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Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 21 MARCH, 2009 | No 1692 | 52p

Breadalbane hotel demolition approved

Report by HOWARD DRIVER

The death sentence was passed on the Breadalbane Hotel on Tuesday afternoon when a meeting of North Ayrshire Council planning committee approved an application to demolish the hotel.

The popular five-bedroomed hotel and restaurant was bought by property developer Derek Callaghan of Dreghorn in April 2007 as a going concern. After three months it closed and has lain empty since then.

Now an application by Walcal Property Development of Dreghorn to demolish the hotel and build 10 houses on the site has been approved with 15 conditions and subject to the applicant providing a sum of money for upgrading play facilities in the area.

Speaking for the company, Derek Callaghan told the *Banner*: 'It will come down more or less right away and we'll get started on the first houses in late summer.

'I'll be contacting local tradesmen to get quotes for the work. I'm still interested in shared ownership in some of the houses.'

The original plans submitted by Walcal in June 2008 were for nine houses and nine flats. They brought uproar from the local community and public meetings were convened to oppose the development.

It was seen as being a massive overdevelopment giving 55 bed spaces. These plans were rejected by NAC and a further more modest application lodged in November for 10 two-bedroomed houses on the one-and-a-half acre site.

At the same time, Mr Callaghan held a public auction to sell off all the contents of the building which raised a mere £5,000 as lots were sold for a song by the Irish auction house Wilsons Auctions.

One of the conditions of planning approval centres round the satisfactory installation of an approved sewage outfall pipe.

Chairman of the Kildonan village hall committee Willie McNish told the Banner: 'We are concerned regarding the route of the sewage outfall across the SSSI shore and would wish to be kept informed regarding the specific route.

'The local harbour area is used extensively during the summer months by locals and tourists for boating and bathing.'

Another planning condition states that if the hotel is not demolished before April 2009 it must be re-surveyed for the presence of bats.

Mr Callaghan said: 'We've had one survey already. There are plenty of spiders and you don't get spiders and bats in the same building. Now we have the approval we're going to crack on anyway.'

Willie McNish added: 'Our concerns have been substantially addressed but the committee here will ensure that the relevant planning conditions are closely adhered to.'

The Breadalbane Hotel in November 2007, going, going, gone. b12bre01

Miller Crawford, Aileen Thomson and Eric Borland, at your service in Homestyles. b12red01

Raising a laugh – in style!

If you popped in to Homestyles shop in Brodick last Friday you would definitely have raised a smile.

The owners and staff had entered into the spirit of Red Nose Day and were raising money for Comic Relief while wearing fancy dress. Aileen Thomson was all in red, with fishnet tights and a red wig, Miller Crawford was in his pyjamas, dressing gown and Nora Batty wig while Eric Borland was sporting a very fetching Tin Turner wig.

It was all harmless fun and raised a few pounds for the Comic Relief charity.

Shop owners unhappy about yellow lines

Shop owners in the centre of Brodick are up in arms about proposed double yellow lines that they say will have an adverse affect on their businesses.

Stacy Smith who owns the Red Door gift shop and boutique feels that the planned double yellow lines outside her front door will deter passing trade.

'I think that we should have yellow lines in certain areas of Brodick but the council have got carried away. Looking at the plans there will be nowhere to park near my shop which will have an effect on my customers,' said Stacy. 'It is also going to affect my deliveries. If I am only allowed to park the car for five minutes it is going to be very difficult.'

North Ayrshire Council (NAC) plans show that double yellow lines will be introduced from the Alma Road end at Kames Corner along past the Red Door, Jolly Molly and Bank of Scotland to Castleview.

Restrictions

Other roads nearby that will have waiting restrictions are Mayish Road and the west side of Alma Road past the Brodick Bar.

'On a wet day customers won't be able to park anywhere near my shop,' said Stacy. 'You can't tell me that won't have an effect on the number of customers passing through the door. I will be letting NAC know about my concerns.'

Lynn Raeburn from Jolly Molly is concerned about the effect the parking restrictions will have on her deliveries.

'The yellow lines are going to make deliveries really difficult,' said Lynn. 'To be honest I am more concerned about parking for disabled drivers trying to use the banks and the shops here,' added Lynn.

'I watch older people struggling to get out of their cars when they are parked right outside the bank. What will it be like when they have to park down the hill in Alldays car park? It will be a real struggle for them.'

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Police files

Driving home on disability scooter

Last Thursday afternoon police went to the aid of an elderly Lamlash lady.

A member of the public had reported her driving from Brodick to Lamlash on the main A841 road on a Motobility four-wheel scooter for disabled persons.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'She was stopped at Cnoc na Dail at the top of Brodick Hill. A kind passer-by took her scooter in the back of his van and we escorted her back to the Aldersyde bunkhouse.

'She had apparently bought it on the mainland and driven it on and off the ferry then tried to make her way home.'

Vehicle charges by motorbike police

Two Strathclyde motorcycle police officers were active on the island last Wednesday. They issued 15 Vehicle Defect Rectification notices and two speeding tickets to motorists.

They also issued a number of conditional offers of a £60 fine and three penalty points for defective tyres. Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'Some of the tyres were right down to the metal. Motorists must keep their vehicles in good roadworthy order.

'More vehicle checks will be carried out on a random basis.'

Derelict dinghy will be removed if not claimed

A Whiting Bay resident has told the *Banner* that she intends to dispose of a derelict dinghy with the name Phoebe.

It has lain on the edge of her property for more than six months, but if anyone wants to claim it as their own, they can telephone Kate on 700680. If not, it will be removed.

• Do you have a story for **The Banner**? Call our reporters on 01770-302142

Maggie's Centre visit by Rotary Club

Two Isle of Arran Rotary Club members travelled to Maggie's Cancer Care Centre in Glasgow last week to hand over a cheque for more than £620.

President Gillean Bussell and vice-president Mairi Christie also gave the centre a very large, soft polar bear that had been used to raise £178 by asking people to guess its birthday.

'At the Rotary's district conference in Perth last October two charities were singled out to be supported in 2009,' said Gillean. 'Of those two, we selected the Maggie's Centre in Glasgow to help fund its great work especially because Arran folk are able to use the centre if ever they need it.'

Originally the gatehouse to the Western Infirmary, the small building is well situated to receive a large number of people who drop in every weekday for help, counselling or to attend the classes held there.

The pair from Arran were welcomed by Jen Meehan, the chief fundraiser for Glasgow Maggie's, who had given up a career in marketing to work exclusively for the centre.

Mairi Christie, left, and Gillean Bussell, right, from the Isle of Arran Rotary Club with Jen Meehan from the Maggie's Cancer Care Centre in Glasgow.

Maggie's Centres are the vision of the author and garden designer Maggie Jencks who was 47 years old when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1988.

She had a vision of a small domestic haven where cancer patients could be turned back into people and helped to rediscover 'the joy of living in the fear of dying.'

The £627.50 was raised through several different ventures including inviting friends into Gillean's house for a coffee in the morning or a glass of wine at night for a small donation and of course Maggie the polar bear was on the Caledonian Isles, at the Auchrannie Shop and bars and the Rotary Christmas Dinner to allow islanders to guess her birthday.

'Thank you to the Arran people who helped us to raise this total in aid of such a great asset to cancer sufferers in the Glasgow area,' said Gillean.

Salmond, Swinney and Stevenson will be in Arran

Scotland's first minister Alex Salmond will visit the island on Monday accompanied by finance secretary John Swinney and transport minister Stewart Stevenson for the Highlands and Islands Convention.

Former first minister Jack McConnell was born on Arran and visited the island frequently both in an official capacity and for holidays but this will be Mr Salmond's first trip.

As part of their programme, the ministers will be hosting a question and answer session on the National Conversation in Arran High School.

The session will be with invited representatives of local organisations and there are seats available for readers of the *Arran Banner.*

Future

Mr Stevenson said: 'Our National Conversation on Scotland's future has got people talking about the kind of Scotland we want and how best we achieve it. The Scottish government believes that independence is the natural state for small countries like Scotland but accepts that there are other views including support for further devolution.

'I very much look forward to coming to Arran and hearing what readers of the Arran *Banner* think about how Scotland should be governed in the future.'

The event takes place on Monday March 23 and is due to start at 5.30pm and will end at 6.30pm.

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Sal Bannatyne, left, with her daughter Sheena behind her, granddaughter Sarah, standing, and great-granddaughter Iona seated with baby Isla. b11sal01

Brodick gathering for five generations

Five generations of the same family gathered for the first time at Glen Estate, Brodick last week.

At four-and-a-half months, Isla MacKay is the youngest, and well-known local lady Sal Bannatyne is the oldest.

Isla lives in Skye with her mum Iona and dad Alastair and she is the latest addition to the family and the great-great-granddaughter of Sal.

The other ladies are Isla's grannie Sarah Connor who is Sal's granddaughter and who also lives in Skye, and her great-gran Sheena Nicolson who is Sal's daughter and lives at Cairnbaan.

Sal said: 'It's just great to get the five 'girls' together for the first time. I'm not able to get up to Skye now, but it is good that they come and see me here in Brodick.'

Sal had a distinguished career as a postie in Lamlash and delivered the mail on her bike from Heather Park to The Heights for 32 years.

'That's why I'm still so fit today,' she chuckled.

Sewerage saga remains unresolved

A public inquiry into the completion of a sewerage treatment works in Whiting Bay was deferred last Tuesday because of confusion about the exact location one of the sites. The inquiry was held in Brambles at Auchrannie and will be re-convened in about two months.

The new sewerage pipeline and pumping stations in Whiting Bay were finished four years ago but are still not up and running.

A compulsory purchase order on a field near Largymore for the treatment works was objected to by the owner, John Thomson Construction, on the grounds that the field would naturally be included in the village envelope for housing in a future Local Plan and that there were other more suitable sites.

As a result of this objection, a public inquiry was set up to evaluate other possible sites.

The confusion arose out of uncertainty of the location of an alternative site in a field about half a mile further south on the seaward side of the road.

Objector Ian Thomson said: 'There is a discrepancy about the location of the alternative site. There will have to be an amendment to the plans.'

Scott MacKenzie of the Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals said: 'There was some confusion over the location of the other site. I don't know when another inquiry will be held.'

Warnings over new scams

Following a report in last week's *Banner* warning of a new telephone scam, two island residents have approached us this week with more scary stories.

An elderly Brodick lady contacted the *Banner* to say that she had almost been a victim of a telephone scam. She said: 'I had the same thing as Terry Crawley reported. A foreign voice came on the phone and said they were from the Bank of Scotland legal department. They knew my name, address and date of birth and said they owed me £350 but needed the expiry date of my debit card. Then the warning bells rang and I hung up.

'I had another scam a few months ago when someone rang and said they were from Sky and my insurance was due to be paid. I was initially taken in, but then immediately phoned my credit card company and stopped the payment.'

Sandy Mutch of Brodick told of another recent con.

Fraud

He said: 'Being retired from the police I receive the monthly Metropolitan Police magazine. In the March edition there is a warning. It says: 'If you receive a phone call on your mobile from someone saying they are a company engineer and asking you to press #90 or #09, end this call immediately. There is a fraud company using a device that allows them, once you press #90 or #09 to access your SIM card and make calls at your expense. Please forward this message to as many colleagues, friends and relatives as you can.'

Police sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'Members of the public should never give any account details over the phone.'

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Arran Garden Club

The Arran Garden Club was delighted to have Judith Baines, one of their own members, to talk to the February meeting, about 'Moths in my Garden, Dippin House 2008'.

She has been a committee member and secretary of the Garden Club, and it was a treat for members to hear her talk about the moths she has caught and photographed in her garden.

Judith's interest in moths was stimulated by a visit to the Mull Wildlife Festival in 2007, when, following a talk on butterflies, the audience was encouraged to look also at the moths in their local environment.

Judith knew little about moths, but came home, acquired a moth trap, and began catching moths in her garden.

Helped by an expert she had met who was willing to identify moths from photographs emailed to him, and by generous Christmas presents of moth identification books from her husband George, Judith has built up a wealth of knowledge about the moths found in and around Dippin House.

Scotland has over 1300 moths compared to only 33 butterflies.

Judith Baines' interest in moths was stimulated by a visit to the Mull Wildlife Festival in 2007.

Judith's enthusiasm for and enjoyment of her moths was infectious, and the audience was soon caught up in the beautiful photographs and wonderful names, such as True Lovers Knot, Heart and Dart, Common Marbled Carpet, Pink-barred Sallow and Angle Shades. The colours were often spectacular, with even the apparently 'brown' moths having beautiful patterns.

We also enjoyed the Buff Arches and Buff-tip, which look like leaves and pieces of bark as they rest on trees.

Last year Judith caught a Convolvulus Hawk Moth, a moth which migrates from Scandinavia, is over 10 centimetres across the wings, and which she described as 'her pride and joy'.

The evening continued with the judging of the bulb competition, with the first prize going to Andrew Stefanuti.

Jim Jack also presented the 'plant of the month', which was the cotoneaster, a useful genus of plants, with a wide range of size and form, and with plenty of berries for the birds.

The next meeting of the Arran Garden Club will be on Thursday March 26 at the Rangers' Centre in Brodick Country Park. The guest speaker at this meeting will be Stevie Bunyan, the council's ground maintenance supervisor who will talk about "'Changes through the Years'.

Mandy McDonald presents Janet Redfearn and John McFaull with a cheque for £500 towards the Arran Hospice Fund. b12hos01

Avon sales boost hospice fund

Mandy McDonald from Shannochie donated all of her profits from local Avon sales to the Arran Hospice Fund last week.

Since Christmas the Avon representative has raised £500, which was presented to Janet Redfearn and John McFaull of the Arran Hospice Fund at Kilmory Primary School.

'I have been an Avon Agent in Kilmory for the past few years and to end my time as a rep I decided to put all profits from sales leading up to Christmas towards the Hospice charity,' explained Mandy. 'Many thanks to all my customers over the years who supported me and latterly to everyone that helped boost sales for such a worthwhile cause.'

John McFaull's wife Judy died last year aged 43 after battling breast cancer for 18 months and he wants to leave a lasting legacy in her memory to benefit others.

A hospice room will be created at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash to give terminally ill patients and their families' comfort.

Fèis Arainn is back

This summer sees the tenth Fèis Arainn taking place from Tuesday July 28 until Friday 31 at the Arran High School.

The Fèis is an opportunity for children between the ages of eight and 18 to learn how to play a choice of seven musical instruments and gives them the opportunity to learn about Arran's Gaelic culture and heritage.

Instruments that they can learn to play include accordion, clarsach, drums, fiddle, guitar, pipes or chanter and tin whistle.

'It is a great opportunity to try out and develop skills in a variety of traditional instruments among other things, and to pick up a little bit of the language too,' said Fèis Arainn organiser, Aileen McLaughlin. 'Our tutors are all young and very talented and experienced and give everyone who comes a lot of fun as well as good teaching.'

Culture

Part of a nationwide body, Fèisean nan Gaidheal, the objective of the event is to further the Gaelic language and culture among young people.

It has been the starting point of many of Scotland's young musical stars including local girl Gillian Frame who attended the first Fèis Arainn in 1993 and went on to form her own band Back of the Moon.

Aileen said: 'We are introducing one major change this year. The closing concert will be on Friday afternoon instead of the evening, which should be less tiring on the youngsters and we hope not too inconvenient for parents and friends. *Tha sinn a'coimhead air adhart ri'r faicinn ann!* (We are looking forward to seeing you there).'

Registration forms for the Fèis will be distributed to all island schools shortly after the Easter holidays.

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CITB constructionskills

Representatives of the combined Arran emergency services at Lamlash pier for the Arran Avoids Accidents exercise last Wednesday. b12acc01

Accident excercise another success

The 10th Arran Avoids Accidents exercise was a resounding success last week.

It took place over two days and involved all the emergency services on the island.

On Tuesday all primary age children had the opportunity to experience a variety of emergency scenarios enacted at Lamlash Fire Station.

On Wednesday the action revolved around Lamlash pier and involved lifeboat crew, paramedics, coastguards, police, fire and rescue personnel and ambulance crew.

Emergency

At the end of the exercise Arran High School children went away a little wiser about how to react in an emergency.

Antiquarians look up their roots

The Arran Antiquarians have their first field trip of the year on Saturday March 28.

David Aitcheson of Whiting Bay, who has led them on archaeological visits over the past three years, will again be leading them on trips to a number of Iron Age forts. They will also be visiting archaeological sites near the forestry road starting at the Dyemill car park and ending up at Kilmory. They will drive through the forest and stop off at the numerous spots along the way.

The Antiquarians meet at 10.30am at the Dyemill and are reminded to bring lunch and stout footwear. Visitors are very welcome to join for the day.

Rowan Singers in concert

The Rowan Singers were in concert at Whiting Bay Hall last Saturday night, March 14.

Banner music correspondent Harry Ross gives the following report of the proceedings.

This show was held in aid of funds for Whiting Bay Hall and around £450 was collected much to the delight of the hall trustees.

A varied programme of choral items interspersed with interesting readings by choir members proved to be very popular with the audience.

The choir performed admirably and this writer felt that that in an all-round performance *Edelweiss* was beautifully sung by Lillian and Margaret.

Julian Davidson's performance of *Jesu swete Son dere* was powerful and reminiscent, to an extent, of Russian Orthodox Church music.

Other choir items which took the eye, or should I say, the ear, were *Christmas Grace*, *Climb Every Mountain* and that most beautiful of love songs *Softly As I Leave You* – a very difficult piece to sing.

I felt that Elizabeth stole the readings show with Joyce Grenfell's *Olde Tyme Dancing* and I liked very much Pat and John's duet of *The Skye Boat Song*, a traditional favourite.

Altogether, this was a highly enjoyable concert and a credit to the entire assembly and in particular their conductor Maureen Oakes. **HR**

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Arran visual arts exhibition

The Arran Visual Arts group will be holding two exhibitions this year, one in Kilmory and one in Lochranza as in the past six years.

The Kilmory exhibition will be in the village hall and open to the public from Saturday April 11 to Friday April 17. The official opening night will be on Friday April 10.

Members are encouraged to confirm what exhibits they plan to have available by Friday March 20 and hand in all work by Thursday April 9.

At last year's Kilmory exhibition there were 156 exhibits from more than 50 members.

The Lochranza exhibition will be held in the village hall from Saturday August 1 to Thursday August 6. The submission date for exhibits will be Wednesday July 15, and closing date for handing in entries is Thursday July 30.

Workshops

There will be two one-day workshops this weekend at the ranger centre, Brodick Castle.

They are both being run by Ed Hunter and are entitled 'Tackling the Elements'. The theme is to focus on bringing atmosphere into a painting without having to concern too much with detailed perspective.

Details are available from Alison Armstrong, telephone 600724 or Jan McGregor, 700249.

Married by assistant registrar Linda Murchie at Kildonan Hotel last Saturday were Jolene Briggs and Lee Little, both of Lamlash. The couple are honeymooning in Mauritius and Dubai. b12wed02

Married in Cowdenbeath Parish Church recently were June MacKenzie and Scott Paterson. June is the daughter of Linda Ferris of Cowdenbeath and the late James MacKenzie, formerly of Ferndean, Kilmory and Scott is the son of Iain and Jane Ann Paterson of Cowdenbeath. b11wed01

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BANNER FORUM
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Montrose House resident Ian McLellan gets into the red nose spirit with a Freddie Boswell wig. b12red03

Lorraine McCall and Yvonne Phillips in PJs and red noses. b12red02

Montrose House staff Margaret Craig, Minnie Bell and Katie Phillips. b12red04

Red Nose Day fun for Montrose House residents

Residents and staff at Montrose House in Brodick celebrated Red Nose Day and had some light-hearted fun in aid of Comic Relief last Friday.

They had a party in the afternoon with cakes, marshmallows and a flowing chocolate fountain followed by tea and coffee. The staff even went one stage further and got dressed up in their pyjamas.

And as well as having lots of fun, they raised over £125 for the charity.

Archie is fast gathering a keen following

The black Labrador puppy Archie has been getting out and about on Arran over the past few weeks.

His Where's Archie? feature is already gathering a fan following. Two weeks ago that very clever canine Fleck knew that he was sitting at Brodick Castle front door and barked: 'I think you are sitting very nicely at the main door to Brodick Castle. I see that you are wearing your lead. That's very good as nice Mr Totty (castle head gardener) doesn't like us running loose there. Apparently there's a nasty plant disease and if we are allowed to run we might spread it to other places.'

Last week the young chap was sitting next to a memorial seat. Most people got the location but a few were off target. One thought he was next to the memorial seat on the 11th tee of Brodick Golf Course.

Archie b12arc02

Darren Wragg from Yorkshire thought he was next to the memorial seat between Catacol and Pirnmill. He also asked: 'Does anyone want to swap a three-bedroom glamorous semi in Huddersfield for a new life on Arran. Huddersfield is not all rundown mills and…. Oh yes, it is! Never mind, someone might want to leave the rainy west coast for the even rainier Pennines.'

First correct guesses came via email from Lynda Thomson and on the *Banner* forum from BandS. Lynda said: 'Archie is sitting beside the memorial bench of my grandparents, James and Margaret Potts.

'James, (wee Jimmy as he was known) was the senior coastguard at Kildonan until he retired to Whiting Bay in 1975. The Hagan and Kinloch grandchildren had the bench made at Kiscadale Forge in 1994 and it was designed by their grandson David Hagan.'

BandS said: 'It's the memorial bench at Kildonan. I was sat on it when we were up for a long weekend last week. It's dedicated to my grandparents, Meg and Jimmy Potts who lived up the road at the coastguard station for 20 years.'

Eric Gilmour said: 'My father and brother were both called Archie and loved Arran, so this new *Banner* spot brings back many memories.'

The Where's Archie? feature this week is on page 17.

Legion is given deeper understanding of wars abroad

At the March social meeting of the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion a good turnout of members and friends were greatly informed and entertained by Jenni Faulkner from Brodick.

She presented the BBC documentary 'Black Watch: A Soldiers story', which included some excerpts from the National Theatres very successful and award winning play.

Interviews

During the documentary there were interviews with ex-soldiers, the production team and the audience, which deepened our understanding of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the impact on many of those who fight in the ongoing conflicts.

It underlines the needs for the work of Combat Stress a services charity supported by the people of Arran through the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion and their collection tins.

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THE ARRAN
BANNER

Encouraging signs for island's tourism

Arran is springing back into life.

In just three weeks time we will be celebrating Easter with Good Friday falling on April 10 this year.

Next Sunday, March 29, British summertime starts and while we all lose an hour's sleep, the nights will suddenly be lighter and there will be a definite feeling of spring in the air. Those of us who are lucky enough to work for a living will come home after a day's hard toil and be able to relax with a spot of light gardening, ever mindful that it will only be a matter of weeks before the dreaded midge comes out of hibernation to make the gardeners' life a misery.

This coming out of hibernation will be reflected all over the island. Those businesses that have lain dormant over winter months will be dusting themselves off, applying a lick of fresh paint, and preparing for the hoped-for influx of customers. Whilst the recession continues to bite across the country, Arran should experience a seasonal boost to the economy.

Many hotels and self caterers report encouraging levels of advanced bookings and perhaps tourists will realise that the pound in their pocket will buy them more here in Britain than it will anywhere else in the eurozone. The strength of the euro against the pound should also bring more holidaymakers from other parts of Europe to these shores.

Next Wednesday sees the start of the 80th annual Arran Music Festival in Whiting Bay Hall.

It is a wonderful opportunity for any Arran youngster to get up on stage and perform in front of their parents and peers. The atmosphere is always friendly and encouraging. Adjudication is professional but gentle, but there will be winners and losers.

Nursery groups will perform action songs, sometimes with a degree of prompting from parents or leaders. If they get things wrong, it doesn't really matter.

This is one function where the taking part really is just as important as the winning.

The action starts on Wednesday afternoon with 12 groups competing in five classes of Scottish country dancing. This is one of the most popular sections and attracts a good crowd of supportive parents and grannies and granddads.

Other classes range through verse speaking, choric speaking, and instrumental and vocal sections. In recent years the evening classes on Friday have been a significant growth area.

This increase in adults performing on Friday evening has been a source of great satisfaction to the association secretary Tony Smith.

As is usual with successful events, there is a hard working team of committee members behind the scenes making things run smoothly.

Many an Arran adult today will still remember the first time that they stepped onto the stage in Whiting Bay Hall at the music festival.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Seek the Lord while He may be found: call on Him while He is near.' (Isaiah 55:6)

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

CalMac super savers

Sir,

My family and I have just spent a great day on Arran. The reason we went over was simply the £50 winter offer on the CalMac ferry.

While we were there we bought Arran beer from a shop, Arran Cheese from the cheese shop, whisky from the distillery, soap from Arran Aromatics and had a good meal in The Pier Head Tavern Lamlash.

We probably spent in the region of £130 on the island and we only bought local products.

I enjoyed our day out and would rather put money into a Scottish till than anywhere else, so I hope you can put pressure on CalMac to keep special offers like this running as I don't think I would pay the full asking price for the ferry on a regular basis but at £50 I would visit every year.

Yours,

Robert Cooper
10 Aitken Close
Newmains, Lanarkshire

Dog poo disgust

Sir,

On walking home to the village stores and hall I am disgusted with the state of dog poo on the pavements.

As a dog owner I think it is totally unacceptable. If you cannot clean up after your dog, perhaps you should not have one. Or perhaps you should keep it in your own garden.

Pavements are for pedestrians, prams and wheelchairs and are not dog toilets.

Picnic areas and the green around the shops have the same problem. There is plenty of beach and woodland. There is no excuse; children who walk dogs should be instructed to clean up after them as well.

Yours,

Linda Ross
6 Ashdale Way, Whiting Bay

Brodick traffic

Sir,

Having read the letter from the Arran Banner issue 1691 I generally agree with the main points put forward.

To go throwing money into yellow line projects, most of which I believe are quite unnecessary and will make no noticeable improvement, at a time when the roads are so dreadful, is surely a complete waste of funds.

To highlight the pier area only, the road between the CalMac building and the car park is little better than a cart track with road lane markings that have not been legible for years.

The consultation documents seem to show all of this area as being no waiting and no loading. This is quite impractical.

There must be a drop-off area for passengers to stop and unload luggage, baby paraphernalia and passengers.

If this can't be done outside the terminal building then where else?

What is required at the pier area is not yellow lines but a complete revamping of the traffic system to separate local traffic from boat traffic.

I have lived here for 15 years and in general I realise that now and again people park in strange places in the village but also in that time I can count on one hand the number of times I have been delayed and even then only for very short periods.

As the writer last week said, we should be improving the amenities, not adding more restrictions.

Yours,

Alistair Glen
Balgowan, Brodick

Misguided since childhood

Sir,

Having read the article by Kate Sampson in the Banner of March 7, I have a question for Kate.

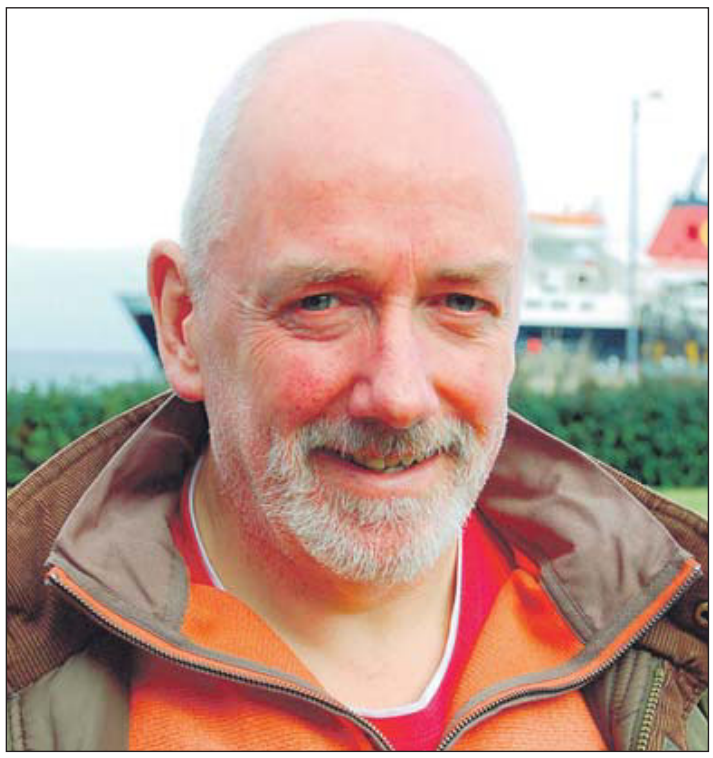
If frogs were only introduced to Arran in the 1980s then what was the spawn we collected from clumps in pools and puddles in the 1960s and took to school to be told that it was frog spawn by our teachers?

I believe there is a difference between frog and toad spawn. The one we collected was in large clumps and I think toad spawn is in strings.

Have we been misguided since my childhood?

Yours,

John Murchie
The Museum
Rosaburn, Brodick



Arran officer Derek Shand b11der01

Arran business workshop

Arran business people will soon have the opportunity to take part in another customer care workshop organised by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and North Ayrshire Council.

The Arran event will be at Auchrannie on Tuesday March 31 and anyone wishing to book a place can contact the Arran officer of the Chamber of Commerce, Derek Shand on 302676 or 07718982089, or Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce direct on 01292 678666.

Helen McBride, development manager with Ayrshire Chamber said: 'All businesses are becoming more aware of the need to gain competitive advantage. The importance of providing good customer care is being recognised as a very successful method of achieving this.'

Last year's Arran course was highly successful with good feedback from participants.

Jen Gilroy of Arran Dairies said: 'The workshop was very well presented and kept moving along with helpful group activities.'

Kirsty Galbraith of the Island Cheese Company added: 'I enjoyed the workshop. It helped me gain more knowledge and the trainer was very helpful.'

Lunch, refreshments and all training materials are included in the delegate fee.

Shiskine WRI hold AGM

At the meeting of the Shiskine SWRI on Wednesday March 4 the ladies held their annual AGM and voted for the new committee members.

The committee members are as follows: president, Jerry Arthur; vice-president, Alice Anderson; secretary, Marian Brambles; syllabus secretary, Evelyn Hamilton; points secretary, Morag Murchie; committee members, Jessie Hutton and Lillian Tod.

After the election of the new members the ladies enjoyed a fun Beetle Drive.

The competition winners on the night were: Scrap booking 1 Yvonne Randall 2 Joan Stewart.

The soft toy winner was Jessie Harper who also won first prize for the Jamaican loaf.

Elinor Kinnaird was the lucky winner of the raffle.

The Shiskine SWRI dinner will be held on April 29 this year in the Kinloch Hotel at 7-7.30pm.

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Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings behind their bar at the Glenisle Hotel and Restaurant. b12gle01

Part of the dining area at Glenisle. b12gle02

The Glenisle Hotel and Restaurant in Lamlash is back in business.

One of the superior bedrooms with sea views. b12gle03

From the outside, little seems to have changed, but inside the whole place has undergone a major transformation.

Timothy Billings and Geoffrey Dallamore took over the hotel on the 1st May, 2008. They had been living and working in London for many years, Timothy in private health care and Geoffrey in venue management. Two years ago they decided on a complete change of direction.

Geoffrey said: 'We wanted a move sideways and to take our destiny into our own hands. We both knew that it would mean working much longer hours, but felt that it would be worth it for the quality of life.' Timothy said: 'We looked at small hotels all over Scotland, from Achnasheen to Hawick. Then it came down to looking at two on Arran.'

Geoffrey added: 'Having seen so many, we just knew that the Glenisle was right for us.'

So the pair upped sticks and moved to Arran.

They opened for the 2008 season and ran it along the existing lines throughout the summer.

From June onwards they began to formulate plans for an overhaul of the whole property.

Then in November, after the last guest had left, the real work started, and it opened again, bang on time, on March 7.

They engaged two renowned London-based designers; Rebecca Weir, design director of a specialist lighting company and Adrienne Chinn, chief interior designer with a flair for colour co-ordination and style.

'With their ideas, it all began to come together,' said Geoffrey. 'That, plus the fact that the Arran tradesmen working on the hotel all knew each other and seemed very able to co-ordinate their jobs.'

Timothy added: 'The bulk of the work has been done on the top two floors. We've put central heating in all the rooms; there were just room heaters before. There is a part new roof, insulation in the loft, walls have been taken back to lathe and plaster and renewed and there is an entirely new lighting system.'

The hotel has 13 bedrooms; three superior and 10 standard rooms. The superior rooms at the front have direct sea views, king size double beds and a sitting area with armchairs and coffee table.

Downstairs, the raised area to the right of reception has been turned into a comfortable snug. Timothy said: 'Although it is primarily a restaurant, we are happy for people to just come in for a drink and sit in the snug. We aim to offer a great evening out with top quality food in a relaxed and friendly environment.'

As well as evening meals, Glenisle has a comprehensive lunchtime menu and will soon have a new consignment of garden furniture with tables and chairs for al fresco dining.

Lamlash is fortunate to have a new first class venue for good dining and comfortable and stylish accommodation.

Open Day, Sunday 22nd March, 11am to 3pm.
Come and explore the hotel from top to bottom. All welcome.

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Burns Wha Hae for island's youngsters

Almost 80 children participated in the Arran heat of the North Ayrshire Burns' Verse Speaking Competition, which took place in the Ormidale Pavilion on Friday afternoon.

The competition is run North Ayrshire Council's Children's Outreach Services and the judges had a number of difficult decisions to make on the day.

Children from P1 to P4 were asked to recite any Scots poem, whilst children in P5 to P7 had to recite a poem by Robert Burns.

The judges for the day were Stewart Lambie, Bill McLaughlin and Melanie McBlane, who all agreed that it had been a wonderful day.

Sheila Gilmore, the island's senior children's services officer, said: 'One of the highlights was definitely the boys from primary five, six and seven. This was a large class of an extremely high standard, and the judges were genuinely struggling to come to a definite decision - this must bode well for many an Arran Burns Supper in the future!'

The winners will now go on to represent the island in the final at Ardrossan Civic Centre on Monday March 23, and every school on the island will be represented – we wish them luck!

The Arran winners were:

P1/2 Mixed – any Scots poem

1 Fireun Simsek, Twa Leggit Mice, Whiting Bay, 2 John McNeish, Mince & Tatties, Kilmory, 3 Scott Fotheringham, Address to the Haggis, Shiskine. Highly Commended – Mhairi Thomas, Sair Teeth, Kilmory.

P3/4 Boys – any Scots poem

1 Lyle Robertson, Scots Wha Hae, Kilmory, 2 Ryan Wilson , Willie Wastle, Brodick,

3 Trefor Goronwy, A Dug, A Dug, Corrie. Highly Commended – Kyle Campbell, The Bairnies Cuddle Doon, Lamlash.

P3/4 Girls – any Scots poem

1 Alison Provan, Sair Finger, Whiting Bay, 2 Emily Armitage, Bus Queue, Whiting Bay, 3 Natassja Alberti, Dog Show, Whiting Bay. Highly Commended – Abbie Robertson, Willie Wastle, Brodick.

P5/7 Boys – Burns poem

1 Struan Robertson, Holy Willie's Prayer, Shiskine, 2=Finlay Murchie, Tam O'Shanter, Shiskine, Rory Hunter, My Luve's Like a Red, Red, Rose, Lamlash and

Gavin Anderson, The Soldiers Return, Pirnmill.

P5/7 Girls – Burns poem

1 Heather Snowdon, To a Louse, Shiskine, 2 Fiona Bulger, To a Mountain Daisy, Corrie, 3 Ella Johnson, The Twa Dogs, Lamlash.

Highly Commended – Robyn Lennox, Address to the Toothache, Shiskine.

•A collection was also made on the day for Comic Relief and £29.63 was raised – thanks to all who contributed.

The primary five, six and seven prize-winners with the judges Stewart Lambie, Bill McLaughlin and Melanie McBlane and councillor Margie Currie. b12bur07

Fiona Bulger came second with her lovely recitation of 'To a Mountain Daisy.' b12bur05

Rory Hunter, Gavin Anderson and Finlay Murchie were all second equal in the older boys section. b12bur02

Left: The judges highly praised Heather Snowdon's performance of 'To a Louse'. b12bur06

Robyn Lennox's performance of 'Address to the Toothache' was highly commended by the judges. b12bur03

Right: The judges really liked Ella Johnson's performance of the 'Twa Dogs'. b12bur04

Stewart Lambie presents the boys quaich to Struan Robertson who came first in the P5-7 boys section with his excellent recitation of 'Holy Willie's Prayer'. b12bur01

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner . . . It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Anne McLean with her 'best in show' exhibit of a Phalonopsis orchid. b12spr01

Spring flower and bulb show 'a bit disappointing'

The annual show of spring blooms in Brodick Hall organised by the Isle of Arran Horticultural Society was in the words of society chairman Neil McLean 'a bit disappointing'.

It was all down to the weather. Neil said: 'The early mild winter brought the bulbs out sooner, then a cold snap made them almost dormant again. I've never seen such a poor turnout but hopefully it will be better next year.'

Winner of the R W McKelvie Cup for best exhibit in section one was a salmon-coloured Amaryllis shown by Drew Raeburn.

The Neil McLean Cup for best entry by a primary school went to Brodick Primary School with a bowl of daffodils.

The premier prize of the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup for best exhibit in Show was won, not for the first time, by Anne McLean of Lamlash with a stunning mauve and white mottled Phalonopsis orchid.

Drew Raeburn's Amaryllis that won the R W McKelvie Cup. b12spr02

Arran Wildlife Festival programme published

The programme for the 2009 Arran Wildlife Festival has just been published and will be available at many outlets.

Festival organiser Lucy Wallace said on Monday: 'Bookings went live today and we are already starting to see lots of interest. People are encouraged to browse our new website www.arranwildlife.co.uk

'The paper version of the leaflet is set to land on Arran on Monday evening and we will start distribution on Tuesday.'

Activities

Arran Wildlife Festival runs from Wednesday May 13 to May 20.

It starts with a deer walk and has a range of activities from kayaking and reptile rambles to eagle watch and moth recording.

Gardeners urged to use peat-free compost

Green fingered residents in Arran are being encouraged to use peat-free compost in a new campaign launched by Waste Aware Scotland.

Using peat-free compost reduces the need for garden waste to end up in landfill, as it is recycled into a useful product, which adds essential nutrients to the soil.

The peat-free compost also helps reduce the damage and destruction of peat beds, which have taken thousands of years to form and house some of Scotland's rarest habitats that provide unique ecosystems for native plants, animals and birds.

Dr Nicki Souter, Waste Aware Scotland Campaign Manager, said: 'Peat-free compost should be the natural choice for any green gardener. Using peat-free compost is not only good for the environment it can also greatly enhance the quality of your garden too.'

St Brides Ladies

The next meeting of St Brides Ladies will also be the AGM.

The speaker for the evening will be Mrs Jean Hunter on her recent visit to New Zealand.

St Brides Ladies meet at 7.30pm on Monday March 23 in Brodick Church Hall.

COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 28th March
10.30am – 12pm
Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church Hall
In aid of Church funds

New youth club to start up in Kildonan

A new youth club is starting up in Kildonan.

The club will initially meet on Tuesday March 24 and 31 and then start up again after the Easter holidays on Tuesday April 21. Sessions will run from 6pm to 7.30pm and prompt pickup is requested.

Leader Keith Robertson said: 'There will be games and music including table tennis, darts etc. but within reason it's really up to the kids to spend the time doing what they would like to do and enjoy.'

As it is a completely new venture, Keith wonders if anyone has any games they would like to donate. Anything from dartboard equipment to board games such as chess, even to a small snooker table would be welcome.

Please bring any games along to Kildonan village hall during a club session or contact Keith on 820314.

ARRAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
WHITING BAY HALL
OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Wednesday March 25th
1.00pm Scottish Country Dancing
3.00pm Primary Verse Speaking

Thursday March 26th
9.30am Primary, secondary, adult Verse Speaking
2.10pm Group Music, Woodwind Groups and Solos, Piano Action Songs

Friday 27th March
9.40am Playgroups
9.50am Vocals solos and Duets
2.00pm Primary Choirs and Woodwind Solos
7.00pm Adult Solos and Duets, Vocal Groups and Choirs Fiddle and Brass Groups

Full details of times, classes and competitors are contained in the Festival Programme obtainable from several island shops and at the door. (£1.00)

All sessions are open to anyone who would like to join the audience – you can come in and leave at any time, except when a performance is actually in progress.

Admission: Single session £1.50 All day £2.50
Season (3 day) £3.50 Children half price.

Lifeboat soup and sandwich lunch a success

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution soup and sandwich lunch in Lamlash on Monday February 16 raised the sum of £925.

The committee would like to thank all those who supported the event.

The RNLI shop at Lamlash pier will be open on Easter Saturday (April 11) and Sunday April 12 from 2pm till 4pm.

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel
Mothers Day Lunch
£12.95 per person
Sunday 22nd March 12.30pm until 2.30pm

Menu

Home Made Soup of the Day

Toasted Goats Cheese Salad
Finished with Pesto

Chilled Duck Liver Parfait
Served with Fresh Plum Chutney & Oatcakes

Roast West Coast Beef
With Yorkshire Pudding and Red Wine Jus

Gigot of Arran Lamb
Served with Island Mint Sauce

Fillet of Scottish Salmon
Drizzled with a Dill Veloute

Spinach & Lemon Risotto with Grated Parmesan

Apple Crumble with Custard

Poached Pears
Served with Cinnamon Ice Cream

Arran Dairies Ice Cream

For reservation please call 01770 860444

Bird Notes - Siskins

By Jim Cassels

Siskins are small attractive acrobatic finches that, since the 1960s, have regularly visited gardens in the UK.

The origin of their apt name is probably from Old German and means 'little whistler'.

A female siskin.

Siskins breed from Scandinavia, the British Isles and Northern Spain across Europe and much of northern Asia to northern China and Japan. Early in 20th century, the Siskin was considered to be a specialist of pinewoods. However its small bill size is also well suited to feeding on the small seeds of sitka spruce and larch.

Consequently, it has expanded its range, and is now found in most of the maturing conifer plantations created in the latter half of the 20th century.

Variable

The wintering population in Scotland is highly variable and is influenced by natural food supplies both in Scotland and Scandinavia and other parts of the continent.

During winters with poorer cone crops, the BTO Garden Bird Survey recorded an increase in records; conversely during good cone years numbers in gardens declined. The numbers of birds moving through Scotland from Scandinavia in autumn and returning in spring varies between years.

The male siskin has a distinctive yellowy green colour.

Fluctuation in food supplies in their breeding area is one likely cause but the populations which breed in the north of Europe will also move to avoid cold weather.

In 2007, the month in which I had most reports of siskins in gardens in Arran was February, and in 2008 it was January with groups of up to 15 not being uncommon.

Reports

By contrast this year there have only been three reports of siskins in gardens. However the national recording system, BirdTrack, noted at the beginning of March, that siskins seem to be on the move and the numbers may peak this month. This species is certainly one to look out for in your garden, as many of these small birds try to gain sufficient weight to enable them to continue their migration to Scandinavia.

Enjoy your garden bird watching

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

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

Siskins are small attractive acrobatic finches.

coming soon...

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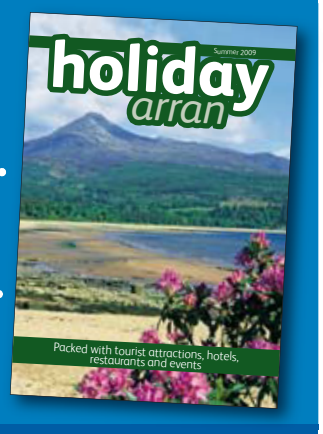
The magazine to promote your business throughout the island

- holiday *arran*, now in its 3rd year, is re-launching for 2009 in an A5, glossy format.
- Modern and informative guide to all that Arran has to offer.
- Let holiday *arran* spread your message across the island and to all visitors.



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01770 302142

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auchrannie resort brodick 01770 302234

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, March 18, 1989

Dirty dogs

Dog owners are under attack.

Their habits, or more correctly the habits of their pets, are disgusting the people of Lamlash who are not going to put up with it any longer.

The Lamlash Residents and Ratepayers Association have decreed that enough is enough; the dog dirt must stop.

At the LRRA meeting last week the subject was raised, but not for the first time.

Dog dirt is everywhere in Lamlash.

People cannot walk freely within the village without stepping in the stuff.

Now the LRRA are prepared to pay to ease the problem.

Secretary, Christine Bailey, told us that they do not know of the best solution yet and more research will have to be done.

'Doggy loos' or places set aside for dogs to do their business may be one solution but the attitude of the owners is the real problem she believes.

Trapped pharmacist

A relief chemist on duty at the 'Necessities and Niceties' shop in Whiting Bay found himself trapped inside the store on Wednesday after locking himself in.

Despite gesticulating to passers by the man was stuck inside the shop for several hours.

After locking the front door, the chemist returned with the keys to the back of the shop.

When he'd finished he came out and locked the back shop door behind him but accidentally left the keys behind him essentially locking himself in.

Eventually after quite some time a passer by realised what had happened and shop owner Barbara I'Anson was called to let him out.

Southend United keep fighting

At the AGM of the Southend United football team it was unanimously decided that despite calls for the teams removal from the island league, the team would start Colts team.

With over 20 people in attendance the team agreed that there was enough support to run a senior and youth team.

George Lammie, team manager, said: 'We're just waiting with baited breath for the Arran Football League AGM.'

Greens get bigger

Three new enthusiastic members were welcomed into the Arran Green Party on Sunday and one of them has already volunteered to drive a 'Bottle Bus'.

The bus will travel around the island on a regular basis to collect glass for the Arran Recycling Company until their aim of putting a bottle bank in every village has been achieved.

Rugby

Arran eventually got back to league business on Saturday with a comfortable victory over a plucky opposition.

Arran managed to contain the visitors in the first half with some stout defending and put together some great counter attacks.

The home side took the lead midway when Morrison converted a penalty goal.

Newton Stewart levelled the score shortly after with a similar attempt.

Just before half time Morrison had an opportunity to put Arran in front but his drop goal ended in touch at the corner leaving the half time score 3-3.

Morrison made amends in the second half with three penalties, one a hooker from almost halfway.

Arran sealed the match later in the game when drives from Barbour and then MacKay allowed the former to touch down in the corner.

After going five weeks without a competitive match Arran might have been expected to creak but their all round performance was pretty solid with the scrummage in particular completely dominant.

The Arran Junior Badminton tournament was held last Saturday at Lamlash Primary School. The winners and runners-up in the six classes were as follows. Front row left to right: Lindsay Innes, Joel Pomfret, Jamie Stewart, Craig young, Sandra Bailey and Charlene Little. Back row: Barry Fisher, Janice Miller, Julie Duncan, Neil McKechnie, Amanda Stewart and Neil young. Also shown are Nigel Marshall who organised the event and Alison Marr who presented the prizes. b12twe03

The Arran United girls team were runners up in the Soccer Sevens final at Largs last week. b12twe04

Mr Alistair Aitkenhead presents the Association Challenge Shield to Stephen Currie and Gillian Kelso, members of the Shiskine Primary School's country dancing team. b12twe01

Arran High School teachers face up to a wall of water for the sake of Comic Relief. Mr McKay takes precautions, Miss MacDonald panics at a direct hit, Mr Watt grimaces, two others are submerged and Mr Miller and Mrs Logan are unperturbed. b12twe02

Alan MacKenzie at his workshop in Cladach where he has been making quality leather goods for 12 years. b12twe05

Quattro MacJazz
Forrie Cairns (Clt) Alastair McDonald (Banjo & Vocal)
Lennie Herd (Tpt) Roy Percy (Bass)
Whiting Bay Hall Sat April 11th 2009
Shiskine Hall Sun April 12th 2009
8pm -11pm Cafe-style Seating Licensed Bar
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From: Pillar Box, Whiting Bay
Book & Card Centre, Brodick & Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
Fri- Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)
Sun - Live Music - Country/Blues - 9.30pm
Tues - Pop Music Quiz - 10pm
Thur - General Knowledge Quiz - 10pm
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SUNDAY ROAST every Sunday from March 22nd
2 courses £12.95 – includes tea & coffee
Tel 01770 850240
Alison and Andy Pattison

Angus MacLeod from the St James's Place Foundation presents a cheque to Barbara Tinto and Rona Fulton of Arran Riding for the Disabled. The adult Riding for the Disabled group, their helpers and Tabitha, Dan and Charlie the ponies look on. b12rda01NO

Another boost for Arran RDA

Arran Riding for the Disabled got a much appreciated financial boost at the start of March when the St James's Place Foundation gifted the Lamlash based charity £1,000.

The St James's Place Foundation provide funds to UK registered charities and their work is based on two main themes of 'Cherishing the Children' and 'The Hospice Movement'

Angus MacLeod, a partner with the foundation, heard of Arran Riding for the Disabled through Richard Small of the Auchrannie and earlier this month Angus came over to Arran to present the cheque to the group.

The group are always looking for volunteers – from being hands on with the ponies to help with fundraising – why not give them a call on 600752 (Rona Fulton) or 600517 (Barbara Tinto).

BANNERCOMMENT
TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK

Councillor Margie Currie reports on road issues

Council agrees that Arran roads are bad

I read the letters and reports avidly in the local press but it is neither feasible nor would it be interesting reading for me to reply to every item.

I will, however, respond here to the over-riding issues of the moment and by far the most being aired is roads.

Iain Small's poster campaign against the state of Arran roads was topical and would have been appropriate if directed at the national governments instead of NAC because, basically, the Council agrees that our roads are unsatisfactory.

Until more than three percent of the national budget for roads is directed to local authorities in a capital plan for road replacement we are stuck with the status quo of make-do and mend and underfunding for what is required and this is throughout all of rural Scotland.

Where I disagree with Iain (and, hands up, I initiated the removal of his posters) was that his headline gave the distinct impression to motorists (particularly at the pier) that the island of Arran and its economy was 'ARSED' and this is not so.

As the Arran Banner reported some of the extra money that we hoped for is temporarily withheld pending a roads condition survey. I have written in the strongest terms to Ronnie Small, Head of Roads NAC specifically asking that, irrespective of any survey, that this money be re-instated forthwith.

Councillor Margie Currie b12mar01

Parking restriction and double yellow lines in Brodick

Apart for the provision for the disabled, surely parking beside the green in Brodick is not inconvenient for people going to the post office, the Bank of Scotland and the shops in the Invercloy area?

Volume of traffic versus safety has forced the need for these restrictions.

In the pier precincts I am trying to make sure that we don't get further restrictions until the dropping off/picking up facility is created.

The days of dropping your car wherever you want are finished – everywhere. There are just too many vehicles now for that to be allowed. Most of us are car dependent and with that goes the responsibility not only for safe driving but for parking sensibly and unselfishly.

I'm having on-going issues also with Roads department over streetlights in certain regions. Life is never simple and even small changes require orders and a formal process. The changes from orange to white lights is, however, most welcome.

Popular tea dances capture flavour of the past

Tea dances are being run in Lochranza village hall on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month.

Senior and junior citizens from all parts of the island are encouraged to come along and join in this rather quaint but popular pastime.

The cost is minimal and includes dancing and a delicious cream tea. Anyone interested in more information should contact Kate Hartley of the Old Anchorage, Lochranza, telephone 830226.

Jessie and Spud Taylor put best foot forward at the Lochranza hall tea dance. b11tea01

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BANNER

WHAT'S ON...

EVERYDAY

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

SATURDAY 21st 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
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Youth Cafe	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm
Spring Fling	Pirnmill Primary School, 11.30am - 2.30pm

SUNDAY 22nd 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 23rd MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
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
St Brides Ladies	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

TUESDAY 24th MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH

Mixed Hockey	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training	P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm- 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers	Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm
Yogalates	Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy	10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training	Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal	Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group	Village Hall 10am - 12pm
Lamlash Beaver Scouts	High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Arran Music Festival (see page 11 ad)	Whiting Bay Hall

THURSDAY 26th MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10.450am - 11.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club	Hall, 2pm
Outdoor Run	Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates	Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Aerobics	Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Coffee Morning	St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Table Tennis	Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog	KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class	KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise	Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs	Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts	Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Embroidery Group	Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Lamlash Cubs	Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Brodick Bridge Club	Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp	Ormidale Park 7pm
Garden Club "Changes through the Years"	Ranger Centre, 7.30pm
Lamlash Bowling & Tennis Club AGM	Tennis Pavilion, 2pm
Arran Music Festival (see page 11 ad)	Whiting Bay Hall

FRIDAY 27th MARCH

Arran Pipe Band Practice	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning	10am - 12pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Quiz	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Arran Music Festival (see page 11 ad)	Whiting Bay Hall

SATURDAY 28th MARCH

Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Coffee Morning	Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church Hall, 10.30am - 12pm

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The remaining 170 hours over the year are to be used flexibly to suit the individual employed either fixed hours in the week or flexibly. This would be agreed at interview. Someone who has previous experience of working in a doctors surgery is preferable although training would be provided for the right candidate. Closing date for applications is **Friday 3rd April 2009.**

For a job description and application form please contact the surgery directly on **860247**. For further information or a discussion please contact Ruth Betley Practice Manager at the surgery.

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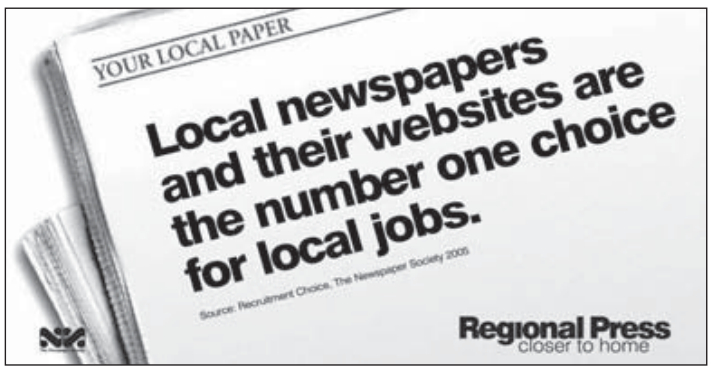

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ARRAN A TEAM

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 sitting by the memorial seat at the top of the steps down to the silver sands on Kildonan beach. Guesses varied from Pirnmill to Brodick but at least three readers were correct. This week he is among a herd of Holsteins, but where are those cows? b12arc01

DEATHS

MACLEOD - VIOLET, E

Died 14th March 2009 in Craigielea, whiting Bay after a short illness.

Mother of Gus, grandmother of Mhairi and Allan, great-grandmother of James.

Thanks to all the staff at Craigielea, district Nurses and Doctors.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill 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 22 March
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church12pm.
Lochranza 10.15am.
Shiskine Church 12pm & 7pm
A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 22 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 22 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.
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 22 March
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND *(continuing)*
Sunday 22 March
11am
Trust Housing Lounge,Glen Estate,Brodick
Evening Service, 7pm
5 Glen Road.
Rev B Scott
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 25 March
7pm
Rev. D.Macleod
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Ormidale Pavilion,
Brodick.
Sunday 22 March
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship and Word
Speaker: Rev Willie Wright
Everyone warmly invited.

PERSONALS

Stuart, Ann and all the family would like to thank most sincerely all those who have sent cards, gifts and good wishes to Jessica since the diagnosis of her illness. Her and our spirits have been lifted by such thoughtfulness. She is making good progress with her treatment

PUBLIC NOTICES

CORRIE GOLF CLUB
AGM
To be held in the tearoom
On **1st April 2009**
At 7pm

Machrie Bay Golf Club
AGM
Will be held on Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Hall

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/09/00106/PP **Address:** Auchrannie Leisure Centre, Auchrannie Road, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8BZ **Proposed Development:** Extension to existing leisure complex comprising: erection of extension to existing hotel to form 36 bedrooms, 6 suites and spa treatment facilities; erection of extension to existing restaurant within hotel; erection of play barn and associated adventure trail; erection of building for biomass energy unit; and associated car parking

Application No: N/09/00135/PP **Address:** Seal Shore Camping And Holiday Homes, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran **Proposed Development:** Change of use of dayroom in admin block to provide accommodation for 24hr warden/ security for camp site

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society
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JTC
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Whiting Bay Golf Club

On Sunday March 15 there was a super turnout of 35 playing in the final of the winter friendly competitions with Lamlash at Whiting Bay Golf Club in refreshingly dry and warm weather.

The overall series hung in the balance with the scores tied at nine games each leading in to Sunday's match, and true to form the result was only decided by the very last match, with Whiting Bay finally emerging winners by 5-4 on the day, and 14-13 overall.

The winner of the Magic twos trophy was Graeme Andrew and the 'Old Cronies' trophy was won by Eddie Hope with 39 points at Lamlash and 37 points at Whiting Bay. Sunday's sweep, first class: Graeme Andrew 40 points, Nicol Auld 37, John McGovern 35. Second class: John Simmons 39 points, Gus MacLeod 38, Eddie Hope 37.

Nicol Auld won scratch with 62 and there were magic twos by Graeme Andrew and Eddie Hope.

As always the games were played in good spirit - which included the Whiting Bay captain Jim Hainey playing for Lamlash and recording a convincing 5 and 3 victory for the visitors! (To be discussed at the next committee meeting!!) **Fixtures:** Saturday March 21 - Texas Scramble. Open to members and friends. Teams drawn (or arranged) at 12pm. Ladies, gents and juniors all welcome.

Sunday March 22 - Hunter Buidael. (Old uns v Young Guns.) One draw at 11am. Another good turnout would make for another great day out!

Sunday March 29, Winter Cup round 6, rearranged from earlier in the month.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Twenty one ladies played at Corrie Golf Club on Saturday in the last round of the Drumadoon Tray for the current season.

It was decided to cut the competition to nine holes as the weather was wild and the decision was justified as not only did our trolleys blow over but so did several of our ladies!

Despite the weather, some very good scores were returned with the winner, a back on form Susan Kidston with 77-15=62, closely followed by an always on form Brenda Livingstone with 69-6=63, this score also taking the scratch prize.

As always Corrie Golf Club made us very welcome and we are indebted to the club for the courtesy of the course and for its excellent condition.

The club also paid for our delicious soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee which were provided by Lindsey Scott and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the announcement of the prize winners, ALGU president, Elizabeth Ross, ably assisted by secretary Susan Kidston did the draw for the Kiscadale.

The teams are as follows: 1 Machrie, 2 Whiting Bay, 3 Lamlash, 4 Brodick, 5 Shiskine.

The competition will be played as a Round Robin and this year's competition will begin at Lamlash at 5pm on Monday April 13 with the first match being played between Lamlash and Whiting Bay followed at 5.30pm by Brodick v Shiskine.

The full draw will be posted in each club. It is hoped that we will have a good following of spectators/supporters.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 10, Winter Cup. 1 Alastair MacDonald 62 BIH, 2 David Price 62, 3 Eddie Cannon 63. Scratch David Price 69. Magic twos from Alastair MacDonald. **Fixtures:** Tuesday March 24, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off.

Brodick Golf Club

The Winter Cup played on March 11 saw the players play in pairs for the Dougie Graham Salver with the best combined net score winning the trophy.

Twelve played in the sweep and in first place was John Hartley 84-24=64, 2 Harold (Spud) Taylor 85-23=62, 3 Harry Davidson 76-14=62 beaten on the better inward half.

There were no magic twos, so it's a rollover. The winners of the Dougie Graham Salver were the Jammy Dodgers: John Hartley and Dougie Robertson 60+67= 127.

This is the second year in a row John Hartley has won this competition well done John and good luck with the new lower handicap.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday March 12, 12-hole Medal. 1 Leslie Murray 64-16 48 BIH, 2 Pat Adamson 57-9 48, 3 Jenni Turnbull 61-11=50.

Best Scratch Pat Adamson 57.

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

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 16, 1 J McGovern 61-2=59, 2 H Taylor 82-23=59, 3 A Smith 64-3=61.

Fixtures: Saturday March 21, Winter Cup, final round tee-off at 12pm.

Monday March 23, Monday Cup, tee-off at 12pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 12, 15-hole medal, 8 played.

1 P Smith 68-20=48, 2 A Smith 63-8=55. There was one magic two from G Tinto at the 7th.

Well done to the Whiting Bay team on winning the Winter Shield by one point in a close game this year which came down to the last game at Whiting Bay Golf Club.

Fixtures: Thursday March 19, 15-hole medal, make up own groups. Sunday March 22, final game of the Glenburn Cup. Duce to the lack of games this winter the cup will be awarded on the best three scores.

This will also apply to the winter stableford – the leading scores are on the notice board in the locker room.

Alan Smith from Lamlash congratulates Jim Hainey, captain of Whiting Bay Golf Club and Nicol Auld on their win in the winter friendly competitions. b12gol01NO

From left to right: Terry Raeside, Douglas Robertson, Gordon Robertson, Lenny Hartley - presenting the Clochendichter trophy as the president - Bobby McRae, Gordon Hendry -- captain of the Knowe team – Alistair Dobson, David Hendry and Iain McDonald.

Knowe are the champs

The Knowe team won the Clochendichter trophy of the 2008/2009 season on Sunday after a decisive victory over Alma at Brodick Golf Club.

The results of the final matches were Alma 4 Knowe 12 and Street 7 Village 9.

The final standings saw the Knowe winning with 40 points, the Street in second place with 38, Alma third with 34 points and the Village coming in last with 31.

The Clochendichter president, Lenny Hartley, said: 'Congratulations to captain Gordon Hendry and the rest of the Knowe Team who came from third place to win on the last day with a magnificent victory over reigning champions Alma.'

Winter bowls at Auchrannie

The recent winners at the Auchrannie winter bowls are as follows.

Tuesday February 17, 22 bowlers: K Irvine, I Hendry and N Pringle.

Thursday February 19, 18 bowlers: J Lauder, K Irvine and N Pringle.

Tuesday February 24, 18 bowlers: C Weir, I Davidson and J McConnachie.

Thursday February 26, 14 bowlers: G Michael and S Allen.

Tuesday March 3, 18 bowlers: J McConnachie, M Megarrell and T Wooden.

Thursday March 5, 18 bowlers: C Haggarty, J Steed and G Michael.

Tuesday March 10, 19 bowlers: R Smith, M Megarrell and C Weir.

The Auchrannie Trophy will be presented to the winner on Thursday March 26.

The final game of the winter season will be played on Tuesday March 31 and the Winter Bowls will resume in October.

Defeat for Bar Eden

The Bar Eden lost their first pool game of the season to their fellow Whiting Bay team on Thursday night. The Cameronia defeated them 7-5 but the Bar Eden will still be crowned league champions in three weeks time.

Another shock result on the night was Catacol's 7-5 win over PT1934. For the first time in around 12 years Catacol have scored more than 20 points in the season. Congratulations to them all.

Results from Thursday March 12: Corrie 6 (G) Drift 6, Kildonan 7 (G) PHT 5, PT1934 5 Catacol 7 (G), Cameronia 7 Bar Eden 5 (G). Matches to be played on Thursday March 26: PT1934 v Corrie, Drift Out v PHT, Bar Eden v Catacol and Cameronia v Kildonan.

Arran Bridge Notes

Brodick Bridge Club

Results from Friday February 13. N/S: 1 D Scobie and D Bruce –700, 2 D Henderson and F Crawford –2420, 3 M McGill and V Iutz –3770.

E/W: 1 J McBride and P Adamson +4710, 2 H Boyd and E Paul +4560, 3 T Martin and D Hamilton +4230.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday March 16. N/S: 1 H Boyd and J Murchie +6400, 2 P Adamson and E McConnell +2890, 3 A Bilsland and T Martin +1930.

E/W: 1 M McGill and C Bone –240, 2 J and J Beattie –1940, 3 E Jones and B Livingstone –2150.

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R&A captain returns to roots

Hamish Ritchie, captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, played a couple of rounds over Shiskine golf course last weekend.

His playing partner was Donald Turner, captain of Shiskine Golf Club. This match had special significance because Hamish's father and grandfather were past captains of Shiskine. Donald lives in Symington but has a house in Blackwaterfoot and is a regular visitor to the island.

Hamish Ritchie, captain of the R and A, left, and Donald Turner, captain of Shiskine Golf Club. b12shi01

Friendship

He said: 'Hamish and I have had a long friendship. He was speaking at the annual dinner of the Royal Troon Golf Club on Friday so he and his wife Carol popped over to Arran to join us for the weekend.'

Hamish said: 'Carol and I live in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, but I was born and brought up in Milngavie. The family moved south in 1956 with the its cardboard manufacturing business of Andrew Ritchie and Son.

The Banner asked him how he came to be appointed captain of the R and A.

'I became a member of the club in 1974,' he said. 'There are 2,650 members worldwide and each year the past captains meet up to appoint a new captain. For the last few years the meeting has been held in Buckingham Palace because the Duke of York is one of the past captains and it is easier for security than if he came to another venue.

'Last September I was nominated and appointed captain for the year.'

Hamish took up his position with a ceremony on the first tee of the Old Course. He is also a member of the MCC and captained Oxford University Golf Club in 1964.

Hamish's grandfather, James Martin Ritchie, was captain of Shiskine 1924 to 1927. He said: 'This is my first opportunity to see his name up on the captain's board in the clubhouse and there is even a photo of him in plus fours and a dapper white hat.'

Hamish's next duty will be as ambassador of the R and A at the US Masters tournament in Augusta on April 6.

Liam scores but it is not enough to prevent Arran defeat

Liam Boal charges towards the try line at the Ormidale Park in Brodick on Sunday when Arran's junior rugby team took on a side from Paisley RFC.

Despite defending well in the first half and scoring some impressive tries Arran just were not powerful enough to beat the mainland team.

Paisley have won all four of their games this season so far and after defeating Arran 17-32 they can now go on to win the West Regional under 16 division two league. Picture courtesy of jinglyjangly images/Lenny Hartley 2009.

Scott Rankin makes the steep climb look easy at Southbank last Saturday. b12mot02

Grant is a grand boost for motocross club

The Arran Motocross Club held a practise session at Southbank last Saturday.

The course in a field at Bennan corner had been carefully laid out by Murray Boal and Ricky Kennedy but very few members turned up to take advantage.

A howling gale made it difficult to stand up, but young Scott Rankin did several circuits of the hilly and demanding course and improved his time on each lap. Murray said: 'It's a shame more didn't turn up after the effort of laying out the course. We'll gee them up for the next session in a few weeks time.'

Club secretary Amanda Trotter said: 'The good news for our club is that we have received our first grant of £1,004.30 from the Local Youth Action Fund of North Ayrshire Council. This grant will be very helpful and is thanks to the perseverance and dedication of committee member Chris Hogge.'

Badminton benefits by £210 from fundraising activities

Whiting Bay Junior Badminton Club has just benefited by the sum of £210 from fundraising activities at Whiting Bay Golf Club.

Liz Kennedy and Neil McKechnie said: 'The money will be used to purchase new net stands, rackets and shuttles. We are grateful to Mo and Pat, Whiting Bay Golf Club, in particular Johnny, Elaine and Tony and the many businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes to help raise funds for the club.'

SPORTSDESK
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