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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH, 2009

No 1691 52p

Auchrannie resort announces £5 million expansion plans **Spa success – at the double**

A planning application for a substantial extension at Auchrannie could see guest accommodation virtually doubled at the Brodick spa resort in Glencloy.

Plans for the next stage of an ambitious project have been lodged with North Ayrshire Council.

If approved, the three-storey addition to the western elevation of the spa will provide 36 extra family bedrooms with six suites at the gable end on the first and second floors. The ground floor will have a thermal suite, hydrotherapy and extra spa facilities.

The family bedrooms will each have a separate bunk room to give parents some privacy from children.

Project manager Ronnie Mann said: 'This is why the Spa was created. It was always intended to expand, and the sports facilities and pool were built with more beds in mind. We need more bedrooms to justify these core facilities.'

Family

'We went for the family market and the spa concept has gone wild internationally.'

'These new bedrooms are large, each having a floor area of nearly 45 square metres and will accommodate up to two adults and two children.'

'For our long-term future we need to add on to the resort.'

The new extension will mean the loss of the Glencloy suite as it will be incorporated into a larger Cruize bar.

Tom Tracey, finance director of Visit Arran, said: 'An increase in high quality bed space is essential for tourism on Arran. There will be a spin-off from these extra beds with visitors spending in other parts of the island.'

A new Children's Playbar is shown on the plans in the car park on the approach to the Spa. It will have an activity zone, a café, teen zone, picnic area and outdoor activity area.

Ronnie said: 'We have looked at other operations at Crieff Hydro for example.'

Report by HOWARD DRIVER

It will be for children from two to 12 years old and they will have to be accompanied by adults.'

Also included in the planning application is a single-storey extension to Brambles Bistro to include an extra function suite and two meeting rooms. Ronnie added: 'At the moment when we have a function in Brambles we have lost the use of that room but this will overcome the problem.'

The first activity on site will be a £1 million project to build seven more lodges adjacent to Brambles that already have planning permission. They will be detached and of an even higher quality than the existing ones.

If the application is successful, Ronnie said that he could envisage starting on the Spa bedroom extension wing next spring. 'That will come in at around £4 million,' he said. 'The rooms are mainly aimed at families. We are seriously trying to extend the season and appealing to the pre-school sector.'

Staff

Included in the comprehensive plans are indicative outlines of a staff accommodation village on the banks of the Glencloy Water and five holiday let 'clachans' further up Glencloy. Ronnie said: 'The clachans are proposed to be in traditional courtyard style each with 10 units comprising one with four bedrooms, three with three bedrooms, five with two bedrooms and four one-bedroom studios.'

'In principle, the concept of time share could stop people buying up holiday homes on the island.'

When owner Iain Johnstone bought Auchrannie in 1987 it was a 12-bedroom small hotel, but his vision and enterprise has seen it grow into a premier island attraction.

The plans for this project are available for inspection at the council offices in Lamlash.



Brodick youngsters go book mad

Pupils at Brodick Primary School went book mad last week to raise money for Comic Relief.

The youngsters all came to school wearing their brightest red clothes to launch their annual Book Fair for World Book Day.

Classroom assistant Janet Ram-

age said: 'The school's book suppliers are working in conjunction with Comic Relief, so we decided to join in with the spirit of such a worthy cause. Over three lunch-times our library was alive with eager purchasers of books and stationery. Mums, dads, friends

and pupils milled around the stalls poring over a large variety of fiction and non-fiction.'

The school raised an impressive £430 with the support of the community. Half will be sent to Comic Relief and half used to update resources in the library. b11boo01



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Police files

Breach of the peace

A teenage boy from Lamlash was arrested at 4pm last Friday for breach of the peace onboard the 3.15pm sailing from Ardrossan to Brodick.

Vandalism

Two 13-year-old boys – one from Brodick and one from Whiting Bay – were reported to the children's reporter for vandalism after graffiti was found next to the dentists in The Douglas Centre, Brodick on Sunday at 5pm.

Arran avoids accidents

As part of the Arran Avoids Accidents event in Lamlash on Tuesday and Wednesday two Strathclyde Police motorcyclists were on the island. Police sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'While the two officers were on the island they took the opportunity to carry out random vehicle checks in and around Brodick.'

Summer ferries confirmed

Caledonian MacBrayne has confirmed that the island will continue to have a two-vessel ferry service this summer.

Mr Phil Preston, CalMac operations manager, said: 'Having considered the financial and operational issues involved for the Ardrossan to Brodick route, we will be in a position to offer MV Saturn to provide additional sailings between June and August this summer.'

'We trust that this will give

the Arran community the boost it needs in these difficult economic times.'

The two-vessel operation, which has been hailed as possibly the single biggest ferry development for the island in a generation, has been a significant success when operated over the summer months.

The MV Saturn will run alongside the MV Caledonian Isles, easing the volume of commercial traffic using the larger vessel.

Elderly driver banned

An OAP driver who caused chaos after mounting the pavement in Brodick and driving towards oncoming traffic has been banned from the road.

Donald Sym, 78, drove half on the road and half on the footpath along Brodick seafront before careering onto the wrong side of the road, forcing other drivers to swerve.

When police arrived it

emerged the pensioner was unable to read a number plate 25 yards away.

Sym, of The Old Post Office, Shannochie, Arran, admitted driving dangerously and with defective eyesight on the A841 coast road at Brodick.

Sentence was deferred at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court until later this month and Sym's licence was suspended.



Graham Tinto, Rowan Rhead and John Webster from Fairtrade Arran at Pirnmill Primary School on Friday as part of the Go Bananas road show. b11ban01

Arran youngsters go bananas for Fairtrade

Arran's youngsters went bananas last Friday to mark Fairtrade Fortnight on the island.

Lessons were halted at the island's primary schools so that children could play their part in setting a new world record

for the number of Fairtrade bananas eaten in 48 hours.

Thousands of people worldwide went bananas for Fairtrade by eating a Fairtrade banana between 12pm on March 6 and noon on March 7 as part

of the world's biggest banana-eating event.

Fairtrade Arran members Graham Tinto, John Webster and Rowan Rhead coordinated the Go Bananas event on the island.

'As part of our 'Go Bananas' road show, we visited every school on the island to explain to the youngsters the importance of Fairtrade produce,' explained Graham Tinto.

To support the initiative Arran Dairies kindly delivered a huge number of Fairtrade bananas to the schools earlier in the week.

At noon on Friday, every child at Arran's schools was given a banana to eat, as part of the world's biggest banana-eating event.

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place every March to promote fairly traded products.

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Six neighbours – Campbell Seaton and Jason Bohan, Ian and Moira Small, and Nicol and Fiona Hume – with their mystery guests Ann and Jason Watts at the first night of the Glen Rosa Come Dine With Me event. b11cam01

Dining delights in Glen Rosa

As the doom and gloom of the economic recession hits home, six neighbours in Glen Rosa, Brodick have come up with a novel idea to brighten up their Saturday nights.

Campbell Seaton and Jason Bohan, Ian and Moira Small, and Nicol and Fiona Hume are recreating the popular television show Come Dine With Me.

The television programme usually follows five amateur chefs competing against each other as they host dinner parties

for the other contestants.

Each competitor then rates the hosts performance with the winner getting a cash prize.

On Saturday night it was Campbell and Jason's turn to host the first dinner party, which was also attended by mystery guests Jason and Ann Watts.

'It's really just a bit fun,' said Campbell. 'We all score each other out of 20; ten points for food and ten for ambience. At the end of it we're going to have a night out in Glasgow

and the winning couple will have their night paid for them by the others.'

Jason and Campbell's menu was certainly very impressive.

There were Champagne cocktails and canapés to begin with followed by cheese and parsnip roulade, gin and tonic sorbet to cleanse the pallet then leek and walnut steamed puddings or venison and blueberries with Pere al cioccolato (poached pears) to finish.

As the mystery guest, Jason

Watts was able to tell us afterwards what he thought of the evening. 'The food was outstanding and the hosting was fantastic,' he said. 'They deserve 10 out of 10 for both.'

In three weeks time it will be the turn of Ian and Moira Small and Nicol and Fiona Hume will cook three weeks after that. The scores will not be revealed until the final dinner party.

See *The Banner* for the next dinner party hosted by these Brodick bon viveurs.

Nuts about Ian's signs

People are going nuts about Ian Small's pothole signs.

In the same week that Ian received warnings from North Ayrshire Council that enforcement action will be taken to remove them, his famous signs have featured in Nuts magazine.

At the end of January Ian Small had signs specially made to warn drivers about the defects on Arran roads and they were placed at several locations across the island.

NAC have warned Ian that if the signs are not 'removed immediately' he will be reported to the planning committee who will take enforcement action.

In a letter to NAC, Ian Small writes: 'In order to save the council any further expenditure which I believe should be used on improving the roads of Arran, it will not be necessary for you to take enforcement action as I intend to arrange for the signs to be removed in the very near future.'

Speaking to *The Arran Banner* this week, Ian said: 'I would like to thank everyone that has supported my campaign and apologise to those who were offended by it. I think the signs have done their job – they have certainly raised awareness again about the terrible state of Arran's roads.'

Hostel's £500,000 upgrade

Arran's only Youth Hostel is undergoing a £500,000 refurbishment in the hope that it can be reopened in time for the summer season.

The Lochranza Youth Hostel has been closed since late last summer and there had been fears locally that it would remain closed indefinitely.

In a letter to Campbell Laging, community councillor for Lochranza and Catacol, Keith Legge, chief executive of the

Scottish Youth Hostels Association said: 'I would like to reassure you that SYHA greatly values Lochranza Youth Hostel and this is the reason why such a substantial investment is being invested in Lochranza so as to provide better facilities to meet the expectations of the modern budget traveller.'

'I hope this explanation goes some way to easing the community's concern regarding the future of Lochranza.'

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MP calls for concessionary fares on Arran ferry services

Katy Clark MP for North Ayrshire and Arran has called for ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne to work with the Scottish Government to introduce concessionary fares on ferry services to and from Arran as soon as possible.

Calmac does not make concessionary fares available for

passengers travelling to and from Arran although the company does on some services such as Gourock to Kilcreggan.

Katy said: 'Ferries provide a lifeline service for islanders. Many make the journey to the mainland on a frequent basis in order to seek employment, education or general living ne-

cessities. The expense incurred by islanders who frequently make the journey to the mainland is considerable. This is particularly the case for families who travel to the mainland with a car.

'Cheaper fares will make a real difference to the budgets of residents who use the ferry the most.

Encourage

'In addition it may also encourage islanders to make more journeys to the mainland and similarly visitors to the island, boosting both the local economy on and off the island.

'I understand that the current Scottish Ferries Review has noted the concerns of local islanders regarding fares. However, the Review is not due to be completed for many years and this is a real issue now. I am therefore writing to Calmac and the Scottish Government urging them to consider making concessionary fares available immediately.'



Katy Clark MP



Learning science with a laugh

Brodick and Whiting Bay children learn how 'them bones' make up the human body.

b11gen01

Arran's older primary children were treated to a science lesson with a difference last week.

The venue was Whiting Bay Primary and children from the other Arran schools were bussed in to take part in a Generation Science show.

Generation Science is part of Edinburgh International Science Festival's 2009 schools touring programme which brings science to life with over

1,500 performances in classrooms from Stranraer to Shetland.

Arran youngsters were entertained by the Bones and Body Show which was a fast-paced, funny and interactive performance.

They learned how the human body is put together and how different limbs and bones go to make up their daily movements at work and play.

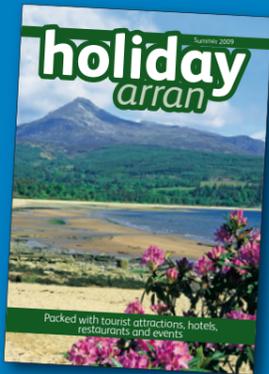
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Good turnout at show AGM

The annual general meeting of Arran Farmers Society was held in the Kinloch Hotel on Tuesday February 24.

Chairman Neil Henderson welcomed a good turnout of members and commented that last year's show was very successful despite the wet conditions. As a result of the considerable damage to the field, the society has looked at alternative venues.

The 2009 show will be held at Glenkiln, Lamblash on Wednesday August 5 by kind permission of J K and C Bone. It is anticipated that the 2010 show will be at Balmichael on Wednesday August 11.

At the meeting it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Keith Irving be appointed an Honorary Vice President of the society in due recognition of his services to the show in the past.

Tribute

A new addition is Kenny Bone as director. The chairman paid tribute to society members John Miller, Libby Cook and James Brown who had passed away.

Directors due to retire this year were re-elected for a further two years. They are: Alastair Currie, Tony Brookes, Hugh Stewart, John Clarke, Janis Murchie, Robin Irving

and David Henderson. A new class being introduced at this year's show is for 'Any sheep with best natural coloured fleece' such as Jacob or Hebridean. Rosettes are being kindly donated by the British Coloured Sheep Breeders Association.

The show sub committee comprises Neil Henderson, Susie Murchie, Robert Stewart, Howard Driver, John McBride, Donald Robertson, Allan Nicol and secretary Christine McBride.

The next meeting of the sub committee will be at 8pm on Monday 16 March in Arran High School.

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Sally Gandon and Lynn Raeburn were joined by Fiona Hume, Sarah Gandon, Libby Raeburn, Megan McAllister and Kirsty Irving for the official open of Jolly Molly. b11mol01

Jolly Molly opens its doors

The village centre in Brodick was bustling with people on Saturday afternoon as a new shop opened its doors.

Sally Gandon and Lynn Raeburn opened Jolly Molly on Saturday in the unit on Brodick shorefront which used to house Kames Antiques and before that the Puffin Tearoom.

The shop sells gifts and accessories for the home.

Despite the current doom and gloom surrounding the economic recession Sally and Lynn are both very positive about their business.

The shop unit had lain empty for a number of years after the closure of Kames Antiques

and has now been completely transformed with a full refurbishment.

Sally said: 'The team working on the project have been fantastic - very committed and completely in tune with our vision. Lynn has really pulled it together and encouraged everyone working on the project to work hard and achieve the desired result. I am delighted that Lynn has agreed to run the shop as she really has a flair for style and has a lovely way with people.'

Sally and Lynn met when the former bought Rowanbank from Lynn and her husband Angus in 2007.

They pair immediately clicked and realised they had much in common; in particular they had the same taste of home interiors, which is reflected, in the goods sold in the shop.

'The name Jolly Molly came about when one of my friend's daughters was asking what we would be selling in the new shop,' said Sally. 'The girl asked if we would be selling 'Jolly Mollys' - double oven mitts. We just decided it would be a good name for the shop.'

Residents' concern at housing survey

A housing survey currently being carried out on Arran has caused a few raised eyebrows.

It is being conducted on behalf of North Ayrshire Council by a private company, the John Martin Partnership.

Many residents have received letters saying that their property has been selected at random to take part in the survey and reassuring them that the information will remain strictly confidential.

The letter says: 'The surveyor will have an identity card with name and photograph. The survey will not involve any disruption to your property and will last approximately 40 to 60 minutes.'

Concern

It is aimed solely at the owner/occupiers and several residents have expressed concern at why the council should want to know information about their private property.

One said: 'Is this a back door method of reassessing my house for council tax?'

Local councillor Margie Cur-

rie explained: 'It is a government requirement that councils must carry out this survey. It is being done by private consultants who are paid by the council.'

'I can reassure residents that it is nothing to do with council tax. The survey is intended to highlight fuel poverty and loss of heat by poor insulation. We are the last part of North Ayrshire to have this survey.'

Another resident said: 'It was

just a wee boy that came to see me. He took a few notes on an electronic notepad and asked to look at the loft and water tank insulation. He was only in the house for 15 minutes.'

Margie Currie added: 'The council is only the middle man in all this. The surveys may identify cases where there are grants available to improve insulation, for example.'

'People are at liberty to say 'no' to the survey.'

Financial BANNER

REMEMBER REMEMBER!!
As we approach the end of the fiscal year (the government's tax year) it is worth remembering the valuable personal allowances you still enjoy as a UK taxpayer.

You may think that this is an obvious thing to say, however, in practice as a nation we are saving less of our after tax income than at any other time in history. This is all the more strange, given the fact we have one of the most punitive tax systems in the European Union.

According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the average UK worker needs to work until the 5th May this year just to pay his taxes. It is only after this date he is actually earning for himself.

So, be mindful of the allowances below:

Individual Savings Accounts £7,200 per person (£3,600 of which can be a cash deposit element)

Inheritance Tax allowances £3,000 (to any one individual) £250 to as many individuals as you wish £5,000 (parents gifting to children in lieu of marriage) £2,500 (by grandparents) Gifts to charities and political parties



No upper limit

Capital Gains Tax allowance £9,600 (gains that exceed this amount are taxed at the rate applicable to you)

Please note, the above is not exhaustive.

So, at a time when arguably financial prudence is needed more than ever, the following may interest you:

Last year more people bought a designer watch than took our an ISA. Last year we spend £3 billion on electronic gadgets we already owned. We spend just under £2 billion on cosmetic surgery. Last year more people bought an Aston Martin DB7 than effected a purchase life annuity.

So, what conclusions can we draw from these facts about where we are as a nation?

I will leave that one to you!

Enjoy the lighter nights and have a great month.

Kenneth S Morrison DipPFS Managing Director Advanced Financial Strategies Ltd

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Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson with Father Noel Colford at the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh. b11ken01

Priest's parliament honour

Arran's Catholic priest, Father Noel Colford of the Holy Cross Church, enjoyed a special guided tour of the Scottish parliament recently with the island's MSP Kenneth Gibson.

The priest was invited to give the Time For Reflection message to the assembled MSPs and government officers two weeks ago.

Father Colford told the *Ban-*

ner: 'It was quite an honour.'

In his message, Father Colford referred to religious and political bigotry. He told the MSPs: 'The Scottish government's campaign against sectarianism is one that all Christians and indeed everyone should support. If the Scottish parliament wishes the people of Scotland to treat one another with respect it should lead by example.'

Lots in store at Filmobile

There are some exciting films coming to the Filmobile at Arran High School in Lamlash this week.

At 6pm on Thursday night there's a treat in store for the whole family as Disney's latest animated movie 'Bolt' is on offer.

Later on Thursday night Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in the critically acclaimed 'Doubt' set in 1964.

The multi-Oscar winning 'Slumdog Millionaire' comes to the cinema on Friday night.

Admission Prices: adults £5, children (12yrs and under) £4. Pay at the door on the day. Doors open 30 minutes before screening.

Please note early start 6pm on Thursday March 19 for family matinee.

Schoolchildren watch accidents exercise

The 10th annual Arran Avoids Accidents exercise took place over two days this week.

The activities on Tuesday and Wednesday involved most of Arran's primary and secondary children and all the emergency services.

On Tuesday primary children had sessions of fun and learning at Lamlash fire station including a mock evacuation from a smoke-filled room in the fire station yard.

High school pupils were brought to Lamlash pier by bus on Wednesday to witness at first hand emergency scenarios involving rescues from a burning boat, saving a casualty in the water and treating a make-believe heart attack victim in the midst of all the activity.

Community Safety Co-ordinator Liz Brady from Ayr brought the whole thing together, having taken over from Tam Stewart who retired last year.



Lifeboat crewman Stephen Nelson shows high school pupils the safety features on the Boys Brigade lifeboat at Lamlash pier b11lif01

Terry warns of new telephone scam

A Lochranza resident is warning Arran residents about a new telephone scam.

Terry Crawley of Seabreeze West said: 'It sounded so au-

thentic that some unwary people might be taken in.

'I had a phone call at home from a woman who said she was from the Bank of Scotland

and I had been overcharged on a transaction and they wanted to give me money back. But then she said it would have to be paid back to my credit card account and could I give her the details.

'She even said that to prove it was genuine she would give me my current account number and bank sort code. Then the

penny dropped; they could have got that information from any cheque that I have issued. I realised it was a scam and just put the phone down on her.'

Police sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'I would advise members of the public to never give any account details over the phone. This sounds like another classic scam.'

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New legislation safeguards the future of Arran schools

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson has been instrumental in bringing in a government bill to safeguard the future of rural schools.

As deputy convener of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee he welcomed the announcement of the bill introduced this week to ensure a legal presumption against the closure of rural schools.

Cost alone will now be ruled out as a sole reason for closing these schools. Mr Gibson said: 'As the person who first formulated this policy and had it adopted by the SNP back in March 1998, I warmly welcome this Bill.

'Schools are at the heart of rural and island communities. Cost alone should not be a factor in the future of these schools. The educational needs of a rural area, transport, pupil welfare and the economic and social impact of closing a small school must also be considered.

'If we encourage people to come to live, work and raise families in our most fragile rural and island communities we must provide schools within those communities for them to send their children to.

'During the winter of 2007/2008 there was great concern that Corrie Primary School might be closed, lead-

ing to a domino effect across Arran. This caused great stress, worry and was an unnecessary distraction to parents, pupils, staff and the wider community.

'The proposed new legislation will make the prospect of a closure much less likely.

'During the eight years of Labour/Liberal administration 51 rural schools closed in Scotland. The SNP Government has ensured none have closed since. To safeguard Arran's schools for the future, this legislation will ensure that whoever is in power at Holyrood will have great difficulty in overcoming the protection for rural schools we will enshrine in law.'

A Sunday snowman in Lamlash



The strong blast of wintry weather last weekend gave islanders a welcome opportunity to frolic in the snow.

It didn't lie for long, but local children took advantage of the prolonged flurry of snow on Sunday morning to play in the white fluffy stuff before it turned to slush.

David Craig rolled back the years with his family in Lamlash to make this snowman at the picnic site at Monamhor Glen. b11sno01no



Passla Gautier with her two children Yeshe and Tenzen and the children of Brodick Nursery group celebrating Losar or the Tibetan New Year in Brodick Hall. b11tib01

Happy Losar for the Tibetan New Year

The children of Brodick Nursery group celebrated the Tibetan New Year with a special party recently.

Nursery leader Vicki Yuill said: 'Understanding and celebrating other cultures and beliefs is an important part of our nursery curriculum.

'Being a voluntary and partnership nursery we really wel-

come and value parental involvement.'

Passla Gautier is a parent of two children at Brodick Nursery and she comes originally from Tibet.

Vicki added: 'We have invited Passla along to tell us about the celebrations. Some of the children will be in national dress as will Passla herself.

'We will learn how to greet one another in Tibetan and do some fun activities.'

Passla and her two children Yeshe and Tenzen took centre stage at the celebrations and mum had made a special New Year cake and iced it with 'Happy Losar'.

Losar means 'New Year' and in Tibet it is the most important celebration of the year with festivities lasting up to 15 days.

Among the delicacies enjoyed on this special day are a special noodle called guthuk made of nine ingredients including dried cheese and various grains, and dough balls with hidden ingredients such as chillies, salt, wool and rice that are supposed to be a light hearted reference to the character of the recipient.

Kilmory's new committee

At the business meeting of Kilmory Rural on March 9 members voted for the new committee.

It was agreed that a donation of £85 be given to the Hospital Supporters League from money raised at the Burns night.

Discussion was then held about items for the Show in August. The competition for a knitted baby blanket was won by Joan Lewis and the competition for a baby photograph was won by Janet Mulholland.

The next rural meeting will be on April 13 when the speaker will be Robin Gray. The competitions are for muffins and a gent's tie.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

Businesses should be planning for the future

It was revealed this week that a £5 million expansion is on the cards for one of Arran's biggest hotels.

The Auchrannie Hotel and Spa Resort has gradually grown in size since the Johnstone family bought it more than 20 years ago and is now the island's largest private employer with up to 150 staff members in the summer.

Speaking to *The Banner* as the island tourist officer in 1982, five years before he bought the Auchrannie, Ian Johnstone said: 'We've got to fight the climate and do an awful lot more, not only to get visitors to come to Arran, but when they get here to give them services and something to do. We need a comprehensive leisure centre, swimming pool and all ancillary activities.'

Looking around the resort today it is clear to see that the constant expansion and redevelopment of the original country house hotel has secured its place as one of Scotland's most popular destinations.

With daily reminders that Britain is bogged down in an economic recession it is refreshing to see a successful island business planning for the future.

Instead of derailing expansion plans, the management at the Auchrannie quite rightly recognise that they must keep moving with the times if the business is to continue to grow and be a popular destination for years to come.

This week a new shop opened in Brodick and the Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash reopened after an extensive refurbishment. Thank goodness these businessmen and women have not been deterred by the financial climate either.

News of a terrorist attack in Northern Ireland on Saturday night and the shooting of a policeman on Monday came as a real shock.

Police were responding to a call for help from a distressed woman in County Armagh on Monday when shots were fired killing PC Stephen Carroll.

The brutal murder of two soldiers and wounding of others outside the Massereene Barracks in Antrim almost had the capacity to turn the clock back 30 years to the height of the Irish 'troubles'.

Both of these shocking events are a stunning reminder of just how difficult peace processes can be.

Beyond the national consensus of condemnation, the shooting will test the precarious elements of this courageous peace process as police, politicians and diplomats find a way forward behind closed doors.

Northern Ireland is not very far from Arran. Unlike Iraq or the Gaza Strip, on a sunny day we can see the Irish coast clearly.

As a country we cannot allow a handful of brutal terrorists to derail a decade of peace.

We can only hope that real peace will last because peace has already taken place in the hearts and lives of the multitudes.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8: 39)

press policy

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Building a better North Ayrshire

Sir,
As all of us could have predicted, both Ian Small's choice of ARSED for his campaign and the proposed movement of timber traffic, have ruffled a few feathers.

One complainant is so incensed that he draws attention away from the point of Ian's actions and wonders off into irrelevance.

Another reminds us that timber floats.

Without becoming involved in a pedantic argument, the first complainant should be advised that Mr Small used the letters A R S E D as a mnemonic, not as a word.

The second should be reminded that the movement of thousands of tonnes of timber takes place throughout Scotland on a daily basis.

The unfortunate circumstance that links the above subjects is that Arran's roads, unlike those elsewhere in the country, are in reality dirt tracks covered with a layer of tarmac.

North Ayrshire Council has produced an interesting document entitled Council Plan 2008-2011 'Building a Better North Ayrshire'.

This 37-page missive commits the council to many admirable causes including a pledge to spend £0.9 million in traffic management schemes in Largs, Dalry, Beith and Kilwinning.

Is this an indicator of the council's apparent concern for road safety?

This is the same council that by an apparent system of crisis management presides over a network of poorly maintained, twisting, hillside roads that border steep unguarded slopes, deep open ditches, no hard shoulders, adverse road cambers on some bends and damaged, bent, broken and obscured signs.

And all of these are bus and tourist routes.

The fact that Arran has roads that cannot carry standard vehicles, i.e. those with legal limits, without raising safety concerns, is unacceptable, and the absence of adequate standards of maintenance and repair resulting in a constant litany of serious damage to vehicles,

is most certainly not within the spirit of 'Building a Better North Ayrshire'.

Yours,
Ian McCallum
Whiting Bay

Red letter day

Sir,
I am sitting at my window watching the Caledonian Isles wending her way across the water towards the beautiful snow-capped mountains of Arran. What a truly enchanting scene.

Thank you so much for printing my letter about the poem written by John Watson Lawrie. It meant so much to me. I have been visiting Arran since I was a small child.

Saturday is always a red letter day for me. I look forward to reading about the weekly events on Arran in words and pictures. I really enjoyed the reports about Burns suppers.

The youthful Burns supper in Shiskine certainly seems to have gone with a swing. I am so glad the Arran children are taking an interest in the work of our great Bard. I possess an excellent book which incorporates every song and poem written by Burns. It contains a facsimile of the original document of Scots Wha Hae which he sent to Captain Miller of Dalswinton. This is an extract from his letter which reveals the feelings of the poet.

'O liberty Thou mak'st the gloomy face of Nature gay,

Giv'st beauty to the sun, pleasure to the day.

It does me so much good to meet with a Man whose honest bosom glows with the generous enthusiasm, the heroic daring, of Liberty, that I could not forbear sending you a composition of my own on the subject, which I really think is in the best manner.'

My best wishes to *Banner* staff and my Arran friends.

Yours,
Fiona Fraser
West Kilbride
Ayrshire

Where Are You Now?

Sir,
The pupils and staff at Shiskine Primary School would love to find out the whereabouts of former pupils and staff.

We plan to study some parts of the world that you have travelled to (both home and overseas) and would love to make contact with you.

We plan to host a Shiskine Primary Homecoming morning and afternoon to which we would like to invite former pupils, members of staff and locals.

The dates are Friday September 25, 2pm-3.30pm and Saturday September 26, 11am-1pm. During the open sessions, we plan to have pupils' work related to this topic on display, old photos, memorabilia etc. and to give people the opportunity to look around the school.

We would be grateful if anyone has any old photos, medals, newspaper cuttings etc. about the school, which they would be prepared to let us borrow.

Please help us to make contact with as many people as possible.

You can contact Shiskine School by phone, 01770860207 or email: contactus@shiskine.n-ayrshire.sch.uk.

Yours,
Susan Dobson
Teacher
Shiskine Primary School
Shiskine

Parking restrictions

Sir,
I visited the North Ayrshire Council office in Lamlash to read the consultation document on proposed restrictions on the A841 in Brodick. Whilst improvements could be made in Brodick the real problem is the lack of repair to the island's roads and this remains the main problem.

The danger to everyone using the roads is self-evident and has become a local scandal. The number of cars sustaining damage is far more dangerous than introducing yellow lines. I have the following comments on the consultation paper: The restrictions end at the library. Beyond the library is parking to be permitted on either side of the narrow A841?

Due to the parked cars, buses, lorries and cars will often reduce the road to a 'single' lane. This will result in tailbacks through the village. People using the Post Office in Alma Road will have nowhere to park. It is not altogether clear if

there will be double yellow lines everywhere. Will some areas have single lines? No indication is given as to when these lines will be enforced.

Many tourist villages/towns throughout the UK have yellow lines that are only enforced between say May - October as it is recognised that the winter months do not warrant any restriction.

Arran is a holiday island and relies on visitors many of whom come here to get away from 'yellow' lines and parking restrictions.

Yours,
Jean Bentley
Darag Bruach
Lamlash

Budget concessions

Sir,
I can fully understand the motivation of the Conservative Westminster candidate in trying to find relevance for his party in Scottish affairs.

Mr Lardner, however, should stick more closely to the facts. The £324 million, which he suggested the Tories have 'secured' in 'concessions', is less than one per cent of the Scottish parliament budget.

It also includes resources already dedicated to fulfilling the SNP's own manifesto commitments, such as cuts in rates for small businesses and increasing police numbers.

The Scottish government will, no doubt, welcome the support of any party in advancing policies to benefit the people of Scotland.

This is just how the Scottish parliament works. However, it is fundamentally dishonest for that party to pretend that such policies are exclusively their own domain.

The regeneration fund is a great idea, but not an exclusively Tory one. SNP MSPs had already discussed putting a similar proposal forward, and indeed, Labour, too, endorsed the concept.

HelpOurHighStreet.com adds nothing to the initiative, and looks to me more like a crude attempt by the Conservatives to harvest the e-mail addresses of the gullible.

Yours,
Malcolm Kerr
Cairndale
Brodick

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Fourth place for Arran and Kintyre

Although Wullie Stevenson and his bitch Jan won the Arran heats of the 2009 nursery sheepdog trials three weeks ago, they were unable to travel to Campbeltown last weekend to form part of the Kintyre/Arran team.

However, four of the Arran committee took the trouble to head over the Kilbrannan Sound to help out with the organisation at Clochkeil Farm where the finals were being held for the first time, by kind permission of J and R Barr.

Willie McConnell said: 'We all had a great day. We were really pleased to come fourth in the overall team placings despite not having anyone taking part on the day.'

The competition saw 320 people coming to the area, including competitors, spectators and media crews.

Hospitality

Argyll and Bute Council awarded the competition £250 to fund hospitality and the local common good fund also put £250 towards the event.



George Tod with Spice, Willie McConnell with the Banner and Geoff Brookes with Shona; all helping out at the finals of the Scottish finals of the nursery sheepdog trials. c11dog02

Over the winter all the nine areas competed with the top five from each area qualifying for the final and taking to the field during Saturday.

The weather stayed dry for most of the day with the odd downpour of rain making a surprise visit.

In the end Kintyre's team consisted of Alex McCuish from Skipness who won the event last year, with Peter Clark, John MacKillop, John McLauchlan and Jimmy McEachran.

Prizes were presented by Margaret Barr, from Clochkeil Farm and catering was supplied by Argyll Bakeries.

The Kintyre/Arran team came fourth.

Judged

The event which started at 8am was judged by John Macdougall from Drymen who made the following placings:

Individuals: 1 with 89 points, Viv Parkes with Tweedhope Fay from Lanark, Lothian and Peebles, 2 with 88 points, Bob-

by Henderson with Tag from Lanark, Lothian and Peebles, 3 with 87 points, Euan MacKinnon with Gyp from the North of Scotland.

The team Prize: 1 Lanark, Lothian and Peebles, 2 North of Scotland, 3 Central, 4 Arran and Kintyre.

Generate your own heat and electricity

Arran residents are being urged to attend a free renewable energy exhibition to find out more about domestic renewable technologies and how to save money on their fuel bills.

The event is being hosted by the Energy Saving Scotland advice centre, which provides free, independent, impartial advice to people across the region.

Trained advisors will be on hand to provide advice which could help you save money and fight climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from your home.

Danfoss, Solar and Wind, Arran Woodfuels, Arran Electrical and Refrigeration, Planet heat and J Kennedy Gas Services Ltd will also be on hand to give personalised

and detailed information on the various technologies.

This free event will take place on Friday March 13 between 12pm and 6pm at the Auchrannie Hotel in Brodick.

Bob Baillie, advice centre manager said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for people to receive face-to-face individual advice. Our trained advisors can recommend energy saving measures you can take in your own home and inform of any grant schemes or subsidies that may apply to your circumstances.'

If you cannot attend but would still like advice on energy efficiency, please contact your local Energy Saving Scotland advice centre on 0800 512 012 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org

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Little Georgia Wright at three months old. It was the only time she showed any signs of improvement.

Lucy, Simon, three-year-old Olivia and baby Georgia enjoyed a holiday in Norfolk just weeks before the baby died.



Lucy Wright with her baby girl Georgia the day before she died from SMA last August.

The Jennifer Trust provided Georgia with fibre optic lights and other sensory toys.

Loss of baby Georgia prompts heartfelt plea from parents

Baby Georgia Wright was just seven and a half months old when respiratory collapse caused by Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) took her life last August.

Her parents watched as their baby daughter died from a devastatingly rare genetic disease and want to create more awareness of the condition.

Lucy Wright and her husband Simon moved to Lamlash earlier this year where Simon has taken up the position of herdsman at Claulchlands Farm.

'As our beautiful, amazing precious baby was nearing her end we made her a promise to fight for awareness of this crippling condition so that no parent would have to go

through what we did,' said her mum Lucy.

Despite everything that the family had to go through, even now, Lucy's face lights up when she talks about her baby girl.

'She was so beautiful – with big blue twinkling eyes that said a thousand words, hair like spun gold, soft pale skin and an exquisite captivating smile. She was the cutest, most amazing baby we had ever seen. We adored her.'

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In this picture of baby Georgia with big sister Olivia and mum Lucy you can see how her tiny body wasted away because of SMA.

gia's birth the family's happiness very quickly turned to constant worry and immense heartache and sadness as they realised there was something very wrong with Georgia.

By Georgia's third week Lucy and Simon noticed she had a very weak cry, felt very weak and floppy and would breathe from her tummy, had a poor suck and difficulty swallowing.

Georgia had no head control and movement with no limb reflexes so she never kicked. Whenever she was put on her play gym she would just lie still like a doll.

With her very low muscle tone and no body temperature control she was either cold or sweating.

Yet despite all of this, Georgia remained a happy baby, full of courage and purity.

'She had the most amazing stunning smile that just beamed – it was that virtually hypnotic smile that carried our family through very dark times,' said Lucy. 'She couldn't laugh but would always have little giggles through her dummy. She was so weak physically but bright and alert mentally. It broke our hearts watching what was happening to our precious Georgia.'

Despite noticing that something very serious was wrong with Georgia soon after her birth, Lucy and Simon had a huge battle with health professionals who kept missing vital symptoms.

In May 2008 Georgia was finally admitted to Leicester

Royal Infirmary at four and a half months old and her mum, dad and big sister Olivia spent three weeks by her side. Yet they still did not know what was wrong with her.

'Within three days of staying in hospital the nurses had passed a nasal gastric tube as she had lost the ability to completely swallow. Georgia's consultant neurologist was extremely concerned with Georgia's presentation and started conducting lots of tests,' said Lucy.

On May 28, 2008 Lucy and Simon received the devastating news that Georgia had Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type I – the most severe kind, and there was no cure.

SMA affects the voluntary muscles used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control and swallowing.

The consultant explained that difficulties with breathing, coughing and the susceptibility to respiratory diseases and infections meant it was unlikely that Georgia would live to see her first birthday.

'It was, at that time the worse day of our lives, the most devastating news a parent could

hear,' explained Lucy. 'To see our baby cope with all she had to endure was beyond anyone's comprehension. We were living on a knife edge – we didn't know from one day to the next what was going to happen to our beautiful Georgia. We went to bed not knowing if Georgia would still be alive in the morning, we were terrified we would wake in the morning to find Georgia dead in her cot. We would take it in turns to keep awake and watch her.'

Within a few weeks of being discharged from hospital the family had two suction machines, an oxygen machine, a nebuliser, oramorph, a feeding pump, hyoscine patches to control her secretions and various other medications, with 24 hour on call and open access to the children's admissions unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The Jennifer Trust for SMA lent them a box full of sensory toys including fibre optics lights and a special car seat so Georgia could get out in the car.

'We managed to take Georgia on holiday to Norfolk and we were so happy she had felt the

sand and saw the sea,' she said. 'She had such determination to carry on. Georgia was a true fighter to her very end.'

Lucy added that Georgia has taught them to take every moment in life as a blessing.

'With every part of Georgia she has made us better people,' she said. 'Life for us, without Georgia is so hard – indescribable and we miss her more than words can say. 'We are determined to raise awareness of this crippling condition so our beautiful Georgia will not have died in vain. We hope that our determination and the help of the *Arran Banner* will help us to raise the profile of SMA.'

What is SMA?

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a leading genetic killer of infants and toddlers, with 50 per cent of the most severely diagnosed cases resulting in death by the age of two.

Children with a less severe form of SMA face the prospect of progressive muscle wasting, loss of mobility and motor function but their minds are unaffected resulting in bright, intelligent children with varying degrees of physical impairment.

Here are some other key facts:

- SMA is incurable and often fatal
- One in every 6,000 births is affected by SMA
- One in every 40 people is a carrier of the defective gene that causes SMA
- SMA affects motor neurons in the spinal cord. This results in muscular weakness, leading to severe disability and the possibility of premature death.

There are three types of SMA that affect children:

- **Type I** is the most common form and is the severest type. Onset typically occurs before six months of age. Weakness is severe and manifests in difficulties moving, eating, swallowing and breathing. The proximal muscles or muscles close to the trunk such as the neck, shoulder and pelvic girdle muscles are most significantly involved. SMA type 1 babies have floppy limbs and tongue fasciculation's (flickering).
- **Type II** is less severe. Onset typically occurs between six and 18 months of age. These children are able to sit at some point in their lives but never achieve the ability to walk.
- **Type III** is the mildest of the three types. Babies appear normal at birth, and diagnosis is generally made when they are over two years of age. Children with Type III range from those able to take a few steps to those who can ambulate throughout their own home and community.

The Jennifer Trust for SMA

Lucy and Simon received great support from The Jennifer Trust, which was established in 1985 by Anita Macaulay following the death of her daughter who had Type I SMA.

The Trust has grown and flourished and now specialises in providing high quality support and help for families with children suffering from SMA.

The charity provided Georgia with sensory toys – like fibre optic lights, feathers and balloons – as well as special equipment to make her short life more bearable.

Lucy has said that without the support of The Jennifer Trust life would have been much more difficult.

'Our outreach worker, Maggie, has been such a pillar of strength to us all,' said Lucy. 'The Trust is financially struggling at present. Rainbows Children's Hospice in Loughborough gave our daughter Olivia pre and post bereavement counselling as well as ongoing family support through.'

For more information about the charity and fundraising initiatives go to: www.jtsma.org.uk

Pirnmill Primary School

Spring Fling

Saturday 21st March 11.30 to 2.30

Soup and Sandwiches, home baking, craft demonstration, Face painting, tombola, hoopla, Silent Auction and much more.

Come along and have lots of fun

Filmobile Scotland

Bringing the magic of the movies

Thursday 19th March - Lamash High School Theatre

Bolt cert PG 1hr.40mins 6pm
Walt Disney's latest animated family film "A Television Dog" who thinks he has super powers. Excellent film for all the family.

Doubt cert 15 1hr.40mins 8pm
Starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Engrossing drama set in a New York Catholic School in 1964. Nominated for Academy Awards.

Friday 20th March - Evening Performance

SlumDog Millionaire cert 15 2hrs 7.30pm
This year's biggest hit film. Winner of 10 Academy Awards at the Oscars' an Indian Vesion of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" Oscar winning comedy drama is a heart warming treat, filled with memorable scenes and great performances. See this wonderful film on the Big Screen!

Arran High School Theatre

Admission Prices: Adults £5.00 Childres (12yrs and under) £4.00 Pay at the door on the day. Doors open 30 mins before screening. Please note early start 6.00pm on Thursday 19th for Family Matinee.

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, March 11, 1989

About turn?

Caledonian MacBrayne is prepared to consider reversing the ferry timetable.

As reported last week, the Arran Ferry Committee were putting radical proposals to the company about a complete change of timetable.

At Wednesday's meeting between CalMac and the committee the ferry operator agreed to accept a timetable based along the committee's lines if two factors did not put it out of the question.

The first of those is cost. 'We must look at operating costs,' said Clyde area manager Andrew Horne. 'If it's a longer working day then obviously that's an added cost.'

And if crew costs are significantly increased they will have to give it the thumbs down.

The second problem is trade. 'The biggest fear is that the day trip traffic that fills up the 9.45am sailing would be lost to us,' said Andrew.

CalMac's traffic on the Arran run has grown annually over the last few years, he said.

He also believes that the current timetable is suitable for the

needs of Arran residents and tourists alike.

Rubbish charges

Cunninghame District Council has decided to charge for dumping rubbish at the coup in Brodick.

The *Banner* has been told that a small vanload of rubbish will cost £2.50, £10 for a skip or small lorry and £20 for a large lorry.

Since the wording of their notice does not make it clear if it is only industrial waste we asked who would be charged.

'It will be businesses disposing of waste in bulk,' a spokesman said.

What about garden rubbish, for example? Apparently the council will soon be starting a garden refuse collection service so it won't be necessary to take the garden waste to the coup.

What if the ordinary householder wants to dump rubbish? 'They will not be charged,' he said.

Death of Harry Smy

With the recent death of Harry Smy, the island has lost one of its best-known residents.

Harry was born 82 years ago in Ipswich, Suffolk. He lost his father in the First World War.

As an industrious and hard working youngster, Harry attracted the attention of the Marchioness of Graham - later to become the Duchess of Montrose - who had a home in the area.

When Harry was 15, Lady Graham brought him to Brodick Castle to work and he remained there for 15 years before obtaining a small farm at Merkland where he worked until the age of 60.

When he retired because of ill health he moved to Lamlash.

Mr Smy was an assiduous community worker; an elder of Corrie Kirk for nearly 30 years as well as being involved in Scouting for more than 60 years.

He was a diligent Freemason and will be remembered for his work over many years as the local Lodge Almoner.

His interests extended to all aspects of Arran community life and he will be sadly missed.

ARC darts

The darts fraternity, both ladies and gents, excelled themselves when they played for the shields given by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research (ARC) at the Kinloch hotel on Friday and Saturday night.

The ladies shield won in 1988 by Betty McKelvie, had no more space for winners names, so it was decided that Mrs McKelvie should be presented with it once again.

Margaret McConnell the regional organising secretary brought over a new shield and presented it to this year's winner Moira McKinnon from Machrie.

Jenni Turnbull from Shiskine was the runner-up.

In the men's doubles matches the honour went to Quinton

McMaster and David Jeffrey, the runners-up were Cameron MacDonald and Colin Haggarty.

So near....!

A football team of nine primary girls from the southend and Shiskine almost took the honours at Largs on Thursday night.

Along with the Southend/Shiskine boys team they were representing Arran in the Scottish Health Cup district Finals.

Playing in the Inverclyde National Sports Centre, they were up against the best that Cunninghame could offer.

The girls played superbly in the final and took the lead with a second half goal from Catherine McBain. But they were unlucky to concede a late equaliser.

After a five-penalty shootout Saltcoats were crowned winners.

The boys did better than anyone could have expected.

Most of their opposition were regular boys football clubs and they did well to lose only 1-0 to eventual winners Springside Colts and beat Largs Colts 2-1 with goals from Stuart Miller and Alan Bannatyne.



The Lamlash boys won the Unihock competition at the All Island Junior Youth Club games day at the Community Centre in Lamlash. b11twe01



The Shiskine/Southend United boys team that represented Arran in the Scottish Health Cup District Finals in Largs at the weekend. b11twe04



The girls were able to beat the boys at tug o' war perhaps thanks to that big girl (Allan Little) at the back. b11twe02

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Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 'n nan Eilean

February Bird Notes

By Jim Cassels

February started with a cold predominantly dry spell. Throughout the month there were 11 days with no rain.

Winter visitors were to the fore with four purple sandpipers on Hamilton Rocks on February 4, 40 fieldfare at Balmichael on the 9th, 31 wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on the 17th, a little grebe in Lochranza on the 19th, 366 greylag with 35 pink-footed Geese on Cleats Shore on the 22nd and 60 redwing in High Kildonan on the 25th.

Other groups included: 15 wren in a roost in Blackwaterfoot on the 2nd; 18 golden

plover in a Kilpatrick field on the 6th; 72 teal on Kilpatrick shore on the 8th; 56 lapwings in South Feorline on the 9th; 23 Skylark in High Kildonan February 15; five snow bunting on the ridge between Mullach Buidhe and North Goatfell on the 18th and 84 jackdaw sitting on the roof of the Kinloch Hotel on the 27th.

On Saturday February 7 there was a report of a great crested grebe in Whiting Bay.

The bird was actively feeding

and, although in winter plumage, there were some signs of emerging breeding plumage.

Great crested grebe sightings are rare round Arran.

In 2007 one bird was in Lam-lash Bay from February 27 to March 1 and in 2008 there was only one report, a group of four in Machrie Bay on 29 July.

On the morning of Friday February 20 all three divers, red-throat, black-throat and great northern were seen off Drumadoon Point.

Bullfinch

Other sightings included a long-eared owl near the top of the String on the 5th, a stunning male yellowhammer in Kildonan on the 7th with four regularly visiting a garden in Dippen throughout the month, a male bullfinch in Cladach on the 25th and seven siskins in Lamlash on the 15th.

There will be more about these acrobatic little finches in the next bird notes.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island.

House sparrows gathering nest material in Kilpatrick on February 8, over 30 pairs of fulmars on the cliffs on the Holy Isle on the 15th, a pair of golden eagle displaying over



There was a rare report of a great crested grebe in Whiting Bay. b11gre01NO



A long-eared owl was seen near the top of the String.

b11ow101NO

Lochranza on the 19th and the first record of the year of returning lesser black-backed gull at Whiting Bay on the 18th.

March could see the start of the arrival of other summer visitors like wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, swallow and house martin. Look out for them.

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 visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

SWRI show schedule mistakes

There have been some mistakes made on the Arran Federation of Scottish Women's Rural Institutes show schedule.

Secretary Jerry Arthur said: 'My apologies for these errors. I hope none of the ladies are inconvenienced too much by this mistake however you have now been informed and any incorrect entries will not be received.'

Please see the following amendments.

Class 13: Entry must be submitted with entry form, please type on A4 sheet – font – Times New Roman 14.

Class 13: Scrapbooking: the line with reference to an A4 sheet should have been removed. 2x12" sheets should be used.

Class 15: should read, two photographs to be mounted unframed on a sheet of A4 card.

Class 20: should read, A. Marmalade B. Beetroot chutney.

Talk on endangered red squirrels and water voles

The Ayrshire Red Squirrel group was formed in 2002 and includes representatives of the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage, East Ayrshire Woodlands and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

The attractive little creatures are a popular feature of Arran

wildlife and many residents have a special squirrel feeder in the garden, partly to encourage red squirrels and partly to stop them raiding bird feeders.

Suffered

The red squirrel is the UK's only native squirrel and in many areas has suffered from

aggressive competition from the more recently introduced grey squirrel.

The Ayrshire Red Squirrel group will hold their annual general meeting in the Green Room at Auchincruive Agricultural College, Ayr at 7pm on Thursday March 19.

The meeting will be followed by a talk on water voles by Stuart Babbs of the Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

Water voles are a priority species in the revised Local Biodiversity Action Plan and are even more endangered than the red squirrel.

Golden wedding

Kitty and Charlie McAllister of Sliderry recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family party at the Lighthouse Tearoom, Pirmill.

Kitty was well-known as a teacher at Shiskine Primary School. She retired in 1992 after 17 years of teaching the Shiskine infants.



Right: Kitty and Charlie McAllister celebrating their golden wedding anniversary at the Lighthouse Tearoom in Pirmill.

b11wed01

calendar sale



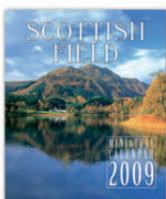
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Isle of Arran - £5.25

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*All prices exclude worldwide postage and packaging, which is an extra £2.

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 14th 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	Corrie Hall, 8pm
Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Auction	Shiskine Hall, 7pm
Irish Folk Band	Macs Bar, 7pm
Arran Motocross Fun Day	Southbank Farm, Shannochie, 12pm
Bingo	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm
Spring Flower Bulb Show	Brodick Hall, 2pm

SUNDAY 15th 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

MONDAY 16th 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
Netball	High School Sports Hall, 8pm
Arran Antiquarians - In The shadow of Goat Fell	Brodick Hall, 2pm

TUESDAY 17th 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

Brodick Toddler Group
Body Conditioning Class
Country Dancing
Shapers

Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
 KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH

Mixed Hockey
Core Strength
Jnr Rugby Training
Shiskine Beavers
Aquafizz
Circuit Training
Yogalates
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy
Kickboxing
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Whiting Bay Toddler Group
Lamlash Beaver Scouts

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
 Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
 P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie, 6pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
 10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
 KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
 Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm
 Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
 Village Hall 10am - 12pm
 High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm

THURSDAY 19th MARCH

Filmobile
Senior Fitness
Citizens Advice
Lochranza Craft Club
Outdoor Run
Pilates
Aerobics
Coffee Morning
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal
Cardiac Rehab
Table Tennis
KA Jog
Legs, Bums & Tums Class
Arran Junior Singers Practise
Shiskine Cubs
Scouts
Embroidery Group
Lamlash Cubs
Brodick Toddler Group
Brodick Bridge Club
Indoor Bowling
Outdoor Boot Camp

6.00pm Bolt cert pg 1hr.40mins
 8.00pm Doubt cert 15 1hr. 40mins
 Auchrannie 10.450am - 11.45am
 Open 10am - 2pm
 Hall, 2pm
 Auchrannie, 6pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
 St Moliors Church 10.30am - 12pm
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
 KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
 KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
 Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
 Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
 Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
 Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Hall 7pm
 Ormidale Park 7pm

FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Filmobile
Arran Pipe Band Practice
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning
Aquafizz
Citizens Advice
Circuit Training
Quiz
Corrie & Sannox Coffee Morning

7.30pm SlumDog Millionaire cert 15 2hrs
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 10am - 12pm
 Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
 Open 10am - 2pm
 Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
 Village Hall, 10.30am

SATURDAY 21st MARCH

Spring Fling Pirmill Primary School, 11.30am - 2.30pm

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BANNER

 **Caledonian MacBrayne**
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

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.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine* between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays.

Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below within the specified time from the date of publication of this notice. Any representations received will be open to public view.

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992

Applications for planning permission - Notice to be published in accordance with Article 12(5) Written comments to be made within 14 days.

Application No: N/09/00080/PP Address: 7 Alma Park, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8AT Proposed Development: Erection of extension to side of detached dwelling house

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Lamlash Bowling & Tennis Club

AGM

Thursday 26th March
2009
2pm
Tennis Pavilion
*All members
please attend*

Arran Junior Sailing Club

AGM

The AGM will be held
on Monday 23rd
March at 7.30pm
at Arran Yacht Club

Arran

Golf Pass

AGM on
Wednesday 25th
March in Brodick
Golf Club at
7.30p.m.

All welcome

OPTIMEYES OPTICIANS LIMITED

Company No. SC279587
Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors will be held at Beesley & Company, Astute House Wilmslow Road Handforth Cheshire SK9 3HP on 02/04/2009 at 2.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said act. A resolution may be proposed at the meeting of creditors to fix the basis of the liquidator's remuneration and to approve the costs and preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at Beesley & Company, Astute House Wilmslow Road Handforth Cheshire SK9 3HP from 31/03/2009 between the hours of 9.30 am and 5.00pm. Dated: 06/03/2009
TOKONI BRIDGET HARRY, Director T251974

RECRUITMENT

Female Carer Required

Nursing experience preferred
Accommodation available

Apply in writing to
Box No.133
c/o Arran Banner

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACLEOD - HUGH

Whiting Bay
 Hugh died peacefully in Arran War Memorial Hospital on 2nd March following a stroke after many years of declining health.
 Sheila, David, Malcolm and families would like to thank everyone who attended the service, sent cards and letters, telephoned or visited. Their support has been greatly appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks are also due to the Medical and Nursing staff both at home and in the hospital who cared for Hugh during the last few years. Thanks also to the staff of Cooriedoon who cared for him when in for respite.

To the Homecare staff, who do exactly what it says on the tin, who come into your home and really care about what they do to help, I cannot express enough gratitude. Without you I could not have cared for Hugh at home where he wanted to be.

We are indeed blessed with all the caring staff we have on the island, at home, and in the hospital.

Donations collected at the church for the Hospital Supporters League amounted to £259.50 for which we thank you.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirrmill 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 15 March
 Brodick Church 10.30am
 Corrie Church 12pm.
 Pirrmill 10.15am.
 Shiskine Church 12pm.
 A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 15 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 15 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 and there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods. There will also be a Wesley Owen Bookstall. At 6.30pm in the Church, there will be an informal evening service of praise, prayer and discussion.
 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 15 March
 Holy Communion. 11am
 Mrs Janis Gallagher
 Coffee after service.
Wednesday 18 March
 Holy Communion 12.15 pm.
 All Welcome.

World Day Of Prayer. The offering at the service on 6 March in Kilmory came to £133.58

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 15 March
 Rev. Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 15 March
 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service, 7pm
 5 Glen Road.
 Rev B Scott
 Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 18 March
 7pm
 Rev. D.Macleod
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
Sunday 15 March
 10.45 Communion
 Tea and coffee from 11.10
 11.30 Worship and Word
 Speaker: Tom Hutchison
 Everyone warmly invited.

PERSONALS

SIGNS
Free to good home.
For people who can be ARSED
Available free of charge from Friday
Tel 302171



Graduation

June MacKenzie graduated from Dundee University with LL.D. Law with Honours. June is the daughter of Linda Ferris and the late James MacKenzie and granddaughter of Margaret MacKenzie of Ferndean, Kilmory and June Mathys of Cowdenbeath. b11gra01no

DEATHS

RYAN - DOREEN

Doreen Ryan formerly of Lamlash, died peacefully in Grandview Home, Grantown-on-Spey on 9th March 2009. Much loved mother of Jean, Maeve and Una. Sister of Jackie Muree, aunt of Jan and granny to Niamh and Michael

MARGARET ADAM

There will be a celebration of her life in St Margaret's Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay, on Sunday, 15th March, at 3.00 pm

Where's Archie?

Sponsored by The Arran Team
 Arran's own property management specialists
 Tel: 0845 459 9968
 Email: help@thearranteam.co.uk www.thearranteam.co.uk

If you think you know then post your answer on the website
www.arranbanner.co.uk
 Or email us at:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was sat in the snow at the top of Brodick hill. One reader emailed in to say he was at Loch Garbad but he has not been that far off the beaten track yet. This week he is sat by a memorial seat, but where is it?

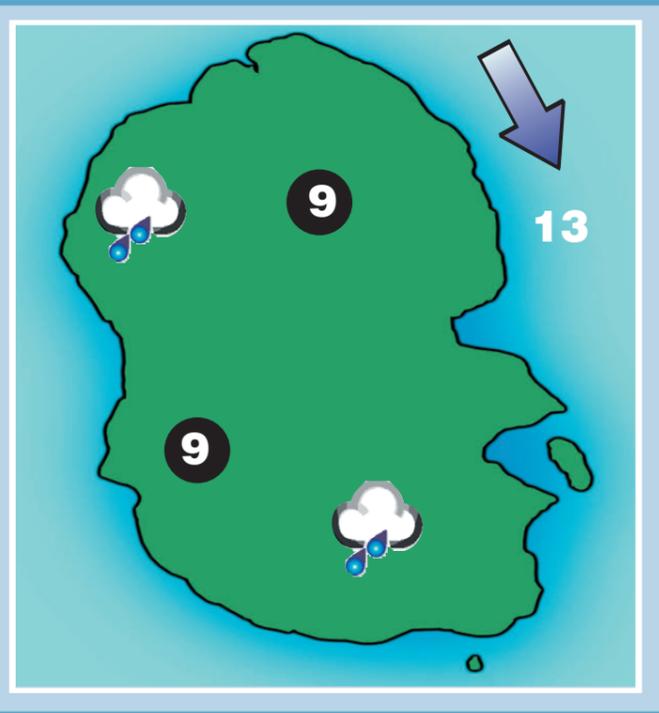
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, March 14 2009** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Sat	0203 3.0 0727 0.0	1405 3.3 1938 0.1
Sun	0231 3.0 0800 0.1	1438 3.2 2013 0.3
Mon	0302 3.0 0836 0.2	1511 3.1 2049 0.5
Tues	0334 2.9 0916 0.4	1547 2.9 2129 0.7
Wed	0408 2.8 1004 0.6	1625 2.6 2216 1.0
Thur	0451 2.6 1111 0.9	1713 2.4 2325 1.2
Fri	0547 2.4 1306 0.9	1815 2.2 **** **

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 14
 Heavy Rain forecast. Max temp 9°C
 Moderate NNW winds reaching 13mph.

Sunday, March 15
 Light Rain throughout much of the day. Max temp 10°C. Westerly winds reaching 18mph

Monday and Tuesday
 More light rain. Max temp 9°C. 26mph westerly

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Ardrossan/ Brodick - Rough
Claonaig/ Lochranza - Rough



Taste of cricket for Pirmill youngsters

The children of Pirmill Primary have had the benefit of some first class cricket coaching from Tim Pomeroy of Sannox Cricket Club.

Tim said: 'I was coaching cricket the last two Wednesdays for their after school activities in an effort to bring some cricket into their lives before football or rugby take over.'

'We at the cricket club are hoping to have a teacher in at the high school in the future to coach older pupils again. Hopefully having primed a few primary schools beforehand we might pick up some new cricketers in the long term.'

There will be one more Wednesday cricket coaching session with Martin Kemp of Invermay, Whiting Bay doing the honours.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday March 9.

N/S: 1 A Bilstand and T Martin +580, 2 J and J Beattie -1030, 3 J Maclure and A McKelvie -1160.

E/W: 1 E McKellar and I McArthur +3310, 2 M McGill and C Bone +2690, 3 D and M Bruce +1960.

Brodick Bridge Club

Results from Thursday March 5.

N/S: 1 J McBride and P Adamson +2090, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton +1910, 3 J McArthur and M Cummings +810.

E/W: 1 D Scobie and D Bruce +390, 2 J MacLure and A McKelvie +40, 3 M McGill and E McConnell -150.

Tim Pomeroy with some of the Pirmill youngsters enjoying the benefit of his after school cricket coaching. b11eri01no



Brodick Golf Club

Sunday March 8, Brandon and Winter Cup, 11 played, CSS 67 (non counter).

Challenging conditions resulted in only seven golfers setting off in the morning. Conditions deteriorated, and play was suspended well before the round could be completed.

By the afternoon start time, conditions had improved sufficiently to allow the round to be resumed, and the morning survivors were joined by four hardy souls setting off at the first.

Unfortunately conditions deteriorated again, but the course remained playable, and all afternoon rounds were completed.

Sweep results: 1 L Hartley 84(17)67 BIH, 2 D McKinnie 78(11)67, scratch G Hendry

78 (BIH over J Armit and D McKinnie).

First class Brandon D McKinnie, second class Brandon L Hartley.

There were no twos, so the twos money is rolled over to the last round of the winter cup on March 22.

Fixtures: Sunday March 15, Clochendichter. Sunday March 22 last round of Winter Cup.

Wednesday Winter Cup

With no controversy over handicaps the Winter Cup played on March 4 was pretty tame. Eleven played with the course wet underfoot with lower numbers the prizes were restricted to first and second with Derek Roxburgh missing out in third however he did scoop the twos pool with the only magic two of the afternoon. In first place was Hamish

McArthur 80-16=64 with David Reid second with 88-22=66. Eric Thompson still leads with three weeks of competition remaining. Can anyone catch him?

Whiting Bay Golf Club

The Winter Cup game on the Sunday March 8 was postponed due to the inclement weather!

It will be played on a later date, still to be decided.

Fixtures: Sunday March 15, friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Tee offs between 10.30am and 11am.

All members welcome to play - just turn up and we will pair you off with a partner.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday March 5, Ladies 18 hole Medal.

1 Jenni Turnbull 67, 2 Liz Kerr 68, 3 Viv Parks 93.

Best Scratch Liz Kerr 84.

Sunday March 8, Gents 12 hole medal. 1 Willie Kelso 44, 2 David Price 54, 3 Jimmy Morrison 56.

The Winter Cup Winner was Willie Kelso with 44. 2 Duncan Markham 51, 3 Brian Sherwood 54.

Fixtures: Sunday March 22, 18 hole Medal. Sunday March 22, Ladies 18 hole Coronation Foursomes. Sunday March 29, Shiskine Grand Shoot Out.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 24, Winter Cup. 1 Drew Crawford 64, 2 Elizabeth Ross 67, 3 David Price 69.

Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 68. Saturday March 7, 1 Brian Sherwood 37 points, 2 David Price 35, 3 Peter Emsley. Scratch Brian Sherwood. **Fixtures:** Tuesday March 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup Final Day.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 5, 15-hole medal. 1 Billy O'Connor 67-17=50 (BIH), 2 Russell Adams 58-8+50.

Sunday March 8, Glenburn Cup (non-qualifying for handicap) 1 Russell Adams 72-10=62, 2 Colin Richardson 81-16=65. Best scratch R Adams 72.

Twos sweep R Adams got one and C Richardson.

Fixtures: Sunday March 15, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Final game - all square on points so far. Starting times - 10.30am and 11am.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday March 14, no game at Corrie Golf Club as it is reserved for the ALGA competition.

Monday March 16, Monday Cup, tee-off at 12pm.

We're springing into April with a great new look

More of the things you want to read about in a brighter, fresher magazine packed with even more stunning images of Scotland.

bigger... More in-depth book reviews and recommendations from our website members plus fantastic book offers.

brighter... Gardening is expanding to include garden news, with everything from tips on what to tackle in your garden to events and products.

surprise... Each month we will bring you a beautifully photographed 'surprise feature' done in fabulous Scottish Field style.

special... Interior features will focus on a Readers' Home. A new 'Get The Look' page will give inspiration on achieving the look in your own home.

new... We welcome a new motoring correspondent. As a former World Touring Car Champion, he knows a thing or two about what makes a great car.

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Back on track

Arran's second half surge proves too powerful for rivals

**Braidholm 7
Arran 29**

Arran got their good run of games back on track at the weekend with a hard-fought win over Braidholm in the Scottish Hydro Electric West League Division Two.

The opposition 15 demonstrated strength and depth but Arran proved too powerful for the team in the second half.

Murray Picken, the team captain, said: 'For some reason it took us a long time to get into the game. In the first half no one played well but we turned the game around in the second half. It was a good result.'

The seniors from Arran were gifted a penalty in the first five minutes which Fraser Barr slotted through the posts.

Stalemate

The next 30 minutes of the game saw Arran caught in a stalemate as both sides fought for the domination of the field.

It was Braidholm who succeeded first as they charged over the try line and converted to get their first points of the match.

The half time score (7-3) left Arran out in the cold and it looked as though a victory at Braidholm might be harder than they had imagined.

Gaps began to appear in Braidholm's defence in the second half and this signalled a



Arran had to fight hard for a win over the team from Glasgow.

wave of Arran tries, with Donald Murchie and Ewan Stewart going over the try line, with Fraser converting twice.

Arran's attack continued as Murray Picken crossed the line for the teams third try of the day.

However, the island team weren't finished and just before the final whistle Sam Casey scored to give Arran a comfortable win and five bonus points.

Coach Bert Ramage said: 'To be honest we didn't play well in the first half but by the second half we had come together. The pitch was in a terrible condition which was really heavy going for the pack but eventually the forwards broke through and played really well.'

Fraser's trusty right foot added points to the board for Arran.



Bar Eden will top league

The Bar Eden have secured their place at the top of the Arran Pool League this week with a definitive thrashing of PT1934.

The team from Whiting Bay defeated PT 12-0 and with just three games left to play this year they cannot be beaten to first place in the league.

This season the Bar Eden team have slipped up just once when they drew 6-6 with the Drift Out a couple of weeks ago.

Results from Thursday March 5: Drift Out 6, Kildonan 6 (G), Bar Eden 12 (G), PT1934 0 (yes, nil), PHT 6, Corrie 6 (G), Catacol 6, Cameronia 6 (G).

Matches to be played on Thursday March 19 are: Kildonan v PT1934, PHT v Bar Eden, Catacol v Drift Out and Corrie v Cameronia.

Bar Eden leads the league on 49 points, ahead of Drift Out on 34, Corrie on 24, Cameronia on 22, PT1934 on 20, Catacol on 19, PHT on 18 and Kildonan on 4.

Draw for singles quarter finals to be played on or by Sunday March 29: H Driver (Kildonan) v M Worthington (PT1934) at Bar Eden, S McGovern (Bar Eden) v A Duncan or I Murchie (Bar Eden) at Bar Eden, E Ingram (Bar Eden) v J Ainsworth (Cameronia) at PHT, A Cook (Cameronia) v J Copperwheat (Drift Out) at PHT.

Draw for doubles quarterfinals to be played on or by Sunday March 22: D Head/F Barr (Bar Eden) v E Ingram/J McPherson (Bar Eden) at Bar Eden, A Duncan/N Auld (Bar Eden) v J Copperwheat/S Scott (Drift Out) at PHT, L Girbow/C Black (Drift Out) v M Worthington/C Galloway (PT 1934) at Bar Eden, G McLeod/D Hackett (Bar Eden) v B Radtkouski/P Holmes (PHT) at Kildonan.

The annual champion of champions tournament takes place this Sunday at Kilmory Hall, 3pm. Please remember this is a bring your own bottle event.

Euan's open triumph

Euan Ingram proved that he is one of Arran's top pool players when he triumphed for the second time in the islands Open Pool Competition.

Playing at the PHT in Lam-lash, 24-year-old Euan defeated Glen Willis 3-1 in the final to steal the title.

Euan beat the youngster Craig Black in the semi finals while Glen Willis defeated Lee Little to get to the final.

Euan won the open two years ago as well as the champion of champions in 2004 and the Arran singles and doubles competition in 2007.

Twenty-eight players took part in the event on Sunday and there were some interesting pairings in the draw.

The McKinnon brothers



Euan Ingram. b11euan01

- Peter and Euan - met in the first round and Peter was victorious.

Another set of brothers, this time Jamie and Murray Picken were drawn in the first round and Murray won.

The champion of champions competition begins at 3pm this Sunday in Kilmory Village Hall.

SPORTSDESK
01770 302142



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