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Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 28 MARCH, 2009 | No 1693 | 52p

Ferry angry with Salmond

Sailings were altered just to suit the first minister, it is claimed

By JENNIFER LYON

Scotland's first minister Alex Salmond angered islanders this week after the ferry service between Brodick and Ardrossan was apparently altered to suit his schedule.

Due to poor weather conditions on Monday morning the 7am ferry from Ardrossan and the 8.20am from Brodick were cancelled.

The Caledonian Isles sailed at 9.45am with Alex Salmond on board.

After sailing at 11.05am and 12.30pm the ferry did not leave the island again until 7.20pm with Mr Salmond onboard.

One man from Lamlash booked on the 4.40pm sailing said it was appalling the service had been altered to suit the minister's needs.

Windy

'Yes it was windy on Monday and I can understand that there are times when the boat cannot sail but it seems too coincidental that CalMac made sure the first minister got on and off the island without any problems,' he said.

Colin Turbett from Shiskine is a member of the Scottish Socialist Party. He wrote to the *Banner* to express his anger about the Monday's ferry timetable. He said: 'While poor weather played a part, the schedule seemed to be maintained only to suit Alex Salmond rather than the citizens of Arran who rely on the ferry for everyday business.

'People were stuck on the mainland, including island residents who had been discharged yesterday afternoon from Crosshouse Hospital.'

The ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne said the timing of the sailings on Monday had nothing to do with Mr Salmond's visit.

'The first minister is just another person. We would not alter the sailing schedule to suit him,' said CalMac regional manager Robbie Brown. 'If it looks as though the boat and passengers could be in danger we will not sail, it doesn't matter who is on board.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said allegations that the ferry sailed to accommodate Mr Salmond are nonsense.

'Thankfully this accusation cannot detract from what was a very successful and enjoyable visit,' said Mr Gibson. 'The safety of passengers and crew were CalMac's only consideration. CalMac were unsure, even at 7pm, whether or not the ferry would leave or have to go to Gourock. All day wind speeds were high, as they had been the previous night. During the late afternoon speeds were as high as 48 knots, with 35 being about the highest speed it is safe to depart in.

'I don't think Mr Salmond would have batted an eyelid if he had had to stay overnight in the Auchrannie. His ministers both stayed over. He could easily have caught the 8.20am the following morning.'

Pupils from Shiskine Primary School joined Scotland's first minister Alex Salmond for the official opening of the village medical surgery on Monday. Picture courtesy of Alister Firth Photography.

New Shiskine surgery impresses

Scotland's first minister Alex Salmond officially opened the new Shiskine Surgery on Monday.

Resident GPs Greg and Faye Hamill were joined by NHS board members and local residents and schoolchildren to welcome Mr Salmond to Shiskine.

Tour

He was taken on a tour of the new state-of-the-art surgery visiting consulting rooms and the dispensary before planting a cherry tree in the garden to commemorate the occasion.

Both Faye and Greg Hamill agreed that it was a great improvement on the previous premises at Inglewood, the home of the retired GPs Alastair and Libby Grassie and would offer patients a first-class service.

Difference

Alex Salmond said: 'The impressive new surgery will make a real difference to the people of Shiskine by offering much needed health services closer to home. The facility not only meets the needs of the community but provides an improved, modern, working environment for the surgery's dedicated staff.

'The Scottish government is committed to investing in accessible modern facilities throughout Scotland and in August we announced that £75 million would be made available to health boards over the next two years to invest in primary care facilities and upgrades.'

Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour this weekend

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Police files

Failure to pay hotel bill

A 34-year-old man from East Kilbride was reported to the procurator fiscal for failing to pay his bill at the Strathwhillan Guest House on Wednesday March 18.

No MOT

A 37-year-old man from Brodick was reported for having no valid MOT certificate and not wearing his seatbelt on the A841 at Brodick Golf Club last Thursday night.

On Saturday night a 35-year-old man from Brodick was reported for driving with no MOT.

Drink driving

On Sunday morning a 22-year-old man from Corrie was arrested on the A841 in Brodick for allegedly drink driving and driving without due care and attention.

Drugs possession

A 24-year-old Kilwinning man was reported to the procurator fiscal after he was found to be in possession of drugs on Arran last Friday night.

Vehicle defects

Strathclyde road policing department was on the island last Saturday and nine vehicle defect forms were issued to drivers for various offences ranging from faulty lights and exhausts.

Four people were pulled over for failing to wear seatbelts and two tickets were issued to vehicles fitted with unauthorised tinted windows.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'The road policing department wants to highlight that vehicles with tinted windows may not comply with the construction and use regulations. It is the driver's duty to ensure that all parts of the vehicle are legal.

'The local Department of Transport testing station will be able to advise drivers with regards to any query they might have about items of concern.'

Fiona Bulger and Ian Gold from Corrie Primary School are presented with the Association's Shield for Scottish country dancing by adjudicator Eric Finley on Wednesday afternoon. b13mus01

Flying start for music festival

The Arran Music Festival Association's 80th annual festival got off to a flying start on Wednesday afternoon in Whiting Bay Village Hall.

Association vice-chairman Sheila Gilmore gave a brief welcoming speech as she introduced the first five classes, traditional Scottish country dancing competitions.

'I have now been involved in the festival for more than 41 years, she said. 'Like many of the youngsters here today, my involvement began at an early age. You must remember today you are taking part in history.'

There was a varied programme on Wednesday afternoon that included country dancing and verse reading.

• See next week's *Banner* for a full festival report and results.

Arran will share in £6 million jobs fund

A £6 million funding package for the Highlands and Islands could secure around 300 jobs, it has been announced.

Speaking at the Convention of the Highlands and Islands on Arran, the first minister Alex Salmond said that a total of 18 projects across the region including Arran will receive a share of the fund.

Speaking on Monday Mr Salmond said: 'Today's convention has provided another important opportunity to engage with councils, health boards and local agencies across the Highlands and Islands. The projects being funded are a prefect example of how the partnership approach we have developed can make a positive difference in helping the economy.'

Start of summer ferry timetable

The summer ferry timetable comes into effect this weekend.

From today (Friday) the summer sailings from Lochranza to Claonaig will re-commence with nine return crossings per day starting at 8.15am from Lochranza.

Changes to the Ardrossan to Brodick run are less pronounced because the island enjoyed an enhanced service throughout the year for the second time this winter.

Most prominent is the re-introduction of the late sailings on Friday with departures from Ardrossan at 8.30pm arriving in Brodick at 9.25pm and a 9.40pm sailing from Brodick back to Ardrossan. There is no train connection from Ardrossan harbour for the last crossing.

CalMac wanted to remind passengers that fare increases of 3.8 per cent will also come into force, as previously announced in October last year.

For the summer sailings a five-day saver return passenger ticket increases in price to £9.30 and a return car ticket goes up to £56.

A return car ticket on the Lochranza to Claonaig run increases to £37.50 and £8.40 for a passenger return ticket.

£263 raised for Comic Relief

The owners and staff at Homestyles shop in Brodick raised £263 for Comic Relief last week.

Thank you to all who donated money.

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Johnny McGovern who has retired from the social services department is pictured with the caricature his colleagues gave him. b13jon01

Staff at the North Ayrshire Council offices in Lamlash say farewell to their colleague Johnny McGovern. b13jon02

Social services staff say a fond farewell as Johnny retires – for a second time

The Department of Social Services in Lamlash has said farewell to a much-respected social worker this week after the retirement of Johnny McGovern.

After more than six years in the job Johnny has finally decided to retire, for the second time.

His colleague at social services, Colin Turbett said: 'Johnny joined the team here on Arran in 2003 after literally falling off the back of a lorry.

Injury

'He had already retired once after a work-related injury forced him out of work.

'However, he couldn't stay out of work for long and he soon joined the team here on Arran.

' Everyone who has worked with him on the island has a great deal of respect for him and he will be sadly missed by all his colleagues.'

North Ayrshire Council staff from the Lamlash office joined Johnny and friends and family for a farewell party on Friday afternoon.

He was presented with a number of gifts including a fantastic caricature with the immortal words 'Don't sink the Bismarck' written across it.

'I would like to thank everyone I've worked with here. It's been a real pleasure,' said Johnny.

'I've already retired once so you never know I might be back.'

Johnny will not be spending his retirement idle. He has already been signed up as the relief warden for Brodick Village Hall and a warden for the Isle of Arran Sheltered housing.

Grant boost for sport

Arran Sports Association is to get £15,000 from the Scottish government to help maintain the sports complex at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

Arran's community council had been appointed to take part in a Scottish government pilot scheme that would ultimately devolve more power to community councils.

Under the scheme the Arran Community Council received a grant of £10,000, which they decided to give to the sports association.

On Monday night, finance secretary John Swinney revealed that this had been increased to £15,000.

Mr Swinney said: 'Community councils have an important role to play in local democracy, representing people's views and spearheading initiatives that benefit areas they serve.'

Glowing report for Isle of Arran Homes

Isle of Arran Homes has been given a glowing endorsement following a rigorous inspection from the Care Commission.

The housing provider, which is part of Trust Housing Association, scored very highly on a range of issues examined by inspectors who described the service as 'very good'.

Isle of Arran Homes has 15 sheltered housing apartments in Brodick and a further 20 in Lamlash. Since it was formed in 2001 more than £6 million has been spent building new homes for rent on Arran.

Isle of Arran Homes gained virtually top marks by being awarded a score of five in three key areas of its sheltered housing provision namely: quality of care and support, quality of staffing and quality of management and leadership.

Isle of Arran Homes said the verdict was 'terrific' and confirmed the high level of service offered on the island to tenants benefiting from its sheltered housing service.

Delighted

Andy Martin, manager of Isle of Arran Homes, said: 'We are delighted with the result of our inspection by the Care Commission. Everything we do is geared towards delivering the highest level of service to our tenants.

'Isle of Arran Homes fulfils a vital role on the island by delivering homes for older people and others, which are much in demand in such a rural setting as ours. We look forward to continuing to maintain such a high level of performance.'

Bob McDougall, chief executive of Trust Housing Association, added: 'This is a terrific endorsement of the level of service which is provided by Isle of Arran Homes. It is a great pat on the back for the staff who deliver it and reassuring to our tenants who know they are receiving housing provision of such high quality.'

Part of the inspection process involved questionnaires being issued to tenants and when these forms were returned it was found that nearly all were happy with the service provided.

"I would like to thank everyone at the Banner for their help with making our open day such a success. The full-page spread looked great and I have to thank Howard for a terrific article. We were also touched by the number of "best wishes" comments which you managed to add to the page. We had a great turn out and many people commented that they knew about the open day because they had read about it in the Banner. Great!"

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Finance and sustainable growth secretary John Swinney, left, first minister Alex Salmond and transport minister Stewart Stevenson at Arran High on Monday night.

b13min03

High school pupils see stars

You might be a 'fool' to participate on this particular day but on Wednesday April 1, Arran High School will be the venue for a Duke of Edinburgh fundraiser.

Two requirements: confidence and nerve!

At least 10 acts have volunteered to be part of the *Stars in Their Eyes* night, ranging from first years to teachers.

The money is being used to aid the Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Group in their expeditions.

There will be an audience vote for the winner and also a raffle with goodies to be won. Many refreshments will be available, but this is a school event so, please, no hip flasks.

The event will be attended by Arran's own Barry Fisher (who is the director of Duke of Edinburgh Scotland) and the local DoE co-ordinator Gavin Ferguson.

The evening will start with a presentation of certificates, earned by the group's participants over the past 12 months.

Tickets are on sale now at £4 per person from the school office – pop in or call 600341. Please come along for a fun evening, all in aid of a good cause, to support the school's stars.

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Salmond answers on island issues 'disappoint'

Three of Scotland's most powerful politicians attended the National Conversation event in Arran High on Monday night.

First minister Alex Salmond was accompanied by finance secretary John Swinney and transport minister Stewart Stevenson to answer questions from islanders about how they envisage Scotland's future.

Topics up for discussion ranged from renewable energy, affordable housing, fuel prices, ferry services and roads.

Councillor Margie Currie asked the first minister why they government cannot provide capital funding for the repair of Arran's roads.

Mr Salmond simply said that there is nothing the government can do. He said that roads were under the jurisdiction of the local authority and that it would be unethical for him to tell North Ayrshire Council how to spend its funds.

'I was very disappointed because they just fobbed me off,' said Councillor Currie afterwards. 'Yes, North Ayrshire Council are 100 per cent responsible for road maintenance but they evaded the question of capital funding for Arran's entire road network.

'The government provides funding for trunk roads but it's about time money was steered towards smaller, rural roads.'

Shelia Gilmore from Shiskine asked the ministers why residents are paying so much for fuel on Arran.

In reply John Swinney said: 'The real problem is that fuel companies will not recognise the lower volumes of fuel sold somewhere like Arran. They don't understand that retailers have to increase the price to make a profit. We have continually lobbied the UK government on this issue.'

The event was cut short at 6.30pm when Mr Salmond had to leave to catch a ferry.

Mr Swinney and Mr Stevenson answering more questions about the plan for a local income tax and the effect the recession is having on Arran.

Pianist Jim delights castle audience

An elderly gentleman who makes a yearly pilgrimage to Arran to play the piano at Brodick Castle has donated an oil painting by his father to the house.

Jim Grassie emigrated to Toronto from Glasgow in 1951 but he returns every year to play the grand piano in the drawing room of the castle.

'This is the best instrument I have ever played,' said Jim. 'I love coming here. It keeps me going all year until I can come back again.'

Chris Mills, Brodick Castle's administrative assistant, opened up the building especially for Jim's visit on Tuesday as it is still closed for the winter season.

Office manager Sue Tozer and castle guides Aileen MacAlister and Christine McKerrel were also on hand to welcome Jim.

Aileen said: 'Jim has been coming here for about 10 years. The first time he came we said he could play the piano if he wanted and he was there for hours. Over the years he has given a great deal of pleasure to hundreds of visitors to the castle.'

Jim played the piano for about half an hour, taking requests from the small audience. He concluded with an emotional rendition of Auld Lang Syne, which certainly affected those gathered.

Before he departed his son Jamie announced that Chris Mills has agreed to display the painting of Lochranza Castle painted by Jim's father more than 70 years ago.

It will hang in the castle tearoom where everyone can see it.

Jim Grassie travels to Brodick Castle from Canada nearly every year to play the grand piano in the drawing room.

b13man02

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Dasher memorial service

A memorial service will be held this Saturday (March 28) at 10.40am at the Brodick ferry terminal to remember the sinking of the HMS Dasher.

Alan Milligan from the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion said: 'The annual visit of the HMS Dasher Association will take place this Saturday with a short service being held at Brodick pier on the arrival off the MV Caledonian Isles at 10.40am. Members of the RBL Arran Branch will be in attendance both at the Brodick service and at the service on the Caledonian Isles which will take place in the middle of the Firth of Clyde at the spot where the Dasher sank.'

The Dasher sank in the Firth of Clyde on March 27, 1943, with the loss of 379 of its 528 crew members.

It was the largest loss of life not in the face of the enemy, and the official probable cause was that vapour in the main petrol compartment ignited, causing an explosion.

Kildonan SWRI

The AGM of the Kildonan SWRI was held on Tuesday February 17.

After committee members read various reports, a beautiful buffet was enjoyed by everyone.

The competition for the evening was won by Maimie Stewart, and in second place was Jill Hollick.

The Mrs Macpherson Rose Bowl was won by Margaret Stewart.

The new Committee is as follows: president, Margaret Stewart; vice-president, Mamie Stewart; secretary, Jill Hollick; treasurer, Gillian Lythgoe; press secretary, Margaret Stewart; raffles and competitions, Thelma Meldrum.

Banner advertisers help local hospice

The Arran Banner's **advertising manager, Maureen McDonald presents Janet Redfearn of the Arran Hospice Fund with a cheque for £165.** b13hos01

Whiting Bay schoolchildren designed adverts for local businesses

Maureen McDonald, *The Arran Banner's* advertising manager handed over a cheque for £165 to Janet Redfearn of the Arran Hospice Fund last week.

The money was raised through a special feature in Arran's weekly newspaper that invited children at Whiting Bay Primary School to design adverts for local businesses.

Janet said: 'Thank you very much for this generous donation. Money has been pouring into the fund and we have now raised nearly £15,000. We hope to be able to increase our fundraising drive over the next year in order to meet the £50,000 target.'

The local businesses which advertised were: Kiscadale Engineering Co, Trafalgar Restaurant, Belford Mill, Arran Reflections, Kelvinhaugh Kennels, Armitage Groundworks, The Village Shop, Skotprint, Winchmere West, Arran Art Gallery, MBS building and timber supplies, and The Pillar Box.

It was decided that 20 per cent of the profits raised by the feature should go to a worthy local cause.

'I'd like to say a big thank you to all the businesses that took part in this special feature which not only helped celebrate the 40th anniversary of Whiting Bay School but allowed us to donate this money to a very worthy cause,' said Maureen.

John McFaull from Kilmory started the Arran Hospice Fund after the death of his wife Judy from breast cancer last year.

Involved

It seemed fitting that Whiting Bay School were involved in the feature as Judy taught at the school when she first moved to the island.

Judy died last February aged 43 after battling breast cancer for 18 months and John wants to leave a lasting legacy in her memory to benefit others.

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

MP fights for redundancy fairness

Arran's MP has helped to bring a better deal for workers a step closer.

Katy Clark is a supporter of the Statutory Redundancy Pay (Amendment) Bill and was present on Friday March 13 for its successful second reading in the House of Commons.

Katy said: 'The value of redundancy pay has severely declined since the first bill was introduced in 1965. Then it represented over 200 per cent of the average weekly wage but now it represents less than 60 per cent. If this bill is successful then it will increase the value of statutory redundancy pay by over £200 for every year that an employee has worked in a company.'

Priority

The bill is backed by a coalition of Britain's trade unions. Tony Woodley, the joint general secretary of Britain's biggest union Unite, said: 'This campaign is a priority issue for the trade union movement. With the support of Katy Clark MP we will win justice and deliver fair play on redundancy pay.'

Katy added: 'I will continue to fight to retain the jobs of the people of Arran. When this is not successful I will fight to make sure that they are compensated appropriately and are able to support themselves and their families.'

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Arran's MP to be a mum

Arran's MP Katy Clark is to become a mum in May of this year, the *Banner* can reveal.

The 41-year-old announced the imminent arrival after issuing a press release welcoming the introduction of the government's new 'Health in Pregnancy Grant'.

Expecting

Speaking to the *Arran Banner*, Katy confirmed that she was expecting in the middle of May.

The delighted mother to be said: 'I am absolutely thrilled. I am really looking forward to it. My mother thinks it will be early as a pattern has followed over past generations.'

Katy Clark, Arran's MP has announced that she is expecting a baby in May. b13kat01NO

As of April 2009, women in North Ayrshire and Arran who are at least 25 weeks pregnant will receive a one off tax free payment of £190. This will not affect tax credits or other benefits that the mum to be currently receives.

Katy said: 'Pregnancy doesn't come without considerable planning and cost. During this difficult economic time it is important as a government to support families.'

Abbie and Sarah Jackson reading the Banner at the rejuvenated Albert Docks in Liverpool. b12ban01

The *Arran Banner* on holiday

Arran residents and holiday-makers are making sure that they pack their copy of the *Banner* to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

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

It could be from Torremolinos or Timbuktu, 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.

Fight repossession with new government support

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the new £35million Home Owners Support fund to help homeowners who may face financial difficulty during the current recession.

The fund offers those faced with repossession the opportunity to convert their mortgage to a shared equity deal whereby the Scottish Government will own part of the property or to go from mortgage to rent with a social landlord such as a housing association taking over the property while the former owner stays in the home.

Mr Gibson said: 'Many people will be worrying about their finances paying their mortgage.

'Too often people are tempted into taking dodgy loans or signing up for unregulated private mortgage to rent deals that can leave them homeless.

'These support schemes with £35million of funding from the Scottish Government offers real help and genuine support to people facing the loss of their home.

'Anyone who may be at risk of losing their home should visit Arran Citizens Advice Bureau in Park Terrace, or call them on 01770 600210 and find out how they can access this vital help.

'The Home Owners Support Fund is just one example of the support the Scottish Government, which last week announced it will spend a record £644 million on new socially rented housing in the new financial year beginning in April, is giving to those struggling through this recession.

Further information on the Home Owners Support Fund can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/263726/0078919.pdf

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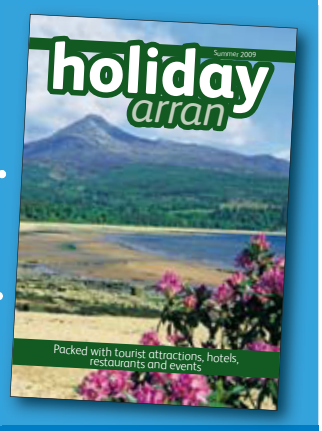

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A welcome change from the 'green kit' for Dawn

One of Arran's Army Cadets travelled to Craigengillan Estate near Dalmellington last weekend to take part in specialist adventure training that included shooting and field craft.

The Arran cadets form part of the West Lowland Battalion Army Cadet Force (ACF), which has cadets from Ayrshire, Renfrewshire as well as Dumfries and Galloway amounting to around 600 in total.

Just over 100 officers and adult instructors support them.

As well as the usual military skills you would expect like shooting, marching, first aid and all the different sports on offer to the young people, adventurous training is fast becoming the most important part of the organisation.

Dawn Burke from Arran on the Climbing Wall at Craigengillan Estate near Dalmellington. b13cad02

At one time the ACF could rely on regular army instructors to run these challenging activities, but nowadays regulars are often committed to operations abroad, therefore the army cadets are training their own.

Dawn Burke from Arran was one of instructors invited to Craigengillan to have a go at all the activities on offer with the view of finding their chosen activity to eventually become a qualified instructor.

She took part in climbing, open canoeing, orienteering and mountain biking. Commanding officer, Colonel Kevin Connor said; 'It is recognised that supplying the more challenging activities to young people in the Army Cadet Force is required.

Cadets spend about 30 per cent of their time taking part in adventurous training and sport. 'Archery has really taken off with the local army cadets and is an activity both males and female compete on equal terms, as well as being great fun. We are now attempting to provide even more adventurous activities for our members.'

Stuart Gray from Annan, Louise McCallum from Greenock, Brian Heartfield from Cumnock, Graham Sneddon from Kirkconnel and Dawn Burke from Arran at the army cadets new climbing wall. b13cad01

Adventurous training co-ordinator Captain Neil Begley added: 'The Army Cadet Force is not all about wearing green kit and camouflage cream. I hope to have numerous adults gain civilian recognised national governing bodies qualifications in canoeing and kayaking, climbing including climbing walls, hill walking and mountain biking over the next couple of years.

'It is a huge investment by us in our adult staff, but will pay dividends in the future.'

Logbooks help keep small businesses within the law

Small businesses on Arran are set to benefit from a new road safety initiative by the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership.

The Partnership is offering free vehicle logbooks to any small firm in the Strathclyde Police area and has started off by sending some samples out to island firms.

The logbooks enable business owners to keep track of vehicle use and stay within the law.

Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership Manager, Gladys Cadden, said: 'Under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1988 business owners have a responsibility to know who is driving their vehicles at any time.

'Apart from this legal requirement, it is good Health and Safety practice for both business owners and drivers to log details of all journeys.

'We are offering this free tool for small businesses to use in their company vehicles. Drivers will also benefit from this initiative in that it ensures that they will not be blamed for any irresponsible driving by others.'

Local police sergeant, Bob Mackay, said: 'Failure to note the details of who is driving a firm's vehicles at any time encourages a lack of personal responsibility for driving behaviour. I think this initiative by Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership is most worthwhile and is a positive help to small business owners on Arran and throughout the west of Scotland.'

The A5 logbook contains:

Vehicle log sheets to keep a record of each journey

- An A4 speed limit poster for display in business premises
- A vehicle speed limit sticker for the dashboard
- Useful information on stopping distances and tips to avoid speeding

Copies of the logbooks can be obtained by going to www.transportlog.co.uk and completing the online order form.

Zephirus excel at Arran Music Society concert

Founded in 2005, Zephirus is fast becoming one of the most exciting young chamber groups in the country.

They combine the best in 20th century saxophone quartet repertoire with new music and inspired arrangements.

Here's what Harry Ross of Whiting Bay thought of them.

The Zephirus quartet is a uniquely 20th century group of musicians of outstanding quality and clarity.

They treated their audience to a truly wonderful exhibition of high quality musical dexterity and precision, which was greeted with great enthusiasm by a delighted audience at Brodick Hall.

This saxophone quartet performed with a lovely lyrical sound, full of light and shade, and marvellously put together by four top class musicians.

Harry Ross. b13har01

The first piece, Shostakovich's 'Suite from the Golden Age' with its adagio movement was beautifully played, full of conflated harmony and dissonances and friendly polka reminiscent of a military band!

Dubois' 'Quartet for Saxophones' had a light syncopated start followed by a lovely piece of beautiful descending chords.

'So Softly' by Ian Wilson was a seductively haunting stroll expanding into volume then subsiding back into a fading single note.

A very meaty and complicated journey in memory of many composers of the 18th and 19th century was next in the form of Glazunov's 'Saxophone Quartet'.

Jan Morthenson's 'Chorale' was extremely beautiful before Russell Peck's rhythmic piece, 'Drastic Measures', finished off the night. **HR**

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Islanders' concerns do not interest first minister

Sitting in the community theatre at Arran High School on Monday night were three of Scotland's most influential men; the first minister Alex Salmond, finance minister John Swinney and transport secretary Stewart Stevenson.

As these men answered questions posed by a small audience of islanders as part of the National Conversation initiative, you could not help but wonder why they were there.

There is a clear message from a weekend poll that shows that the voters now realise two things.

The first is that they think that a referendum on independence is a total irrelevance when set alongside the deepening recession.

The second is that whatever support there used to be for Scotland becoming a separate state outside of the United Kingdom is fast disappearing.

The National Conversation is billed as an opportunity for the Scottish government to hear what the country's people envisage for Scotland's future.

Questions were asked about the government's commitment to affordable housing, renewable energy, lifeline ferry services and roads.

On very few of these subjects was a real answer given.

Each minister successfully managed to fob off the audience with a series of facts and figures and dreaded statistics rather than any real promise of change.

So what is it that these men actually do and can they really change life on Arran for the better?

It was always going to be difficult for Alex Salmond's troops to run a minority executive but largely through the strength of his own personality and weak political opposition in this country, he has largely got away with it.

His referendum on independence is his one and only goal. On Monday he made it clear that the state of Arran's roads or the provision of an early ferry to encourage commuters to live on Arran is below his notice.

Even John Swinney, the finance minister, struggled to explain how we on Arran can help fight the recession.

A recent survey shows that less than one-third of voters reckon a referendum is a good idea at a time of so much economic gloom.

Mr Salmond said that during his visit to Arran he witnessed great optimism and enterprise on Arran and that it is these traits that will carry Scotland through the recession.

If that is the case and he really is relying on the people on the ground, then why did he not listen to our concerns?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you' (Ephesians 4:32)

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner,* Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor

First minister comes first

Sir,

Monday's events on Arran can only serve to increase cynicism about national politicians and their motives.

Ferry services were apparently disrupted to ensure that the first minister was on schedule for getting to and leaving the island so that he could have his 'Conversation' with selected members of the public.

Whilst poor weather played a part, the schedule seemed to be maintained only to suit Alex Salmond rather than the citizens of Arran who rely on the ferry for everyday business.

People were stuck on the mainland including island residents who had been discharged yesterday afternoon from Crosshouse Hospital.

Did he know this and what do the local SNP activists who were prominent in yesterday's proceedings think?

While we should welcome senior political figures making an effort to go out and talk to ordinary people it does seem that Monday was more about spin and tokenism rather that a genuine desire to appreciate island issues (like ferry disruption).

An apology is surely due. If there is a message for politicians at this time of recession, it is put people first, and your own needs a distant second.

Yours,

Colin Turbett
Scottish Socialist Party
Shiskine

Roads saga

Sir,

It would seem from the report in last week's *Banner* that our councillor has side stepped Ian Small's campaign.

Surely the onus must be on a local council to refer any matter, submitted by a constituent that is beyond its jurisdiction, to the higher authority.

It is also suggested that tourists may be misled into thinking that it is Arran that has gone bottom up.

Let's hope that notion is not confirmed when they see the condition of the 'Give Way' sign at the Corriegills road end or glimpse the promenade railings on Brodick seafront.

The councillor's reference to central funding is obviously accurate but begs the question as to how the other 31 local authorities can maintain roads to an acceptable condition and yet North Ayrshire makes such a fist of Arran.

Everyone understands that central government funding impinges on capital investment and highway maintenance but what is so infuriating to the Arran motorist is the fact that roads in other areas of Scotland are patched on a regular basis to a standard that does not impede traffic progress, permits vehicles to travel in a straight line and offers a smooth passage from A to B.

And all of this within existing budgets.

The holes in Arran's roads are wither drowned in black emulsion and copious qualities of gravel or patched with some form of DIY kit that is 'pressed in' with a size 10 heel.

It is not surprising therefore that the holes, so treated, become temporary lumps before returning to holes.

While we may have a sympathetic local authority they must understand that our most pressing need is not a new road network, although a promise of such would be acceptable, but rather a much improved quality of day to day maintenance and repair.

Our council's response to this long running and justified complaint should, therefore, not take the form of opt-out and a reminder about central funding.

What we need is a pro-active management committed to communication and staff training.

Greater time, effort and supervision are necessary to ensure a quality of repair, which we pay for and which should be completed to an acceptable standard.

This area of complaint has been well rehearsed by a whole succession of Arran people over a number of years and yet the problem is unresolved.

The decline in recent years of coach and motorcycle tourist traffic may well be a reflection on Arran's slap-dash approach to road maintenance.

Perhaps, in order to achieve 'best value' the time has now come to consider putting the road maintenance programme out to tender thus achieving the necessary accountability.

Yours,

Ian McCallum
Ardtalla
Whiting Bay

Gordon Stewart and Carole Arthur both of Blackwaterfoot were married in Brisbane, Australia on March 21st, whilst on holiday.

Coincidence?

Sir,

It was good to see the 'lesser' potholes on the Brodick to Lamlash road being filled in.

At last it is a safer and more comfortable drive into Brodick.

I thought that if these are being attended to then there is hope for the 'greater' potholes around the island.

However, is it a coincidence that happens in the same week that *The Banner* announces our first minister, Alex Salmond, together with other important ministers were to visit this week?

Would it have been possible to get them to do a circumnavigation of the island so that we could have had all potholes repaired?

Yours,

Mary Wilkinson
North Lodge
Lamlash

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Members of Art in Mind, with some of the art works they will be exhibiting at the Arran Visual Arts Easter Exhibition to be held in Kilmory. b13art01NO

Art in Mind for Easter exhibition

Members of the Arran Art in Mind group have been preparing art works to display at the island's Visual Arts Easter Exhibition.

Art in Mind is an arts project that began in September 2004 for people experiencing mental health problems.

Its main aims are to encourage personal development through art, in a supportive and friendly environment, where all its members feel valued.

Members of the group have described it as 'a safe place to come', a creative way of working out emotions' and an 'opportunity to be somewhere each week that you know everyone understands your problems and you theirs, which means you can go even if you're not feeling well.

The atmosphere is such that you can come away feeling better, and with a sense of achievement'.

Jan MacGregor, from Art in Mind, said: 'This year Art in Mind are organising a raffle to raise funds to continue the group. Raffle tickets will be available at the Kilmory exhibition in April, and from various shops on the island. If you would like some phone me on 700249.The raffle will be drawn on the last day of the exhibition in Kilmory Hall on Thursday April 16. Thank you for your support.'

The Visual Arts Exhibition will be held in Kilmory Village Hall from April 11 to 16.

Lamlash WRI

Following the AGM of Lamlash WRI on Monday night, the following appointments were made:

President, Margaret Gray; vice president, Ann Miller; treasurer, Gill Butcher; secretaries Helen McGregor and Carol Davies; press secretary, Grace Sillars; magazine secretary, Viviane Haigh; federation representatives; Helen McGregor and Carol Davies.

The annual dinner was held at Lamlash Golf Club where a large number of members enjoyed a beautiful buffet, followed by some great entertainment by 'Mike & Steph'.

Brodick Castle gears up for summer season

The dust covers are coming off at Brodick Castle as staff and volunteers make the final preparations to open to visitors for the summer season.

The castle with its grand interiors, fine furniture and impressive art collection was once the seat of the Dukes of Hamilton and will reopen to the public on April 1.

Property manager Ken Thorburn said: 'We are gearing up for a great season at Brodick. The castle will be looking its best on opening day – April 1 – thanks to the hard work that our staff and volunteers have put in over the winter months.

Whiting Bay beach clean

The Whiting Bay Community beach clean and work party will take place on Sunday (March 29) from 10am onwards.

Please come along and help clean up the beach before Easter. Meet at the putting green and bring gloves and gardening tools if possible.

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Shorthorn bull an unusual addition to Arran farm

Charlie McAllister of Corriecravie has just bought a rather special bull.

He has secured the reserve champion from the Harrison and Hetherington Auctioneers, Carlisle, Whitebred Shorthorn spring show and sale of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association.

Parton Quartz from Messrs Hewson, Burgh Head Farm, Burgh by Sands, Carlisle was the reserve champion bull at the Whitebred Shorthorn spring show and sale at Carlisle on Friday February 27.

Charlie McAllister and his Parton Quartz Whitebred Shorthorn bull at Ceither Gaoithe, Corriecravie. b12bul01

Charlie paid £1,500 guineas for this beast in order to improve the beef stock from his farm at Ceither Gaoithe, Corriecravie. He told the Banner: 'We have a herd of Galloway and Highland cows. A White Shorthorn bull crossed with a Galloway cow gives the hardy Blue Grey cross that does so well in this climate. They combine a good milk yield to raise a calf with a great hardiness.'

The breed is compact and their progeny take a little longer than average to mature but the cows live longer than average, being able to breed into the high teens of years.

In 2004 the Whitebred Shorthorn was added to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's watchlist as a 'critical status one breed'.

British cattle breeders in the mid 19th century found that the White Shorthorn crossed with a hardy Galloway cow produced an animal of attractive blue grey colour. Blue Grey cows excel as hill sucklers with a good milking potential and cows calve well into their teens of years.

Parton Quartz, reserve champion at the Carlisle Whitebred Shorthorn bull sale.
b12bul03

Whitebred Shorthorns are bred mainly in the border counties of Scotland and England and it is likely that they were derived from the white dual purpose Shorthorn cattle locally known as Cumberland Shorthorns.

Charlie said: 'Whitebred Shorthorns are known as the 'great improvers' because they can give a hardiness and profitability to cows bred in difficult upland areas.'This bull will probably follow in the footsteps of other Corrievravie White Shorthorns. Charlie explained: 'We will work him at Ceither Gaoithe and we usually hire one out to George Boal at Glensherraig for five to six weeks to put to his cows.'

Charlie and Jane McAllister, formerly of Braehead, are now farming at Ceither Gaoithe and explained that the new steading was Gaelic for 'four winds'. He said: 'This place gets all four winds; there is no hiding place!'

He also added that the sale price of Parton Quartz of £1,500 guineas was converted to pounds sterling which is still used for the sale of any pedigree livestock.

Livestock sales

United Auctions had forward this week 2,238 store cattle, 106 cast cows and 4,628 prime store hoggets and 1,416 cast ewes.

Simmental cross bullocks £1040, 150p/kg Clachaig. Limousin cross bullocks £690, 201p/kg Kilpatrick. Limousin cross heifer £830, 197p/kg Kilpatrick. Cast cows £755, 121p/kg Clachaig.

Texel cross hoggs £83 Craigdhu. Texel cross hoggs £82 Balgowan. Cross hoggs £52 Ceither Gaithe. Cheviot ewes £54.50 Cosyden. Mule ewes £69 Ceither Gaithe. Blackface tups £54 Balgowan. Texel tups £63 Balgowan. Blue Leicester tups £69 Cosyden.

George Tod from Balgowan Farm, Shiskine tops the market with £82 Balgowan Texel hoggs.
b13tod01

According to a number of *Banner* readers frogs have been present on Arran for far longer than originally thought.

Could frogs have existed in Arran before the 1980s?

A number of *Banner* readers are slightly confused about an article two weeks ago that stated frogs were not introduced to Arran until the 1980s.

In her Nature Notes column, Brodick Castle head ranger Kate Sampson wrote: 'Frogs were not present on Arran until the 1980s. It was Jean Bowden, the Brodick Castle recruiter, who first brought frogs to Arran.'

According to 96-year-old Margaret Steine from Kildonan frogspawn formed a large part of her yearly nature syllabus when she taught on the island in the 1950s.

'We always had frogs and newts in the classroom,' she said. 'I used frogspawn every year in my nature studies class. Frogs have definitely existed on this island for a long time.'

John Murchie from Brodick wrote to *The Banner* in a slightly confused state last week.

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

Interesting

After considering this fresh information, Kate Sampson said: 'This is all very interesting. As far as I am aware frogs only came in the 1980s, but Arran did have toads before. With all these things it's hard to get the definitive answer. It may be that there were frogs prior to this, but that they died out due to disease, however we don't have frog records from before 1980s.'

Margie Currie reports on the new local development plan

Quite a bit of my time spent in Irvine just now is taken up with Planning training.

This is partly in preparation for the launch of the new Local Development Plan (LDP), which in about three years will supersede both the Ayrshire Structure Plan and the existing two local plans.

Full takeover won't happen until the adoption of the LDP in 2011 or three years from the publication of the Main Issues Report (MIR), which is the first stage in the process.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2009 is the biggest overhaul of planning in 60 years. The Scottish Government (SG) has four main objectives: efficiency, inclusivity, fitness for purpose and sustainability.

There will be only one LDP for the whole of North Ayrshire, which I think, will be effective. Supplementary Guidance will deal with specific matters and other including island issues. There are three stages of the development of the LDP:

1 The MIR to be reported on by December 2009. This will contain the vision statement and preferred options. It is open to wide consultation. (The LDP process is democracy personified!)

Margie Currie. b13mar01

2 The then proposed plan will be published by winter 2010 at which time Scottish Ministers will examine any unresolved objections through an independent examiner.

3 The final draft will be adopted three years from the initiation. It is intended to last for 11 to 20 years with five-year updates.

4 The LDP will take account of transport, housing, river basin management and national government policies. All along the views of individuals, groups and sectors will be sought.

The last time that I wrote at this length I was accused of being a bit of a doom monger. Since then I am so relieved to say that some of the omens for the summer tourist season are good with forward bookings up generally. It is not rosy, however, for many businesses and it's not easy for councils either to be spreading resources more thinly.

I think that we are fortunate on Arran having access to a forward thinking Economic and Business section and a Money Matters service within NAC.

It's a pity that judgment of the council is coloured by roads alone!

The Carlops Jazz Band are bringing their trademark exuberant big-band sound to the Brodick Village Hall next month.

Big band sound comes to Arran

The peace and tranquility of this island have drawn many people here over the years and when Janet Guild was looking for a place to relax and do some writing, Arran was a natural choice.

Back home in the Scottish Borders, Janet is lead vocalist with a lively eight-piece ensemble, the Carlops Jazz Band.

The musicians bring their trademark exuberant big-band sound to the songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter, switching to a punchy up-tempo interpretation of instrumentals by Lee Morgan, Thelonius Monk and Dizzy Gillespie. You can hear them at Brodick Village Hall on Sunday April 5 at 7.30 pm (doors open from 7.15pm)

Tickets cost £7 and are available from the Book and Card Shop or on the door.

There will be cabaret-style tables and it will be a bring your own bottle event.

Children under 12 will get in free.

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Gentleman's Philosophical Society gets crafty

Members of the Lochranza Gentlemen's Philosophical Society demonstrated their feminine side last week when they made 'dinky, pretty soap bags'.

The gents meet every Tuesday evening in the Lochranza Hotel for some fun and topical discussion and each week a member is selected to be the guest speaker.

Last week it was the turn of well-known local character Terry Crawley but instead of speaking himself he asked Vicki Milne of the Corrie and Sannox SWRI to come along and help the men to make something useful.

'I am happy to say that this wind up was taken in the spirit intended and everyone seemed to have fun,' said Terry. 'I'm sure all the gents got extra Brownie points when they got home.'

The soap bags were made using facecloths, polythene ribbons and sticky-tape.

The Banner suggested to Terry that perhaps he should begin campaigning for equal opportunities at this year's SWRI Show in Lamlash so that the Gents Society can enter their handiwork. Terry said: 'Thanks that is a great idea. I shall put it to them. I'm sure it will get them going!'

Ian Holmes, Douglas Coulter, David Henderson, John Ford, Robert Cumming, Bill Scott and Colin Strang with their 'dinky, pretty soap bags'. b13bag01

Vicki Milne from the Corrie and Sannox SWRI helps Colin Strang to make his pretty soap bag. b13bag02

CARLOPS JAZZ BAND
FEATURING
VOCALIST JANET GUILD
Sunday 5th April
Brodick Hall
7.30pm (Doors open 7.15pm)
Tickets £7 from the
Book and Card Shop
or on the door
BYOB. Children under 12 free.

When times are hard for business, it's facts that count.
The Arran Banner – Arran's only newspaper with an independently audited circulation*.
THE ARRAN BANNER
*So you know what you are getting for your money
Call Maureen on 01770 302142 to find out how we can help promote your business. We are here to help

Roger and Alison Garratt admire some of the hyacinths at the Spring Bulb Show. b13spr01

Flower and bulb show results

The annual show of spring blooms in Brodick Hall organised by the Isle of Arran Horticultural Society took place last weekend.

The full list of results from the event are printed below.

Section 1 – Bulb Class

Daffodils/narcissi: 1 Anne McLean, 2 Anne McLean, 3 Anne McLean. Hyacinths: 1 Andrew Stefanuti, 2 Anne McLean. Amaryllis: 1 Andrew Raeburn. Miniature daffodils up to 25cms from soil level: 1 Andrew Stefanuti, 2 Anne McLean. Miscellaneous: 1 Andrew Stefanuti.

Section 2 – Cut Blooms

Five daffodils/narcissi (trumpet): 1 John Lammie, 2 Anne McLean, 3 Anne McLean. Five daffodils/narcissi (large cup): 1 Anne McLean, 2 John Sillars, 3 Johnanne McHarg. Five daffodils/narcissi (small cup): 1 Anne McLean, 2 Willie Innes. One bloom of narcissi (named): 1 Anne McLean, 2 Anne McLean, 3 Anne McLean.

Section 3- Floral Art

Floral art theme (spring time): 1 Anne McLean.

Section 4 – Miscellaneous

Pot plant (flowering): 1 Anne McLean, 2 Anne McLean. Patio pot (spring collection, at least three different bulbs or plants): 1 Anne McLean, 2 Andrew Stefanuti. Patio pot (one or two varieties): 1 Anne Mclean, 2 John Sillars.

Section 5 – Children.

Garden in a tray: 1 Rainbows. Painted decorated egg (floral theme): 1 Hannah McCartney, 2 Megan McCartney. Bowl of bulbs (five): 1 Isla Sillars. Scarecrow (up to 1.8 metres): 1 Rainbows. Coloured picture (spring flowers): 1 Shawn Smith, 2 Bailey Robinson, 3 Luke Nelson. Schools Trophy – The Neil McLean Cup for the best exhibit entered by a school: 1, 2 and 3 all won by Brodick Primary School.

Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for best exhibit in show: Anne McLean.

RW McKelvie for the best exhibition in section 1: Andrew Raeburn.

First Minister launches Homecoming ice cream

The First Minister Alex Salmond launched a special flavour of Arran Dairies ice cream, which has been created to promote Homecoming 2009 at Brodick Castle on Monday.

The Homecoming Ice Cream is traditional Arran ice cream rippled with island blackcurrants and heather honey.

Managing director of Arran Dairies and Taste of Arran, Alistair Dobson, said: 'Lots of our customers have been asking for a while if we were making anything special for 2009 – it seems that many restaurants are developing menus with a real Scottish theme, so we wanted to give them a product that encapsulates all that is great about Arran.'

Hospitality Market

Arran Dairies supplies ice cream to businesses on the island and in 2008 won the National Ice Cream Awards Diploma of Merit.

The Homecoming ice cream has been developed for the hospitality industry and will be sold in four-litre cartons.

First Minister Alex Salmond: 'Homecoming 2009 is shaping up to be the biggest celebration of Scottish culture, heritage and innovation yet and I am delighted that Arran Dairies have launched this fantastic new flavour to mark the year of events.' Homecoming Scotland marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert burns and celebrates Scotland's great contributions to the world.

John Adamson and Douglas I'Anson from Arran Dairies joined Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond to launch the new Homecoming ice cream. b13ice01

Bird Notes - Bird Sightings

By Jim Cassels

In 2008, 250 people contacted me with more than 4,000 sightings on 161 species of birds seen on Arran.

These sightings have been distilled into the 'Arran Bird Report for 2008' published by the Arran Natural History Society.

The report is now available from shops and other outlets throughout the island, priced £3.50.

The Arran Natural History Society published its first annual Arran Bird Report in 1978, with one each year after this.

These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last 30 years.

They contribute towards the larger 'Clyde Bird Report' published annually by the Scottish Ornithologists Club (SOC).

Based on these reports and the bird reports from throughout Scotland, the SOC has published in 2007 a major new book 'Birds of Scotland'.

In two full-colour A4 hardback volumes, containing some 1,600 pages, this encyclopaedia of Scottish birds was written by 150 experts and edited by a team of nine editors.

This follows in the footsteps of Baxter and Rintoul's book with the same title published in 1953.

It is interesting to compare the 2007 book with the 1953 book. For example, in 1953 corncrake is widespread in Scotland and there is no mention of collared dove. Now breeding corncrake is restricted to the Hebrides and collared dove is widespread.

You can help. From 2007 to 2011, all sightings reported to me will be passed on to Bird Atlas.

I know that a number of people keep for their own interest, all sorts of bird notes, and I would encourage these people to share this information with me, so that the basis of our annual Arran Bird Report and our contribution to the national records can be as comprehensive as possible

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

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089
An ever-changing collection, in peaceful locations of Archaeology, Clearances and Emigration, Farm Implements, Original Smiddy, 1940's Schoolroom, Arran at War, Villages Then and [illegible] Cottage Child[illegible]
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[illegible]nique and modernised Arran [illegible]ology Exhibition Room, Antique costume display, and Homecoming display.
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Fine Dining for the Discerning.
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Fridays & Saturdays

Shiskine Drama Club together with Shiskine WRI drama group, present the award winning one act plays
That Old Black Magic
And
Slim Chance
Friday 3rd April 2009 in Shiskine Public hall
Doors open 7.00pm- curtain up 7.30pm
Tickets available at the door
£5.00 adult, £3.00 for children.
This includes the famous WRI tea and buns.
And of course a game of bingo.

Kilmory Primary School
Hosting a
SCOTTISH EVENING
in Kilmory Hall
Wednesday 1st April.
at 7pm
Tea/coffee shortbread
Scottish Hamper raffle
All welcome

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, March 25, 1989

Pay as you learn

There is mounting dismay amongst geologists from universities all over Britain that this may be the last year they are able to 'work in the field' for free on Arran.

Arran and Sannox Estates are proposing to make a nominal charge of £10 per student per week from next year.

Some of the geology parties now say they will be unable to return to Arran.

Members of the Tourist Board feel that it may damage tourism and are very unhappy about it.

Despite their disquiet, Tourist Board chairman Robin Crawford said they would prefer not to discuss it until they could arrange a meeting with Charles Fforde of Arran Estate.

In a letter to the Geologist's Association Mr Fforde makes it clear that he is simply making maximum use of his assets.

He writes: '…these geological parties pay those who transport them here, they pay for their hotel and accommodation and appear well able to pay for refreshments in the bar after a days work; all of this while the object of their study is considered to be free gratis. The study of the estate's assets will set them up in a career for life.'

Geraldine Ash with her Best Verse trophy from the Arran Music Festival 1898. b13twe05

New owner for the Douglas

The Douglas Hotel has a new owner. Mr Ravinder (Ravi) Khosla took over the reigns of the business on Tuesday following his successful application for a licence at Monday's Licensing Court.

Mr Khosla, 45, was born a British citizen in Kenya and although his parents are Punjabis, he had never visited India until last year.

Until recently, after a very varied career, Mr Khosla ran Ravinders Indian restaurant in Saltcoats.

He has now sold his business interests on the mainland to concentrate on The Douglas Hotel, which he already knew well because of holidays on the island.

Goodbye Paddington

Paddington, the much-loved Shetland pony who grazed just north of Whiting Bay, has died. He was thought to be about 30 years old.

As well as being well known at horse events around the island for his distinctive appearance and diminutive size, Paddington also gave children rides during the Whiting Bay Fun Weeks.

Ranger controversy

Brodick Country Park's head ranger, Derrick Warner, caused some dismay on BBC Radio 4's Tuesday Call this week.

The topic was vigilantes and the Guardian Angels.

Derrick telephoned to make the point that would-be vigilantes should join the special constabulary.

Questions then to Derrick about the level of violence where he lived and the need for more policing revealed that violence on Arran is negligible.

The radio show host and guest found this difficult to accept, having expected most of the calls to be from areas with serious problems of vandalism and violence. Derrick himself is a special constable.

It was standing room only at Corrie Post Office on Thursday as about 30 people all wanted to get in. Journalists, TV cameramen, tourist officers, officials from Highlands and Islands Development Board (HIDB), and holidaymakers stormed the post office and not one of them wanted to buy a stamp. The reason for the hullabaloo was that Sir Robert Cowan, the chairman of HIDB was there to launch this year's 'Island Passport' tourist promotion. When he asked if he could go behind the counter for the official photographs postmaster Jim primrose said: 'Nobody is allowed the PO counter unless they have signed the official secrets act and I'm not letting him in.' b13twe01

The Emsley family have taken over the Anvil Tearoom in Pirnmill. Peter and Margaret Emsley and their son Paul and his wife Jan are going to run the tearoom very much as a family business although Jan may not have as much time on her hands as young Alison was only nine days old when they moved here a few weeks ago. b13twe02

Open this week at Brodick Pier is a new shop selling products from Arran Aromatics, the new firm that is being set up at Home Farm. On hand to help and advise customers are Tracey Gibson and Cecilia Paul. b13twe03

Quattro MacJazz
Forrie Cairns (Clt) Alastair McDonald (Banjo & Vocal)
Lennie Herd (Tpt) Roy Percy (Bass)
Whiting Bay Hall Sat April 11th 2009
Shiskine Hall Sun April 12th 2009
8pm -11pm Cafe-style Seating Licensed Bar
Tickets: £12 (£10 concession)
From: Pillar Box, Whiting Bay
Book & Card Centre, Brodick & Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot

The Ormidale
Brodick 01770 302
HOME COOK BAR MEALS
Served daily 6pm and 12.30pm – 2pm at weekends
Garden Children Welcome
Arran Story Festival 7-9 April
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
Fri- Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)
Sun - Open Folk Session - 9.30pm
Tues - Pop Music Quiz - 10pm
Thur - General Knowledge Quiz - 10pm
Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

The Lighthouse Restaurant
Pirnmill 850240
OPEN 6 DAYS
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Alison and Andy Pattison

BANNER

WHAT'S ON...

EVERYDAY

Brodick Castle,Gardens & Country Park	11am - 4pm
Trout fishing	Loch Garbad, Bank
Hawk Walks	Lamlash
Fitness Assesments, Gym Induction, Personal Training	Auchrannie Spa & Gym
Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick	10.30am - 4.30pm

SATURDAY 28th MARCH

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years	Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Youth Cafe	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm
Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Coffee Morning	Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church Hall, 10.30am - 12pm
Bingo Night	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm

SUNDAY 29th MARCH

Alcoholics Anonymous	St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes	Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games	Arran High School 1 - 4pm
Whiting Bay Beach Clean & Work Party	From 10am onwards

MONDAY 30th MARCH

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Badminton	Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie Spa, 7.00 - 7.20pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club	Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
AB Attack	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio,6pm - 7pm
Indoor Cricket	Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Weight Wise	Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
Netball	High School Sports Hall, 8pm

TUESDAY 31st MARCH

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

WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL

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

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10.450am - 11.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club	Hall, 2pm
Outdoor Run	Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates	Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Aerobics	Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Coffee Morning	St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Table Tennis	Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog	KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class	KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise	Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs	Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts	Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Embroidery Group	Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Lamlash Cubs	Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Brodick Bridge Club	Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp	Ormidale Park 7pm
Royal British Legion-Arran Branch, Social Meeting	McLaren Hotel, 2pm
Junior Tennis	Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5pm - 7pm
Slumdog Millionaire Cert 12	High School Theatre, 7.30pm

FRIDAY 3rd APRIL

Arran Pipe Band Practice	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning	10am - 12pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Quiz	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Adult Tennis	Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 4.30pm - 6pm
Hotel For Dogs Cert U	High School Theatre, 6.30pm
Revolutionary Road Cert 15	High School Theatre, 8pm

SATURDAY 4th APRIL

St Brides Ladies' Spring Fair	Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Quiz Night	Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church Hall, 7pm
Political Drop-In Meeting	Ormidale Pavilion, 10.30am - 12pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

BANNER DRIVE TIMES

SAILING DINGHY PART-EXCHANGE

Would like to part-exchange GRP Wayfarer sailing dinghy in good condition, with road trailer/launching trolley, for Mirror sailing dinghy, preferably with trolley.

Phone to discuss. 01680 812167

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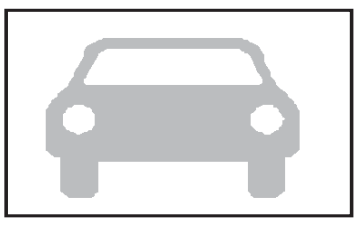

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PUBLIC NOTICES

69% of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press closer to home

Arran Yacht Club

WORK PARTY

Sunday 15th April
1pm
Bring brush & shovel

CORRIE GOLF CLUB

AGM

To be held in the tearoom
On **1st April 2009**
At 7pm

NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND LAUNCH OF THE NORTH AYRSHIRE CORE PATHS PLAN

Notice is hereby given under section 18(8)(a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, that on 14 January 2009, North Ayrshire Council adopted the North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan. The Plan has been drawn up under section 17(1) of the Act in respect of the Local Authority area and is being adopted in accordance with section 18(2) of the Act.

The Plan provides the public with a system of paths which is sufficient for the purposes of giving reasonable access throughout North Ayrshire and includes a list of the Core Paths, compiled by the Council in accordance with section 18(8)(b) of the Act. All interested parties are invited to attend the launch of the Plan at the Annual General Meeting of the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum on Wednesday 1 April 2009 between 3pm and 5pm in Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8EH.

The Plan will be available from 1 April 2009, alongside the Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, by:

- Inspecting the copies deposited at the following Council Offices during business hours: Perceton House, Irvine KA11 2DE; Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; Garrison House, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0DG; Council Office, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8JY
- Accessing the loan and reference copies at any of the local Libraries
- Accessing the information electronically via the Council's website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/corepathsplan
- Requesting a free CD ROM from the Access Officer on 01294 225198 or at accessofficer@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
- Purchasing paper copies from the Access Officer using the contact details provided

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (A841 MAIN STREET & THE ROSS ROAD, LAMLASH, ARRAN) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION) ORDER 2009

On 19th March 2009, the North Ayrshire Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Order, which comes into operation on 11th May 2009, was advertised in the Arran Banner on the 16th January 2009 and the effect of the Order is as stated in said notice.

Copies of the Order and map relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of: -

Head of Infrastructure & Design Services – Roads North Ayrshire Council Perceton House Irvine KA11 2AL	Legal and Protective Services North Ayrshire Council Cunninghame House Irvine KA12 8EE	Arran Library Brodick Hall Isle of Arran KA27 9DL

Any person who wishes to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act, or of any instrument made under it, has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the 26th March 2009 apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

BANNER RECRUITMENT

SHISKINE SURGERY IS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO WORK IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM WHO CAN COVER HOLIDAY TIMES.

As and when/holiday cover
Receptionist/Clinic Coordinator £13,435 - £15912 p.a
pro rata dependant on experience.

We are looking for someone who can work flexibly and provide cover over the following holiday months in the year. The main cover is needed for all of July and August, October school holidays, Easter school holidays and Christmas/New Year school holidays. These times require someone to be able to work 25 hours per week. This is the equivalent of 350 hours per annum leaving 170 hours for the rest of the year to be used flexibly. This will be a 12 month fixed term contract initially.

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

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

north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk

SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Care Worker (Part Time)
Ref: NAY0404
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18.5 hours per week
Isle of Arran

Care at Home Assistant (Flexible) (Part Time)
Ref: NAY0406
£8.06 - £8.82 per hour
20 hours per week
Isle of Arran

Driver/Escort (Part Time)
Ref: NAY0408
£7.16 - £7.83 per hour
20 hours per week
Isle of Arran

Interested? To find out more and apply on-line go to north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk and enter the job reference number.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 10th April 2009.

We are an equal opportunities employer, so please inform us of any special needs that you may have.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Group Limited.
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11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
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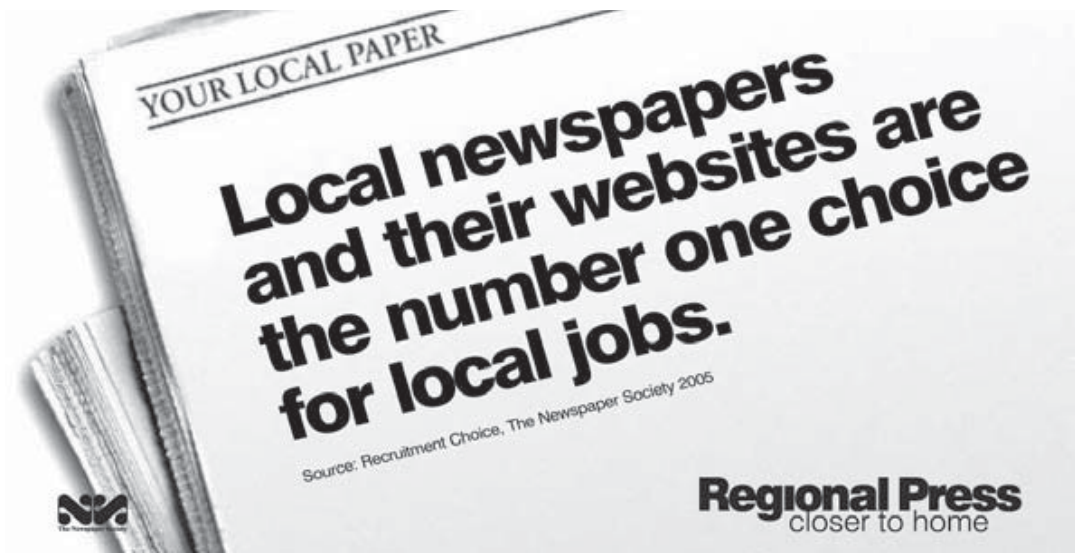

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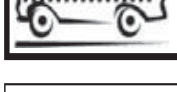

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BUNK BEDS. perfect condition, virtually unused. £200 ono.Tel 870 278

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IKEA BATHROOM cabinet £20 Tel 860784

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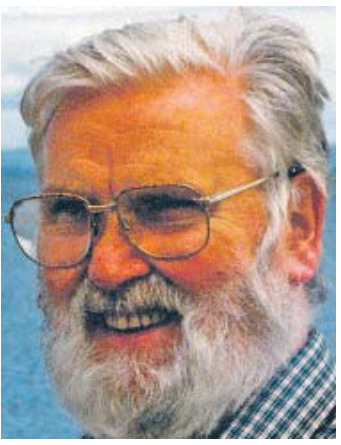
IN MEMORIAM

ANDREW

In fond remembremembrance of Bill, a fine teacher, writer and friend, who died on 28th March 2008



It was a privilege to have known Bill for so many years.

He is sadly missed by all of his many friends.

Donald

DEATHS

BUNYAN – JAMES

Formerly of Corrie. Peacefully at Stobhill Hospital, on Monday 9th March, 2009, Jim, aged 77 years, loving husband of Freda and a devoted dad and papa.

ALEXANDER – MARGARET

Peacefully at home at Sinnavoe after a short illness, on Wednesday 25 March 2009.

Dearly loved by all her family and her many friends.

Funeral at St Brides Church, Brodick on Monday 30th March at 11.30am.

Family flowers only. Donations is desired to Cancer research UK.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Minister
Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times. to which all are invited

Sunday 29 March
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church12pm.
Lochranza 9.30am.
Shiskine Church 12pm & 7pm,
Service of Health & Healing
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 29 March
(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
Shiskine 11am
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Rev David Karoon
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH
Sunday 29 March
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. All most welcome.
Immediately after the service, the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place.
Tea and coffee will be served after the service.
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 29 March
Holy Communion.
11am
Dr Hecot Soga
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 1 April
Holy Communion 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 29 March
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND *(continuing)*
Sunday 29 March
11am
Trust Housing Lounge,Glen Estate,Brodick
Evening Service, 7pm
5 Glen Road.
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 1 April
7pm
Rev. D.Macleod
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
Sunday 29 March
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship and Word
Speaker: Rev Willie Wright
Everyone warmly invited.

PERSONALS

Happy Golden Anniversary Mum and Dad

From John, Billy, Brenda, Jacqui and families

GOLDEN WEDDING

LINDSAY AND ELMA PROUDFOOT

Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary.
Love from Douglas, Andrew, Ashlea and family.

BANNER FORUM

We want to hear your views. Contact us at

WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK

Guess who's 18
On the 30th March

Love from Mum x

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Or email us at:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was being a brave boy sitting so close to a large herd of Holstein cows near Clauchlands Point. Hazel Ramage e-mailed us to say: 'Archie is waiting for Bert (her dad) to come down to feed the cows at the bottom of Clauchlands farm road.'
Well done Hazel for correctly spotting where Archie was. This week he is down on the farm again, but do you know where that farm is? b13arc01

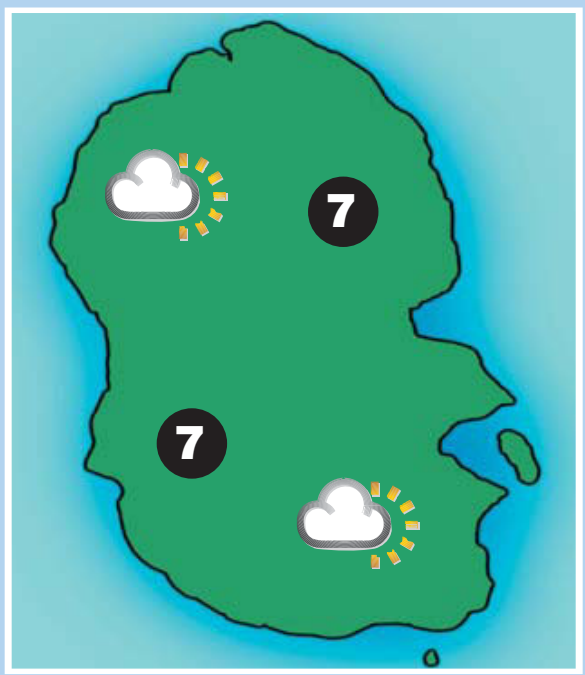
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from
Saturday, March 28 2009
are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Sat	0052	2.9	0620	0.2	1310	3.1	1842	0.0
Sun	0122	3.1	0657	0.1	1346	3.2	1920	0.1
Mon	0155	3.2	0736	0.1	1423	3.2	2002	0.1
Tues	0230	3.2	0818	0.1	1502	3.1	2050	0.3
Wed	0306	3.2	0907	0.3	1543	3.0	2142	0.6
Thur	0345	3.1	1004	0.5	1631	2.7	2245	0.9
Fri	0432	2.8	1115	0.7	1746	2.5	****	**

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Lamlash)

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodick Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



Saturday, March 28

Weather

Saturday, March 28
Partly cloudy with sunny spells.
Light north westerly winds
Temperature 7ºC.
Sunday, March 29
Heavy showers with sunny spells
Temperatures around 9ºC.
Monday and Tuesday
Heavy showers with light winds.
9ºC
Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate
Claonaig/ Lochranza - Moderate

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday March 22, Winter Cup Final Round sweep results: 1 S McCalla 36 points, 2 T Raeside 33, 3 L Hartley 32.

There were four magic twos, Gordon Hendry got two, John Beattie and Peter McCalla got one each

Gordon Hendry won the Winter Cup with 171 points. The runner up was Alastair Dobson with 169 points.

Congratulations to Gordon Hendry for also winning the long postponed final of the McClelland Medal, defeating Alan McNicol in a closely contested final.

Wednesday Winter Cup: The penultimate round of the Winter Cup took place on March 18 on a lovely spring day.

The pack chasing Eric Thompson were all in attendance hoping to close the gap however only Derek Roxburgh took advantage moving into 4th place five shots off the lead.

There were five magic twos with Don Rudge, John Hartley, Derek Roxburgh, Ken Barclay and Harry Davidson all getting one each.

The sweep was won by Don Rudge 75-14=61, Ken Barclay was second 85-23= 62 and Derek Roxburgh third 66-2=64.

The final round takes place on March 25 and the final report on this exciting tournament, will Eric remain in pole position can the German catch him or will someone come out of the pack to win, all will be revealed next week.

Fixtures: Next Sunday, March 29, 36 hole British Legion Medal and 18 hole British Legion Cup (stableford).

Tee off times from 8.30am and 1pm. Draw will take place 12pm on Saturday March 28.

Summer Cup begins Wednesday April 1.

Gordon Hendry won the Brodick Golf Club Winter Cup with 171 points.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday March 22, Coronation Foursomes.

Winners were Aileen Latona and Elizabeth Kelso 79.5, 2 Alice Anderson and Jenni Turnbull 80.5.

Sunday March 22, Gents 18-hole Medal.

1 David Price 78-12=66, 2 Brian Sherwood 77-10=67, 3 Hamish Bannatyne 72-4=68.

Best Scratch: Hamish Bannatyne 72. Magic twos: David Price (at the 3rd) and Alan Napier (at the 7th).

Fixtures: Sunday March 29, Shiskine Grand Shoot Out. Thursday April 2, Ladies 12-hole Medal. Sunday April 5 Kinloch Cup starts and 12-hole Medal.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

On Saturday March 21 a most enjoyable afternoon was had by all who participated in the Texas Scramble at Whiting Bay Golf Club, which was played in glorious conditions.

The winners with an excellent score over the 15 holes were John Taylor, Margaret Auld and Celia Butler, who shot a net 38.

Second were Ge-Ge Kroner, and Richard and Lynn Walker with a net 40, third were Elsie and John Pennycott with 40.5 and fourth were Susan Kidston, Ross Buchard and Pat McDonald with 41.5. Sunday March 22 saw the annual clash between the Young Guns and the Old 'Uns for the Hunter Buidael, a beautiful miniature barrel handcrafted by Charlie Hunter.

This year the Young Guns, (anybody under 54!!) gained full revenge for last year's shock defeat by the veterans by comprehensively thrashing their elders by 5 matches to 1.

Many thanks to Charlie for laying on the hospitality and the weather - and the result!

Fixtures: Sunday March 29, Final Round of the Winter Cup. With half a dozen players still in contention it should prove to be a tight finish. Saturday April 4, Mixed Fours Poole Trophy at 12pm.

Sunday April 5, Roy Ure Tankard Stableford. Gents please note that from April the medal draws will be at 9.30am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 17, Final Day of the Lochranza Hotel Cup. Sweep: 1 Hamish Bannatyne 38 points, 2 Denise Sherwood 37 BIH, 3 Marc Blair 37. Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 69. Magic twos from Alan Napier (2) Lochranza Hotel Cup result: 1 Brian Sherwood 189, 2 David Price 181 won from Marc Blair on count back from Marc Blair (181).

Fixtures: March 31, Final Day of the Winter Cup 12pm tee-off.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 19, 15-Hole medal, 11 played.

1 P Smith 66-20=46, 2 J Gibson 64-14=50 BIH, 2 M Wren 61-11=50.

Magic twos from Joe Rae and Colin Richardson.

Sunday March 22, final round of the Glenburn Cup, 16 played, non-qualifying for handicap.

1 D Ross 83-18+65, 2 A Chalmers 84-18=66 BIH, 3 A Smith 76-10=66.

Scratch Lee Girbow 75. Overall winner of the Glenburn Cup was Billy O'Connor with total of 189 (60+65+64).

Runner-up was Iain Murchie with 199.

Fixtures: Sunday March 29, final round of Winter Stableford, 9.30am and 11am starts.

Charlie Hunter presents the Hunter Buidael to the youngest Young Gun, Sandy Kelso after the annual clash between the old and young at Whiting Bay Golf

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday March 21, Winter Cup. ! E McKinnon 65-1=64, 2 M MacDonald 82-17=65 BIH, 3 J McConnachie 79-14=65.

Winter Cup final standings: 1 M MacDonald 300, 3 J McGovern 304, 3 J Adams 310.

Monday March 23, Monday Cup. 1 B Paul 73-12=61 BIH, 2 K Barclay 80-19=61, 3 L Hartley 74-10=64.

Fixtures: Saturday March 28, sweep, tee-off at 12pm.

Monday March 30, Monday Cup, tee-off at noon.

Megan is Cairnhouse champion

Megan MacAlister and her horse Ally were named this year's champions at the grand final of the Cairnhouse Riding Centre winter points on Sunday.

The competition had been postponed for two weeks after the bad weather conditions, so the number of competitors was a little less than expected.

Eleven riders were entered in the first two classes, with eight going clear in round one, ten clear in the second and the following seven making it a double clear for the double points on offer: Lauren MacAlister, Sue Tozer, Emma Hill, Anna Downard, Amie Latona and Hannah Bone.

Nicola MacAlister riding Taylor Smith's Bingham's Pageboy rode the fastest double clear in 24.84 seconds.

Out of the 11 put forward for the Novice Class, six made it round unscathed into a jump off against the clock over the raised fences.

Megan MacAlister on Ally produced some great tight turns from the combination to the wall, cutting inside the last fence to return with a clear round in an unbeatable 22.87 seconds.

Amie Latona whizzed round with Merlin in 23.63 seconds and Amy Downard posted a clear round in 23.19 seconds.

The Mini Challenge had 12 riders battling it out and choosing their own course in the 30 seconds allowed.

Megan MacAlister and her horse Ally were named this year's champions at the grand final of the Cairnhouse Riding Centre winter points. b13hor01

The 'l00' fence was the sharks teeth and it caught quite a few out.

Sherlea was the first rider to jump it successfully both ways and she returned with a super top score of 360.

Seventh rider Amie Latona whizzed round on Jenna Thomson's beautiful Merlin, jumping eight fences and taking the lead with a score of 380.

But it looked as though Amy Downard and Malakye were on a mission and they jumped an amazing 11 fences scoring 420 to walk away with the 12 points and the red ribbon.

The clear round class with the fences at two feet six inches saw four out of the eight riders earn themselves a further six points. They were: Lauren, Emma, Amie L and Amy D.

With everything to ride for in the last class of the competition and double points up for grabs, the Cairnhouse Challenge had its fair share of thrills.

Lauren MacAlister got a huge 'whoop' when Fudge sailed over the 100 fence, now standing at 3'3" and returned with a good top score of 170.

Emma was next on Dynah to finish with 220 and Nicola came back with a good top score of 170.

Megan was focused on the title and there was no stopping this pair winning the class with a superb top score of 370 while Amy Downard had to settle for second with a great round finishing on 260.

Novice: 1 Megan MacAlister on Ally, 2 Amy Downard on Malakye, 3 Amie Latona on Merlin, 4 Emma Hill on Dynah, 5 Sherlea McDonald on Malakye, 6 Lauren MacAlister on Fudge.

Mini challenge: 1 Amy Downard on Malakye, 2 Amie Latona on Merlin, 3 Sherlea McDonald on Malakye, 4 Megan MacAlister on Ally, 5 Hannah Bone on Katie, 6 Emma Hill on Dynah.

Cairnhouse Challenge: 1 Megan MacAlister on Ally, 2 Amy Downard on Malakye, 3 Emma Hill on Dynah, 4=Nicola MacAlister on Bingham's Pageboy and Lauren MacAlister on Fudge, 6 Amie Latona on Merlin.

The special awards – most improved wobbly: Anna Downard on Peanuts, best turn out: Lynn Ramage on Katie, highest top score for Cairnhouse Challenge: Megan MacAlister on Ally, best intermediate rider (on school horse): Sherlea McDonald on Malakye.

Junior champion: Emma Hill on Dynah (64), junior reserve: Lauren MacAlister on Fudge (38), senior champion: Megan MacAlister on Ally (125), senior reserve: Amie Latona on Merlin (104).

Dawn Murchie from Cairnhouse stables in Blackwaterfoot said: 'Congratulations to all the winners and all those who have taken part in the Winter Points. A special thank you to all the helpers especially Marilyn Dee who freely gives up her Sundays to do a great job in helping and insuring the smooth running of this successful competition.'

Brodick Bridge Club

Results from March 19. N/S: 1 J Barclay and M Gardner +2560, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton +2450, 3 I McArthur and E McKellar +1800. E/W: 1 M McGill and E McConnell –1330, 2 L Alexander and J McIntyre –1430, 3 D Henderson and F Crawford –1760.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday March 23. N/S: 1 H Boyd and J Murchie +2520, 2 A Bilsland and T Martin +1100, 3 I McArthur and E McKellar +510.

E/W: 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie +3840, 2 D and M Bruce +920, 3 J and J Beattie +250.

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Not good to watch

Arran fall apart in disappointing second half

McLaren 30 Arran 14

In losing 30-14 to McLaren RFC, Arran produced a disappointing performance that sees them remain in the middle of the division two table.

McLaren got off to a quick start putting the first points on the table in the sixth minute.

Arran could only look on in despair as the conversion took the team from Callander seven points ahead.

Penalty

The island team gave away a crucial penalty just 10 minutes later, gifting McLaren another three points and taking them 10-0 into the lead.

Arran eventually picked up the pace after McLaren scored another try and Ben Tattersfield crossed the line.

Frazer Bar converted to give Arran seven points.

Literally minutes later Arran burst into life again and Murray Picken scored. Frazer's trusty boot converted to leave the score 15-14 at half time.

Put simply Arran were very poor in the second half. At the break they were trailing only one point behind and it looked as though the game could still be theirs but it all fell apart.

'I really don't know what happened,' said team coach Bert Ramage. 'They just kept making all the wrong decisions and failed to create any opportunities for themselves. It was really not good to watch.'

McLaren scored three unconverted tries in the second half to win 30-14.

Frazer Barr stops a McLaren player in his tracks. b13rug01

Arran girls play in sevens competition

Arran Rugby Club's girls' team developed their ball skills at a tournament hosted by Grangemouth RFC on Sunday.

The girls from Arran linked with Cartha Queens Park RFC to play in the special sevens competition.

They were unlucky not be drawn to play in more games but they still managed to win one game and draw another.

Senior rugby coach Bert Ramage accompanied the girls. He said: 'It was an ideal event for the girls to play at. Playing with girls from Cartha was great because it gives them a chance to see how other teams work. It was a really good day out.'

The Arran Rugby Club girl's team with players from Cartha Queens Park RFC at the event in Grangemouth on Sunday. b13rug03

Prize surprise for Nicole

One of Arran's top athletes got a surprise this week when she was checking her messages on an online social networking site.

Nicole Bunyan of Brodick told *The Banner:* 'A message from my coach at Irvine Running Club said I had won the trophy for under 17s track and field events from the Ayrshire Harriers Athletics Clubs Association. I knew nothing about it. I didn't event think that I had taken part in enough events this year to win a prize.'

It transpired that the prize is for the best female athlete in the region from Nicole's age group.

Nicole is studying sports science at Largs College and despite now living on the mainland the demands of her coursework means that she has less time to attend athletics events.

Coach Imran Ali said: 'There is only one place in this section which encompasses all Ayrshire clubs. Nicole is one of the top athletes in the region.'

Nicole Bunyan from Brodick with two of her most recent athletic trophies. b13nic01

Great season for Bar Eden

With just two weeks of the Arran Pool League to go the Bar Eden can almost officially be crowned league winners.

Sitting high at the top of the table with 52 points the team have had an incredible season. Of 19 games played they have lost just one and drawn another.

The Drift Out team was in a state of shock last week after drawing with the team from Catacol.

Since the beginning of the season Catacol have gone from strength to strength and now sit in fifth place with 23 points. As league secretary Eddie Picken kindly pointed out: 'Catacol haven't had points in the double figures for more than 20 years.'

With Corrie and the Cameronia sitting with 26 points each the race could be on for third place.

Results from Thursday March 19 were: Kildonan 3 PT1934 9 (G), PHT 2 Bar Eden 10 (G), Corrie 6 (G) Cameronia 6, Drift Out 6 Catacol 6 (G). The last matches of the season will be played on Thursday night (April 2). They are: PT1934 v Cameronia, Corrie v Kildonan, Catacol v PHT, Drift Out v Bar Eden.

Finals Day will be held in the Drift Inn on Sunday April 5 from 3pm. The remaining doubles and singles players will battle it out for the top prizes.

Inn hosts darts mixed doubles

A mixed doubles darts competition is being held in the Drift Inn on April 3 in aid of the Arran Mountain Rescue.

Previously called the ARC Mixed Doubles it has been decided that from now on this event will be organised to donate money to a different local charity each year. To enter with a partner please phone Susan Logan on 830231 or 850213.

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