year's champions.

Congratulations to the Brodiek team on their success. **Fixtures:** Sunday March 8, Winter Cup 6th and final round. Sunday March 15, Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay Golf Club, tee-offs from 10.30am.

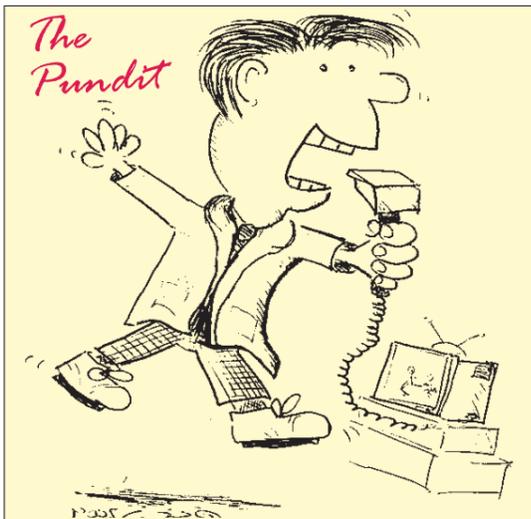
Corrie Golf Club

Saturday February 28, 1 B Sherwood 38, 2 S Beardsley 38, 3 C Pattenden 37.

Monday March 2, 1 E I Cannon 60, 2 H Taylor 64, 3 M MacDonald 65.

Fixtures: Saturday March 7, Winter Cup, tee-off 12pm. Monday March 9, Monday Cup, tee-off at 12pm.

There will be no game on Saturday March 14 due to the ALGA competition.



THE PUNDIT SPEAKS OUT

Time Called On Ladies Darts?

It's a game liked by many. A game adored by the drunk. And a game in love with the Isle of Arran, yet it looks like the ladies darts league could follow the same path of it's male counterpart, and fold.

As much as it saddens me, I have to admit that the pub trade is dying, and all the games we love to play (darts, pool, shot races, streaking) could be going six foot down as well.

It's no secret that the Arran Pool League is struggling, but it looks like the Ladies Darts

League is losing out regardless.

Teams have dropped in numbers and only a few still manage to put players up to the board.

And Finally...

Karen Copperheat emerged victorious in the ladies pool Open last week.

On her annual outing, she once again beat some die hard players and showed her husband (who was sponsoring the tournament - I'm not saying it was a fix, but...) how to grace the green cloth!

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Arran Bridge Notes

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday March 2: N/S: 1 J Barclay and J McArthur +3140, 2 D and M Bruce +1640, 3 E McKellar and I McArthur +750.

E/W: 1 E Paul and T Martin +1160, 2 J Maclure and A McKelvie +30, 3 J McBride and E Sillars -170.

Brodick Bridge Club

Results from Thursday February 26: N/S: 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie 62.92%, 2 E Sillars and C bone 62.50%, 3 D Scobie and D Bruce 58.75%.

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Duncan Trophy win for Brodick



Donald Logan, chairman of the Arran Golfers Association presents Brian Smith, captain of Brodick Golf Club with the Duncan trophy while the rest of the Brodick team look on. Picture courtesy of jinglyjingly images/Lenny Hartley 2009.

Golfers from Brodick Golf Club came through a nerve shredding final round of matches to win their first Duncan trophy in five years on Sunday.

Brodick and Whiting Bay - the top two teams in the 2008/2009 Arran Golfers Association Winter League - went head to head on a day that threw every kind of weather at the players.

First the sun shone, then it rained, and then there were hailstones and wind but thankfully no midges!

The first game of the day

saw Brodick's Jimmy Armit and Dougie Robertson taking on the strong pairing of Nicol Auld and John Simmons from Whiting Bay.

After a fine tussle Jasper and Dougie won with a hard fought 2-1 victory.

Second up was another close contest between Iain MacDonald and Sam McCalla of Brodick against George McKechnie and Keith Kelsall.

This finished with the same result, 2-1 to Brodick, which put them in a commanding position.

Third out was Gordon Rob-

ertson and Lenny Hartley against John Taylor and John Pennycott. This was an even closer match and the two Whiting Bay Johns managed to sneak it by one hole to keep them in the competition.

Closest

The final match was the best and closest of the day with Donald McKinnie and Gordon Hendry of Brodick against Jamie McPherson and Gordon Provan.

With team members watching from the clubhouse trying to work out what was happen-

ing and keep track of the score the players emerged onto the 18th green with the outcome of the trophy still in the balance.

With Stud and Nog managing to secure a half match, the overall tie went to Brodick and with it the trophy.

Brodick 2.5 to Whiting Bay's 1.5.

The remaining two matches were played out with two other island clubs who could still steal the runner-up prize.

In the second match, Shiskine only managed to field seven players against Corrie but

played out for a creditable draw and their first point of the league this year.

Large Margin

The last game was Lamlash against Machrie Bay and both teams had a chance to get runners up but needed a large margin of victory.

With the score two games to one with one game still to come in, Pigeon and young Todd Jamieson (playing his first match) returned a great half point to seal the victory for Lamlash but not enough to take the runners up spot from

Whiting Bay. After the matches it was the usual lovely bowl of soup and rolls and after Len had taken about 1000 photos of Willie Kelso (why we are not too sure!) the presentation.

Congratulations to Brodick for winning the Duncan trophy again and thanks also to Brodick for hosting a great day and for the course which considering how wet its been is holding out well, lets hope for some dry weather leading up to the Hope Cup and it will be looking great.

Unlucky 13 as Northend get back to normal



Northend's Nick Underdown jumps high but he can't stop Brodick scoring another goal. b10soc02

It felt as though the clock was turned back on Sunday afternoon as Northend Thistle football team were thrashed 13-1 by the team from Brodick.

Playing on the all-weather pitch at the Ormidale Park in Brodick, Northend did little to impress their loyal fans.

Brodick's on-target strikers played well to score 13 goals for their team and one for Northend.

Almost two years ago Northend were named as one of the worst football teams in Britain after regularly being defeated 15 or 16-0. For a while it looked as though the team were improving after they won their first game in 14 years against a reformed Southend United team.

Arran Pool League - results

Results from Thursday February 26: Cameronia (Gallon) 6 PHT 6, Drift (G) 9 PT1934 3, Corrie (G) 3 Bar Eden 9, Kildonan (G) 4 Catacol 8. Matches to be played on Thursday March 12 are as follows: Corrie v Drift Out, Kildonan v PHT, PT1934 v Catacol and Cameronia v Bar Eden.

The Champion of Champions competition will be played at Kilmory Village Hall on Sunday March 15 at 3pm. The best two players from each team should be out forward to compete for the trophy. This is a 'bring your own bottle' event.

	P	W	D	L	Pts	GoB
Bar Eden	16	15	1	0	46	11
Drift Out	16	10	3	3	33	10
Corrie	16	7	2	7	23	10
Cameronia	15	6	3	6	21	10
PT1934	16	6	2	8	20	7
Catacol	16	5	3	8	18	7
PHT	16	5	2	9	17	6
Kildonan	15	1	0	14	3	4

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