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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 22 MARCH 2014

No 1953 60p

Seal-ed with a kiss!

The much-loved Corrie seal has been returned to its lofty perch in the centre of the village

The carved creature, which was washed away down the Clyde to Turnberry last month, was reinstated on the rock by its creator, local sculptor Marvin Elliot, and other members of the community last Thursday.

As reported last month in The Banner there was devastation when the famous wooden seal was found missing from his rock off the Corrie shore after strong winds and high tides battered the north shore.

But just 48 hours after it had been spotted missing Marvin got the shock of his life to be told his seal had been found on the beach the day before, 30 miles across the Firth of Clyde at Turnberry.

When The Banner Facebook page announced that the seal had been found safely it was inundated with comments.

Faye Little said: 'Thank goodness it's been found.'

'It wouldn't be the same looking out of Seawinds Cottage and not seeing it.'

'We saw it being erected by Marvin years ago, it's a landmark and an icon.'

Louise Clifton Cunningham wrote: 'Glad it's been found - it has become an icon.'

'It lasted longer than it was ever supposed to - a testament to Marvin's handiwork.'

'Looking forward to seeing it back in place.'

The community gathered on the beach to watch the sculpture being reinstated and it looked as though Marvin used an extra-long drill this time to make sure it remains there for many years to come. 20_b12sea02



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CalMac ferry passenger numbers up 84,000 on 2013

Ferry operator Caledonian Macbrayne (CalMac) carried nearly 84,000 more passengers and nearly 19,000 more cars in 2013 than the previous year – despite losing nearly 1,200 sailings because of bad weather in the last two months of the year.

Annual carryings for January to December 2013, showed a total of 4,594,520 passengers and 1,064,324 cars travelled with CalMac on its 27 routes, with 18 of those routes showing an increase in traffic.

Two routes were trialled for the first time in 2013; the Ardrossan-Campbeltown summer service which began in May, and the Lochboisdale-Mallaig winter service, which began in November but has been badly affected by the ex-

treme weather which has prevailed for virtually all of the first two months of the pilot.

CalMac operations director Brian Fulton said: '2013 was a year of very mixed fortunes with an incredibly busy and hot summer which boosted carryings especially on the Clyde, but which was followed at the end of the year, by some of the worst winter conditions ever seen.

'These storms have had, and continue to have, a devastating effect on sailings right across the network from the Clyde to the Western Isles.

'In November and December around 1,200 sailings were cancelled because of the weather which is a good indication of how widespread the disruption has been. Anyone

who has seen the TV footage of extreme weather battering coasts around the country will have a good sense of the type of conditions our Masters have been facing and understand why this winter has been such a challenge.'

He added: 'We recognise that these cancellations are hugely inconvenient for ferry travellers and the communities we serve, but we have to put the safety of our passengers, crews and ships first.'

The number of coaches was close to 2012 levels at 11,210 but overall commercial traffic fell by nearly 7,000 vehicles to 92,589.

Mr Fulton said: 'Without detailed analysis it is difficult to be precise about the reasons for fluctuations in traffic, and trends do vary across the network, but our experience is that any drop in commercial traffic is likely to be related to the completion of major infrastructure projects, so is not an area of major concern although clearly we would prefer that the ships were as busy as possible.'

Community council to meet earlier than normal

The next meeting of the Arran Community Council will take place in the Ormidale Pavilion on Tuesday 25 March.

Because the roadworks on

the String road, the meeting will start at the earlier time of 6pm to allow those attending to return over the road at opening times.



Bank manager Lee McCrimmon-Harvey, centre, presents Robert Waine of AMRT with a cheque for £3,000. Lisa Miller, Ashleigh Paterson and Brian Cooper of Bank of Scotland look on.

AMRT benefits from Bank of Scotland community fund

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team has been awarded £3,000 from the 2013 Bank of Scotland Community Fund.

The public was able to vote for its preferred community group by voting in the Brodick branch, online or by SMS - and AMRT came out top.

Robert Waine, treasurer of AMRT, said that the money would be used to buy portable defibrillators, small enough to be taken on to the hillside.

'We are an entirely voluntary organisation and we only get very limited funding from the government so local

support of this kind to raise money for the team is very important,' he said.

'We are so grateful to the Bank of Scotland and other organisations who have been fundraising for us.'

The Brodick branch of Bank of Scotland is now stand-alone and no longer linked to Saltcoats.

Delighted

The new full-time bank manager Lee McCrimmon-Harvey said she was delighted to be involved with the community fund and thanked everyone who voted.

Brian Cooper, area man-

ager, said: 'Bank of Scotland scaled up the Community Fund considerably in 2013 and in return we have had an incredible response from the public, which has resonated right across the country.'

'We know that receiving a promotional boost and public support is as important as the financial investment and can have a sustained impact on a group's engagement with its local community over time.'

'Congratulations to AMRT, we look forward to hearing about the difference being involved in the programme has made.'

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Finance secretary to host Arran questions on independence

Arran's residents will have the chance to quiz Scotland's finance secretary John Swinney MSP on the government's plans for independence when he visits the island next week.

People will have the opportunity to discuss the future the Scottish government has set out in detail, if the country votes for independence on September 18 this year. Mr Swinney will host the discussion at Brodick Village Hall, on Sunday 30 March at 7.45pm.

He is keen to hear as many views as possible and will answer questions from members of the audience.

Speaking to The Arran Banner ahead of the event, Mr Swinney said: 'I am delighted

to be hosting the public discussion session in Arran.

'This event is part of a series of Scotland-wide events which will see all my colleagues engage with people across the country about the future we envisage following a vote for independence.

'It's crucial that everyone who lives and works in Scotland considers and discusses with others the sort of country they want Scotland to be in the future.

'Taking the referendum conversation out to communities across the country provides an opportunity for us to meet people from a wide range of backgrounds and hear their views on independence, as well as listening to their questions and concerns.'

He added: 'We want to hear what local people have to say about the type of Scotland they want in the future and I would encourage readers of The Arran Banner to come and meet me on Sunday 30 March.'

As well as the formal Q&A session, Mr Swinney will be happy to chat informally to audience members over tea and coffee at the end of the event.

Attendance is free but spaces are limited, so those who wish to attend should register by emailing: ScotFuture@scotland.gsi.gov.uk using the subject line 'Arran Event' and including their full name and contact number.

Also register by calling 0300 244 2114.



Charley Weir, centre, showcases her winning design for the Kinloch Hotel's 60th anniversary with owners Barbara and Robbie Crawford. 20_b12kin01

Winning logo kick-starts hotel's 60th birthday celebrations

Sixty years ago the late, great Lawrence Crawford took on The Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot with his mother.

Now in 2014, his son - the current owner - Robbie Crawford, is preparing to celebrate the business' diamond anniversary with a series of different events throughout the year.

The celebrations got off to a cracking start last week when Robbie and his wife Barbara were given an opportunity to choose a specially designed logo for the 60th anniversary.

The couple had asked the S2 technology class at Arran High School to come up with ideas for the emblem which will appear on all of the Kinloch's publicity material this year.

Barbara said: 'Both Robbie and I are really impressed by the professional level of all the logos.

'There are some really great designs. We particularly liked the idea of a sunset, and the Kinloch tartan was used really well in one design.

'But we both agreed that the diamond motif was a great idea and that's why we chose Charley Weir's lovely design.'

Mr Wilson, design and technology teacher, said: 'This was a great opportunity for the youngsters not only to design a logo but to have the opportunity to see it actually being used.

'We'd like to thank the Kinloch Hotel for giving us this opportunity and I think they'll agree that all of the designs are really superb.'

Charley Weir from Pirmill can now see her winning design being used on the Kinloch Hotel's advert on page nine.

Arran Resilience comes to Shiskine

Exercise Endeavour, the next Arran Resilience exercise, will take place on Sunday 23 March. Organisers are urging people not to be alarmed if they see emergency vehicles travelling over the String Road and around the Shiskine area of the island. In addition, there will be a minor road closure at The Rodden, between Shiskine and Torbeg.

Dr David Hogg, co-ordinator of Arran Resilience, said: 'Our emergency teams find it useful to get together on a regular basis in order to understand what ongoing capabilities and skills are available.'

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Keep castle's silver shining

A campaign to ensure that the stunning silver collection at the National Trust for Scotland's Brodick Castle retains its sparkle is underway.

The charity which cares for the historic property is raising funds that will enable important conservation work, cleaning and repairs to be carried out on the castle's celebrated interiors.

Its art and artefacts are recognised as being amongst Scotland's most impressive public collections.

Fundraising

Brodick Castle is one of nine properties across Scotland specifically highlighted in the Protect Scottish Heritage fundraising campaign.

Appeal manager Rebecca Amiel said: 'Caring for Scotland's heritage is an expensive business and the costs increase every year.

'We need to carry out important conservation work on Brodick's beautiful collection, so we can ensure its silver sparkles for decades to come.'

Donation has been made easy through the use of text payments, or via the online scheme. Text GEMS67£5 to 70070 to donate £5 or visit www.nts.org.uk/protect to donate online.

Donations will be used to help protect the future of the Brodick collections, saving them for the next generation.



NTS curator Lyndsay McGill with antiques expert Phil Serrell.

Excitement as Antiques Road Trip makes a detour to Arran

The staff at Brodick Castle experienced a little bit of excitement last weekend when the BBC programme 'Antiques Road Trip' visited the National Trust for Scotland

(NTS) property. The visiting expert Phil Serrell was filming for an episode based in North Ayrshire, and he was joined by NTS curator Lyndsay McGill. A spokesman for

the castle said: 'We had a really great time with Phil and the team - they're welcome back any time.'

The episode will be aired later this year.



Filming in the drawing room at the castle.

Postie helps US woman find long lost relatives

A woman in the US has found long lost relatives thanks to the diligence of a postie on Arran.

And she has turned to The Banner to thank him for his help after finding the newspaper on Facebook which left her 'thrilled'.

Val Garrison from Flagstaff, Arizona had originally been trying to trace her cousin by the name of Margaret Alexander who she knew had lived in Brodick several years ago.

She said: 'I received an email from my third cousin just last week, and I was able to find out the information I was looking for.'

'I had sent a letter to my second cousin on the Isle of Arran back in January and hadn't heard a word from Margaret.'

'It turns out that she unfortunately passed away in

2009, but the postman knew who she was related to in Brodick and so the letter was forwarded to her and she in turn passed it along to my third cousins when they were visiting Brodick just last week.

'Since I received that email, we have become friends on Facebook and shared pictures and stories. It has been wonderful.'

'I am so happy to have re-established a connection with a very important part of my family tree once again.'

Val added: 'Margaret's grandfather was David Jones, the Provost of Kilmarnock in the early 1900s.'

'My great grandmother and her grandfather were brother and sister.'

Val and her husband Dave hope to meet up with their newly found relatives when they visit Scotland in June.

CMAL appoints chief executive

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has announced the appointment of its new chief executive officer, Tom Docherty.

Mr Docherty, who is a marine engineer, has held a number of senior management positions within the maritime industry and will take over from former CEO, Guy Platten, in April.

Originally from Glasgow, he was managing director at Red Funnel, which has operated a successful passenger, car and freight business between

Southampton and the Isle of Wight for almost 150 years.

Grenville Johnston, CMAL's chairman, said: 'We warmly welcome Tom to the CMAL team.'

Tom Docherty said: 'It has long been my ambition to work with the ferry services that serve the Clyde and Hebrides routes.'

'I very much look forward to taking up the post at this exciting time in CMAL's history and to meeting and working with the communities that CMAL's vessels serve.'

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Arran Aromatics at Red Hot fundraiser



Duncan Russell of Arran Aromatics with brave little Amy Ovens, a young sufferer of Crohn's disease.

The evening was a fantastic success and raised a whopping £50,000

Arran Aromatics was out on the town last Saturday attending the Red Hot Ball in the Thistle Hotel, Glasgow.

The Red Hot Ball is a fundraising event organized by The Catherine McEwan Foundation.

The money raised is split between two main causes - Crohn's and Colitis UK, the national charity, and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Yorkhill) in Glasgow.

The foundation is run by a small group of dedicated volunteers so there are no staffing costs.

All the money they raise goes directly to supporting people living with Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.

At this year's Red Hot Ball every guest received an Arran Aromatics gift bag to take home along with other goodies that the event provides for

everyone who attends it.

The evening was a fantastic success and raised a whopping £50,000 and a lot of awareness for Crohn's and Colitis.

Duncan Russell from Arran Aromatics is pictured with his 'wee best pal', Amy Ovens, age 10, who was diagnosed with Crohn's a year ago and has spent a lot of time in and out of Yorkhill children's hospital over the last year.

Despite all her challenges, Amy, along with mum Lynn (who also has Crohn's), told her story to the 500 guests at the event and received a standing ovation from the whole place.

There was not a dry eye in the house.

Well done to wee Amy and mum Lynn from all at Arran Aromatics - stay well and keep up the good work!

Stagecoach brings smarter travel to Arran

Stagecoach bus passengers on Arran are to benefit from a new smartcard ticketing scheme which has been launched in west Scotland.

The Stagecoach Smartcard scheme - which is now live across Stagecoach services on the island as well as in Glasgow, Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway - allows Stagecoach bus passengers to store their travel electronically on a smartcard instead of using paper tickets.

For the first time, it also offers customers the chance to pay for their travel through hassle-free automatic payments.

Transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'Stagecoach's launch of commercial smart ticketing in south west Scotland, the first phase of a nationwide roll-out, is an exciting and welcome development for passengers.'

'I hope to see other operators follow this lead so that commercial smart ticketing becomes widely available and that national ambitions are met to see a Scotland where all journeys on bus, rail, ferry, subway and tram networks can be accessed using some form of smart ticketing or payment.'

Post Office changes Scottish isles lending policy

The Post Office has amended its lending policy to allow customers in Arran, Bute, Lewis and Harris, Orkney, Shetland, Mull and Islay to take out its mortgage products.

The lender had recently been criticised for excluding Scottish islanders, with the exception of those living on the Isle of Skye, from its lending criteria.

Alistair Carmichael, sec-

retary of state for Scotland, said: 'The Post Office is an integral part of every day Scottish life.'

Delighted

'I am delighted that residents and businesses in our island communities from Stromness to Stornoway will now be able access the same Post Office mortgage products available to those on the mainland.'

Arran livestock sales

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 2,016 store cattle, 201 cast cows and 8,236 prime and store sheep.

Limousin cross bullocks: £1,060, 262p/kg Kilpatrick.

Cast cows: £885 141p/kg Kilpatrick.

Texel cross hoggets: £99.50 Craigdhu, £64.00 Bridge, £62.00 Hillhead.

Blackface hoggets: £45 Hillhead.

Texel cross ewes: £98 Craigdhu and Bridge.

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Please note as places are limited, they will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

To book your place please email your name, address, telephone number and any special requirements you may have to: psadvice@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Alternatively you can contact the Development & Strategy Team on 01294 324031 by Thursday 20 March 2014.

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Arran misses out on Queen's Baton Relay

Despite rumours that the Queen's Baton Relay will visit Arran later this year, the island has not been named as part of the route.

The Commonwealth Games baton will be paraded on a one-day tour through North Ayrshire taking in Skelmorlie, Largs, Millport, Kilbirnie, Dalry, Kilwinning, Irvine, Stevenston, Saltcoats and Ardrossan - but it won't cross the water to Arran.

For those wishing to see the baton, North Ayrshire's day of celebration is on Tuesday 15 July - just eight days before the start of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The nationwide relay will call at more than 400 communities the length and breadth of the country, setting off from Edinburgh and following a circuitous route to the Games venue in Glasgow.

The 40-day journey will cover 8,000 kilometres and involve all Scotland's 32 local authorities in showcasing the nation's most-ionic landmarks and culture.

When it arrives in Scotland on June 14, the baton will have been on an epic journey through all the other 69 nations and territories of the Commonwealth.

It will have been on the road for 248 days since leaving Buckingham Palace on October 9 last year.

High school to host fashion show

Talented young designers from Arran High School are hosting a fashion show on Tuesday 1 April at 7.30pm in the school theatre to showcase their brilliant ideas.

Tickets are available from the school office and includes a tea/coffee and cake. There will also be a raffle. Everyone is welcome.



Speakers Maureen Smith, left, and Brian Adair, centre, with the president of the society, Mary Brown.

Successful dinner for Arran Society of Glasgow

The Arran Society of Glasgow held its annual dinner on Saturday at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

As always, guests enjoyed a delicious meal and were entertained by students from Arran High School.

Regular Arran visitor, Sheriff Brian

Adair from Milngavie proposed an excellent toast to the island, and the reply was delivered by 'weel kent' face Maureen Smith from Lamlash.

Stressful

President Mary Brown had a fairly stressful day, as the arrival of guests,

directors, performers and (at one point) speakers was threatened by the bad weather and cancellation of the ferry.

However, her fears proved unfounded and it was a most successful evening, with many stating it had been one of the best dinners the society had held.

Planning approval for Arran's new Loch Earn brewery

Arran Brewery's Loch Earn development in St Fillans, Perthshire has received planning approval from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The development will see a visitor centre and brewery opened at the site of the former Drummond Hotel's out buildings, similar to the one already operated by the company at Cladach, near Brodick. With three bars, three restaurants and a coffee shop as well as a 32-bedroom hotel and banqueting hall, it is an ambitious project for the company.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'The parks authority has been fantastic and very professional in handling this development and the project will now move ahead at a very rapid pace.'

Path maintenance workshop

A free one-day course on looking after paths is being staged at Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning, on Thursday 27 March.

The course provides an introduction to path maintenance and takes the form of an informal workshop in a practical setting.

It has been organised by North Ayrshire Council in partnership with Paths for All and the Central Scotland Green Network.

Wet weather clothing and stout footwear are essential because part of the course is held outdoors.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Booking forms, available from Eglinton Country Park, should be returned by Friday 21 March.

For details telephone 01294 551776 or email eglington-countrypark@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



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Charity calendar raises funds for Diabetes UK



Dawn McKinnon, left, modelling her dress at a fashion show last November.

'I'm so proud and chuffed to have been a part of this fantastic project and it's something I will never forget'

Weight Watchers leader Dawn McKinnon from Blackwaterfoot has helped to raise a total of £8,161 for Diabetes UK after taking to the catwalk and posing for a charity calendar wearing some very unusual dresses.

Rather than being crafted from silk or tulle, the glamorous, '50s inspired dresses were made by a pair of talented young designers from Glasgow using hundreds of old Weight Watchers magazines - the very pages that inspired the models to lose an incredible 56st between them.

As well as modelling the dresses at a fashion show last November, Dawn joined the 19 other Weight Watchers leaders from across the Glasgow and surrounding areas,

posing for the camera to create a 2014 charity calendar, which launched at the event.

Copies of the calendar were then sold to Weight Watchers members and staff across the country to raise funds for Diabetes UK.

Dawn said: 'I'm so proud and chuffed to have been a part of this fantastic project and it's something I will never forget.'

Dawn's Weight Watchers meeting is held at the Ormisdale Pavilion in Brodick every Thursday at 5.30pm.



Arran's Weight Watchers leader, Dawn, has helped to raise £8,000 for Diabetes UK.

Charity urges islanders to 'Keep Scotland Beautiful'

The environmental charity, 'Keep Scotland Beautiful', has called for people to enter two national competitions, 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and 'Beautiful Scotland'.

The independent charity is looking for volunteers and entire communities to get together to clean up and 'green up' the areas in which they live, work and play.

Recognition

North Ayrshire Council is backing the initiatives and is encouraging local community groups to get involved for the chance to gain national recognition and reward for their hard work and dedication in their quest to improve the local areas.

Councillor Tony Gurney said: 'I would encourage individuals and community groups wishing to make a difference in the local areas to pull together and take part in these valuable initiatives to help make North Ayrshire a nicer place to live.'

Communities of all sizes can register for both competitions at 'It's Your Neighbourhood' online at www.keepsotland-beautiful.org

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Single track etiquette

We are approaching the end of the first week of closure on the String Road and already the island's highways have been sent into a frenzy.

The road which connects the east and west sides of the island will be closed for 12 weeks to allow major repairs to be carried out on 800m of road.

Despite the official diversion taking drivers around the southend via Whiting Bay, most motorists are using the single track Ross Road.

This narrow, twisty passageway between Kilmory and Lamlash can be hard enough to negotiate on a normal day, never mind when the road is much busier than normal.

Scotland contains an impressive 2,600 miles of single track road weaving and twisting through its remote glens and hills.

So what is the etiquette for driving on a single track road?

Single track roads should be treated with respect.

You are not a rally driver, so keep your speed down. Be able to brake and come to a complete stop within the distance you can safely see along the road.

Be on the lookout for animals such as sheep, cattle and deer and give way to them. They usually have all the road sense of a wheelie bin.

Passing places are for allowing vehicles to pass. They are not for parking in or picnic spots.

If you become aware of a tailback behind you, signal and pull into the nearest passing place when safe to do so to allow others to pass.

Whoever reaches a passing place first generally gives way to oncoming traffic. Normally the only exception to this is when traffic coming uphill should be given priority.

If the passing place is on your left, pull in to let oncoming traffic get past.

If the passing place is on your right, stop opposite the passing place allowing enough room for the oncoming vehicle to enter and exit the passing place safely.

It's nice to be nice. Be courteous and acknowledge when someone pulls into a passing place for you. You will get a cheery wave back.

Also be aware of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and slow down for them as it will be tight squeeze.

If you want to admire the view do so when there is somewhere safe to park off the carriageway.

You need to concentrate on the road, not the scenery, so share the driving.

Some common sense and paying attention to the road will, however, ensure that you - and other road users - are able to travel safely across the Ross Road each day.

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.

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Beach exposed

Sir,
In a letter to The Banner last week Bob Haddow asks for an apology regarding the removal of sand from Brodick Beach.

An apology from you Bob would be more appropriate than one to you. When it became clear that by removing sand from Brodick Bay you were damaging the beach you should have looked elsewhere for a supply of sand.

You were operating under an established use certificate, which was issued with regards to historic use only,

with no regard given to what the result would be as the total quantity of sand in the bay diminished.

To the worriers of the situation it seemed perfectly obvious that as the finite amount of sand in the bay became less, with no appreciable replacement taking place, there would be less sand remaining in the bay.

The remaining sand needed to be spread more thinly, and with the whole dynamics of the beach being altered, it became impossible to predict what the final outcome would be.

Fears that weakening the

natural defence to the shoreline could result in serious erosion has become a reality. Comparing old photographs of the beach with what it is like now makes sad viewing.

To replenish the sand in the bay would probably mean moving the head of the beach back by allowing part of the village green to disappear together with several holes of the golf course.

Arran Estates has land that would offset the loss to the golf course but is there a will and who would pay?

Yours,
**Kerr Robertson
Brodick**

Barge breakdown sees further delay to pier ground works

There has been a serious delay in the start of ground works for the new £18 million Brodick ferry terminal.

Work should have started last month but the barge which will undertake the ground investigation has still not arrived on the island.

Glasgow firm Structural Soils Ltd won the £225,000 contract for the works in January, but the jack up barge they will use to probe the seabed has been stuck in Fairlie because of the weather conditions and the sea state.

As a result the start of the work has already been delayed for many weeks.

But in a further blow, when there was a break in the weather last week, the contractor was preparing to tow the barge to Brodick when it suffered a hydraulic failure. That repair is now underway.

Ramsay Muirhead, head of civil engineering at Caldonian Maritime Assets Ltd, said: 'The contractor is currently working on this and hopes it will be fixed by early next week. Thereafter they will tow the barge to Brodick in a suitable weather window.'

When it finally starts on site work is due to take about four weeks and will involve a number of marine boreholes being drilled from the barge into the seabed. There will also be trial pits and probes on the foreshore.

It will be the first visible signs of the redevelopment which will see a new two-berth pier and new terminal fit for the 21st century.

THE ARRAN BANNER . . . on holiday



'The Banner on Holiday' continues to be one of the most popular features in the paper, and we continue to be absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

Tam McNab - formerly of Brodick now living in Paisley - is pictured with his Banner on the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building, New York City.

Don't forget to pack your copy of The Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from York or Yancheng, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ. b09ban01NO

Concert to aid Arran Foodbank

The popular folksinger Alastair McDonald will be appearing in concert to help raise funds for the Arran Foodbank.

The singer is coming to Arran on Thursday 27 March and will be performing in Brodick Hall.

A spokesman for Arran Baptist Church, which is organising the event, said: 'It will

be a great evening and all proceeds, once costs have been covered, will go to the Arran Foodbank.

Light refreshments

'Tickets are available at The Book and Card Centre in Brodick - light refreshments are included. Some tickets will be available at the door.' The concert starts at 7.30pm.

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TREAT YOUR MUM ON MOTHERING SUNDAY Sunday, March 30



IF EVER anyone deserved a day of thanks, surely it is your mother. She raised you, looks after you and gives you her unconditional love no matter what.

If anyone has ever summed up that commitment, surely it was the American writer Ambrose Bierce, who described a sweater as a garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly.

So this Mothering Sunday, why not make a point of showing her that you really appreciate all her efforts and really spoil her for the day?

There are the essentials, flowers and chocolates – such simple gifts but gifts that really show you love her.

Taking mum out for a meal is a great way to say thanks; not only is it a nice treat, but it will give the family a chance to get together and catch up.

Of course, if you want to make her feel really special, you could take her for a day of pampering, perhaps a day at the spa or a shopping trip.

For a lasting gift, you could treat her to a mother/family photoshoot, or even buy her some jewellery just for her. Most jewellers can engrave items with a message of your choice, ideal to help mark the occasion for more than just one year.

If you really want to push the boat out, you could even book your mum into a hotel for complete relaxation and unwinding time.

The most important gift of all though is telling her how you really feel, and what better way to express your gratitude, appreciation and love than with a card.

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Open every day from 10 - 5 www.facebook.com/machriebay Machrie 01770 840329

Joining forces in campaign to tackle doorstep crime

‘Doorstep crime affects some of the most vulnerable people in our communities’

Residents on Arran are being urged to look out for each other as part of a new campaign aimed at tackling doorstep crime.

Police Scotland and Trading Standards Scotland, along with all Scottish local authorities, have launched a new initiative to ensure that all agencies involved work together to prevent and in-

vestigate such incidents thoroughly.

There are still significant problems of under reporting doorstep crime with reasoning ranging from embarrassment, to not knowing who to report to, to the victim not realising that they have been the subject of a crime.

Arran, with its high elderly population, has in the past

been targeted by bogus callers from the mainland looking for some easy island prey.

Hard hitting

The campaign, backed by a series of hard hitting posters, strongly urges victims, potential victims and their families and friends to report any suspicions they have immediately.

Next month a two-week

doorstep crime initiative codenamed Monarda II will be held by Police Scotland from 4 to 18 April across Scotland with an enforcement day on Friday 11 April.

Arran will be taking part and ahead of the initiative Sgt Allen Dodds gave this advice: ‘Don’t open your door to unexpected callers and report suspicious activity to the police.

‘This simple action can mean the difference between falling victim to doorstep crime or not.

‘By following this simple step older and vulnerable people can have the confidence to keep their doors shut to uninvited callers.’

Advice being given as part of the campaign is that people should never listen to scare stories and should beware of traders who suddenly appear after storms or floods and of claims that a low price is only available if you sign up right away.

Other advice includes:

- don’t agree to buy from the first person who calls,

Beat bogus callers

- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Fit a door chain or bar, and use it.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment.
- Always ask for ID and check it carefully.
- Don’t keep large sums of money at home.
- Call 999 and ask for the police if you feel scared or threatened.



scotland.police.uk @PoliceScotland PoliceScotland



One of the posters being used as part of the doorstep crime campaign.

- don’t pay cash up front
- shop around if you decide you need work done.

The campaign also urges people to ask what their cancellations rights are for all jobs costing over £35, traders are required to provide the consumer with a written notice informing them they have a seven-day cooling off period during which they can change their mind and cancel the contract.

And the campaign urges: ‘Do report them. Don’t ever feel embarrassed if you feel you have been the victim of

doorstep crime.’

At the launch of the national campaign Superintendent Daniel Hatfield (specialist crime division) said: ‘I would urge communities, neighbours, friends and families to look out for each other, to ensure that individuals have confidence to say ‘No’ to rogue traders in their own homes.

‘Doorstep crime affects some of the most vulnerable people in our communities, with victims often targeted because of their perceived vulnerability, for example their age or disability.

‘However, anyone can potentially be a victim, where their quality of life often deteriorates significantly afterwards, and can impact on subsequent investigations and the person’s ability to access the criminal justice system.’

If you have any information in relation to doorstep crime, you can call Police Scotland on 101 or contact North Ayrshire Council Trading Standards on 01294 310100.

Or if you feel intimidated by anyone who comes to your door, dial 999.

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ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

AGM

Thursday 27th March at 2pm
in Brodick Church Hall.

Speaker
Ross Ferguson of Dalgarven Mill

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Arran's teenagers urged to join referendum debate

Local politicians agree to attend

Arran's two politicians have agreed to a request by Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) to visit their group to discuss the upcoming Scottish independence referendum.

With 16 and 17 year olds granted the opportunity to take part in the historic vote, AYF's youth worker is urging young voters to come along on Friday 28 March to hear Katy Clark MP and Kenneth Gibson MSP answer questions on both sides of the argument.

Graeme Johnston said: 'I'm delighted that Katy and Kenneth have very kindly agreed to come along.

'We run a film-making club and throughout 2014, we plan to film the young people at regular intervals to record their thoughts on the matter of Scottish independence.

'This debate will be a key moment in their year, as they get a unique opportunity to sit

down with politicians from each side of the debate and put across their questions and concerns.

'I have fought for and supported votes for young people for years, but it isn't enough that they are just granted a vote; I want to help them become as well-informed as possible, on both sides of the argument, so that they can enter the polling station for the first time feeling confident and engaged.'

Promoting

Graeme has been promoting the debate in Arran High School this week and hopes the event is well-attended.

'Any young person at the high school should feel free to come along, whether they are eligible to vote or not,' added Graeme.

'We are lucky to have our two local politicians attending, and I'm very keen that there's a good turnout so that

it's worth their while.'

The politicians will take questions from their young audience between 4.30pm and 6.30pm at Brodick church hall, before a post-debate poll will show which side managed to win the argument.

While parents and other members of the public are welcome to attend, the organisers would prefer it if the questions are asked only by the teenagers.

There will be pizzas, snacks and juice for everyone who attends, and the event will be followed by the group's usual Friday night games and activities between 7pm and 9pm.

Interested parents and other members of the community are more than welcome to attend, but it would be appreciated if you could contact Graeme in advance at graeme@arrayouthfoundations.org so he can estimate numbers.



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Children celebrate World Book Day

School children from across Arran had fun dressing up recently as their favourite book characters as part of World Book Day.

Batman

On Thursday 6 March children and staff from Brodick and Corrie primary schools were dressed as everything from Batman and Superman



to Mr Men and Harry Potter. The pupils and staff at Corrie decided to donate all the money raised on the day to the World Wildlife Fund

(WWF). At Brodick, £42.54 was raised and this will go to Book Aid International to buy books for children.

Play, talk, read and have fun

Parents, grandparents and guardians are being urged to bring their little tots along to the 'play, talk, read' roadshow which is coming to Arran this week.

Join the fun at Shiskine Village Hall from 10am until 12.15pm and at Brodick Co-op on Tuesday 25 March between 1.45pm and 4pm and bring your wee ones along for free songs, stories and play activities.

Heather Allison of the public health nursing team at Arran War Memorial Hospital said: 'This is a great chance for adults and children to read, sing and interact, while having fun together, so don't miss your chance.'

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Win dinner for two at eighteen69



it's all about sharing

To celebrate the opening of eighteen69 at Auchrannie Resort as a Scottish tapas restaurant we're giving one lucky banner reader (and their plus one) the chance to sample this exciting new dining concept for themselves.

The new eighteen69 is all about sharing and will be serving a wide range of small plates in a relaxed, informal environment.

As well as being open for dinner, guests can enjoy a wide range of speciality cocktails, wines, spirits and beers - making eighteen69 the perfect venue for either a full meal, simple snack or after work drink with friends.





To be in with a chance of winning, just email your name & phone number to:
competitions@auchrannie.co.uk
Entries must be received by 11.59pm on Thursday 27th March 2014

(Terms & Conditions: one entry per person, entries must be emailed to the address specified no later than 11.59pm on 27th March 2014. One prize winner will be selected at random; prize consists of dinner and a bottle of wine to a maximum value of £75). Prize must be redeemed by 27th September 2014).

for more information about the new eighteen69 visit www.auchrannie.co.uk or call us on 01770 302 234



Arran's hardy cyclists, Reverend John Webster and Janice Small.



The team at the Coronation bridge.



The dusty road forced the cyclists to don facemasks.



The difficult climb of 4,000ft over 10 miles to DGH in Kalimpong.

Kathmandu to Kalimpong - a pioneering journey

Janice Small from Brodick has recently returned from the Reverend John Webster from Kings Cross, Janice has raised a considerable amount of money for the Dr Graham's Homes school for orphans in Kalimpong. She has sent The Banner this report of her journey.

Flying over Nepal for the first time I spotted the distant peaks of the Himalayas - how exciting!

I was joining 12 others, including the indomitable Rev John Webster, to cycle 350 miles from Katmandu to Kalimpong in the foothills of the Himalayas.

All cyclists pay their own costs but have to raise a minimum of £1,000 to aid Dr Graham's Homes (DGH) in Kalimpong.

There was a change to the route this time so instead of starting in Kolkata we began in Katmandu before cycling up then down through the Himalayas; along the plains of India, then back up 4,500ft to Kalimpong and Dr Graham's Homes - a pioneering journey that had never been attempted before.

After a few days' sightseeing

we set off in wet conditions to tackle some difficult, steep cycling over the twisting muddy roads of the Sindhuli Hills.

Trucks and buses slithered in the mud but there was no anger or frustration, just an attitude of 'we will get there when we do'.

Happily the weather and road surface improved and we were rewarded by some stunning downhill runs with views over Nepal and Tibet.

We reached the Tipai, the plains of Nepal, where we cycled through colourful, teeming villages, fields of rice and wheat, and forests of bamboo and eucalyptus.

Whenever we stopped we were surrounded by villagers, asking questions, wanting their photo taken.

Vanda and I were invited to visit a new mum and her baby

in their compound. They were so friendly and welcoming, inviting us to use their facilities and have a cup of tea.

In a local cinema we enjoyed the delights of a Bollywood movie; dark, dusty with broken plastic seats, a world away from cinemas back home.

We cycled past swathes of sand where two years ago massive river flooding decimated communities.

Now rebuilt we enjoyed the colour and sounds of an open air market selling all manner of foods and goods.

Our support team 'Insight Himalaya' take care of all our camping needs and we enjoy hot showers, delicious food and hot water bottles - luxury camping compared to previous trips.

We cross the border into India without too much hassle,



Janice met with her sponsored child, Tracy.



Negotiating the traffic.

Kalimpong - A ney for cyclists

on another cycling trip to the Himalayas. Along with
e and 12 others have once again raised an incred-
school in Kalimpong which looks after impoverished
trip.

where the pace of life quick-
ens. Constant traffic, horns
blasting, cutting in, all juggling
for position. I love the
challenge of this unpredictable
moving mass.

Jennifer Webster, John's wife,
met us in Siliguri and it was so
lovely to have her encourage-
ment for the arduous last day,
the difficult climb of 4,000ft
over 10 miles to DGH in Kal-
limpong.

John, James and Binod start-
ed an hour before everyone in
what was to prove an exhaust-
ing day.

There was a small disaster
when we discovered that the
lead in road to the Himalayas
was under construction and
we endured 10 miles of stony,
dusty, busy cycling.

Eventually we crossed the
Teesta River and the climb be-
gan, it is harder than I remem-

ber - I walked it in 2008 and
cycled it in 2010.

Up, around tight severe hair-
pin bends and five miles in it is
going well; eight miles in my
breathing was ok, and after 10
miles and one and a half hours
without stopping I reach Kal-
limpong.

When the other cyclists as-
sembled we were led through
the town by the band of DGH
and the main street is closed
as the townspeople cheer and
take photos.

Approaching the school we
heard the children before we
saw them, they lined our route
clapping, cheering and waving
flags.

What a wonderful emotional
welcome and then I spotted
Tracy, my sponsored girl and
arranged to visit her the next
day.

There are speeches of wel-

come and gifts from the princi-
pal to which John duly replies.

Now home I find it difficult
to get Nepal and India out of
my system, the sights, sounds
and people will not let go.

I had a wonderful trip and ap-
plaud all my fellow cyclists,
not least John Webster who
through sheer grit and determi-
nation would not give in.

From day one he was dream-
ing of the finish in Kalim-
pong.

Thank you to everyone on Ar-
ran for your support of DGH.

The children come from dif-
ferent, deprived impoverished
backgrounds but all receive
education, nurture, support and
love made possible by people
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If you wish you can you can
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Antiquarians explore 'Caleb's view from Arthur's Seat'



The author Kellan Macinnes discussed his book about the famous antiquarian Caleb George Cash.

On a sunny St Patrick's day 70 members of the Arran Antiquarians met to hear David Law, who writes under the pen name of Kellan Macinnes, talk about his first book, 'Caleb's List'.

The title alludes to the list of 20 mountains visible from the summit of Arthur's Seat, compiled by Caleb George Cash. The book was short-listed by the Saltire Society in its 'best first book' of the year category.

Kellan was born in Edinburgh and attended James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh, where on one occasion he remembers he enjoyed a talk by Sir Chris Bonnington which stimulated his interest in hill walking.

School holidays spent in Argyll gave him many op-

portunities to do that. Later as an adult he suffered the blow of being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS related illness and was given six months to live.

Fortunately, thanks to modern drug therapy he is now able to lead a full and active life.

A supermarket trip to Morrisons changed his life one day when going into the nearby library he looked at a guidebook and in it was Caleb's list – something he had no knowledge of.

As part of his recovery he decided to find out more about these peaks and climb them and since then he has compiled a comprehensive hard-back book on the subject.

Caleb George Cash was a Victorian geographer, teacher, mountaineer and antiquarian.

Geography and music

He was born in Birmingham in 1857 and after teaching in the north of England moved to Edinburgh to teach geography and music at the Edinburgh Academy where he stayed until 1917.

This interesting man of a working-class background holidayed in Aviemore for 20 years, climbing extensively in the Cairngorms.

He was a member of the Scottish Society of Antiquar-

ians and visited many stone circles, chambered cairns and cup and ring marks in the Highlands.

As a member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society he was interested in Pont's old maps of Scotland.

In the 1900s they were kept in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh's Parliament House, but he was instrumental in having them properly mounted and moved to the National Library of Scotland.

Whilst staying at a holiday cottage at Loch an Eillein he watched a pair of ospreys who nested on the nearby castle on the island.

He became involved in efforts to protect the ospreys, and had many ideas ahead of his time. When the ospreys returned to Loch Garten in the 1960s the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) used many of his ideas for their protection.

When Kellan climbed to the summit of Arthur's Seat to survey the 20 mountains on Caleb's List he could identify each summit because they are aligned with prominent Edinburgh buildings on the city skyline; for example, Lochnagar with Easter Road football ground and Meall Dearg with Holyrood Palace.

Kellan has since climbed

all the peaks with his faithful companions, his two dogs.

The exercise helped his health and inspired him to write this book which gives suggested routes to the summits, advice on the severity of the climbs, flora and fauna of the areas and quite a lot of information about Caleb Cash.

Several members bought signed copies of the book at the meeting as everyone found the subject absorbing.

A percentage of the proceeds from the book sales are to be donated to the charity Waverley Care, a charity dedicated to helping sufferers of HIV and hepatitis C.

It was a stimulating talk as it was a subject totally unknown to any of us.

The next meeting members can look forward to is a talk by George Geddes of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments Scotland, who spoke last year about his stay on St Kilda and on this occasion he will talk about his time on the remote island of North Rona and its history.

Another important message to members is that the chairman's spectacles inadvertently went missing after the meeting.

If anyone finds them please phone Tom at 302185. ND

SCOTLAND'S FUTURE

YOUR GUIDE TO AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND

On 18th September this year, the people of Scotland are being invited to take part in a referendum on the question 'Should Scotland be an independent country?'. The Scottish Government recently published Scotland's Future, setting out its case for independence. Scottish Government Ministers are hosting discussions in communities across the country to talk about Scotland's Future. This is your chance to ask questions about the issues that are important to you.

Sunday 30th March
Brodick Hall, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL
Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start

Hosted by:

John Swinney MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment
and Sustainable Growth

Register for the event now:

Online – www.scotreferendum.com/events
By phone – 0300 244 2114

scotreferendum.com



Simon Green will speak about Arran's architecture.

Celebrate Arran's buildings with civic trust talk

Arran Civic Trust's first public talk of the year will take place on Monday 1 April in the Ormidale Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Simon Green, the architectural historian at the Royal Commission Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is coming to Arran.

He is interested in the future for Scotland's historic environment.

An enthusiastic and eloquent speaker, he will speak to the subject of 'Arran's Architecture: A Celebration of the Buildings on the island through the collections of RCAHMS'. Everyone is welcome.

Need for healthy Clyde ecosystem highlighted

'I welcome Kenneth Gibson's motion and the opportunity to discuss Clyde 2020'

Last Tuesday Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson secured a parliamentary debate - supported by 43 MSPs of all parties - to highlight the urgent need for a healthy Clyde ecosystem.

A summit on the Clyde's future will take place on 23 April in Glasgow, bringing together representatives of the fishing industry, environmental groups; tourist and leisure organisations as well as politicians.

'The Firth of Clyde is a huge social, economic and environmental resource which must be protected,' Mr Gibson told The Banner.

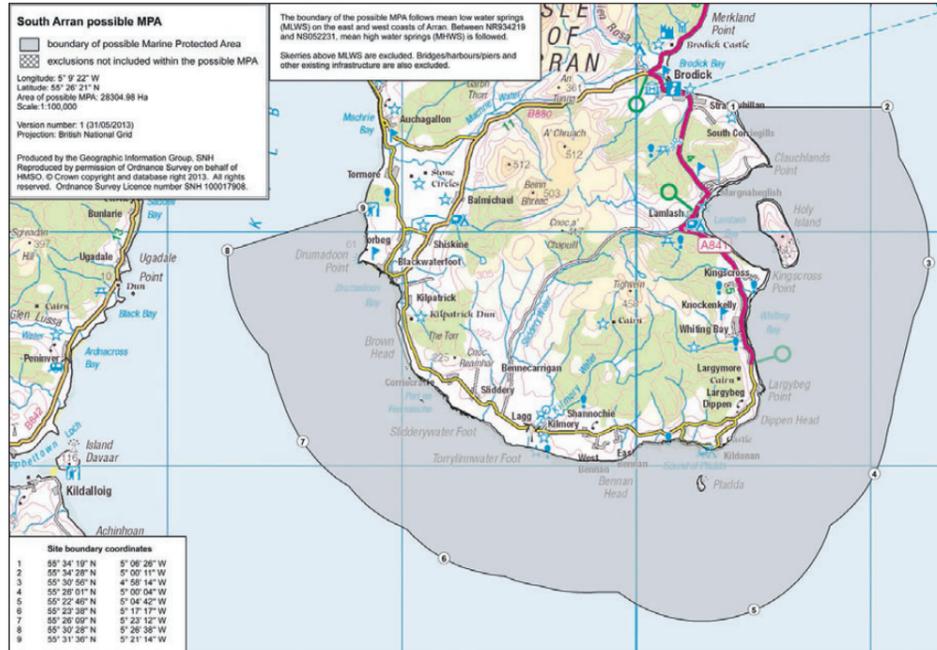
'The river's industrial heritage has damaged the Clyde's ecosystem, which is why we must act now to protect and nurture this valuable resource.'

'We can and must meet the Clyde 2020 target, the new programme to restore the Clyde marine ecosystem and the improvements to the environment it demands.'

He added: 'I am delighted that so many folk from Arran travelled to Holyrood to watch the debate on an issue of such importance to the island.'

In response to the debate, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead said: 'I welcome Kenneth Gibson's motion and the opportunity to discuss Clyde 2020.'

'I pay tribute not only to Kenneth who, over the years has promoted the Clyde at every opportunity, but to the many people in local communities who, through tenacity and determination, have done



Kenneth Gibson MSP is a great supporter of a proposed Marine Protection Area at the south of Arran.

so much to ensure the waterway's future stays firmly on parliament's agenda.

He added: 'The Community of Arran Seabed Trust developed 'No Take Zone' propos-

als for Lamlash Bay and more recently the proposed South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA).

'I can assure Kenneth that the Scottish government very

much recognises the good news from Lamlash Bay. We will build on it and South Arran MPA will help to maintain a healthy sea so we can continue to enjoy its benefits.'

Garden Club members transported to southern France

On a calm February evening the Horticultural Society Garden Club warmly welcomed the Rev Jack Paterson, who transported the members to the beautiful south of France on a fascinating garden tour.

Jack had visited a variety of gardens, taking a comprehensive series of photos to illustrate his eloquent, knowledgeable commentary.

The talk was well supported and the members evidently enjoyed Jack's presentation, which concluded with a raffle and plant of the month.

The garden club hopes to visit Culzean Castle and Country Park on Thursday 28 August. Anyone who would like to join them, please contact Andrew on 601248.

The next evening meeting will be held on Thursday 27 March at the Brodick Castle Ranger Centre at 7.30pm.

Susan Russell, head gardener at Culzean Castle, will give a talk about 'Bee friendly flowers and plants'.

Visitors and new members are most welcome.



Lynne McNeish, secretary of the parent council, presents Rosemary Francis with one of the hampers from the raffle.

Fundraiser helps to pay for Kilmory swimming lessons

Kilmory Primary School's parent council recently held a fundraising event to raise money for the pupils' swimming lessons.

As North Ayrshire Council no longer funds the 10 weeks of swimming per year for pupils in P5 to P7, and the school wanted to keep this exercise in the curriculum, the event was organised to raise the money for tuition fees, hire of the pool and travel costs which amount to around £900 a year.

Pupils do pay £2 a week towards this but the parent council fund the remainder.

On Friday 28 February from 2-3pm the parent council members hosted a coffee afternoon with a raffle in the school.

There was a fantastic turn out and a huge thanks must go to all the people who donated and supported the event.

The school raised an incredible £420 towards the children's swimming lessons.

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'Arran Healthy Outdoors' celebrates second birthday

'Our three main projects are the maintenance of Wilma's Walk, maintaining and enhancing the wildlife garden at the ranger centre, and managing the tree nursery'

The Arran Healthy Outdoors group at Brodick Castle has celebrated its second birthday after two years promoting conservation, exercise, and well-being.

Over the past year Arran Healthy Outdoors has given people opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, improve the local environment, and more importantly have fun and make new friends while working in the castle grounds.

Since it started the group has had more than 20 different volunteers and the team has contributed more than 650 hours – the equivalent of employing one person for nearly 17 weeks.

So far the clearance of invasive species has been almost completed along Wilma's

Walk. The black grouse pens have been mended and are ready for use, and a tree nursery is currently being built to bring on the seeds and hardwood cuttings needed to regenerate Wilma's Walk, and other areas, around the property.

Arran Healthy Outdoors meets every Tuesday, with each session running from 10am to 1pm at the Ranger Centre.

Organiser and National Trust ranger Jo Totty said: 'Our three main projects are the maintenance of Wilma's Walk by keeping it clear of non-native species and planting with native trees, maintaining and enhancing the wildlife garden at the ranger centre, and managing the tree nursery.'

'Tasks involve clearing vegetation, planting, some path maintenance, weeding, fencing, building raised beds, and many other general gardening type tasks.'

She added: 'Everyone is welcome to Arran Healthy Outdoors – give us a phone if you want more information (302462) and invite any family and friends that you think might be interested.'

'You don't need to have any previous experience.'

'Just wear old outdoor clothes that you don't mind getting a bit mucky, and suitable outdoor shoes like Wellingtons, sturdy boots or strong shoes.'

'We'll provide the work gloves, tools, materials, and refreshments (tea/coffee, biscuits) for a morning break.'



Arran Healthy Outdoors has given people opportunities to improve their physical and mental health, improve the local environment and more importantly have fun and make new friends while working in the castle grounds.

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Arran Natural History Society

A girl in Madagascar

There was a real treat for the members of the Arran Natural History Society at its March meeting when Chloe Rossi from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds gave an illustrated talk called 'A Girl in Madagascar'.

The information officer from the Lochwinnoch Reserve spoke about the smallest primates to the rarest wildlife, lemurs, chameleons and many more unique and interesting creatures witnessed by a Scottish girl in the middle of the rainforests.

Chloe spent six months on the island, the fourth largest island in the world, helping to lead a group of western youngsters involved in studying the local fauna and flora.

Madagascar is of particular importance because so much of its wildlife is endemic, around 80 per cent of its plant species and 60 per cent of its birds cannot be found anywhere else on Earth.

In particular the research looked at black and mouse lemurs, and compared the population density and diversity of reptiles in cropland as opposed to forest.

Chloe's slides illustrated the

beauty of many of these creatures, including the smallest reptile in the world.

Of direct relevance to Arran was Chloe's description of the increasing importance of eco-tourism to Madagascar, but there is also tension between the benefits brought by this and the slash and burning of the primary forest to make room for crops and cattle. A fascinating evening.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 3 April, which will be followed by a talk from squirrel expert Peter Lurz on about the projects and research on Arran, and



RSPB information officer Chloe Rossi spoke about her trip to Madagascar.

what has been discovered about squirrel disease and forest management.

Everyone is welcome.

Castle 'friends' plan summer outings

The Friends of Brodick Castle and Country Park have two outings planned for this summer.

There will be a day trip to the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre on Friday 16 May and a four-day trip to Yorkshire from 8-11 September, when they will be staying in Wetherby and visiting Fountains Abbey and Harewood House.

Places available

There are places available for both outings.

There is no requirement to be a member of the friends or the National Trust for Scotland.

Anyone who is interested please contact Ann Hollingworth, on 840270 for further details, before 28 March.

Wet and windy February

In February the unsettled wet winter continued with more than twice as much rain as last year and the mean temperature was just one degree higher.

A February highlight was the report of two black necked grebe in winter plumage at the south end of Whiting Bay on the 14th.

This is the first Arran record of this occasional winter and passage migrant since one was reported on 30 October 2010 also in Whiting Bay, and they gave great close views.

Other winter visitors to the fore included: four goldeneye off Newton on the 5th, 13 redwing at Kilpatrick on the 12th, 16 turnstone in Whiting Bay on the 16th, 30 fieldfare at Machriewaterfoot also on the 16th, two purple sandpiper at Drumadoon Point on the 18th and the long staying greenshank at Claulchlands on the 19th.

Wintering wildfowl were still present in numbers including: 14 pink-footed geese at the Roddin on the 5th, 250 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on the 11th and 34 teal and 46 wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on the 16th.

Two of the greylag geese had identifying collars on and the details have been passed to Euring and hopefully this will provide some background information on these birds.

Other flocks included: 125 chaffinch at Sliderry on the 2nd, 35 lapwing at Kilpatrick on the 3rd, 21 golden plover

at Machriewaterfoot on the 17th, 110 rook at Sliderry on the 24th, 70 skylark also at Sliderry on the 17th, 30 black-headed gull at Whiting Bay on the 16th and 70 curlew at Claulchlands on the 19th.

Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The prolonged stormy weather throughout December and January with heavy seas has had an effect on the ocean-living birds.

In February there was the annual systematic count of dead shore birds. Razorbills in particular were washed up in numbers, for example on the 22nd there were 11 at Kil-



A curlew. Photographed by Brian Couper.

donan and 27 at Dougarie.

These birds had virtually no flesh on them and had starved to death.

A future Banner article will give a fuller account of the findings of this year's 'Beached Bird Survey'.

On the occasional days when the sea was calm, it was ideal for sea watching.

Reports included: four black-throated diver off Cosyden, 42 displaying eider in Machrie Bay and 12 displaying red-breasted merganser in Whiting Bay all on the 16th, three great northern diver off Brodick Bay on the 22nd.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were ha-

vens for many species.

Among the many garden highlights were: five long-tailed tit at the Dyemill on the 11th, three bullfinch in Lamlash on the 15th, seven coal tit at Lochranza on the 17th, a great spotted woodpecker at Torbeg on the 26th, a treecreeper in Whiting Bay on the 27th and five yellowhammer at Shedog on the 28th.

Other sightings included: a Jack Snipe at Cnoc Moine nan Cuile on the 2nd, three little grebe by the Fisherman's Walk on the 14th, two common scoter off Blackwaterfoot on the 18th and a pair of goosander at Machriewaterfoot also on the 18th.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island towards the end of the month, plus a pair of Starling inspecting nest holes in Shiskine on the 14th, 12 nesting fulmars on the cliffs at Drumadoon on the 18th, a grey heron collecting sticks from a garden in Lamlash on the 21st, five black guillemot in breeding plumage at Brodick pier on the 22nd, golden eagles displaying over Lochranza on the 26th and a collared dove on a nest in Shiskine on the 28th.

March could see the start of the arrival of 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 e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
FEBRUARY

A February highlight was the report of two black necked grebe in winter plumage at the south end of Whiting Bay.



The distinctive goldeneye. Photographed by Brian Couper.

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The Banner reaches 40

How the voice of the island



The Banner team recognised by the Guinness Book of Records are (l to r) Deanna Millar, Tricia Spence, Rhonda Tait, John Millar and Mo Khan. b12history01



THE ARRAN

BANNER

THE AR
BAN



John Millar lays out a page with Tricia Spence. b12history02

The Arran Banner is 40 years old this month.

But to get to the major milestone has not always been plain sailing with a number of trials and tribulations along the way.

The first Arran Banner came out in March 1974 although its inception is now somewhat lost in the mists of time.

What did happen is that early that year a group of different people, not known to each other, got together to discuss the possibility of an

island newspaper.

The late Paul Monty is widely credited as the leading light, as he had the printing machinery in Whiting Bay.

But the paper, while nominally monthly, was sporadic and by the end of 1976 all resemblance to a co-operative venture had gone and Paul was the sole proprietor.

Ronnie Mann had become involved with Paul after coming to the island that year to set up as a chartered accountant. Paul was by this

time running The Banner with a small staff, including his wife Mandy and Mo Khan who was with The Banner until 1984.

By the following year he was ready to give up and asked Ronnie if he wanted to buy it. He was at that time trying to expand his accountancy firm into estate agency with Island Business Services.

He said the idea of owning the local newspaper to advertise these services appealed to him but he admits

he was 'stony broke' and had no experience of printing or publishing.

He raised the money to buy the paper with just 60 public subscriptions of £30 in return for a free Banner for life.

The Banner had now moved from Whiting Bay to Brodick and the building - now Banner Cottage - was for many years its home. He brought in Marc Head, his future brother-in-law, as editor and publisher.

He admits that the first year was 'a nightmare' with an old

rotary press that, he says,

was literally held together with rubber bands. But Ronnie had promised subscribers that the paper would be weekly and he said: 'We always felt that if we missed one week, we'd be back to square one.'

However, a breakthrough came when the then Cunninghame District Council agreed to recognise The Banner as a newspaper and used it to post their public notices.

'Councillor Evelyn Sillars

was extremely supportive in this, as always,' Ronnie said

However, he says that by the time they could afford a new press the team were 'burnt out' and had that some of their enthusiasm had waned. Enter John Millar with an offer to buy them out.

Ronnie, who has just turned 65, said: 'It is Paul Monty who has to be congratulated for the vision to get The Banner up and running and we were the partnership that got it to a weekly newspaper.'

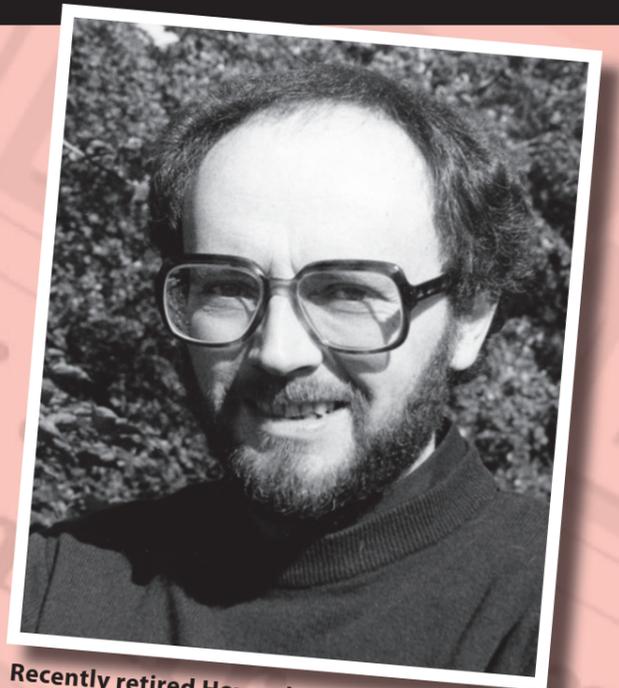
'It is wonderful to look

th birthday milestone

developed over the years



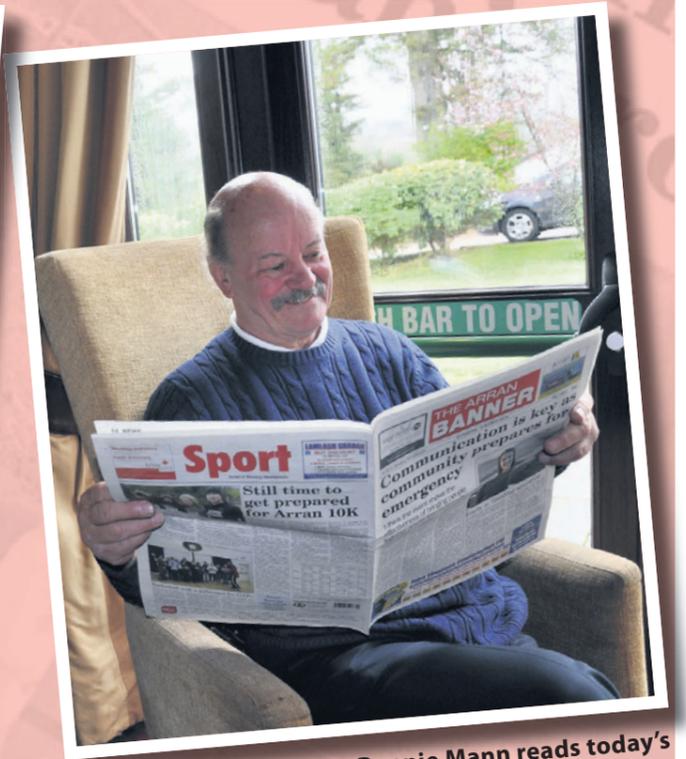
Former editor Marc Head. b12history03



Recently retired Howard Driver. b12history04



John Millar outside today's Banner office. 20_b12history01



Former owner Ronnie Mann reads today's Banner. 20_b12history03

NEW
ARRAN
BANNER

back and to have played a small part in its life. It was a lot of hard work but a lot of good fun.

'Today it is still very much a local paper, the voice of the island and I still enjoy reading it today.'

John Millar, now 70, took over the paper in January 1981. A former a Merchant Navy Officer and a producer with the BBC, he was working at Manchester Polytechnic as a 'stop gap' but wanted to be self employed. He knew Arran well as his

father's family came from Kilmory.

'We had thought about moving to France but my wife insisted that if we were going anywhere daft it had to be Arran, but we have always lived in Brodick as she had to be in sight of the ferry.'

It seems to have worked they have been married 48 years and have three of a family, who were still young children when they came to the island 33 years ago.

John said there was a lot of hostility to himself and The

Banner when he took over and he found that people had an attitude to newspapers he had been unprepared for.

'Some thought it should be campaigning, others thought it should be about the printing and others it should be all about the writing.'

'I think the compilation process was my biggest skill but I had to start writing and came to start writing a lot.'

John improved the quality of The Banner with a new printing press and a new process camera.

And his whole family were involved. 'I had a vision of us as The Waltons. My wife Deanna was involved and so were the children from an early age.' Andrew, Neil and Rosalind would fold and help out with The Banner after school and the two boys later took photographs.

In another milestone in 1984 The Banner made it into the Guinness Book of Records with a readership of 97 per cent plus on the island.

Over the years The Ban-

ner had to see off several attempts at competition on the island, some more successful than others.

But John always had the same strategy. 'We ignored them, never referred to them and did not retaliate as a result they have been written out of Arran history as if they never existed.'

The end of the road for the John Millar era came when The Banner was bought by the Oban Times in 2003. He had been approached five years earlier by a radio com-

pany, but turned down their 'generous offer'.

He said he was 'very pleased' it was still going after 40 years.

'I think The Oban Times has been a good owner of The Banner as it deals in similar circumstances across the West Highlands.'

'It looks very nice and it is a very important part of Arran life, People often look down on local newspapers calling them the local rag, but they are the ones who would miss it if it was gone,' he said.

What's on

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www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
 Daily 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat 12.30-5pm,
 2pm

Junior Hockey Club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Winter bowls
 SFA Early Touch Football
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Community council

Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
 P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6-6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm

Saturday 22nd March

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Karate
 Family Games
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
 Junior Football
 Live Music from James Burge
 Shiskine Hall Auction

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Arran High School, 10am
 P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm
 Douglas Hotel Bar, 9pm
 Shiskine Hall, 2pm for 2.30pm start

Wednesday 26th March

Hockey
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran mixed ability
 Running Coaching
 Yoga-Arran
 Sports Club

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie car Park, 5pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm

Sunday 23rd March

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open folk session
 Pool finals day

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
 Pt 1934, 3pm

Monday 24th March

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Senior Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Aerobics (low impact)
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Lunch club
 Yoga - Arran
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Bridge Club

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 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
 Shiskine Hall 6pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Lamlash Sheltered Housing, 12 noon
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Beginners & Improvers Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm

Tuesday 25th March

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Streetly Dance pre school
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7
 Streetly Dancing Seniors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm

Thursday 27th March

Senior Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Lochranza Craft Club
 Live music
 Weight Watchers
 Yoga
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Winter bowls
 Bridge Club
 QuiltArran
 Metafit
 Garden Club
 Lamlash Bowling club AGM
 Arran Heritage Museum AGM

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 2pm
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Fire Station, Lamlash, 2-4pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6 - 6.30pm
 Brodick Ranger Centre, 7.30pm
 Clubhouse, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 28th March

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Coffee morning

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 10am



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You will take the first ferry to the mainland, pick up the delivery van & work till finish. There will also be the opportunity for additional work on occasions.

Applicants must be reliable, trustworthy, patient, considerate and friendly.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL STAFF WILL BE DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND CHECKED)

If you think you fit the criteria we're looking for please contact Sandra Hyslop on 01294 551734 or email ayrshire@wiltshirefarmfoods.co.uk

Glenisle HOTEL | BISTRO

The Glenisle is an award-winning family run hotel and we are looking for enthusiastic full-time or part-time people for the 2014 season.

Senior Assistants and General assistants –

to work in all areas of the hotel (housekeeping, laundry, restaurant, kitchen)

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. All positions could be full-time or part-time over 5 or 6 days a week. We may be able to provide accommodation.

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

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

VACANCY

Diesel Mechanic / Plant Fitter

We have a vacancy for an experienced person in our busy, well equipped workshop at Brodick.

Applications in writing please, enclosing C.V to:
John Thomson Construction Ltd
Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NB

Public Notices

CORRIE GOLF CLUB

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 2nd April

7.00pm in TeaRoom

All members are welcome please attend
New Committee Members are urgently required.

This is your opportunity to make your voices heard.

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 Development 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 Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 11.04.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

14/00144/LBC; St Columbas, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Demolition of outside lean-to stores, reinstatement of storm doors and roof detail to gable, installation of conservation rooflights to rear roof and repair of sash and case windows (and replacement where required).

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Lamlash Bowling & Tennis Club

AGM

Wednesday 27 March 2014 at 7.30pm

Bowling Clubhouse, Lamlash

All Welcome

The Whiting Bay Bowling Club

AGM

Wednesday 2nd April at 7pm

at the Bowling Club

All members welcome

Katy Clark MP SURGERY NOTICE

Katy Clark MP will hold a surgery on Friday 28th March 2014 at 11am

Brodick Church Hall,
Knowe Road

No appointment required

Tel: 01294 605040

Email: clarkk@parliament.uk

Web: www.katyclark.org.uk

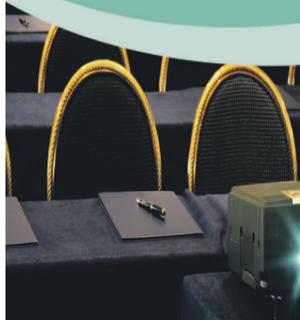


EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

FORESTRY COMMISSION : CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Notice is hereby given that Forestry Commission Scotland has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction works at:

Cost	£25,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
Argyll Landing Craft Berths - Sannox	55° 40.647' N	05° 09.617' W
	55° 40.657' N	05° 09.571' W
	55° 40.654' N	05° 09.568' W
	55° 40.642' N	05° 09.605' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Brodick Library. Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

MO5134

Forestry Commission Scotland

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The Glenartney BRODICK

We are looking for a happy person to join our small friendly team.

General guest house duties such as breakfast service and rooms. Part time work mornings up until September, hours and days are flexible.

Please call Angela on 01770 302220 or email info@glenartney-arran.co.uk

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Please apply to:

Box number 205, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran

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 Mob: 07979 925435
 Email: arrangardenservices@live.co.uk

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 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
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 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 23rd March
Holy Communion, 11.00
Mr John Roberts
Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 26th March
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodict, 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
following times to which
all are invited
Sunday 23rd March
Brodict Church, 10.30am,
Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Morning Worship.
A Service of Worship will also
be held in Montrose House
at 1.30pm
Lochranza and Pirnmill
Churches, 10.15am, Morning
Worship at Pirnmill
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
Morning Worship.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 23rd March
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Mrs Sharon MacLeod
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 23rd March
Worship will be conducted
by the minister, Rev Elizabeth
Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served
in the transept after the service.
There will be a short Stated
Annual Meeting at the close of
worship for the congregation to
receive the accounts.
All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Jennings
Sunday 23rd March
11am Morning worship
in the Ormidale Sports
Pavilion, Brodict
Tea & Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home
Fellowship Group for
Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 23rd March
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodict
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict
Wednesday 26th March
Prayer Meeting 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 23rd March
Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)
Brodict 7pm (Church behind
post office)
Rev David Ford

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SALVATION ARMY

House Group/Bible Study
Mondays 2.30pm
If you are interested in joining
us please ring 810251 for more
information.

DEATHS

DAVIDSON - Ethel.
Peacefully at Ayr Hospital, on
14th March 2014, Ethel, aged
91 years of Prestwick and
formerly of Lamlash. Beloved
wife of Alex. Sadly missed by
family and friends.

DICK - John. Peacefully at the
Royal Infirmary on Wednesday
12th March 2014, John, aged
69 years, beloved husband of
Alison, loving dad of Elaine,
Gary and Jacqui and grandpa
of Emma. Funeral service took
place on Thursday 20th March.

PREST - Ron. Peacefully at
Arran War Memorial hospital
on Friday, 14th March 2014,
Ron, aged 82 years. Funeral
service at Lamlash church on
Friday, 21st March at 11:30am
and thereafter to Lamlash
cemetery to which all friends
are invited. No flowers please,
donations if desired to Isle
of Arran Hospital Supporters
League.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 16 March, the final
game in the winter series
of friendlies with Lam-
lash was played at Lamlash in
pleasant conditions, with hos-
pitality enjoyed on and off the
course which was appreciated
by everyone.

The matches finished with
a victory to Lamlash on the
day by two games to one,
meaning Lamlash retain
their trophy by the narrow-
est of margins. Congratula-
tions to everyone who played
throughout the winter.

Fixtures: Sunday 23 March,
sweep from Yellow tees.
Sunday 30 March, Captain's
Prize, 10am start.

Shiskine Golf Club

The final day of the Ryder
Cup, which was a double
header, was held on Sunday
16 March with fourballs in
the morning followed by
foursomes after lunch.

Morning results: Blackwa-
terfoot 1 Shiskine 3, Torbeg
3 Kilpatrick 1. Bonus point
in the morning for most holes
won went to Torbeg.

Afternoon results: Blackwa-
terfoot 2 Shiskine 2, Torbeg 2
Kilpatrick 2. Bonus point in
the afternoon went to Black-
waterfoot.

So after a winter of golf the

final table is: Shiskine 16.5,
Blackwaterfoot 15.5, Torbeg
14 and Kilpatrick 8.

Congratulations to Iain Mur-
chie and his team on winning
the Ryder Cup. George Tod
collected the wooden spoon
on behalf of his Kilpatrick
team.

Nearest the pins: at the 4th,
A Kerr, at the 7th, G McKe-
chnie, at the 10th, R Crawford,
at the 12th, J Morrison.

Thursday 13 March, Ladies
12 Hole Medal, 14 played,
CSS 44. Silver 1 Sally
Brookes 54-10=44 BIH, 2
and best scratch Alice Ander-
son 52-8=44.

Bronze 1 Esther Henderson
64-16=48, 2 Fiona Scott 63-
14=49.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 1 March, Winter
Cup. 1 A Burke 73-13=60, 2 E
McKinnon 60+1=61, 3 J Mc-
Connachie 68-6=62. Scratch
E McKinnon 60. Magic
twos from E McKinnon
(2), A Burke (2), A Napier.

Saturday 8 March, Winter Cup.
1 J McGovern 76-9=67 BIH,
2 M MacDonald 90-23=67,
3 J McConnachie 74-5=69.
Scratch J McConnachie 74.
Magic twos J McGovern (2).
Monday 10 March, 1 L Hart-
ley 75-17=58, 2 R Burke
66-7=59, 3 J McConnachie
64-4=60 BIH, Scratch J Mc-
Connachie 64. Magic twos
L Hartley (2), R Burke, I
Buchanan.

Saturday 15 March, Winter
Cup, non-counter, six play-
ers. 1 J McGovern 76-9=67.
Monday 17 March, 1 L
Hartley 73-15=58, 2 J Mc-

Connachie 64-4=60 BIH, 3
A Smith 66-6=60. Scratch
J McConnachie 64. Magic
twos A Burke (2), L Hart-
ley, J Adams, I McMillan.
Fixtures: Saturday 22 March,
Winter Cup, tee-times 8.30am
and 12pm. Monday 24 March,
tee off 12noon.

Brodict Golf Club

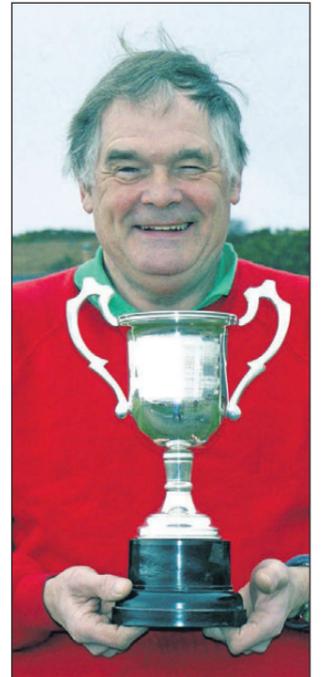
Sunday 16 March, Winter
Cup, 16 played. 1 D Hendry
36pts, 2 A Dobson 33pts BIH,
3 B Smith 33pts BIH from D
McKinnie. Therewerenotwos.
John Beattie still leads the
Winter Cup (best 5 rounds)
with 188 pts, but with a win-
ning 36 points David Hendry
now joins the younger Hen-
dry just three points behind
John. With John and Gordon
unable to play the last round,
David needs 40 points in the
last round to snatch the Win-
ter Cup from John's grasp.
Sid Sillars remains very much
in the picture, just needing
39 points in the last round to
overtake John.

Wednesday 12 March, 10
played on a much better day.
1 W Kroner 76-14=62, 2 B
Walker 78-15=63. There was
one magic two by J Dick.
Fixtures: Sunday 23 March,
final round of Clochendich-
ter. Sunday 30 March, final
round of Winter Cup.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 13 March, Yellow
Medal [non-qualifying]. 1
John O'Sullivan 80-22=58,
2 Ian Bremner 66-6=60.
Magic twos J O'Sullivan at
the 16th, I Bremner at the
17th, G Andrew at the 4th.

Sunday 16 March, Lamlash v
Whiting Bay (non-qualifying)
CSS 63. 1 Ian Bremner 37pts
to Stableford, 2 Mark Wren
33pts, 3 John O'Sullivan
33pts. Best scratch Ian Brem-
ner 31pts. No magic twos.
Final Winter Game - Lamlash
2 W/Bay 1. Overall Result
Lamlash 9 Whiting Bay 8.
Old Cronies Trophy went to
Adam Burke 46+30=76, run-
ner-up Ian Bremner 37+35=72.
Fixtures: Sunday 23 March,
final round of Glenburn Cup
9.30am and 12noon starts.
Thursday 27 March, final
Round of Yellow Medal 11am
ballot.



Brian Sherwood with the Winter Cup 2013/14 he won at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club - congratulations go to him.

Umpire needed for new women's hockey team

The formation of a new wom-
en's hockey team on Arran
has taken a major step for-
ward.

A first meeting to set up the
new team was held last week

which has already got the ball
rolling.

However, the team urgently
needs to find an umpire to
play competitive matches.

More than 30 ladies con-

tacted the catalyst organiser
Victoria McNicol after we
carried a plea in The Banner
last month looking for team
members.

Now it looks like the Arran
Ladies Hockey Team could
begin playing in a competi-
tive league by September.

It is nearly 15 years since
there was a women's hockey
team on the island.

At the meeting in the Or-
midale Pavilion last week
11 ladies attended but there
were also apologies from five
others and another four, who
would have been there, were
on holiday

Qualified umpire

Training is now being held
every Thursday night at
7.30pm at the Ormidale As-
troturf pitch for anyone who
wants to join. Players have to
be over 14 years old.

However, the new team
urgently need a qualified
umpire before they can start
playing competitive matches
in the league.

The team have been assured
they could play in the Scot-
tish Hockey Association divi-

sion four west league.

Joining the league would see
Arran playing both home and
away but all the teams in the
division are within easy trav-
elling distance with Irvine be-
ing the closest and Dumfries
the farthest away.

Most of the other teams are
in and around Glasgow in-
cluding Stepps and Udding-
ston.

Appeal

Victoria said: 'We need an
umpire to start matches in the
league and would appeal to
anyone who would be willing
to do this to contact us. They
will only be needed for an
hour every second Saturday
and for the away games too.'

'They don't need to play
hockey, they just need to un-
derstand the rules and sit a
50 question test to complete
their C Badge qualification.
'If we can't get an umpire,
we can't play competitively
which would be awful.'

If anyone can help they
should contact Victoria by e-
mail at: victoriacallister@
hotmail.com or by telephone
on: 07855 394163.

WEDDING



On Saturday 1st March, at Sherbrooke St Gilbert's Church, Glasgow, Sarah M. Brown, only grand daughter of May Fenton, Lochranza, to Steven P. Beane, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Beane, Yarm, North Yorkshire.

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Good diet a must for 10K training

When training try to eat at least an hour before starting

The countdown to the Arran 10K race has reached the five week mark until the starting gun goes off on race day at noon on Sunday 27 April.

With just over a month to go, the organisers are expecting a great turnout from both islanders and other competitors from across the Clyde with the race now officially listed on the Scottish Athletics website.

After looking at High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) to boost performance in last week's article, all training must be complemented with a good diet to match the body's new and increasing energy requirements.

A healthy diet is good but a body needs fuel to support its growing needs and eating the correct food to complement this is essential to maximise the overall effects and benefits achieved from all the hard

training put in.

This is important whether running for weight loss, increasing energy levels, trying to make improvements to fitness in general or if you are just doing it for fun.

When to eat: running a 10K will on average take about an hour so don't worry about needing to refuel mid race. If you have trained properly, no energy bars or performance drinks will be required.

Refuelling

When training try to eat at least an hour before you start and on race day itself try to leave at least two hours before you set off. Refuelling after a session is just as important.

Try to consume something easily digestible as soon after as possible such as a fruit smoothie while avoiding more solid foods like a burger.

What to eat: You can calculate the number of calories



'Ryder Cup' joy for Shiskine Golf Club

Shiskine have won Arran's version of the Ryder Cup. After the final round of matches at Shiskine Golf Club on Sunday the home side got their hands on the coveted trophy. After a winter of golf they finished top of the pile with 16.5 points. Runners up were Blackwaterfoot with 15.5, third were Torbeg on 14 with Kilpatrick finishing last with eight points. Here Iain Murchie is seen with the Ryder Cup trophy, right, while George Tod collected the wooden spoon for Kilpatrick.

burnt per-mile-run by multiplying your weight in pounds by 0.63.

For a 10K race (6 miles), a 160lb person is burning 604 calories.

As a runner carbs are essential, relied on for the majority (+60%) of energy and it is imperative that they are included in daily food intake.

Fats contained within each meal tend not only to bring vast quantities of flavour but among other things they are necessary to provide the essential fatty acids that the

body doesn't create itself.

It is well known that protein helps to build muscle by aiding the synthesis of essential amino acids but it is also another source of fuel.

Along with the big three there is also a need for fibre vitamins and minerals too.

Why not pass on any nutritional tips or info you may have to others using Twitter #Arran10K or perhaps you have a tasty recipe you want to share on the Arran Runners Facebook page.

Help needed to sustain Lamlash Bowling Club

Lamlash Bowling and Tennis Club is struggling, according to the dwindling numbers of members.

Aileen Graham, secretary, said: 'We need someone to run the tennis courts and putting green.'

'If this does not happen shortly these facilities will no longer be available in Lamlash as the bowling club members cannot sustain the running of the courts and putting green.'

If anyone is interested please go along to the club's AGM on Wednesday 26 March at 7.30pm at the bowling clubhouse.

WEEK 7

With improved energy levels increase your run time on days 1, 3 and 5 to 40 minutes. On day three split the session up into 4x10 minute jogs with 30sec sprints in between. Days 2, 4 and 7 are for rest with cross training on day six as usual.

Remember to stretch every day and ensure you don't run two consecutive days in row.

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