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Creative ambition leads to third Thistle award

Big rise in car trips

REPORT
by **HUGH BOAG**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Two leading businesses are celebrating their success after flying the flag for Arran at a prestigious national tourism awards ceremony in Glasgow.

At the finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards, which recognise success, excellence and quality in Scotland's tourism industry, the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick beat off fierce competition to be named the winner of the 'Creative Ambition' award.

The Glenisle Hotel and Bisto in Lamlash was awarded the only special commendation award of the night.

The Auchrannie award is for people or businesses that can demonstrate creativity, innovation and ambition for Scotland's hospitality industry and the judges were particularly impressed with Auchrannie's engagement with the community and its commitment to working with industry colleagues, local suppliers and businesses.

Executive director Linda Johnston said: 'Our success in winning the Thistle Award is due to the flair, hard work and innovation shown by innumerable people who

have worked with us here at Auchrannie over the last 27 years, whose contribution has enabled Auchrannie to grow to the resort it is today.

'We are extremely proud of the resort we have created and we are committed to continually improving to ensure we keep offering our guests a fantastic holiday experience.'

The Glenisle received its special commendation in the Fishers Services 'Most Hospitable Hotel' award category, the winner of which was the renowned Prestonfield in Edinburgh.

Geoffrey Dallamore, co-owner of the Glenisle Hotel, said: 'We were thrilled to get through to the national finals of these important industry awards and we're honoured to have received a special commendation in the Most Hospitable Hotel category.'

'Our staff will be delighted that the warm welcome and great, personalised service they deliver have been judged worthy of this tribute.'

Both Arran businesses were previously winners of their respective categories in the Scottish Thistle Awards central south west regional finals.

The VisitScotland backed awards were held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Glas-



A winning selfie from the Auchrannie team of (l to r) Ronnie Mann, host Edith Bowman, Jillian Plenderleith and executive director Linda Johnston. Behind them can just be seen Lorna Jackson, Colin Morrison, Sharon Bell and David Johnston.

gow last Thursday at a glittering ceremony hosted by popular TV and radio presenter Edith Bowman.

The awards are regarded as the Oscars of Scottish tourism and the Auchrannie team said they were over the moon at winning their third Thistle Award.

They first won in the Tour-

ism Year Round category in 2004 and in 2012 they were successful in winning the award for Tourism Entrepreneurship.

This year Auchrannie beat tour operator McKinlay Kidd of Glasgow and Rabbits Small Group Tours of Edinburgh to the award.

Stephen Carter OBE, chair-

man of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, said: 'The Scottish Thistle Awards is about celebrating excellence, sharing best practice and inspiring a stronger, more cohesive sector. It is important that we continue to recognise those going the extra mile to enhance the visitor experience.'

New cheaper fares has seen a huge increase in the number of cars using the main Arran ferry route.

The first figures released since the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares last October show there has been a 48 per cent rise in the number of cars carried on the Ardrrossan to Brodick route. Passenger numbers are up 10 per cent.

This is as a result of more visitors bringing their cars and also islanders taking their vehicles to the mainland.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson Mr Gibson said it bode well for a 'bumper tourist season ahead'.

Mr Gibson said: 'I am delighted at this early success for RET and have no doubt these figures will only increase as awareness of the fare reduction spreads.'

'By investing £2 million a year in RET for Arran the SNP government intends to deliver a more prosperous and thriving Arran economy, with an enhanced tourist season and improved employment opportunities. It is early days but I am convinced we are on the right track and that RET is already starting to deliver.'

VisitArran says that bookings for all island accommodation is up across this year.

Sailings on the daily winter service between Tarbert and Lochranza show a 49 per cent rise in passengers and 51 per cent increase in cars.



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Pair jailed for rape of vulnerable woman

Two men, with connections to Arran, have been sentenced for the rape of a woman they met in a York nightclub.

Samuel Bambridge and Thomas Oliver attacked the woman at a flat after they met at Club Salvation in August 2013.

Bambridge, 22, of Lamblash, was jailed for seven years and Oliver, 20, of Hawthorn Terrace, York, was sentenced to six years in a young offenders' institute. He previously lived on Arran.

They were sentenced this week after being convicted in January after a trial at York Crown Court.

A jury took six hours to find Bambridge guilty of two rape charges and Oliver, guilty on one count of rape by majority verdict. Bambridge was found not guilty of attempted rape.

Detective Sergeant Fionna McEwan, of North Yorkshire Police, said the pair had met the girl while she was 'vulnerable from drinking alcohol'.

She said: 'They carried her back to Bambridge's flat and took it in turns to subject her to sexual acts against her will. This is truly despicable behaviour. I hope this verdict and the long prison sentences handed to the offenders, makes it clear that it is not acceptable to exploit the fact that a woman has been drinking.'

Probe demanded to get a fairer deal on petrol prices

An investigation has been demanded into the sky high fuel prices on Arran.

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Katy Clark has written to the Competition and Markets Authority requesting it conducts a probe into fuel prices on the island.

Ms Clark said: 'There is clearly a major problem with the price of petrol on Arran. I have been contacted by constituents over an extended period of time on this matter and it is clear the situation has got worse rather than better.'

'Motorists on Arran are rightly angry that they have not seen prices come down as the global oil price has fallen, and that the price reductions which are happening on the mainland have not been happening on Arran.'

As previously reported in The Banner the island has among the highest fuel costs in Britain with petrol around 30p a litre dearer than on the mainland.

In calling for the investigation Ms Clark went on: 'My concern is that customers on Arran are being seriously disadvantaged by the fact that there is currently only one

wholesale provider of petrol on the island. I very much hope the Competition and Markets Authority are able to look into the situation and investigate whether any steps can be taken to improve competition on the island in order to bring the price of fuel down and Arran gets a fairer deal.'

Jamie Greene, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran backed Ms Clark's call for further scrutiny of the levels of fuel prices on Arran.

He said: 'On this important issue I think cross-party agreement is productive and helpful and I would be happy to work with everyone concerned to ensure hard working families and business owners on Arran get a good deal.'

'Whilst I understand Certa's position as a wholesaler, and I have nothing wrong with the concept that the retailers must make money to stay operating, I think more can be done.'

Cunninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson has already arranged to meet with Certa's bosses on Arran next month.



New buses arrive on Arran

The first of Arran's new bus fleet is seen here arriving on the island having just disembarked from the MV Caledonian Isles in Brodick.

The Wrightbus Streetlite is one of 12 new buses which have been arriving on the island in the last few days. There will

be eight of them and four slightly smaller Optare Solos.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport is spending more than £1.5 million on the new fleet which will all be low-floor and fully wheelchair accessible.

Full report next week.

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Celebrating 20 years of the Co-op

The Co-operative celebrated its 20th birthday with a day of in-store fun.

The main Brodick store first opened in March 1995 and was the first purpose built supermarket on the island.

The staff dressed up and there was music, a prize draw and treats around the store all day for shoppers to enjoy.

There was also long service awards given to two members of staff.

Ronnie Johnston has racked up a total of 22 years with the Co-op on the island, while Penny McMillan has a total of 20 years service at different Co-op stores. They both received Co-op gift vouchers of £200 along with other presents.

Manager Liz McLean, who herself has been with the Co-op for 31 years, made the presentations and thanked them for their long and valued service.



Current staff members celebrating the anniversary outside the store. 20_b11coop01

Manager Liz McLean, centre, congratulates Penny McMillan and Ronnie Johnston on achieving their long service awards. 20_b11coop02



Private offer made for Whiting Bay hotel

An offer has been made for the Eden Lodge Hotel in Whiting Bay.

However, mystery surrounds who the potential buyer may be.

A sign on the estate agents board in the window states that the premises are 'under offer'.

The hotel, which closed last year, has been on the market since January with a price tag of £300,000.

Speculation is rife as to who may be in the final stages of buying the hotel and two local businessmen have been linked to the purchase. However, one of them this week ruled himself out.

A community buyout plan had been proposed if a private buyer could not be found for the hotel, or if there were plans to shut what is the last traditional pub in the village.

Eden Lodge Hotel Community Group is keeping a close eye on developments.

They have raised pledges, from villagers and farther afield, approaching six figures.

Joint chairwoman Sandra Butler said: 'I see the way forward as expressing our support for the new owners and offering the wishes of the community as detailed on the

pledge forms, for their consideration.

'I think we should also hold onto all the information and contacts we've gathered in case it becomes relevant at some point. If the buyers want to contact us, we'll be very happy to meet with them.'

The hotel has seven bedrooms, two bars, a 40 cover restaurant and a games room.

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Hotel change of use gets go ahead

A proposal to turn the former Royal Arran Hotel in Whiting Bay into a private house has been given the go ahead.

Planning permission was granted to convert the former seven-bedroom hotel in Shore Road back into residential use after it closed last year. Along with the conversion of the two-storey Edwardian villa, new owner James Buchanan is to build a new detached garage with a residential apartment over it.

Among the planning conditions is that this cannot be sold or let separately from the proposed dwellinghouse.

In their response, Arran community council said it was regretted that the village would lose another facility. Concern was also expressed that the proposed development constitutes a potential over development.

Their response added: 'Given that historically there have been a number of unsuccessful applications on the seafront for new buildings in gardens, of adequate size, alongside but not attached to existing buildings, there will be considerable interest in the outcome of this application.'

Safer cross-fields route to Brodick for walkers

Arran Coastal Way has created a new route between Corriegills and Brodick that crosses fields rather than following the road.

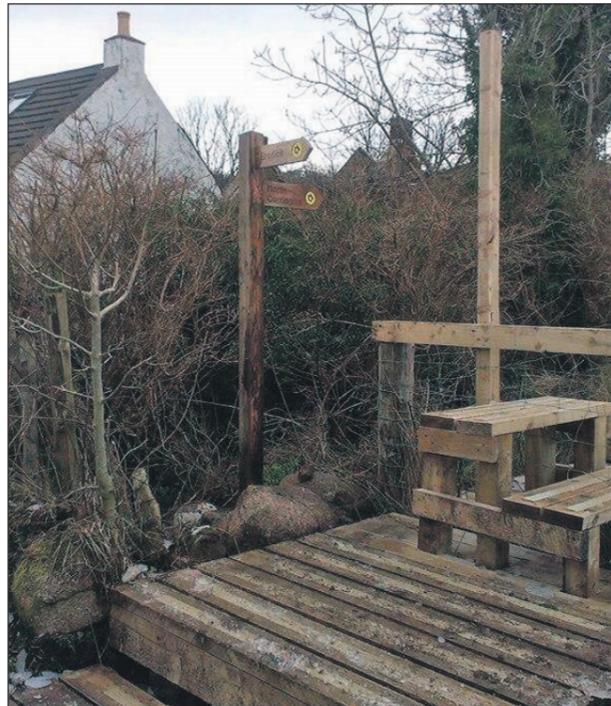
The original coastal way kept to the coastline from Lamlash until it arrived into Brodick along Market Road. However, as access through Market Road was cut off, the coastal way was forced to be diverted up the road to Corriegills and along the main road to the pier.

This section was earmarked as needing an improved route because for those walking the whole 65-mile coastal way, this is the last section they walk. It was felt this was a bit of an anticlimax to have walked through much of the amazing scenery and walking that Arran has to offer, only to finish by walking down a road for two miles.

The new route leaves the

road at Whitehill (North Corriegills) and comes out on the Strathwhillan Road between Strathwhillan and Brandon Farms. It offers fantastic views across Brodick Bay across to Goatfell. Permission for the path, which crosses active farmland, has been granted by Charles Fforde on behalf of Arran and Sannox Estates. Walkers are reminded to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and to access the land responsibly, respecting the farming operations taking place. For more information on the access code visit www.outdooraccess-scotland.com.

Project Co-ordinator Rachel Sedman said: 'This new route is another step on the way of improvement to the coastal way to help attract more people to the island and to create better access to the countryside for everyone to



The new stile at Strathwhillan.

enjoy. It forms part of a two-year plan of upgrade works, mainly funded by the Coastal Communities Fund. Any comments or suggestions for

the coastal way project are gratefully received. Contact Rachel on 303926 / arran@coastalway.co.uk or find them on Facebook or Twitter.'

Elderly forum goes inter-generational

Following a committee meeting in January, when it was decided Isle of Arran elderly forum (AEF) should be taking an interest in what young people on Arran are engaging in, it was agreed to invite Graeme Johnston, youth worker/project manager of Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) to give the forum a presentation in March.

The forum was represented at the North Ayrshire Joint Forums and the Scottish Senior Citizens Assembly Parliament meeting on 4 February. At that meeting it was put to them that although their focus is on being a voice for older people, especially the vulnerable, they should not be exclusive as older people can and do make a substantial contribution to the whole community.

With this in mind, AEF felt they were getting ahead of the game since some older people already volunteer in Arran Youth Foundations, others have visited them at their activities and now all older folks will have an opportunity to be informed about what many of our young people are engaged in.

Graeme will present the work of AYF at the elderly forum meeting in Ormadale Pavilion on Wednesday 18 March at 11am. It is hoped that many will be interested in hearing about what AYF is achieving through its members and also stay to hear what else goes on at the forum.

Anyone interested in invited to along at 10.30am and enjoy a cuppa before the meeting.

Club draw winners

In the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club February draw, first prize went to Wren Gentleman and second prize to Sheena Clelland.

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Something for everyone at the Arran Singers spring concert

The Arran Singers presented a delightful, multi-talented programme at its spring concert held in Arran high school's community theatre.

The audience enjoyed inspirational singing by the 50-strong choir with items introduced by choir conductor Diana Hamilton who led the singers in a very varied selection of song with something for everyone.

The opening chorus was from Haydn's Oratorio, The Creation - the heavens are telling. Three traditional Negro Spirituals were then sung in a natural British voice and style - more restrained, but equally heartfelt - and so dif-

ferent from the Gospel Choir effected often heard on radio and TV. The volume and quality of singing was a delight.

The first half concluded with the familiar, much-loved chorusses from Handel's Oratorio, The Messiah: the first being the exultant exclamation, And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, followed by The Hallelujah Chorus - a majestic climax.

After refreshments, the choir began the second part with an arrangement of Comedy Tonight, followed by the national songs: Scots Wha Hae, The Lark in the clear air, Watching the wheat and Lin-

den Lea. The 11 gentlemen of the choir then performed a lighthearted rendering of The Whiffenpoof Song. The finale was The Music of MGM which gave many of the audience tunes to hum and sing as they left the theatre.

Several talented soloists, duettists and trios added great quality and variety to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Arran is so fortunate to have such gifted people on the island, especially Diana and Douglas Hamilton (the choir's accompanist) whose hard work ensures this kind of entertainment is provided for everyone.

AMT



A trio from the choir perform during the show. Photographs by Christopher Hogge 20_b10sing03

Hall gets funds from valuation day

The visit of McTears Auctioneers to hold a valuation day in Lochranza Village Hall today (Saturday) has aroused a lot of interest.

McTears has been voted the best auction house in Britain and by bringing four experts is offering a fantastic opportunity to those people on Arran who hope they may have a masterpiece on their hands, those who are just curious about their prized possessions and those who just want to have a look at items. And all for a small donation, with proceeds going to the village hall.

Tony Baboolal of the hall committee said: 'On Arran, village halls lie at the heart of our community. By providing this valuation day without charging any fees McTears are showing their support as well as providing what should be a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon.'

Refreshments

The hall will be open from 11.45 am. Valuations will start at 12 noon and go on till 5pm. Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon.



The Arran Singers in full voice. 20_b10sing01

New flood plans are considered

The public can have their say on the plans being put in place to tackle flooding on Arran and across Ayrshire.

The second phase of the Ayrshire Flood Risk Consultation runs until the start of June, giving the public a chance to comment on a variety of measures being put forward to manage flooding.

Joined-up

The process is happening across Scotland in a bid

to create a more joined-up approach. North Ayrshire Council is planning a number of drop-in sessions at local libraries including one in Brodick Library on Friday 1 May from 1pm until 4pm.

The council is working closely with Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and other local authorities to produce new national strategies and local plans.

Councillor Tony Gurney, cabinet member for place, said: 'I would urge people to get involved and have their say in what is a hugely important issue for a number of communities across North Ayrshire.'

Information

You can also have your say by visiting <https://frm-scotland.org.uk/> Further information is also available on SEPA's website.

In aid of Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall

Valuation Event

Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall
Saturday 14 March, 12 noon until 5pm



Experts from McTear's Auctioneers will be on the Island of Arran on **Saturday 14 March**. A team of specialists, including Natasha Raskin of BBC's Bargain Hunt and Antiques Roadtrip, will be on hand to give valuation advice on antiques, whisky, jewellery and fine art. In return for a small donation to the Village Hall, you will receive an expert opinion and refreshments.

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AUCTIONEERS

Home visits are also available to those unable to attend the event, or if your items are too numerous. To make a home appointment please contact Magda Ketterer of McTear's on **0141 810 2880** or email magda@mctears.co.uk

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The road can be seen under construction from the Lamlash end of the Ross Road. 20_b11hydro12



A digger hard at work creating the new road with the Ross behind it. 20_b11hydro04

Benlister hydro bring green po

Local contractor beats mainland

SPECIAL REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A new four kilometre road is being carved into the hillside as work gets underway on a new hydro electric scheme in Lamlash.

Contractors are using diggers, hydraulic drills and other heavy equipment to create the new road from nothing, using the area's own whinstone as a bedrock for the access road which will be used to lay the hydro pipeline.

And tipper trucks loaded with stone are gradually, metre by metre, creating the track.

As well as using the site's own whinstone from so called "borrow pits" on the hillside, they have been using rock outcrops further up the path and creating a floating track over the peat bogs.

Exclusive access
It has opened up Benlister Glen like never before and this week The Banner was given exclusive access to the site to see the work progressing.

It also gave us the first glimpse of the Benlister Waterfall, which has been inaccessible for some years, but rain and sleet spoiled what would have been a spectacular view.

The road is now more than

halfway complete with less than two kilometers to go. When the project is complete the road will be narrowed and partly allowed to return to nature and will only be used for maintenance of the scheme and allow better access to the adjoining fields and hillside.

Local contractor Murchie Sand and Gravel won the contract for the access road against three contractors from the mainland. They are due to finish the road by the end of the month. The work is being overseen by Edinburgh-based consultant engineers Green Cat Renewables.

The turbine which will drive



Plastic pipes which will carry the water from the hillside to power the scheme. 20_b11hydro01



A hydraulic drill and a digger hard at work as rain sweeps the hillside. 20_b11hydro05

Scottish newspapers play a **vital part in reinforcing our message**

Martin Gilbert
chief executive, Aberdeen Asset Management

Photo © Neil Hanna

NEWSPAPERS WORK

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Leading Scottish business figures have joined the campaign to highlight the importance of newsbrands and recognise their increasingly multi-platform readership.

Martin Gilbert, chief executive of Aberdeen Asset Management, said:

"Aberdeen Asset Management is a truly global player when it comes to investments and our brand is recognised from Singapore to San Francisco, but we never take for granted our Scottish roots.

"Scottish newspapers play a vital part in reinforcing our message about our focus on asset management and helping to drive recognition of our brand. I'm a proud and loyal supporter of the vibrant and buoyant Scottish newspaper industry."

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Kenneth Bone inspects progress of the new track. 20_b11hydro010



One of the new bridges being built to carry the road over a tributary of the Benlister Burn. 20_b11hydro02

Power to Arran

Access road works

the power has already been ordered from the Czech Republic and will arrive in August or September, with the scheme hopefully being completed by the end of the year.

The scheme is being built on the north of the Benlister Burn which, along with the waterfall, has been inaccessible for a number of years given the peat bogs, rough terrain and overgrown vegetation.

Economy

The man behind the scheme landowner Kenneth Bone said: 'I am more than happy to give the work to a local business. It is good for Arran's economy and they were able to start

on site during the worst of the winter ferry disruption when a mainland firm may have struggled to get over.'

Part of the scheme is within the Arran Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) which means no construction work on the intakes or access track can take place between April and August to avoid the disturbance or displacement of any breeding hen harrier.

That is why they are pressing ahead with the access road first and will use these months to build the powerhouse which is outwith the protected area.

Kenneth admitted: 'The planning conditions are making the

job a bit more difficult, but we just have to work round them.'

'The end of the year is still the target for completion but a lot depends on the weather and whether there are any hold ups elsewhere.'

Operational

The scheme should be fully operational by September 2016 when it will produce more than 1.5 million kilowatts of electricity a year, which is enough to power 380 homes, or around 13 per cent of all the electricity used by householders on the island.

The scheme is a joint venture between Mr Bone and Inchinnan based MEG Renewables.



The road snakes down the north of Benlister Burn 20_b11hydro11



The work taking place high in the hills above Lamlash. 20_b11hydro06

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Get ready Easter is coming

It's a busy time of year for everyone involved in the tourism industry. Easter is, can you believe, just three weeks away which for many marks the start of the holiday season.

MSP Kenneth Gibson says in this week's Banner he thinks it could be a bumper one.

And he has good reason to be optimistic.

Early figures show that since the introduction of RET fares there has been nearly a 50 per cent increase in cars being carried on the Ardrossan to Brodick ferries and a 10 per cent increase in foot passengers.

So, already RET is bringing more people to the island with transport, which will, hopefully, spread trade around the island.

VisitArran says that bookings for all island accommodation is up across the year.

Then there is the success this week of two of the island's top hotels.

With year round bookings it may not be the start of the season for the Auchrannie, but it is a busy time for bosses with bumper Easter bookings and their hotel extension nearing completion.

Over in Lamlash the owners at the Glenisle say that bookings are up this year, although they are still not clear if this is down to RET or their own promotions.

And let's hope that the Eden Lodge in Whiting Bay is back in business before the summer with the encouraging news that the premises are 'under offer'. And the new look Lamlash Bay Hotel frontage is all but complete.

So all in all things are looking in good shape for the season ahead.

Has anyone told the weather?

Help save the whitebeam

The scheme to promote the critically endangered Arran whitebeam is to be applauded. For just £40 members of the public can have a tree planted in a special enclosure which they can visit on the new community farmland in Whiting Bay. It not only makes a great environmental gift but is helping to save the island's unique tree.

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



Big difference

Sir
I read with interest Margie Currie's letter 'Sensible Idea' in a recent Banner.

The Sannox slipway is indeed a sensible solution but differs substantially from my understanding of what is proposed for Machrie.

It operates entirely on forestry land and, unlike the Machrie proposal, does not involve the use of public roads.

Not only will the timber being shipped from Machrie be transported to the storage yard by heavy lorries along an unclassified public road, regarded as unsuitable for buses, but it will then have to be moved from that yard to the slipway across the Machrie to Pimmill road by heavy tractor making an estimated 300 journeys per shipment.

Yours,
Bruce Patrick
Edinburgh

Sarcastic sniping

Sir,
Why is your correspondent Nigel Walker (Letters 21 February 2015) so negative?

You would think that a person lucky enough to wake up to the views of Goatfell and Brodick Bay on an island devoid of graffiti and litter where there is a plethora of golf courses and friendly people - would feel blessed every day - instead of ranting against those who help him live on paradise.

I am sure the CalMac captain makes the tough decision to sail or suspend boat sailings, based on safety. It is reassuring that he does this - even if it inconveniences Mr Walker sometimes. His snide remark about 'the place the boat occasionally goes to in winter' is uncalled for. He, after all, chose to live on an island.

North Ayrshire Council is a responsible and forward thinking authority which does a great deal for Arran.

My son works day and sometimes also night on behalf of your residents. The council deserves support, not sarcastic sniping about 'Ir-

vine overlords'. Mr Walker should be glad he is part of NAC - ask anyone who lives in South Ayrshire.

On the plus side, my husband and I enjoyed our recent stay and could not speak highly enough of the people we met on Arran, in particular the staff of the Kinloch Hotel and the wonderful Shiskine Golf Course.

Yours,
Catriona McGeough
Sandfield Road
Prestwick

Aladdin's cave

Sir,
I was greatly interested to read about the proposed visit of McTear's to Arran.

For many years in the last century, my late uncle, Archibald Hamilton-Smith, was managing director of McTear's.

On leaving Alan Glen school he joined the firm as a trainee and eventually rose to the top. He was an expert in all forms of antique furniture, porcelain, carpets and an authority on precious stones. His house in Langside was an Aladdin's cave.

How proud he would be if he knew that the firm he had nurtured was coming to Arran. His mother, Catherine Black, came from Rowanpark, Corriecravie.

Sadly, the house burnt to the ground many years ago.

I shall watch with interest the outcome of such a venture, as I'm sure McTear's experts will unearth a treasure trove of goodies.

Yours,
Eoin Mackenzie
Crookston Road
London

Point missed

Sir,
Patricia Gibson's letter attacks MP Katy Clarke on her voting record on fuel duty which misses the point that Arran's outrageously expensive fuel is not the result of fuel duty but of profit taking somewhere along the supply chain.

Fuel duty is a tax on a profitable sector for the good of the public purse but, as a Yes voter, I'm dismayed

at the sarcastic tone of the letter attacking a respected MP whose political outlook shares some common ground with the SNP in her opposition to student fees, against the renewal of Trident, advocacy of increased local government funding and unstinting support for the notion of a compassionate welfare state.

I hope that Patricia Gibson manages to throw some light on why Arran has such expensive fuel rather than use the issue to attack her rival.

Yours,
John Inglis
Red House
High Corrie

Tongue in cheek

Sir,
Regarding the recent letters about dogs being kept on leashes at all times. I too had an incident whilst walking up Merkland Wood.

A squirrel pounced out of a bush and looked set to nibble at my ankles, it had an evil look on its face and I was overcome with fear.

I feel I should be able to walk freely in the woods without the anxiety of wild-life running at my ankles, how am I to know which squirrel is safe and which is not?

Can I propose that we arrange for all squirrels to be muzzled so I can walk freely as a human being and enjoy the wonderful woodlands of Arran.

It has also come to my attention after speaking to local businesses, that there is a growing cause for concern to the personal safety and sanity of both business owners and their employees, due to unruly children under the age of five being allowed to run around without reins. We feel this is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed within the community.

Yours,
Roslyn Green
Brodick

Banking scam

Sir,
I wish to make your readers aware of another on-line

scam doing the rounds.

I received the following email purporting to be from HSBC although the senders address appeared as hgrp@servicedelivery.com.

The message read: 'We automatically suspended your account. The main reasons for this action are:

- * Multiple login errors;
- * Abuse & Terms of Use Issues.

Please download the attached file and follow the instructions. Thank you. HSBC.'

I immediately contacted HSBC which confirmed that this did not come from it and instructed me to report it by sending the email to phishing@hsbc.com.

May I, through your letters page, urge anyone else receiving this email to do the same.

Yours,
Helen Knight
Glen Road
Brodick
hbnewletter11

Darts thank you

Sir,
Thank you for the coverage of the Mackenzie memorial darts competition in The Banner last week.

For some reason I omitted to mention, in my special thanks, the one person I depend on most - Jimmy Morrison who very kindly puts up three dart boards in the hall and without whom there would be no competition. Many thanks Jimmy,

Yours,
Margaret Mackenzie
Kilmory



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Or post your opinion on Facebook or Twitter using #OurUnitedFuture.



HM Government

SNP supporters raise cash for election fighting fund

The Isle of Arran SNP branch held a social and curry night at Corrie and Sannox village hall.

Around 70 local members and friends enjoyed a selection of home made curries and were entertained by local musicians, including Andy and Nicky Surrige, Andy McCallum, John Divine and Mandy Hunter.

The main feature of the

night was an auction of promises, in which auctioneer Jim Lees sought bids for a diverse range of donated 'promises'. These ranged from photography tuition to knitting, from celebration cakes to Reiki, a power-boat trip and a birds of prey session. The event raised around £1,500 which will go towards the election fund to try to win the North Ayrshire and Arran Constitu-

ency from Labour at the general election.

The branch has also just elected its officials for 2015. These are: Dr Malcolm Kerr, convener; Jim Lees, vice convener; Huw Roberts, secretary; Penny Brass, treasurer; and Fiona Laing, organiser, backed by a further committee of six.

Quadrupled

Convener Dr Kerr commented: 'Who would have thought six months ago that Arran SNP membership would have quadrupled and be approaching 200, that is, one in 20 (or five per cent) of Arran's adult population? And who would have thought that the SNP, with a membership more than twice that of all other parties in Scotland combined, would be poised to make sweeping gains in the Westminster election?'

'North Ayrshire and Arran is a major target seat for the SNP this time round and we hope to see our prospective



SNP members enjoy their curry night.



Councillor John Bruce picks the first winner of the new SNP 50/50 club draw.

candidate Patricia Gibson elected on 7 May. On Arran we now have a strong and effective committee of office-bearers and we will be seeking support from the people of Arran through an active campaign.

'Only a much-expanded group of SNP MPs can ensure that the Labour/Tory party promises on further devolu-

tion of powers to Holyrood are delivered.'

Winners

Meanwhile, the winners of the new branch 50/50 club monthly draw were Morag Kilshaw, Shiskine, for January and Carol Mills, Sliderry, for February.

The lucky number for January was drawn by councillor John Bruce and for February

by vice convener Jim Lees.

The monthly prize draw is currently £130 and there are 53 members paying £5 per month.

New members always are welcome, which will increase the prize money. Anyone who would like to join can contact treasurer Penny Brass on 860376 or email penny.brass@gmail.com.

LAST FEW TICKETS REMAINING

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Chinese New Year celebrated



Pupils at Brodick primary school have recently been learning about the traditions and celebrations of the Chinese New Year.

As they enjoyed it so much, they chose to share their learning in an assembly for family and friends and also with the pre school children from Brodick nursery as they also had been learning about Chinese New Year.

The children explained how families celebrate together and how the years come to be named after animals.

The assembly ended with the children performing two dragon dances using puppets and a large dragon.



European orchestra returns to Arran

Many people will remember the astonishing day almost exactly two years ago, when the 12 brilliant players of the European Chamber Orchestra (Kammerphilharmonie Europa) played in Whiting Bay Hall despite freezing conditions and a total lack of communication because of snow-felled cables and poles.

The Isle of Arran Music Society had no way to contact them during that time of emergency, there was no way to warn that the audience would be a tiny one, as dozens of people were unable to drive over the snow-blocked roads.

Despite that, those who were there enjoyed the best concert they had ever heard. These young people from all over Europe and beyond (who can forget the Chinese bass player who positively danced round his instrument?) gave the small audience a concert that nobody has ever forgotten.

And the good news is, they are coming again, this time to the stage at Arran high school on Saturday 21 March from 3pm to 5pm. Again, there is a sparkling line-up which will treat the audience to their astonishing expertise - and quite often, even make them laugh as well.

The society can supply posters to anyone who would like to put one up, though there is already the widest cover that the music society can manage.

Posters are available from Inspirations of Arran or online from arranevents.com, as are tickets at £10, though mainland venues would charge far more for this brilliant group.

The players say they have never forgotten that snowed-in day two years ago and are longing to revisit Arran.

Land initiative to help save whitebeam trees on Arran

Arran's critically endangered whitebeam tree is to find a new home in Whiting Bay.

Arran Community Land Initiative (ACLI), which recently bought 80 acres of disused farmland above the village, has vowed to help save the trees as part of the new community project.

ACLI is currently halfway through a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo where the reward perks include funding the planting up and protection of a whitebeam tree for £40.

Henry Murdo of Corriegills runs his own tree-propagating nursery in his garden and knows all there is to know about these trees having busily collected and propagated seed and tended the saplings for years, in the hope of helping to stabilise and raise the population of these beautiful

tenacious survivors on Arran. He explains they are extremely hard to propagate from seed and he has been experimenting to find its ideal germination conditions.

Some of his trees go to enclosures on the Brodick Castle estate but he is keen to see more planting in a variety of locations and explained to ACLI trustees that these trees are equally suited to lower land not just the craggy rocks in remote burns.

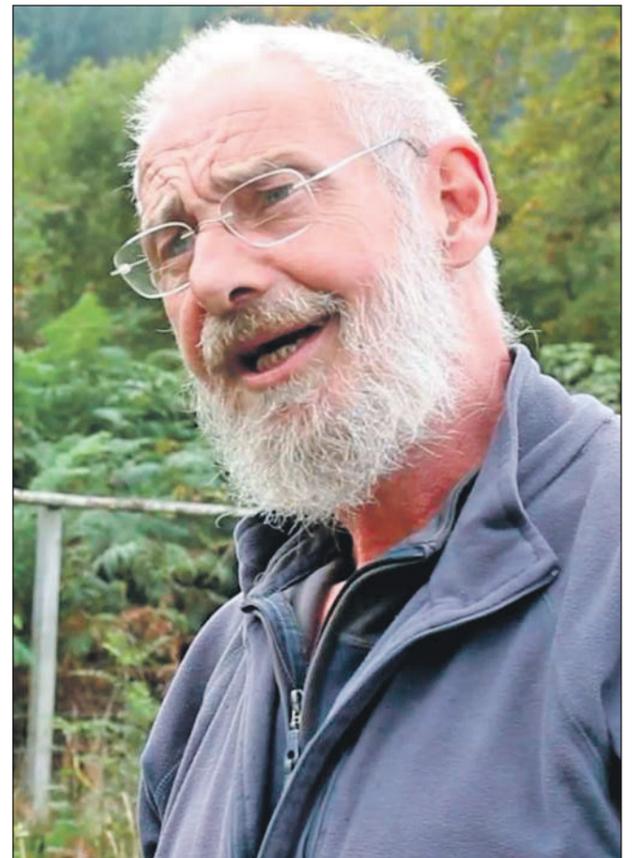
Since 1869, when they were first mentioned in journals, the three species of whitebeam tree growing on the island have entranced naturalists and tree lovers.

This is because Arran, and specifically the north end of Arran, is the only place in the world where they are found growing naturally. They are

a hybrid of the rock whitebeam, and the oft sung of rowan tree, and have pretty leaves with a soft white underside, which show the mix quite clearly. Lovely white blossoms are produced after the snow melts and red-orange berries come before winter.

They are considered close to extinction by the World Wildlife Fund and although they have been studied and protected sporadically by various environmental organisations, including the Nature Conservancy Council which ran a reserve around them in Glen Diomhan from 1973-1991, but sadly it no longer has reserve status, there are far fewer left than in the 1950s.

For more information visit: www.arranland.org



Henry Murdo is an expert on the Arran whitebeam.

Check your right to May vote

Are you eligible to vote in May's general election?

It might be less than a year since you voted in the referendum - but that doesn't guarantee you are registered now.

That's because a new system was introduced in Scotland on 19 September.

Previously households registered collectively but now everyone within a residency is required to sign up.

'Individual Electoral Registration' means everyone over 18 who is eligible to vote - and who wants to - now needs to register to do so themselves.

The purpose of the new registration, which has already been successfully introduced in Wales and England, is to ensure greater con-

fidence when identifying electors and to also improve access to the registration process.

If you still haven't registered there is time. Remember you must provide 'personal identifiers' - date of birth and national insurance number. This will allow registration officers to cross check your details. To complete the online voter registration application, visit <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> or you can register by calling the Electoral Registration Office on 01292 612221.

If your enquiry is to amend details on the 'open register' please email the office at ero@ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk and provide your name and address with your elector reference number and you will be contacted once the change has been processed.

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Annabel is guest of honour as society holds annual dinner

More than 100 attend Arran Society of Glasgow annual dinner

The Arran Society of Glasgow held its annual dinner last week at Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

The event was attended by more than 100 members and friends and the company was greeted by young Arran high school piper Ross Kerr, before being welcomed by outgoing president Dr Mary Brown, in her last 'official engagement'.

Delighted

Mary informed those present about the work of the society over the past year and was delighted to announce

the appointment of two new directors to the society, Isobel McMillan and Claire Johnston.

Following a delicious dinner, entertainment came from two more Arran high school talented pupils, Finlay Murchie on the electric piano and singing from Bethan Remington, who was musically accompanied by Lorna Buchanan.

The main speech of the evening is the 'Toast to the Island', which was proposed this year with style and humour by Baroness Annabel

Goldie MSP. The reply on behalf of the island was equally ably delivered by local man Charles Currie.

Presentation

The evening concluded with a small presentation to Mary who then officially handed over the role of president to Sheila Gilmore.

Anyone interested in joining the Arran Society of Glasgow or who would like to find out more or apply for support should contact the secretary, Catherine Murchie, on catherine.murchie@btinternet.com



Top table guests left to right: Baroness Goldie, Dr Mary Brown and Charles Currie.

ROUND THE RURALS

Lamlash SWI

Lamlash SWI, as it is now to be known following a national decision, held its penultimate meeting of the current session.

With only the AGM to come the president Kathleen had a very full business meeting to conduct before the speaker for the evening was introduced. Despite the fact fewer members than usual could attend, the institute was delighted to welcome some new members which bodes well for the coming session.

Speaker for the evening, Jan McGregor, is well known to many for her involvement in the Fair Trade organisation which has quite a high profile on Arran. She took the audience on a whistle-stop tour of India, Peru and Ghana, beautifully illustrated by photographs she had taken on these trips. She told them of the origins of the Traidcraft organisation, which started in the 1970s producing basic goods to the more high quality Fair Trade goods that we know today. The 'meet the people tour' Jan had been on let her see first hand the poverty in these countries and what community groups could achieve, including schools and clinics, if they had access to the Fair Trade premium.

The photographs of products shown ranged from basics like coffee and bananas, which are bought frequently, through to ceramics, jewellery, the intriguingly named 'trashy bags' and the most

beautiful batik cloth of which Jan had brought along several samples.

At the end of the presentation, Kathleen proposed the vote of thanks and after a well-deserved round of applause Jan told her audience that the gift she had received from the institute would be used for another group she is involved with, Art in Mind.

After the usual raffle and the delicious supper provided by Alison and Annie, the winner from among the wide variety of African objects was Kathleen's little cup and saucer.

Members left with their voting papers which must be returned at the AGM on Wednesday 1 April.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Members are reminded that the institute will be holding a coffee morning for the children's party fund in the high school on Easter Saturday from 10am till 12noon. This will run in conjunction with the AVA exhibition in the school hall.

Kildonan SWRI

Members and friends from the Kilmory institute were welcomed on Tuesday 20 January by Beth Mowatt to enjoy an Italian themed evening.

Quiz masters for the evening, Christine and Pauline, certainly tasked everyone with a very enjoyable work out for their brains. A Kilmory team took the first prize, a very useful tea towel,

whilst a Kildonan team took the wooden spoon, still a very useful item.

A great deal of effort had been put in to make Kildonan Hall look very much like an Italian bistro with the food looking and tasting authentic. Special thanks to the team that decorated the hall and produced the food.

Once business matters had been attended to at the February meeting, the secretary welcomed Jennifer from Floating Island.

She explained how she had come up with the idea to produce beautifully decorated cakes for all occasions.

Jennifer showed how to pipe icing onto a cake, even if you do not have the necessary equipment.

After she demonstrated how easy it was to decorate the cake she had brought along, members all got a chance to try decorating cupcakes that she had thoughtfully brought too.

Some of the efforts turned out really well while others caused much laughter. Many thanks to Jennifer for taking the time to come along and provide a very entertaining evening.

The institute's next meeting on Tuesday 17 March at 7.30pm will also be the AGM.

The competition for the evening is an after dinner sweetmeat and all members are invited to bring along a plate of something to share at the buffet.

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Kids get into the spirit of book day

Several events were held on the island to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5 March.

To mark the day, pupils and staff at Corrie primary school pupils dressed in their pyjamas.

There were various fun activities during the day including a 'shelfie' photo quiz where

parents had to secretly send in a photograph or 'shelfie' of their child's book shelf. There was also mask-making to feature the children's favourite book characters and puppet making.

Favourite

The early years class dressed as their favourite book characters and staff and

pupils joined in. Early years staff Ann Gray (Goldilocks) and Helen Todd (one of the three bears) held a stay and play event for parents.

Meanwhile, Brodick library also held a World Book Day event which Brodick nursery and Brodick primary school homework club attended in fancy dress.



Ann Gray and Helen Todd entertain the children at Corrie.



Brodick children listen intently during a book reading.

Faith Mission returns to its Arran roots

A series of special events is planned to take place at Sannox Christian Centre at the end of April.

Arran has a special place in the life of the Faith Mission.

Back in 1861, a 12-year-old boy called John George Govan came to Arran on holiday, and while he was there found faith in God as he listened to a preacher on the rocks at Corrie.

One day, a number of years later, he was standing on the hilltops above Corrie, watching the pleasure boats sailing on the waters of the Firth of Clyde, when the Spirit of God spoke to him. He felt the call of God to give up a prosperous business and commit his life to carrying the gospel message into the villages and countryside of his native land.

In 1886, together with others, a proposal was drawn up and this was the beginning of the work of the Faith Mission.

Since then, men and women of the Faith Mission have dedicated themselves to the service of folk all over Scotland, especially in rural areas and they are pleased to be supported by the churches on Arran.

During the week of Sunday 26 April till Sunday 3 May, the Faith Mission will erect a marquee on the field opposite Sannox Church and various activities will be taking place there.

The main event will happen each evening at 7.30pm, but it will be open from 3pm every day.

Sannox Christian Centre began in 2012, based on the site of the former congregational church, and with gifts from folk far and wide, plus the work of volunteers, it is gradually being restored. It is a Christ centered place of rest and restoration. Everyone is very welcome to the events. *HGR*



The Corrie pupils wearing their masks.



Brodick pupils dressed up as their favourite book characters with library staff.

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Geese lead varied group of winter visitors

Some bird signs of approaching spring

February started with a cold, dry, settled spell and then the unsettled, wet, stormy weather returned. There was less than half of the rainfall of February 2013 and the mean

temperature was one degree lower.

Winter visitors to the fore included: a redwing in Lochranza on 4th, a juvenile merlin at Southbank on 8th, nine purple sandpiper at Kildonan on 14th, 30 fieldfare in Shiskine on 28th and throughout the month the long staying greenshank at Clauchlands.

Wintering wildfowl were present in numbers including: 300 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 5th, three goldeneye off Blackwaterfoot on 7th, 80 teal at Kilpatrick Point also on 7th, six common scoter off Machriewaterfoot on 8th, 31 wigeon at Kildonan on 12th and with the greylags in Shiskine a single brent goose and up to 16 white-fronted geese on 15th. This is the largest group of white-fronted geese reported to the bird recorder of the Ar-



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
FEBRUARY

The biggest ever group of white-fronted geese was reported this year. Photo Angela Cassels



A redwing winter visiting thrush. Photo Mike Rose

ran Natural History Society in the last 35 years. The next largest group was nine on 2 April 2002.

Other flocks included: 79 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 7th, 23 curlew at Clauchlands on 8th, 76 lapwing at Kilpatrick on 15th, 40 chaffinch in Shiskine on 16th, 24 turnstone at Silver Sands on 18th, 12 woodcock at Clauchlands on 21st and 19 skylark and up to 20 yellowhammer in Sliderry on 19th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The occasional calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: six black-throated diver in Loch Ranza on 4th, 41 displaying eider at Silver Sands on 8th, ten great northern diver and two red-throated diver off Machriewaterfoot, also on 8th, and ten displaying red-breasted merganser at Clauchlands on 15th.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species.

Among the many garden highlights were: a great spotted woodpecker in Margnaheglish on 1st, a male black-cap also in Margnaheglish on 2nd, a male yellowhammer in Shiskine on 9th, 12 long-tailed tit in Kildonan on 19th, a lesser redpoll in Shiskine on 20th and five Bullfinch in Kingscross on 25th. Siskin, on their annual journey north, also began to appear at garden feeders. The first report was of four in Lam-lash on 14th and later in the month there were widespread reports including Kilpatrick, Lochranza, Cordon, Whiting Bay and Alma Park.

Other sightings included: a snow bunting on Machrie golf course on 1st, a pair of goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 8th, a Jack Snipe at the Lakin on 11th, a Kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 12th, three little grebe

in Loch Ranza on 14th, two moorhen at Port na Lochan on 15th and four common crossbill at High Kildonan on 22nd.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring. The first report of returning lesser-black backed gull was on 15th and the first report of gannet was on 19th. Last year both these species were first reported in January. Further signs of approaching spring included: garden birds in song throughout the island towards the end of the month, a pair of hen harrier displaying by the Narachan track on 4th, five black guillemot in breeding plumage by King's Cave on 8th, two raven carrying nest building material in Catacol on 14th, two collared dove nesting in High Kildo-

nan on 16th and six fulmar on the cliffs at Catacol on 21st.

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. Keep an eye out for these migrants and let me know when you first see them.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email 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 2013' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Siskin at feeders moving north. Photo Carl Reavey

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 18 March, 1995

New sports ground

The new Brodick sports ground at Ormidale Park has finally been given the go ahead after several years of planning.

EU funding of £323,000 has been secured for the project and Iain Small of the Sports Field Association said: 'We're up and running. Everybody on the island is going to be absolutely impressed with what we're going to have. The money is now in place.'

The £750,000 scheme has involved the association purchasing ground from Arran Estates. That ground will be made into three holes for Brodick Golf Club who will then hand Ormidale Park over to the association allowing work to start.

When complete it will have a 60-vehicle car park, a pavilion with ladies and gents changing facilities and a levelled rugby and football pitch.

It will also have a synthetic grass pitch, with the facility for floodlighting, and a one tee golf practice range.

Mini buses arrive

Three new Stagecoach Western mini buses and a 1944 breakdown truck have arrived on Arran.

The Mercedes 20 seater minibuses are the first new vehicles to be brought to the island since Western services began here in 1992.

Western's George Connell said the new buses showed the commitment the company has to providing the most up-to-date vehicles for the island.

The breakdown truck, an AEC Matador, has been with in use with Western and proceeding companies since it was built and now, lovingly restored, will be housed at Pier Garage to be used as needed.

Open all hours

Brodick Castle is to be open for longer hours this summer.



The new mini buses which have arrived on Arran along with a 1944 breakdown truck. b11twe04

Although the grounds and tearoom have been open all day, entry to the castle has only been available during the afternoon.

From Good Friday the castle will be open from 11.30pm for the rest of the day, but after 3.30pm 'self guiding' will cease and visitors will be taken round on conducted tours only.

This change is in response to considerable pressure from visitors who felt the castle should be open for longer.

It is estimated that it will cost an extra £3,000 in staff time, but it is hoped this will be recovered in additional income from admissions.

It is, nevertheless, on an experimental basis to see just how much of an increase in numbers the move generates.

Rugby promotion

Last Saturday Arran Rugby Club beat Shawlands 42-9, winning themselves promotion to the first division of Glasgow District.

They've been here before in the late 80s, but dropped down again a couple of years later.

This time they mean to stay.

One little proviso is that the league system may be altered to have three divisions instead of two, but the club hope the status quo will prevail.



Arran United Boys Club, the young footballers club run by ex-Kilmarnock footballer Paul Clarke, are to get new strips thanks to a £200 donation from the Arran Licenced Trade Association. The photograph shows the boys with Licenced Trade president Brian Boal handing over the cheque to Paul. b11twe01



All the season's winners following the pool finals held at the Drift Inn last week. Back row: Arran singles champion Stevie Stevens (Anchor), doubles champions Denis Smith and Matthew McNeish (Lagg), Ian Frew of league champions, the Drift Inn. Front row: Timmy McIntryre (Steamers), knock-out cup winners, Euan Latona (Steamers), second division champions. b11twe02



Members of Arran Mountain Rescue Team receive a cheque for almost £500 from Arran Brass as the proceeds from the recent concert by the CWS Brass concert held in Brodick Hall. Here Glen Sloss hands over the cheque to David Oake as Jimmy Gordon and Alastair Hume look on. Also shown are Iain Cargill and Claire Mills of Arran Brass. b11twe03

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Saturday 14th March

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Valuation Event
 Eco Savvy Auction
 Eco Savvy pop up shop

Sunday 15th March

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome

Monday 16th March

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Scottish Country Dancing
 10/10 Total Body workout

Tuesday 17th March

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Lamlash Church Guild

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon, Wed & Fri 12.30-5pm Sat 10-5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lochranza & Catacol Hall, 12noon - 5pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 10.30am
 Whiting Bay Hall, 10.30 - 4.30pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Beginners & Improvers, Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Trust Housing, Lamlash, 2pm

Wednesday 18th March

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Arran Elderly Forum

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9am-10am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 11am

Thursday 19th March

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Beginners
 Cardiac Rehab
 Body & Mind
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals
 Weighing in for Mary's Meals
 Metafit
 Machrie Bay Golf Club AGM

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Lamlash church Hall, 4pm - 4.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.15pm - 5.45pm
 Aruchrannie, 6pm
 Machrie Bay Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 20th March

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Live music
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Tae Kwondo
 Kammerphilharmonie Europa

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9am - 10am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Arran high School, 3pm



www.arranbrewery.com



Recruitment



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My name is Duncan Bannatyne and I need a personal carer, especially one who can work weekends.

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General Assistant
 To work in the bistro as well as housekeeping and laundry. Previous hotel work would be helpful, but it is more important that you are friendly and outgoing, and can show that you know what good service means to a hotel guest.

This position could be full-time or part-time over 5 or 6 days a week.

 We offer competitive salaries and good working conditions.

For more information please call Timothy or Geoffrey on 01770 600559. To apply send your CV to admin@glenislehotel.com

Glenisle Hotel & Bistro, Shore Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8LY



KILDONAN HOTEL

We are currently recruiting for a **Seasonal/Permanent Chef de Partie.**
 Position is full-time, live-in room & board if required.
 Please email CV's to info@kildonanhotel.com
01770-820-207



Stagecoach

Bus drivers required - Isle of Arran

- **Part-time school bus driver.**
 Training will be provided for non-PCV licence holders.
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Contact : Guy Bodie, Stagecoach West Scotland, The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU

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THE ARRAN TEAM
Holiday Home Letting & Property Management Specialists

Property Quality Checker - part time seasonal
 This role involves carrying out quality checks on our properties and assisting in the office. Weekend work is required.

Property Management Assistant - Part Time Maternity Cover
 Focusing on the management of our properties, the role will include managing bookings for our holiday lets, liaising with housekeepers and general office administration. Customer service experience is essential and weekend work will be required during the summer season.

Housekeepers
 We are looking for self-employed housekeepers for Saturday changeovers across the island. You must be reliable and conscientious and have your own car.
 Previous applicants need not apply. For full job descriptions, contact jane@thearranteam.co.uk

BEST WESTERN

Kinloch Hotel
 Isle of Arran

The family run Best Western Kinloch Hotel are looking for permanent part time housekeepers.

16 - 20 hours per week

Experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given.
 CVs and applications to
hr@kinlochhotel.eclipse.co.uk

BANNER RECRUITMENT **BANNER RECRUITMENT**
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BANNER RECRUITMENT **BANNER RECRUITMENT**



auchrannie job vacancies

Permanent Senior Activity Instructor
 Applicants should have a minimum of BCU level 3 Sea Kayaking Coach or UKCC equivalent, mountain bike trail leader skills and mountain bike repair/maintenance skills, a current first aid qualification, clean driving license with D1 or C1 endorsements is also required.

Housekeeping Attendants
 We are looking for part time positions to mainly work at the weekend across the resort. You will have team work experience and a passion for quality.
 Full descriptions can be found at www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk

Property

ACCOMMODATION WANTED
 Non-smoking, permanent full-time worker seeks accommodation in Brodick ASAP. Anything considered including a house/flat share, caravan, cottage or house.
 Please reply to: PO BOX 212, Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ

Public Notices

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 may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash
 Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 03.04.15. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development
 15/00073/PP; Site to East of Culanachaidh, Church Road, Kilmory; Change of use of paddocks to form a campsite to include 5 no yurts, amenity block and carpark.
 15/00002/PP; Bogarie Farm, Sliderry, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of kennel block.

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

ARRAN MUSIC AND DRAMA CLUB

The Executive Committee hereby gives notice that an **EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting)** will take place
in Brodick Hall on Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm
The sole item on the agenda will be the possible dissolution of the club.
All interested members are requested to attend
There will be no other business transacted at this meeting.

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Ladies tennis shoes - Wilson Surge DST. size 4 brand new in box, never worn cost £59.99 white with navy trim £25 Tel: 700596

Selection of skateboarding videos/dvds. Offers 07792 452814, Men's Marlin road bike, ladies road bike. Offers 07792 452814, Briggs and Stratton mower engine. Offers 07792 452814

Bedroom suite - Wardrobe, dressing table and bedside cabinet - solid wood. £30 Tel: 07443642408

Coffee maker £20, 3 in 1 pram set, donation, Sofa £15, Blue floor tiles £5, Single white wardrobe £12, Gas coal/log fire donations - all at Footprints, Brodick Tel: 456002

Wall mirror, white wood frame, as new - 20" x 30" (50x76cm) - £20

Wood picture frame, new in wrapper - 40 x 50cm - £7. Tel: 600238

Hens - high-line point of lay pullets call Colin: 07968259502

4hp Evinrude outboard motor. Offers 07792 452814

2 bedside cabinets - pine £30 for both Tel: 303593

5 Phillips picture lights all brand new and boxed complete with halogen bulbs 2 bronze 3 brushed steel £5 each call Allan: 700405

Double bed mattress £20 Tel: 700628

OVER £30

Black prince 6x3 pool table cost £340 will accept £250 - table in Brodick - Email: fionachery2011@hotmail.co.uk

Double bed with metal and wood headboard and footboard £50 ono Tel: 303593

Aluminium frame greenhouse 6ftx6ft, some glass missing. Buyer collects. £150. Tel: 600976

Superior quality leather 3 piece suite - dark blue £500 (As new £3000) Tel: 860525 or 07990556513

WANTED

Petrol Stihl saw. 07792 452814
Used electric adjustable bed Tel: 700628

FREE TO UPLIFT

Caravan 34ft x 10ft to be taken off private site in whiting bay - ideal for house builder Tel: 700379

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday 15th March
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME.

NO WEDNESDAY SERVICE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Broddick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working
together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in
the above churches at the fol-
lowing times to which
all are invited.

Sunday 15th March

Lochranza and Pirnmill
Churches. 10.15am Morning
Worship in Lochranza
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.

Broddick Church, 10.30am

Morning Worship, followed by
the congregation's Stated
Annual Meeting.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting

12noon Morning Worship.

There will also be a Service of
Worship in Montrose House
at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"

Sunday 15th March

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Mrs Liz Clarke

All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 15th March

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge,

Glen Estate, Broddick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Broddick

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 18th March

at 7pm

5 Glen Road

All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

Sunday 15th March

Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)

Broddick 7pm (Church behind
post office)
Mr John Murray

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)

Sunday 15th 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.

Also, there will be a sale of
Traidcraft goods. All most
welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Sunday mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 15th March

11am Morning worship

in the Ormidale Sports

Pavilion, Broddick

Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF

FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakes meet every Sunday at
11am. For meeting venue ring -
830622, 820223

DEATH

MELDRUM - Margaret Hope
(nee Colvin). Suddenly at home
on the Isle of Arran on Sunday
1st March 2015, Hope, beloved
wife of Douglas. Much loved
mum of Seonaigh, Grant and
Kirsty and loving gran to her
six grandchildren both in Scot-
land and South Africa. Will
also be sadly missed by brother
Ian. Funeral service will take
place at Masonhill Crematorium,
Ayr on Monday 16th March at
1.15pm. Donations in lieu of
flowers to the RNLI. Transport
available from Ardrossan Har-
bour at 12noon and returning
for 6pm ferry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CURRIE - Barbara's family
would like to express their
sincere thanks to all who have
sent cards, letters, flowers and
offered support in so many ways
over recent months. Special
thanks to all medical staff on
Arran and on the mainland who
cared for Barbara throughout her
illness. Thanks also to Rev Angus
Adamson for his wonderful
tribute and to David and Clair
Hendry for their sensitive funeral
arrangements. We are also very
grateful for the support provided
by Arcas and their fantastic team
of driver who always went 'the
extra mile'. Finally, heartfelt
thanks to all who attended the
memorial service and gave so
generously to the Arran Hospital
Supporters League.



Helensburgh on the attack.

Goalkeeping heroics denies Arran victory

Helensburgh 2 Arran 2

A team of 14 plus umpire
Auntie Sally travelled on a

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

METEYARD - Nan Meteyard
and family would like thank Rev
Angus Adamson and Mrs Jean
Hunter for pastoral care and Rev
John Urquhart for taking the
funeral service on the mainland.
Thanks also to Dr Hoelzl and
David And Clair Hendry for
funeral arrangements. We would
also like to thank our friends for
their cards of condolence which
have been a great comfort.

KERR - John and family would
like to sincerely thank all friends
who attended Betty's funeral.
Thank you to paramedics,
hospital staff, medical staff and
GPs through the years. Thanks
also to Rev Angus Adamson
for a wonderful service, David
and Clair for the funeral
arrangements and Corrie Golf
Club for catering. We as a family
are deeply touched by all the kind
messages and cards of support.
The sum of £700 was raised for
ArCaS.

DRAIN - Beatrice. The family of
the late Beatrice Drain would like
to thank all relatives and friends
for their kind expressions of
sympathy received during their
recent sad loss. Special thanks
to Emergency services, Doctors,
Hendry Funeral Services, The
Kinloch Hotel and Rev. Angus
Adamson.

very rough ferry to Helens-
burgh last Saturday.

The game was played in
howling winds and the Ar-
ran Ladies Hockey Team
had more than 30 shots at
their opponents' goal in the
first half but the Helensburgh
goalie was exceptional.

Arran tried so many differ-
ent ways for short corners but
none came to fruition.

At half time the score re-
mained 0-0 but, with some of
Carol Brown's tablet, Arran
came back on fighting in the
second half.

Lorraine Hewie scored from
a pass from Victoria McNicol
to Anne Watts then to the
back post where Lorraine was
waiting.

Victoria scored the second
goal after it was deflected in
by the Helensburgh team.

Helensburgh were a young
and fit team who kept fight-
ing back.

They scored two goals with-
in five minutes of each other
which put the visitors under
pressure.

The final score was 2-2.
Thankfully Arran brought
subs as Kirstie Barton had to
come off with a knee injury
and Dawn McKinnon with a
thigh injury.

It was a very unlucky game

which Arran should have won
had it not been for some terri-
fic goalkeeping.

Lorraine was voted dame of
the game by the opposition.

This weekend the team need
all the support they can get
with a double header at Or-
midale Park.

Rottenrow Bluesox are the
visitors on Saturday and Ud-
dingston II on Sunday. Both
pass back times 2.15pm.

Captain Victoria said: 'Let's
hope the ferries sail for the
games. If we win our last
three games, we can still be
promoted so, please show
your support.'



An Arran player takes a tumble during the tough match.



Captain Victoria McNicol leading by example.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the doctors, paramedics & nurses on Arran for their very prompt attention last week also, the air ambulance unit, the doctors, nurses & staff at Crosshouse Hospital for the wonderful care I received They were all fantastic.

A big thank you to everyone that sent me cards & messages during my recent stay in Crosshouse Hospital, they were greatly appreciated.

Robbie Duncan

Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows:
Broddick, Thursday 5 March, N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas
Hamilton, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. 3 Fiona and
David Henderson. E/W 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure,
2 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay, 3 Janette McBride and
Jennifer Wales.

Match Points competition, Lamlash, Monday 9 March. 1=
Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, Jennifer McArthur and
Jean Barclay, 3 Tricia Martin and David Campbell.



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Lamlash are crowned Arran winter league champions

Lamlash have been crowned champions lifting the Duncan Trophy for 2014-2015 after the final round of winter league matches at Brodick Golf Club on Saturday.

Despite bad weather, yet again, the matches got underway at the second attempt, after rain through the night had put a doubt on proceedings once more. But with an improving forecast the decision was made to get the games off and pray for a break in the weather.

Hosts Brodick took on league leaders Whiting Bay in the first match and with Brodick still in with a shout of the league it proved a cagey affair. It went down to the last match which Brodick managed to win leaving

the match tied on two games each and handing Lamlash the opportunity to win if they beat Machrie.

Next was Corrie against Shiskine. With Shiskine only having three players it was always going to be a huge ask although Willie Kelso did manage to win his game on his own. The match ended with a score of three games to one in favour of Corrie and with it the dreaded wooden spoon going to Shiskine with two points overall.

The final match was Lamlash against Machrie, with Lamlash now just needing to win. They are a strong team who won every game and took the tie four games to nil and with it the title of league champions for 2014/15.

The trophy was presented in the clubhouse afterwards to team captain Alan Smith by Arran Golfers Association chairman Donald Logan in what might be his last official role before standing down.

If this proves to be the case everyone on the committee would like to thank him for all his hard work and efforts over the years.

Thanks to Brodick for hosting. The course was a credit to them considering how much rain came down, thanks also to Tina, Trish and Dougie in the club for refreshments and special mention to Keith for making the decision to go ahead, which surprised many but which proved an inspired move in the end.

DM



Chairman Donald Logan (right) presents the Duncan Trophy to Lamlash captain Alan Smith as the rest of the winning team looks on.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 8 March. In the sixth and final round of this season's Winter Cup nine players braved the conditions on a day when the weather failed to live up to the benign conditions that had been forecast.

Heavy squally showers persisted throughout the morning despite which Stan Rainey (12) carded an impressive net 60 to take first place on the day. Runner up was Sandy Pringle (12) on 65 and third place went to Gus Macleod (10) on 69. Gus had the only magic two of the day at the fourth and the CSS for the day rose to 64. For his efforts Stan was rewarded with a handicap reduction to 11 (11.1).

Stan's round gave him this year's Winter Cup with a three round total of three under par; runner up was David Brookens (12) on two over par with Wolfi Kroner (12) taking third place on three over.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 March,

final winter friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay. Inexplicably, WBGC finds itself well behind in the series so far, so a good turnout to save the situation would be appreciated. Rolling start at 10.30am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 8 March, gents 12 hole medal and Winter Cup final, 12 played in windy conditions. 1 P Betley 50-10=40, 2 A Napier 47-4=43 (BIH), 3 D K Henderson 48-5= 43. Scratch A Napier 47. Magic two D K Henderson @ the 11th. Congratulations to Phil, a new member, on winning the medal. Well done to Brian Sherwood who wins the Winter Cup.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 March, gents 18 hole medal, 1pm tee off.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 4 March. Eight played on a cold and windy day but thankfully there was no rain. 1 W Kroner 74-

12=62, 2 D Roxburgh 71-7=64. Magic two C O'Neill.

Sunday 8 March, Brandon and Winter Cup, 16 played, CSS 67. 1 A Hume(11)66, 2 R McGunnigle(11)67 BIH, 3 G Hendry(6)67 BIH. Scratch E McKinnon 69

There was a remarkable six magic twos, one each for A Hume, B Jenkins, I MacDonal, D Hendry, E McKinnon and R McCrae. 1st Class Brandon winner, A Hume. 2nd Class Brandon was not awarded, as even the best score wasn't good enough to qualify.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 March, Clochendichter (4 ball better ball), Sunday 22 March, Clochendichter (greensome), Sunday 29 March, Winter Cup final round. David Hendry currently leads, but by only two points from Sid Sillars.

Ladies: Tuesday 31 March. Coronation Foursomes. Choose your own partner and enter as pairs by Sunday 29 March. If anyone hasn't got a partner, let Heather Raeside

know and she will try to find them one.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 5 March, Yellow Medal, 1 J O'Sullivan 80-23=57, 2 Alan Smith 77-10=67. Magic twos J O'Sullivan @ 13th, Alan Smith @ 16th.

Sunday 8 March, Glenburn Cup, 1 Alan Smith 74-10=64, 2 Graeme Andrew 74-9=65.

Magic twos Alan Smith @ 16th. Best Scratch A Smith 74 BIH over G Andrew.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 March, winter friendly v Whiting Bay at W/Bay, final game, 10.30am for 11am start. Thursday 19 March, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

Congratulations to the Lamlash team on winning the winter league at Brodick by beating Machrie 4-0.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 3 March, Winter Cup. 1 Sally Brookes, 92-27=65, 2 David Price 81-12=69, 3 Reuben Betley 99-28=71.

Congratulations to David in coming second in his first golf match in over seven months, due to injury.

Tuesday 10 March, Winter Cup, 12 played. 1 Phil Betley 77-13=64, 2 John Pennycott 78-13=65, 3rd David Price 81-12=69. Magic twos Phil Betley and David Price.



Stan Rainey (right) receiving the Whiting Bay Golf Club's Winter Cup from club captain David Brookens.

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