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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 12 MARCH, 2011

No 1796 55p

School timetable re-vamp on Arran

Switch could alter length of school days for pupils

Plans to introduce a 33-period school week at Arran High School could see pupils at school for three longer days each week, according to North Ayrshire Council.

Mark Armstrong, head of logistics and infrastructure for the local authority said: 'The introduction of a standard 33-period-week is taking place across all of North Ayrshire Council's secondary schools and will enable greater timetabling efficiency and more effective use of available resources to deliver the curriculum.'

'This increased number of teaching periods will benefit pupils as it allows schools to create more teaching sets and run smaller classes.'

'It also provides the opportunity for additional teaching time by increasing the amount of co-operative teaching and support for learning, which can help retain pupil interest and raise attainment.'

Irvine Royal Academy currently operates a 33-period week and has seen many of these benefits since its introduction in 2010.

The introduction of a 33-

period-week will require schools to determine their favoured model for the school week.

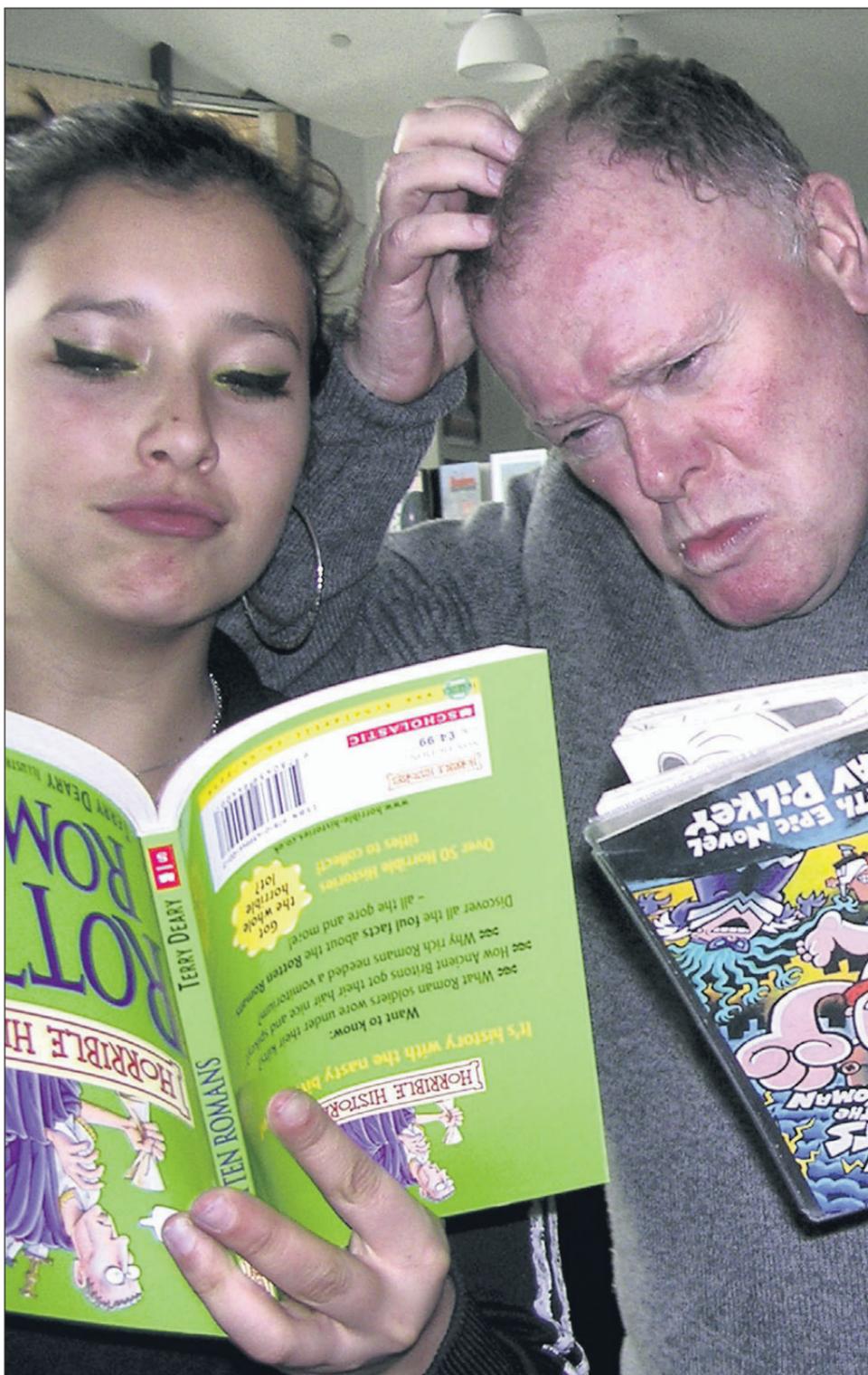
For example, this may include three longer days and two shorter days.

This clearly has implications for school transport on the island, as it is costly to make new arrangements mid-contract.

Therefore, in the majority of cases, the introduction of the 33-period-week will coincide with the renewal of school transport contracts.

Mr Armstrong said: 'As school transport is provided by the local public bus service on Arran we are meeting with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), the local bus service, the community and parents to discuss this matter.'

'A date of October 2012 has been proposed for the change to a 33-period-week at Arran High School. We are confident that this will allow sufficient time for full discussion and enable us to introduce any possible changes to the timetable with the minimum of disruption to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.'



School's World Book Day celebrations

Arran High School's principal English teacher, Mr Kelly, helps pupil Elina Saleh get to grips with reading last Thursday. To celebrate World Book Day all the pupils were being photographed with their favourite book. For the full picture spread, see page 7.

Bus driver charged

Following an accident five weeks ago in which a 48-year-old Brodick woman was struck by a bus, a man has been charged with driving without due care and attention.

The 47-year-old bus driver from Kilmarnock has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal under Section Three of the Road Traffic Act.

At 7.20pm on Monday 7 February, the bus driven by the accused struck the woman near to the stances at the pier buildings in Brodick.

Extensive investigations have since been carried out by the Strathclyde Police Road Traffic Investigation team.

The woman was airlifted to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock in a serious condition but has since returned home to the island.

Rare Arran tree planted in Edinburgh

An Arran Whitebeam was one of two trees planted by Scottish and American politicians in Edinburgh on Thursday to celebrate the Trees4TwoNations project.

Two rare trees were planted by Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, and Dana Linnet, the US Consul General in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

The two trees, one an Arran Whitebeam and the other a Rock Chestnut Oak representing the United States were planted to represent the deep historical and cultural roots, as well as friendship between the two countries.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Scotland and America share many common goals and values, and today is a great opportunity for us to celebrate and build on this for the future.'



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Farmer's Society AGM

Kenny Bone of Lamalsh was selected as the new chairman of the Arran Farmer's Society at their AGM last Wednesday night.

Mr Bone of Glenkiln Farm – where the 175th anniversary Farmers Show will be held on August 3 – has replaced Allan Nicol while Liz Kennedy of Whiting Bay was voted vice-chairman.

Four new directors were also elected onto the committee – Niall McMaster of Springfield, Matthew McNeish of Craigview, Peter McDonald of Clauchlands and Andy Ashley of Kildonan.

There is a new class for the show this year: a cross ewe with lamb or lambs at foot.

And it was agreed that the stock handler age should be reduced to 16 years in the cattle and sheep categories.

**Banner
Newsdesk
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Volunteers sought for Brodick Castle conservation work

Volunteers are being sought by the National Trust for Scotland's ranger service at Brodick Castle to help with conservation work at the property.

The charity is dependent upon the support of volunteers in carrying out its work.

Corinna Goeckeritz, Brodick Country Park Ranger, said: 'Over the years, we have been very fortunate to have some extremely dedicated individuals help us with our practical conservation work in the Country Park and on Goatfell. Chae Cruickshank of Lochranza Field Studies Centre has regularly been sacrificing his time off to volunteer with us. To make it a bit more fun and to give more people the chance to join in, we have decided it is time to re-launch a regular volunteer group.'

She said that this group will meet once a month, initially to help with a spring clean in the wildlife garden and to control invasive plants such as rhododendron and



Dedicated individuals are being sought to help the castle rangers with their conservation work in the Country Park and on Goatfell.

salmonberry along Wilma's Walk.

It will all be hands-on practical work, so those involved will need to be prepared to get their

hands dirty and all tasks will be weather-dependent.

'This is a great chance to get some outdoor exercise whilst also contributing towards

nature conservation and also to meet like-minded people,' said Corinna. The ranger service will provide work gloves, safety glasses and tea, coffee and biscuits. You don't have to book to come along, or commit yourself to be there each time, just turn up on the day.'

The first volunteer day will take place on Thursday 17 March, 10am-4pm, meeting at 10am at the ranger centre.

Please bring warm clothes and waterproofs, sturdy footwear and a packed lunch and drink. For more information, phone the ranger service on 302462.

Whisky returns to the water in aid of Comic Relief

This Friday staff at the Isle of Arran Distillery will be 'taking the whisky back to the water' to raise money for Comic Relief.

Devised by visitor centre manager Faye Black the idea is for them to complete a sponsored walk with a bottle of whisky to the source of the distillery's water supply.

'We are taking the whisky back to the water and we hope lots of people will sponsor us for this great cause,' said Faye. To sponsor the group please contact Faye on 830264.

Police files

Crash

An 18-year-old Lamalsh man appeared at Irvine District Court on Wednesday after being charged with causing damage to a fence at Arran High School when he crashed into it with his car.

He was convicted under section 3 of the road traffic act of driving without due care and attention and received six points on his licence as well as a £200 fine and £250 compensation order.

Public drinking

A 29-year-old man from Lamalsh was issued with a fixed penalty ASBO for drinking in public at Brodick Pier on Saturday 5 March.

No tax discs

Eleven Arran motorists were issued with £60 fines last week after being caught without a valid vehicle tax.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said that it is an offence to display an out of date tax disc even if your new one has been ordered online.

Cycling on pavements

Police have had a number of reports of adults cycling on pavements this week.

Please be aware that this illegal and anyone that uses a bike on a footpath will be dealt with accordingly.

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Dog fouling plagues Whiting Bay

The Whiting Bay Improvements Committee are urging dog owners in the village to clean up after their pets.

The committee recognises that like all villages, Whiting Bay has a constant problem with dog fouling.

'We know that all responsible dog owners collect their dog's poo and put it in the many red bins available, but still there are some that don't,' said Barbara I'Anson of the improvements committee.

'There are leaflets available from Scottish Natural Heritage which give the Scottish Outdoor Access Code for Dog Owners and include free dog passports and poo bags. 'They will be available for anyone, and those with letting properties, from the post office for one week only.

'This is a plea to you all to collect it and dispose of it in the red bin. Dog fouling is illegal.'



Volunteers gathered for the annual spring clean of Whiting Bay on Sunday morning.

Whiting Bay spring clean prepares village for summer

A group of hardy volunteers gathered early on Sunday morning for the annual spring clean of Whiting Bay's beach and walks.

Whiting Bay and District Improvements Association were delighted that 30 people volunteered to help as it meant they were able to cover a greater distance.

By the end of the day, the area from Largiebeg to Kingscross and the Black Rocks to Kingscross point had

been spruced up for the coming season. Some of the rubbish collected ranged from cans, bottles - both glass and plastic, crisp and sweet wrappers, car bumpers, old tyres, boats and football posts and the inevitable plastic bags.

Jan McGregor of the improvements committee said: 'Thank you to everyone who helped, both on Sunday and other days of the week.'

'The beach clean and village tidy was in preparation for Easter and is part of Whiting Bay's aim to improve the paths and promote the "Walk Your Way Round Whiting Bay" scheme.'

She added that they are also producing a map of paths around the village with the first one - Glenashdale Family Treasure Trail - on sale next week.

'If you have been to Whiting Bay in the past few years you will have noticed the planted tubs and boats that adorn the village centre and putting green,' said Jan.

'These are maintained and planted by village residents who are keen to improve the village, and anyone who is already planting a tub or would like to be responsible for one is invited to a 'Bay in Bloom' get together on Tuesday 22 March at Glenburn at 7.30pm.

'If you need directions please phone either Cate on 700680 or myself on 700249.'

Arran artists join forces to get MSP re-elected

A group of Arran artists has teamed up with a fund-raising project to help secure the re-election of Arran's present MSP in the Scottish Parliament Elections on May 5.

The artists have donated some unique artworks that will be raffled off to raise money for Mr Gibson's re-election campaign.

The group is seeking to recruit 100 Arran residents prepared to stake £10 on the chance of winning one of the donated pieces, while, at

the same time, contributing actively to the democratic process.

Marvin Elliott, who set the 'Ken Again' Artworks Draw in motion said: 'Kenneth enjoys wide support on Arran across the political spectrum, even among voters who don't customarily vote SNP.'

Hard-working

'It would be hard to imagine a more hard-working and energetic MSP.

'We need his integrity and enthusiasm at this time, and it would be disastrous if Labour were to regain the Cunningham North seat in May, just because of the largesse of their wealthy backers, and the unquestioning support of the national press.'

'We hope the Arran community will enjoy a flutter on some art, but won't gamble

on who is to represent us at Holyrood.'

Nicky Gill, of Whiting Bay, who has gifted the painting 'Blue Morning' said: 'Kenneth identifies with Arran issues and has a rare affinity for this community.'

He needs to get his message directly to people on the doorsteps of North Ayrshire and Arran, and we are keen to ensure his voice is heard.'

Well-known Arran artists Bob Lees and Maureen Farquharson have donated further paintings.

Viewed

Entry forms are available at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, or by e-mail request from tuathair@aol.com, and the work can be viewed at Marvin's gallery, the Boathouse, at Cladach.



The first prize will be the sculpture 'Daphne' created by Marvin Elliott from the root of a Merkland bog oak.

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Saturday - Over 21s Disco - 10pm
Tuesday - Pop Music Quiz - 9pm
Thursday - General Knowledge Quiz - 9pm
Sunday - Live Rock, Folk and Blues - 9pm

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Arran showcases products to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight



A number of different events were held on the island last week to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

The celebration of Fairtrade products runs from Monday 28 February to Sunday 13 March and this year's theme from the Fairtrade Foundation is to 'show off your label'.

On Saturday morning a Fairtrade Coffee morning was held in Brodick Church Hall and visitors to the event had a chance to sample Fairtrade cakes and biscuits and to buy products bearing the Fairtrade label.

Throughout the week too there has been a special event in the Brodick Co-operative Store showcasing the large range of Fairtrade products sold in the shop.

Local children have also become involved in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record in Bunting that at the moment stands at 2,696 metres.

Bunting

Fairtrade Fortnight's aim is to make 4,350 metres of Fairtrade cotton bunting.

On Arran all primary school children have been given a triangular Fairtrade cotton flag which they are decorating with paint, pen or material.

These flags were hung up in the Brodick Co-op last week and also at the coffee morning in Brodick.

Jan McGregor said: 'We have given out about 330 flags on Arran, and after displaying them on the island they will be sent to London and added to all the other bunting to break the record for the longest, fairest-ever piece of bunting.'

It will all be hung up on World Fairtrade Day Saturday 8 May.

To achieve this they need 12,500 decorated flags - one for each Fairtrade cotton farmer in Mali and Burkina Faso in West Africa.

Jan Attkins and Sue Francis were helping to showcase the immense number of Fairtrade products available on Arran. 01_b10trd01



Emma Ingham and her daughter Meghan enjoy a cup of Fairtrade coffee at the Coffee Morning in Brodick on Saturday. 01_b10trd02

Wonderful flower arranging at Lamlash WRI

A large number of members turned out to the meeting of Lamlash WRI on Wednesday 2 March.

The guest speaker was Mrs Ellie Jones who gave a wonderful demonstration

of flower arranging with many helpful tips. After a well-deserved vote of thanks, proposed by Mary Adams, Ellie gifted all the flowers to the members to share.

The competition was won by

May McLellan, and the winner of the exhibition was Aileen Graham.

Members please note that the annual dinner will be held in the Glenisle Hotel on Wednesday 30 March.

Friends of Brodick Castle plan annual outing

Plans are in place for the Friends of Brodick Castle 2011 outing.

On Friday 20 May a daytrip to Edinburgh Castle has been arranged.

A short break to the Elgin area has also been organised for Monday 5 to Thursday 8 September.

There are several interesting places to visit

during the holiday so for full details and booking information please contact M Watson on 302751.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday 16 March at 2.30pm in the castle tearoom.

The speaker is David Wilson and his subject 'A rolling stone gathers no moss'.



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So Arran is to be included in the government's fuel discount scheme.

This could mean at least five pence cut off the incredibly high price of fuel on the island. Despite having some of the highest petrol prices in Britain - at the moment unleaded is £1.45 a litre and diesel is an incredible £1.53 a litre - Arran was not going to be included in this originally.

The scheme was initially expected to cover the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney. But it has been expanded by UK ministers to cover Arran as well as all the Inner Hebrides islands and the Isles of Scilly off Cornwall, where petrol currently costs £1.62 a litre.

The hike in oil prices, the increase in VAT and the prospect of a rise in fuel duty are creating a toxic mix at the petrol pump for the Coalition Government.

It is rather humorous to hear of the complaints from down south where the average price of a litre of petrol now £1.30.

Even if Arran was to have 5p cut from a litre then it would still be on average 15p more expensive than the rest of the country. Yet it is no surprise that, according to a survey released last week, 52 per cent of people in Britain would be prepared to take protest action over fuel prices.

Analysts are warning that the price of oil, which was around \$90 a barrel at the beginning of the year, could reach \$200 if the uprisings in the Middle East escalate and the prospect emerges of an oil price 'superspike' if Saudi Arabia and Algeria dragged into the unrest.

The Scottish government's appeal last week for the rise in fuel duty due in April to be scrapped echoes similar pleas from the Federation of Small Businesses and retail and transport groups.

Fuel is one of the key commodities people know the cost of. Everyone from small traders to drivers of status symbol vehicles is aware that filling up the tank is taking a bigger chunk of their budget. That makes it a political touchstone.

The Fair Fuel Campaign has already delivered a 130,000-signature petition urging a freeze in petrol duty to Downing Street. And North Ayrshire's councillors have vowed to tackle the rising cost of fuel on Arran by writing to the Prime Minister.

If the price of petrol rises above £6 a gallon at the pumps, there is every prospect of a return to the fuel protests of 2000, when petrol stations ran dry after blockades of oil refineries by hauliers.

One thing for sure though is that life for those living in the most rural parts of Arran is going to become more and more difficult as rising fuel costs restrict the distances we are able to travel by car.

Letters to the Editor



Fair play

Sir,
Regarding the fun fair on Brodick seafront, on behalf of small voices, may I venture some support? My children, like many others locally and visiting, enjoy this little set up on the few occasions we can afford it each summer.

Its size at present does not seem to be out of keeping.

A few rides and side stalls hardly constitutes a major theme park.

Perhaps in the spirit of cooperation it might be possible to ask the owners (always polite and friendly in my experience) to turn down the music and maybe even play a few requests that the locals can enjoy in the seclusion of their gardens. But seriously, we are a tourist island.

At present our businesses are putting a brave face on it but times are hard.

For a few weeks in the summer is a small fun fair really too much to put up with? What else can children do outdoors in Brodick? (With the exception of the world's most impossible crazy golf course, unaltered in 30 years).

If we don't support these outside businesses (this includes the triathlon) which are providing for and bringing visitors we may as well all sit back in our gardens and enjoy the peace and quiet as our major economic provider will be gone. The days when scenic beauty alone tempts people onto the ferry are fast disappearing.

Yours,
C Traill, Cherri Cottage
Lochranza.

Right of reply

Sir,
When cornered with anything as inconvenient as facts, Kenny Gibson believes that attack is the best form of defence.

So, in response to my support for a fair deal for Arran on ferry fares, he blusters and complains about just about every subject under the Scottish sun - while conveniently ignoring the issue he was supposed to be addressing.

Mr Gibson and his nationalist

colleagues have spent decades criticising everyone else.

Nobody's efforts were ever good enough for them. Whatever was achieved, it was sneered at by the Nationalists as a failure.

Now Mr Gibson is the one with a record to defend - and, on Arran as elsewhere, there is not much to write home about. The discriminatory treatment of islands other than the Western Isles is as good a place as any to start.

Between 1997 and 2007, Scottish government revenue subsidy to Caledonian MacBrayne more than trebled from £10m to £33m.

The purpose of that money was to hold fares down while investing in new vessels - 10 new ferries were bought, seven for operation on CalMac routes.

Labour also introduced free travel for the over 60s which was of huge benefit to islanders - now lost under the SNP - and this factor was reflected in 5,510 additional journeys made on the Arran ferry in 2006/07, an increase of over 12 per cent.

In general, I believe that the free travel scheme was one of the best measures introduced by the Scottish government of which I was a member and I was particularly pleased that it proved possible to extend it to include services provided by CalMac to Arran.

Prior to the 2007 elections, we earmarked money for a ferry subsidy scheme. It would have been spread across all of Scotland's ferry routes and given a 40 per cent discount on all crossings to local residents.

In other words, it would have been modelled on the successful Air Discount Scheme which covers all Scotland's island airports and the principle is both clear and fair.

For the crudest of party political reasons, the SNP tore up that scheme and used the money in a very different way.

They concentrated it on a handful of ferry routes in the Western Isles constituency and left the rest - including those serving Arran - to their own devices and vastly increased

fares. Four years later, I cannot retrospectively restore Arran's losses but I can promise to argue as hard as I can for a fair deal on ferry fares, based on the same principles that Labour applied in the past - non-political and non-discriminatory.

In other words, my position is the exact opposite of the policy implemented by Mr Gibson and the SNP.

Since the Scottish Parliament was established, the budget available to it has almost doubled in real terms.

Even in current circumstances, that creates a lot of space for choices to be made - but these choices depend on priorities. Scotland has learned the hard way that waving Saltires is no substitute for substance.

Yours,
Allan Wilson
Scottish Labour candidate
for Arran.

Kilmory help Malawi

Sir,
I am writing to you about raising money for Malawi by gathering old phones that nobody uses anymore.

We would like to collect the old phones so that we can send them to a company that will pay us £2.50 for every phone we send. They will either recycle all the parts or reuse them in developing countries in Africa.

We would like to ask everyone who has any old unused mobile phones to please send them to your nearest school.

If you do donate, you will be helping the environment.

Do you know that one misplaced mobile phone battery could potentially pollute 600,000 litres of water!

Please donate the phones before April 1.

Yours,
Matthew McAllister
P7 Kilmory Primary.

Bulb show

Sir,
I was sitting up in bed mending a puncture this morning when it dawned on me that there are only a few days left until the Spring Bulb show on

Saturday 19 March in Brodick Hall.

Now I know you have all been cosied up in duvets and thick woollies for the last six months but now is the time to choose plants, which you want to show to the world.

The last two years were poor for spring plants owing to the winter weather but it looks as though this year could be a bumper.

Never mind winning prizes just bring your plants along and brighten up the hall.

Show off your flower arranging skills and if that early summer plant you keep in the conservatory is flowering, bring it along. Our highly intelligent, handsome and knowledgeable members of The Horticultural Society will be on hand to assist if needed.

There is no charge to show off your plant at the show. Schedules are available at the library; all island Post Offices and other places. They also cost nothing. That's it then; see you there. Oh, and the tea and the stickies are good too!

Yours,
J Cassels
Vice president
Arran Horticultural Society.

The Dogs of Lochranza

Sir,
I thought your readers may appreciate this poem I have written in relation to your story two weeks ago about the need for dog waste bins in Lochranza.

Yours,
Colin Guthrie
West Mayish Road
Brodick.

The dogs of Lochranza
Have just had enough
For North Ayrshire Council
Have treated us rough
Our patient owners
Have waited a year
For our doggie waste bin
When will it appear?
Our hills and glens
Abound with such beauties
So where should we now
Dispose of bagged duties?
We Scotties and terriers
All think it's a sin
Come on Brodie Pearcey
Give us our bin!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

press policy

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your letters

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

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Arran High School pupils celebrate World Book Day



Elidh Rhead.

More than 70 pupils at Arran High School have been photographed with their favourite book as they celebrated World Book Day last week.

Thursday 3rd March marked this year's World Book Day, a celebration of books and reading taking place in over 100 countries worldwide.

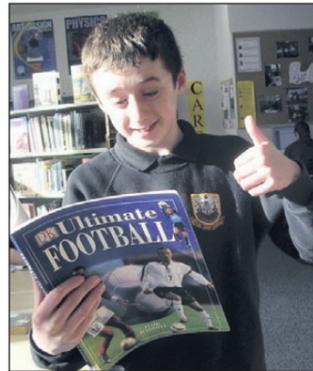
To celebrate, Heather Johnston the High School's librarian, decided to capture the whole school reading!

'So far I have managed to take about 70 photographs involving over 100 pupils and staff,' she told *The Banner*.

'I only have about 250 to go and I won't give up until I photograph them all.'

She added that the photos are being displayed in the school library where they are attracting lots of attention and amusement and she hopes they might entice more pupils into the delights of reading.

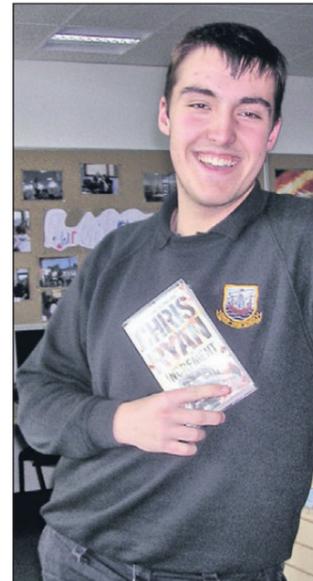
Below are just a small selection of the photographs taken by Heather.



Johnny Sloss.



Alexander Hamilton.



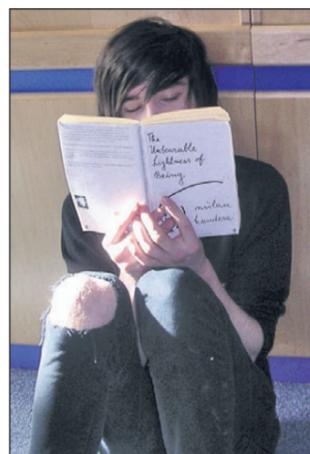
Connor Reid.



Katharine O'Donnely.



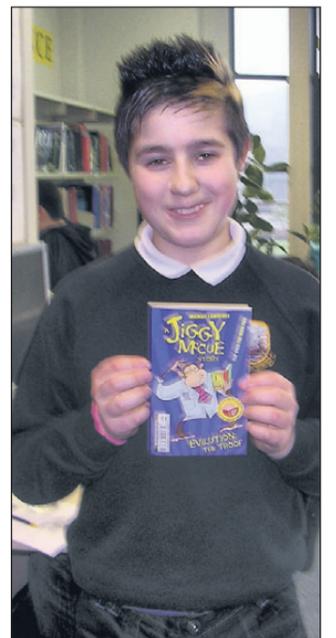
Right: Katie Morrison.



James McAleer.



Marcel Gren.



Michael Macfarlane.

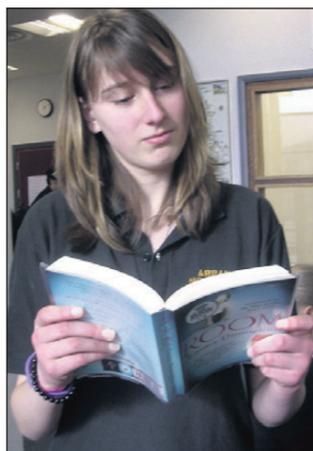


Megan McGill.

Librarian captures pupils reading on camera



Ceile Swinton-Boyle.



Iona Flewitt.

'I won't give up until I photograph them all.'

Heather Johnston, school librarian.



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Brodick Hill forest – 50 years from planting to felling



Brothers Alastair and Charles Hendry and George Boal at the top of Brodick Hill with the trees that they planted 50 years ago. 02_b10hen01

Diary reveals Alastair planted 49,650 trees

Planting trees is hard work, and no-one knows that more than Alastair Hendry of Glen Rosa.

For five years Alastair planted thousands of trees on the hillsides around Brodick. And now these same trees are being felled.

Forestry Commission Scotland is felling timber in several very prominent locations on the island, giving a completely different view of a familiar scene. One of these is at the top of Brodick Hill. Fifty-two years ago Alastair planted them.

He told the Banner: 'It has been fascinating to watch the cutting of trees this winter.'

'The first employment I had was with the Forestry Commission in April 1959. There were four of us in the Brodick team, myself, my brother Charles, John Innes and Norman Sillars. It was a lot of hard work for not much money.'

'In the spring of 1960 I helped to plant the hill above Lamlash golf course. We referred to it as the Dawson Patrol after John Dawson who drained the hill after the ploughing.'

'The following year the Corriegills Hill was planted and I remember planting behind the Fever Hospital above the golf course. Some of the ploughing was so deep that 40 years later the men cutting down the trees commented on it.'

'The first trees we planted in Glensherraig Wood were

Douglas Firs. They had grain as straight as a die; a joiner's paradise.'

Alastair can remember planting 13 different species of tree. The majority were Sitka Spruce, but others included Norway Spruce, Japanese Larch, Scots Pine, and Abies Grandis and Abies Procera, both North American pines. It was planned that the timber would be mostly used for pit props and pallets.

The men were expected to plant 1,200 to 1,600 a day, all by hand, at five foot intervals, and with a simple garden spade. Their take-home pay was around £20 a week for an eight-hour day with weekend work of fire watching.

'We patrolled on bikes and were given tuppence for phoning the fire brigade from the call box at Cladach,' said Alastair. 'This would be in early spring when there was a real danger of hill fires.'

Alastair has kept a diary and it reveals that in 1963 from March 6 to June 10 he planted 49,650 trees. The pay



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Ross Auld on a Ponsse Forwarder forest machine hauling cut trees to a collecting area. 02_b10hen02

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Alastair and Charles Hendry watch the trees that they planted being loaded onto George Boal's truck. 02_b10hen03



Alastair Hendry. 02_b10hen04

Brothers re-live life in the forest

on piecework was five shillings per hundred on straight ground and four shillings and ninepence on ploughed land.

Another task was spreading fertiliser round the young trees. 'We scattered phosphate by hand in a circle round each

tree; no gloves, no health and safety. We would spread half a ton a day. It was a dirty job,' he admitted.

Summer jobs included draining and cutting back bracken.

'They paid us £2.10s an acre.

We would cut it, layer it tramp on it and walk on it,' he said.

'You soon learned to breathe through your nose, so you didn't get a mouthful of flies, clegs or midges.

'After the third year there was no need to cut because the young trees were beginning to smother out the bracken.

Lonely

'One of the first glens we planted was Glenrickard. It was a lonely place at the head of the glen, and one day we all heard someone coming up the glen.

'But there was no-one there; there were no hillwalkers in those days and I'm sure it was a spirit from some old settlement.'

On Friday Arran's current head forester Andy Walker explained how Brodick hill would be replanted. He said:

'We'll leave it for a couple of years then plant mostly broad leaved trees around the car park at Cnoc na Dail with a smattering of pine and fir to mirror what is already there.

The ground above the road will go back into Sitka Spruce or Norway Spruce – the Norway is better for red squirrels because it has bigger cones.'

We asked Andy how the planting methods had changed in 50 years.

'Very little,' he explained.

'It's still all done by hand. We don't plough anymore because of all the stumps and roots. That makes it more difficult to walk over, so the men plant about 1,000 a day.

'But they still use the same method – a simple garden spade!'



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Common Crossbills, which tend to breed in winter in response to availability of Spruce cones, were a big feature this month.

Bird Notes for February

By Jim Cassels

February was warmer and wetter than January. The mean February temperature was one and half degrees higher than January and the rainfall was more than double. In comparison with last February, it was also wetter. In 2010 there was 109.7mm and in 2011 there was 189.6mm of rain at Kilpatrick.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species including Long-tailed Tit, who delighted garden birdwatchers in a wide range of gardens including Brodick, Dhunan, Lamlash,

Whiting Bay and Machrie with 12 in Lochranza on the 10th the largest group reported.

Other more unusual garden birds included a Brambling in Whiting Bay on the 2nd, 26 Siskin in Blackwaterfoot on the 9th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker in Lochranza on the 15th, a pair of Blackcaps in Whiting Bay on the 17th, a Lesser Redpoll in Pirmill on the 18th and Yellowhammers on the 23rd, two males and a female in a Brodick garden and three males and eight females in a Shiskine garden.

Common Crossbills, which tend to breed in winter in response to availability of Spruce cones, were a feature this month with reports of birds singing in Clachnan Glen, Glen Dubh, High Kildonan, Kilmory, Kilpatrick, Merkland and Tomusk with seven in Monamore Glen on the 24th.

It was a good month for seeing wildfowl with over 500 Greylag Geese in Shiskine on the 23rd, 20 Pink-footed Geese in Shiskine on the 26th and seven Whooper Swans including three juveniles at Sandbraes on the 28th.

Reports of ducks including 46 Mallard at Sliderywaterfoot on the 1st, three Goldeneye in Whiting Bay on the 7th, 47 Teal, 57 Eider and 11 Red-breasted Mergansers at Machrie on 12th, a Goosander on the Rosa Burn on 16th, 18 Shelduck and 37 Wigeon at Auchenhew on the 20th and the long staying female Pintail at Kilpatrick on the 28th.

In addition there was a male Shoveler on the pond at Shiskine on 20th. This is only the second record in the last 15 years.

Other winter visitors were

to the fore including two Greenshanks at Clachlands on the 5th, two Purple Sandpipers at Drumadon on the 6th and 50 Fieldfare at Bridge Farm on 10th.

Days with calm sea were ideal for sea watching, with good numbers of all three divers reported including three Red-throats in Lamlash Bay on the 10th, two Black-throats off Blackwaterfoot on the 11th and three Great Northern in Machrie Bay on the 12th.

Other sightings included four Little Grebe in Lochranza on the 2nd, a Kingfisher on the Rosa Burn on the 8th, 18 Lapwing at Kilpatrick on the 12th and 400 Starling also in Kilpatrick on the 25th.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island towards the end of the month, a pair of Golden Eagles displaying



A male Shoveler was spotted on the pond at Shiskine. This is only the second record of one in the last 15 years.

over Lochranza on the 8th, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Machriewaterfoot on the 26th and a Buzzard carrying nest material in Shiskine on the 28th.

March could see the start of the arrival of our summer visitors like Wheatear, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Sand Martin, even Swallow and House Martin but their arrival will be dependent on the weather.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with "what, when, where" to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the "Arran Bird Report 2010" and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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All Welcome

Talented youth drama group prepare for new challenge

A talented group of young Arran actors are preparing to perform a selection of new pieces to the public.

Devised, written, performed and directed by members of the Just a Hoodie ensemble, 'Pot Noodle' promises to be as diverse and interesting a programme as their last offering at the McLennan Arts Festival in 2009.

Techniques

Back in November the group was lucky enough to spend a weekend working with Nutshell Theatre Company exploring theatrical writing and acting techniques.



The island's 'Just a Hoodie' drama ensemble are preparing to perform some pieces devised and written by the group's members.

Inspired by these workshops the group has experimented with style and form to create a series of short plays - funny, sad and mysterious - that showcase their multiple talents

and offer a richly rewarding evening's entertainment. So come along to the Community Theatre in Lamlash on Saturday 19 March at 8pm to see what it is all about.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Coffee Morning in aid of Libya

Lamlash Church Hall

Wed. 16th March

10.15am - 12 noon

Pirmill Primary School

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Saturday 19th March
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at Arran Community Theatre

on Saturday 19th March 8pm

Tickets on the door Adults £5 Children free

(includes interval refreshments)

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, March 9, 1991

Homework!

Serious side affects to the new primary school testing system have begun to appear this week.

Pupils have apparently been coming home with work that they haven't been taught in the classroom.

And apparently the stress being put upon them by the extra class tests is proving harmful to their learning development.

The only school on Arran to vote unanimously against the new testing is Shiskine where life goes on as normal for now.

Corrie constitutional

The villages of Corrie and Sannox at last have a representative on the Community Council.

Mrs Anna Logan was chosen at an AGM of the village committee last night (Thursday).

Villagers had been expecting to elect a successor to Jim Lees for several months but it was discovered late on Thursday afternoon that this was unconstitutional and that a by-election had to take place.

Thankfully a crucial amendment was discovered just in time to allow the vote to go ahead.

Happy news

The Gulf War is over.

And now the soldiers and their families are looking forward to their return home.

And Corporal Allan Dickie of Brodick has an even better homecoming present – a new baby boy.

For last night, in Germany, his wife Caroline gave birth to Scott Kerr Dickie a wee brother for Joanne.

Ordination

On Wednesday 27 February, Tom Pringle of Shiskine was ordained in the Cathedral of the Isles at Millport.

It was a most impressive service attended by Tom's family and friends and a large number of the Arran congregation. On July 2 he will be formally instituted as priest-in-charge of the congregation at Sandbraes House, Whiting Bay.

Arran ladies hockey

The island's ladies hockey team took on Glasgow High School in Lamlash on Saturday.

Glasgow certainly entered into the spirit of things by making this their 1991 tour and bringing their entourage for the weekend.

The home team's Whiting Bay mole informed them that Glasgow were quietly confident of a win so this fired up the Arran team even more. But despite this confidence, the 1-0 victory was Arran's.

Thank you

Bob and Mandy would like to thank Hamish Thomson, Tom Gilmore and other friends who helped when their car went out on self drive last week.

They would also like to tank the police for bringing the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Men's darts results

From 5 March: Andy's 6 Shurig 6 (G), Cameronia (G) 2 Rock 10, Ormidale (G) 6, Breadalbane 6, Brodick Bar 7 Kinloch (G) 5, Kiscadale 4 Catacol (G) 8 and PHT 3 Anchor (G) 9.



The island's girls football team took part in the Arran heat of the Scottish Health Cup Soccer Sevens on Saturday. b10twe01



High School pupils Angie Haggarty, Vivien Keir and Linda Taylor are pictured taking part in the Arran heritage Project last week. They were talking to two gentlemen whose memories went all the way back to the last century; Mr Willi Hamilton (93) and Mr Alex Sillars (95). b10twe04



Arran Aromatics came top in the Scottish Marketing Awards, small company category at a special ceremony in Glasgow City Chambers on Monday. The photograph shows entrepreneur Iain Russell with his wife Janet and fellow director Jan Murrrie, left. b10twe02



John Smith of Whiting Bay who won the best exhibit in the Spring Bulb Show with John Corbett junior who received the Neil McLean Cup on behalf of Brodick Primary School. b10twe03

Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles



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Or email us at:

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week the first people to correctly guess the whereabouts of Archie was Christine and Kirsten from Bathgate, West Lothian. Well done to both of you as you correctly said that he was at the boatyard at Lamlash Pier. This week Archie is sitting next to a beautiful old bell. Can anyone tell us where that bell is?

02_b10arc01



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Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
Scottish Country Dancing
Indoor Bowls
Youth Club

Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 6pm-7pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm

SATURDAY 12th MARCH

Karate
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)

Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am

SUNDAY 13th MARCH

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

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

MONDAY 14th MARCH

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

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

TUESDAY 15th MARCH

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice

Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall - 2pm
Park Terrace, Lamlash, 10am - 2pm

WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH

Hockey
Tae KwonDo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Selt Making Class
Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Yoga for Every Body
Senior Badminton
Museum, Archives & Geneology Service
Aquafizz
Yogalates
Circuit Training
Elderly Persons Forum - SPT
Save The Children Coffee Morning in aid of Liby

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10am - 11.30am
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 11am
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm

THURSDAY 17th MARCH

General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Music & Drama Rehearsals
Lochranza Craft Club
Coffee Morning
Table Tennis
Youth Club
Brodict Bridge Club
Senior Fitness
Pilates
Pub Quiz
Brodict Embroidery Group
Arran Youth Foundations
The Wee Blether - soup & sandwiches

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

FRIDAY 18th MARCH

Arran Pipe Band Practice
Quiz
Aquafizz
Yogalates
Seniors Badminton (Over 50)
Ladies Indoor Bowls
Mens Indoor Bowls
Over 21's Disco
Arran Youth Foundations

Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Behind Library, 7pm - 9pm

SATURDAY 19th MARCH

Spring Fling
Arran Theatre & Arts Trust presents 'Pot Noodle'

Pirnmill Primary School, 11.30am - 2pm
Community Theatre, 8pm



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

RECRUITMENT

HOMESTYLES, Brodick
Staff member required for a seasonal position. March – September.
 3 days per week Thursday/Friday/Saturday
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 Please apply in writing to
 Mrs Aileen Thomson
 At the above address.

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Following the completion of the first phase of our housing development at Millhill we have now completed Phase II

Plots 12 and 13 are now available for sale at a fixed price of £250,000.00.
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 Please contact Helen Thomson on 01770 600242 or at helen@thomsonconstruction.co.uk

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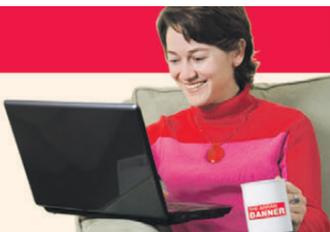
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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 13 March
 Shiskine, 11am
 Sunday School in the Church Hall
 (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
 Rev David Karoon

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 13 March
 Holy Communion 11am.
 Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar
 Coffee after service
Wednesday 16 March
 Holy Communion 12.15pm.
 All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 (SCO15072)
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 13 March
 Rev. Gilliam Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches:
 All welcome, including families; children's area

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 13 March
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 7pm
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
 Ormidale Pavilion
 Brodick.
Sunday 13 March
 10.45am Communion
 Tea and Coffee from 11.10am
 11.30am - For all the family
 Speaker: Rev Willie Wright

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 North Arran: Brodick,
 Corrie, Lochranza,
 Pirmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Minister
 Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
 Mrs Jean Hunter.
 Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome
Sunday 13 March
 Brodick Church 10.30am
 Corrie Church 12pm
 Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am at Lochranza
 Shiskine Church 12pm
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 (SCO14005)
Sunday 13 March
 Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and in Craigielea at 3.15pm to which all friends are invited.
 All most welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Morning Mass
 11am

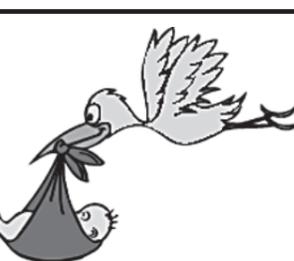
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Sunday 13 March
 Meeting for worship and discussion, 11am
 Brodick Library
 Enquiries to Jeny 302779
 All very welcome.

DEATHS

HOLLAS - ELLAN
 Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday 4th March 2011. Ellen, beloved wife of the late Bill and dear mum of Eleanor. Funeral took place on Thursday 10th March.

KAY THOMAS FLOCKHART
 Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Saturday 5th March 2011. Tommy aged 92 years, beloved husband of the late Ella and father of Gordon and Valerie, also beloved and loving husband of Isobel and stepfather of Douglas and Malcolm. Funeral service in Lochranza Church on Friday 11th March at 12 noon followed by interment in Lochranza Cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

BIRTHS


 Robbie & Elaine Duncan
 Are delighted to announce the birth of their first grandson Adam Gorrie Duncan on Tuesday 1st March at Edinburgh Royal Maternity Hospital.
 A lovely little son for Kerr and Debbie and a little brother for Isla Catherine aged 2 years.

BIRTHS



YOUNG
 Craig and Karen are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter - Molly Seona, born 25th January.
 A 4th grandchild for Bill & Christine.

PERSONALS

We would like to thank family and friends for their beautiful gifts and cards we received at our Silver Wedding celebrations.
 Special thanks to Holly and Scott for the wonderful and delicious buffet at Café Rosaburn. Vicky for her taxi service and washing up and lastly to Kath, Sandra and Rachel for their 500 mile round trip to spend the afternoon with us.
Thank you all
Love Boris and Brenda.

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TRAVEL IRON Tel 302949
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MISCELLANEOUS

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Kenneth Gibson MSP
will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 10 January	
Pirmill Village Hall	11.30-12.30
Kildonan Village Hall	13.45-14.45
Lamlash ACVS Office	15.30-16.30

No appointment necessary

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

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?
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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GARDEN TIDY SCHEME

The Council's Garden Tidy Scheme which is limited to grass and hedge cutting will recommence on Monday 11 April 2011.
 The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis."
 To be eligible the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:
 Be Aged 75 and over.
 Or
 Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.
 Or
 Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA high rate (Mobility) or highest rate (care).
 To apply to the scheme contact the Council by telephone from Monday 7 March on 0845 603 0594. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the telephone application process and payment for the scheme will be taken. The charge for the scheme is £50 plus vat at 20% (£60). Applications will close on 31 March 2011.
 Where applicants do not have access to a telephone an application form can be collected at your local Council Office.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING 2010

North Ayrshire Council will consider the findings of the Audit of Best Value and Community Planning 2010 at a meeting on Wednesday 16 March at 2pm in Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.
 The Council is currently awaiting the Accounts Commission's findings on the Best Value 2 report from Audit Scotland which states that North Ayrshire Council's overall performance is satisfactory and that the Council shows fair prospects for future improvement.
 Copies of the report can be viewed on the Council's website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
 If you wish to receive a copy of the report by post please call 01294 324137

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES) (NO. 1) ORDER 201(?)

The North Ayrshire Council propose to consider the introduction of a traffic regulation order for the provision of disabled persons parking places at various locations throughout North Ayrshire.
 Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (No. 1) Order 201(?), together with the schedule and the statement of reasons for proposing to make this traffic regulation order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of :-
 Head of Infrastructure and Design Services
 North Ayrshire Council
 Perceton House
 Irvine KA11 2AL
 Corporate Services
 North Ayrshire Council
 1st Floor (Legal & Licensing)
 Cunninghame House
 Irvine KA12 8EE
 Any person wishing to object to these proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services (Roads), Perceton House, Girdle Toll, Irvine, KA11 2AL by Friday 8 April 2011.

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine* between the hours of 9am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
 Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the address below by 1 April 2011.
 Any representations received will be open to public view.
 *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

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

Notice of application to be published under regulation 20(1)
Application No: 11/00105/PP **Address:** Old School House, Kilmory, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8PQ. **Proposed Development:** Conversion of old school building to form 1.5 storey dwelling house.
Application No: 11/00106/PP **Address:** The Lookout, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8JN. **Proposed Development:** Demolition of existing buildings and erection of two storey detached dwellinghouse with associated parking.

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE





Above: The line-up of youngsters at the Auchrannie karate tournament. 02_b10kar01



Left: Tenzin Gautier of Brodick takes on an opponent from the Kilwinning club. 02_b10kar02

Below: Joel Armitage receiving his first-place medal. 02_b10kar04



Kids enjoy annual karate tournament

Forty-two youngsters gathered in Auchrannie Sports Hall last Saturday for an annual karate tournament.

Around 20 were members of the Arran club that meets every Saturday at Auchrannie and the rest had come over from the mainland for the day. The tournament was organised by Sensei Stewart Wallace who runs the two clubs in Kilwinning and Arran.

All the children were kitted out smartly in Karate

Gi uniforms with a variety of different coloured belts, depending on their experience. And they were extremely focussed and well-behaved.

The short bouts lasted only a few minutes and all took place at speed on a cushioned mat. Points were scored for closest strikes with hands or feet, but without actually making contact.

At the end of the tournament, certificates, medals and plaques were handed out.

Auchrannie Winter Bowls

The results from February are as follows:

Tuesday 1 February: 17 bowlers, I Davidson, C Weir and C Haggarty.

Thursday 3 February: 14 bowlers, J McGovern, I Davidson and P McCalla.

Tuesday 8 February: 19 bowlers, P McCalla, S Allan and N Pringle.

Thursday 10 February: 14 bowlers, I Davidson, C Haggarty and N Pringle.

Tuesday 15 February: 17 bowlers, T Wooden, J Steed, Whattam.

Thursday 17 February: 14 bowlers, C Haggarty and N Pringle.

Tuesday 22 February: 15 bowlers, P McCalla and C Haggarty.

Thursday 24 February: 11 bowlers, C Weir, D Hendry and N Pringle.

The trophies will be presented on Tuesday 29 March at 6.50pm and the final game of the Winter Bowls will be played at 7pm on Thursday 31 March.

Brodie Golf Club Clochendichter

This month's ties saw the Knowe team, out in front and looking to cement their place at the top of the league table, against a resurgent Alma team and the Village against a depleted Street team.

The weekend started badly for Street captain Calum Mcfadzean who turned up with only six players after being knocked back by over 15 members who were asked to fill the slots available in his team. Village captain Matt took advantage and gave himself an easy victory. Both he and vice captain Sid were handed victory without striking a single blow putting their team in a very good position. The Village went on to win six games and halve another with young Findley Sillars winning the Streets only game of the day to salvage some pride and take their points tally into double figures.

The Knowe with one eye on the trophy were brought back to earth by a rejuvenated Alma team fresh off the back of a good win against the Village in the last round. Iain Macdonald tried his best to inspire the Knowe with some high quality golf including two net hole-in-ones on the way to winning his game three up. An overall

tie of four each dramatically changes the outlook on the table, which stands: Knowe 40 points, Village 36 points, Alma 26 points, Street 10 points. Individual scores were as follows: Knowe v Alma - Gordon Robertson v Len Hartley 1up, 3up Iain MacDonald v Peter McCalla, 1up Gordon Hendry v Donald McKinnie, Bryce Walker v Sam McCalla won 3&2, 3&2 Dougie Robertson v Henry Tait, Alastair Dobson v Brian Smith half-match, Kenny McMillan v Donald Rudge won 3&2, Davie Hendry v Gus Robertson half match. Village v Street - Matt Keir won, Sid Sillars won, 4&3 Jimmy Armit v John Hartley, 4&2 Iain McMillan v Calum McFadzean, 5&4 John McKean v Ross Butchard, Ally Hume v Mike Adams half-match, Alan Hart v Findley Sillars 1up, 4&2 Angus Raeburn v Nicol Hume.

The final round takes place on March 20 with the Knowe taking on the Village and Alma taking on the Street.

Brodie Golf Club

Wednesday 2 March, Wednesday Winter Cup, 17 played for the remaining trophy the Walter and Dorothy Bainbridge Salver a stableford competition. There was only one magic two carded

by John Beattie. 1 Hamish McArthur 79-17=62, 2 Derek Roxburgh 68-5=63, 3 Charlie O'Neill 80-16=64.

The winner of the Salver was Hamish McArthur with a creditable 36 points well done Hamish. In the chase for the major trophy Eric Thompson remains in pole position with only three weeks left. Will he stay there or will Dougie Robertson or Charlie O'Neill pip him at the post or will someone come out of the pack and overtake them, all will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Sunday 6 March, Sweep, 12 played. Reduced numbers due to the AGA Winter League at Whiting Bay, but some decent scoring on a cold blustery day. 1 R McGunnigle (9)63, 2 I Macmillan (13)64, 3 R McCrae (7)64, Scratch J Duncan 69. There was only one two, John McKean being the lucky/skilful one. **Fixtures:** Sunday 13 March, Brandon and Winter Cup, open draws at 9am and 12pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 1 March, Winter Cup. 1 John McGovern 63, 2 Mark Sherwood 64, 3 Denise Sherwood 67. Scratch Mark Sherwood 69. **Fixtures:** Tuesday 15 March, Final Day of the Lochranza



Hotel Cup tee off 12pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Saturday 5 March had a small but perfectly formed group come along to play this last of our fun winter mixed fours competition. Over 15 holes, stableford format, Lynn Walker and Richard Fletcher won the match with 33 points. Wolfi and Ge Ge Kroner with 24 points pipped Jill and Alan Hollick to second place which was closely fought for and went down to a countback over the last 4 holes! Worth



The final fixtures of the AGA Winter League were played at Whiting Bay Golf Club on Sunday.

noting though was the great magic two by Jill and Alan at the 4th!

Gents: Sunday 6 March, the final AGA Winter League fixture at Whiting Bay saw Whiting Bay take on last year's winners, Machrie Bay, a tie both sides needed to win to have a chance of lifting the title. The closely fought result of two games each ensured that Lamlash won the title.

Fixtures: Sunday 13 March, Ladies Monthly Medal, 11.30am. Sunday 13 March Winter Cup, final round. Saturday 19 March, Texas Scramble at 11am. Sunday 20 March, Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay.

Shiskine Golf Club

Friday 4 March, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 18 played. Silver: 1 V Parks 84-20=64, 2 A Anderson 89-19=70. Scratch

V Parks 84. Bronze: 1 A Latona 92-21=71, 2 J Hutton 108-34=74.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 5 March, 20 played in a stableford. 1 J McGovern 41pts, 2 E I Cannon 40pts, 3 J Adams 39pts BIH over A Smith. There were magic twos from E McKinnon, J Adams, M Elliott, R Logan, J Innes and D Logan.

Monday 7 March, Monday Cup, 18 played off yellow tees. 1 D price 63-11=52, 2 S Beardsley 62-7=55, 3 J Henderson 70-12=58 BIH over H McArthur. Best scratch S Beardsley 62. There were twos from S Beardsley, A McDonald, D Crawford and J Henderson.

Fixtures: Saturday 12 March, Winter Cup 8.30am and 12pm. Monday 14 March, Monday Cup at 12pm off yellow tees.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 3 March, 15 Hole Medal, 1 Andy Smith 56-12=44, 2 Allan Martin 65-15=50,

3 Jim Stewart 63-12=51. Twos sweep Allan Martin and Alan Smith.

Congratulations to Lamlash on winning the Winter League at Whiting Bay.

Fixtures: Sunday 13 March, Glenburn Cup, final round, 9.30am for 11am starts.

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Lamlash golfers top island's Winter League

Lamlash were presented with the Arran Golfers Association Duncan Trophy on Sunday afternoon after being crowned champions of the 2011 Winter league.

The final round of matches were played at Whiting Bay and AGA secretary Dougie Macfarlane said that the course was tricky to say the least mainly due to the slow bumpy greens.

But he added that the course in general is in good condition for the time of year and that thanks go to Whiting Bay for hosting and John Pennycott for starting the games on time.

First out was host club Whiting Bay against table toppers Machrie.

After a titanic tussle the two sides couldn't be separated and the match ended two games a

piece and a draw which was to prove very important on the final outcome.

Second match was Lamlash against Shiskine and although the first game went to Shiskine the last three Lamlash pairings responded very well and took the rest of the games and the match by the score of three matches to one. Final match was Brodick against Corrie, a one sided affair including a superb eight and seven win for Dougie and Jasper that saw the Brodick boys take the tie three games to one. The final standings of this superb competition saw Lamlash and Machrie swap places from last year with Lamlash being crowned champions again with the same points as Machrie but by winning one and a half games more.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Lamlash	4	3	0	1	10
Machrie	4	3	0	1	10
W/Bay	4	2	1	1	7
Brodick	4	2	2	0	6
Corrie	4	0	3	1	1
Shiskine	4	0	4	0	0



Karate kids shine at island tournament

Karate kids from all across North Ayrshire gathered on the island last weekend for their annual martial arts tournament. Joe McHugh, aged seven and his nine-year-old brother Ben were just two of the 20 members from the Arran Club that took part. They are pictured with karate instructor Sensei Stewart after they each won their respective classes. For the full report and photographs see page 15.

Brodick Bridge Club

The results for Thursday 3 March were as follows: (Boyd Trophy - match points)

1 J MacLure and A McKelvie 60.6%, 2 D Hamilton and T Martin 56.8%, 3 J and J Beattie 56.3%.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 7 March were as follows: N/S 1 M. Gardner and B J Livingstone +2580, 2 E Sillars and J McBride +2120, 3 J Maclure and A McKelvie +1850.

E/W 1 A Bilsland and T Martin -430, 2 D and M Bruce -710, 3 H Boyd and J Murchie -1050.

Bar Eden reclaim top Arran Pool League spot

With just three weeks left of the Arran pool League for 2011, Bar Eden have once again jumped to the top of the table.

After a 7-3 win over their fellow teammates, Bar Eden B, the Whiting Bay team are now sitting three points ahead of second placed Catacol.

Lost

The northend team lost their place at the top of the league after drawing 5-5 with team-Goil on Thursday night.

In other results PT1934 beat

Mac's Bar 6-0 and the PHT defeated the Drift 8-2.

This Thursday (March 17) Bar Eden play teamGoil, Mac's play Catacol, Kildonan take on the Drift and the PHT play PT1934. Bar Eden B have a bye.

The Champions of Champions tournament will be held this Sunday (March 13) from 2pm in the PHT.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bar Eden	13	8	2	3	28
Catacol	13	8	3	2	27
PT1934	13	7	3	3	24
PHT	14	7	5	2	23
Eden B	14	6	6	2	20
TeamGoil	13	4	4	5	17
Drift	14	2	5	7	13
Mac's	13	2	10	1	7
Kildonan	13	2	10	1	7

Northend back training in preparation for football season

Northend football team will resume their training at the Auchrannie Games Hall on the Tuesday 15 March at 7pm.

This will run for four weeks before moving on to the pitch in Lochranza.

Under the guidance of the new manager Davie Jeffrey and assistant Chris Traill, the team once dubbed 'The Worst in Britain' have high hopes for the season ahead.

A spokesman for the team said: 'A new squad packed with youth and experience could well take the league by storm - 2011 the year of the men from the North.'

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