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Arran is officially named Destination of the Year

Four Arran hotels walked away with a host of accolades at the 2013 Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards in Glasgow

REPORT
by **HOWARD DRIVER**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Isle of Arran was officially dubbed Destination of the Year last Sunday night.

Four Arran hotels walked away with a host of accolades at the 2013 Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards at the Crowne Plaza in Glasgow.

But all four hotels were represented on stage for this most prestigious Destination Award, the first one of the evening, presented by Humza Yousaf MSP to rapturous applause from the audience.

Celebrations

The Douglas Hotel, Kilmichael House Hotel, Glenisle Hotel and Auchrannie Spa Resort were there in style for an evening of celebrations that lasted into the small hours.

Almost 500 hoteliers attended this premier event of

the year, and Arran picked up around 20 special awards, the best ever haul.

Among the many Arran winners were the Douglas as national Boutique Hotel of the Year, Glenisle Hotel as Seaside Hotel of the Year, Craig Beedie of Auchrannie as Executive Chef of the Year and Helen Driver of Kilmichael as Dame of Hospitality.

Surprise

Helen, who is duty manager at Kilmichael, said: 'Can you imagine my surprise when my name came up on the giant screen?'

'It was such a wonderful surprise. And they gave me a tiara with the award!'

Gary McLean-Quin, chairman of judges, said: 'Dear Dame Helen, on behalf of the many guests you have looked after over almost 20 years of service at Kilmichael House, it is my privilege, on behalf



Four Arran hotels represented on stage to receive the coveted Destination of the Year Award for the island as a whole.

of the Scottish hospitality industry, to say the warmest of 'thank yous', and fare ye well in the years ahead!'

Positive way

Elaine Campbell, marketing manager of the Douglas said: 'Each of us can use this in a positive way within our own businesses, but, importantly it reconfirmed the community spirit which VisitArran continues to work towards.'

'We're really grateful to Gary McLean-Quin and the Scottish Hotel Award judges for supporting Arran'.

Reports and photos of all the Arran winners in next week's Banner.

Helen Driver of Kilmichael, dubbed a Dame of Hospitality.
02_b18dame01



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New mum for orphan lamb



Hannah Bone with an orphan lamb at Glenkiln, just before a new mum was found for the lamb.
02_b18lam01

After the terrible snow drifts and heartbreaking livestock losses for sheep farmers last month, it is cheering to see new arrivals looking healthy. This little orphan Blackface lamb was born at Glenkiln in Lamash and bottle fed for a few days. We are glad to say that another ewe who lost her lamb has now been happy to take it on as her own.

Casualty airlifted off Cir Mhor

Members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team were called out last Saturday 27 April to assist a 16 year old female suffering from health problems whilst climbing in the South Wester slabs area on Cir Mhor. Rescue helicopter 137 from Kinloss assisted the team and airlifted the casualty from Cir Mhor to Crosshouse Hospital.

Villagers show their appreciation to the Kinloch

Robbie and Barbara Crawford, owners of the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot, had a nice surprise last week. The villagers of Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot presented them with a lovely bouquet and gift vouchers for a stay at the Blythswood Square Hotel.

Amazing efforts

This kind gesture was in recognition for the amazing efforts that they went to in order to keep the community going when they were completely cut off with huge snow drifts and no power for days on end last month.

The hotel became the hub for emergency services and any local residents who were in difficulty.

Benefitted

Everyone who benefited from the hotel team pulling



Robbie and Barbara Crawford on the steps of the Kinloch Hotel with the bouquet and gift vouchers.

out all the stops wanted to do something to show their appreciation.

Robbie and Barbara said: 'We were shocked but grateful and very modest.'

'It was really everyone's efforts in the community that got us through.'

Hunterston no more

Hunterston, the large power station clearly visible from Arran across the Clyde, will never again be a coal-fired power station.

The Scottish Government announced last Tuesday 30 April that it will amend the National Planning Framework to ensure that Hunterston will never again be considered as a potential site for the construction of a coal-fired power station.

This was a major issue for Arran people with a total of over 21,000 objec-

tions to the previous planning application; more than any other in Scottish planning history.

Delighted

Kenneth Gibson MSP commented: 'Having lobbied my ministerial colleagues and provided a detailed submission to the consultation on the update of the National Planning Framework (NFP3) I am delighted that the concerns of my constituents have been fully taken on board. Hunterston will no longer be considered as a potential site for a

coal fired power station, whether carbon capture or otherwise.

'Since the Ayrshire Power application was withdrawn, opposition politicians have sought political advantage by trying to scare local communities through raising the spectre of a future application being submitted and a carbon capture coal plant being built.

'Now the SNP Government has made it crystal clear no coal plant will ever be built at Hunterston, we can all put this matter to bed and move on.'

Co-op disturbance goes to trial

Two men are facing trial in connection with a disturbance at a supermarket on Arran.

Gary Clugston, 20, allegedly entered the Co-Op in Brodick after being asked not to, refused to leave, swore and made abusive remarks.

Prosecutors claim the incident was aggravated by prejudice against sexual orientation.

Clugston, of Red Quarry Road, Corrie, is also charged with obstructing police by struggling violently, kicking and spitting.

Darren McIntyre, of Douglas Avenue, Dalry, is accused of trying to free Clugston from custody, shouting and swearing.

Both men plead not guilty to threatening or abusive behaviour causing fear and alarm in August 2012.

Clugston also denies police obstruction while McIntyre denies attempting to rescue him from officers.

The case was adjourned at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court last week due to cancelled ferries.

Clugston and McIntyre were bailed for trial in July.

Planning decisions

Planning applications decided by North Ayrshire Council this week include the approval for a detached house to north of Vedo Mare, Brodick.

An application for a one-and-a-half storey house to north east of Kintyre, Blackwaterfoot was refused.

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Revised layout for new Brodick pier terminal

Following concerns expressed by an Arran resident about the long distances for passengers to walk to the ferry, Ramsay Muirhead of CMAL, (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) has given details of the revised plans for a new Brodick pier layout.

Mr Ramsay said: 'The new plans are not quite ready for release, however, I can confirm that the terminal is now closer to the pier, the bus stances are closer to the terminal and the ramp in the terminal has been removed.'

'We are planning to hold a further public meeting in the coming weeks, at which time we will unveil our plans we will take forward as the development masterplan.'

This CMAL public meeting will be held in Arran High School at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 May.

No power cut public meetings planned for west side

The feeling of the Arran Community Council is that the public meetings about the recent power cuts caused by heavy snow should be held in the west of the island.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) has arranged two such meetings on Wednesday 29 May in Auchranne Resort, Brodick and Thursday 30 May in Whiting Bay Hall.

Secretary Bill Calderwood pointed out that while SHEPD had not been prepared to change the location of these two meetings they may agree to hold another one, possibly in Shiskine Hall if there is a call for it.



The children of Brodick Primary wishing John Pennycott a happy retirement last Friday. 02_b18pen01

Children say Goodbye to Mr Pennycott

John Pennycott retired from Brodick Primary School last Friday.

After 34 years teaching he is looking forward to more time for golf, walking and swimming.

After starting his teaching career in Dalry, he and his wife Elsie moved to Arran and following a year in Kilmory and Shiskine schools, he has been at Brodick for just over 25 years.

The children gave him a wonderful send off and presented John with a special This is

Your Life book full of photos and memories.

As he pointed to a photo of himself from yesteryear with a beard and moustache, he laughed and said: 'I'll treasure this so much - you can't put a price on that.'

He reflected on the changes he had seen over the years.

'So much technology now, and the increased number of adults involved in education,' he declared. 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in teaching; it has been rewarding and entertaining.'

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Another large black cat sighting

The Banner has received another report of a large black cat being spotted on the island.

This follows several similar incidents in recent years.

Last week we reported on a sighting near Kilmory and now Jonathan Russell of Pirnmill claims to have seen 'a large puma-like cat' at Auchamore on Friday 26 April.

Jonathan said: 'It was sitting in a field behind the cottages. As I approached it from about 30 yards away I took one photo on my mobile phone (unfortunately the photo is not conclusive).'

'It had a black head with pointed ears. Then it got up and bounded up the hill.'

'It was certainly very much larger than a domestic cat and had a much larger head (probably four to five feet long with a long tail). It was not a dog as it moved very much like a large cat.'

'Other villagers here have claimed to have seen a glimpse of a large black cat. I can absolutely guarantee it had the appearance of a puma.'

'I think those other sightings reported in the Banner must be genuine.'

Island road works programme for May and June

As part of the ongoing road works being carried out by North Ayrshire Council around the island there will be a carriageway patching programme at various locations throughout May at a cost £75,000.

Other carriageway surface dressing will take place between Monday 24 June and Friday 28 June at an estimated cost of £85,000.

The locations will be on the A841 at Cordon between Lamlash and Whiting Bay, at Kirkend Nursery and on Claulands Road, Lamlash. Vehicle passage will be by traffic management.

More work on the Ross Road will mean the single track road being closed for one day.

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Tourism operators at the Ayrshire and Arran stand at Expo 2013.

Arran showcased at national tourism exhibition

Ayrshire and Arran led the way at VisitScotland's annual Expo event at the SECC in Glasgow last week.

Public and private sector partners worked together to market the area to travel trade buyers and journalists from around the world.

The Ayrshire and Arran

stand was one of the largest at the show. Among the local organisations represented were Auchrannie Resort and VisitArran.

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran said: 'Expo provides an excellent opportunity to showcase the

area, engage with the travel

trade, and attract new business.

'The support of the Tourism Team in co-ordinating the stand is invaluable and provides a really effective platform for doing business.

'Buyers seemed to love the Ayrshire and Arran stand and we took a lot of positive enquiries over the two days so I am sure that the area will benefit from this ongoing partnership approach.'

Laurence runs around Arran

As part of his training for an epic 100-mile ultra marathon in Cornwall, a visitor to the island ran around Arran last weekend. Laurence Cuiinu from Ecclesmachan in West Lothian came to the island for the weekend with six colleagues from his work at BCF Technology, based in Livingston.

They spent the weekend, cycling and running round the island along with some mountain biking and enjoying plentiful amounts of Arran Blonde. Laurence said: 'The island is beautiful, it took me 11 hours to make it round the 56 miles around the island.'

'I had a two hour head start on the guys on the bikes and they did not manage to catch me up until mid afternoon. I must admit I was pretty exhausted at the end of the run.' Gavin Mitchell from BCF, who has a house on the island added: Laurence is absolutely amazing, the fittest person I know. It was enough for most of us to cycle, but to run round Arran is just crazy. There must not be that many people who have managed to run round the whole island.'



In training for a 100-mile marathon, Laurence circumnavigated Arran in 11 hours.

Fancy sponsoring a sheep?

How often do you see a thin sheep on Arran?

Or one with half its wool falling off in a field with only two lambs?

Sadly these are sights becoming more and more common on the west side of the island where farmers' flocks have been decimated by the recent snow storms.

As a result one Arran woman is trying to set up a charity which will allow people to sponsor an island sheep.

The lady, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been working with local NFU representatives and the Arran Farmers Society to see if money could be raised for the island's farmers.

'We want to raise some money that can be divided up on the island to help the farmers in these straitened times,' she said.

'Even if we can just raise a little bit of money to help pay for fence repairs or a lot to help farmers rebuild their flocks, every penny counts.'

Further information about the 'Sponsor a Sheep' scheme will follow soon so look out for updates in the pages of The Arran Banner.

THE DRIFT INN

Friday 3rd May - DJ - 9pm - 1am
 Saturday 4th May - Live music from the 'Usual Suspects' 9pm - 1pm
 Tuesday 7th May - Quiz starts 9pm
 Bar meals served all day from 12pm - 9pm

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Southend road closure arrangements

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Village tidy in Whiting Bay

Calling all Whiting Bay residents - the Improvements Association has organised a village tidy and beach clean this Sunday 5 May at 10.30am.

The long awaited top up bark for the play area at Sandbraes has finally arrived and the group are looking for as many people as possible to come along and lend a hand.

Improvements Association chair Liz Kennedy said: 'There is no age limit; if you can spare a few hours please turn up at the putting green at Litter pickers and sacks will be provided but please bring your own tools and gloves.'

Selling Sake to the Japanese

Gerald Michaluk, managing director of the Arran Brewery and Scotland's only 'Sake Professional', got a warm reception as he gave a talk on Sake and how the Arran Brewery propose to make it and export it to Japan.

The talk was at a presentation and Sake tasting, held jointly by the Consulate General of Japan and the Japan Society of Scotland,

The Arran Brewery is planning to make Scotland's first Sake this winter and export it to Japan.

Gerald Michaluk talked about his visits to Japan and the Sake making process and outlined the similarities of Arran and Japan from a Sake brewing prospective. This was followed by a blind tasting of some excellent quality Sakes, including the winner of the National Sake Competition in Japan, Nabeshima Daiginjo.

To Gerald's relief the clear winners on the night were the Junmai Sakes, both the Junmai Daiginjo and Junmai Ginjo styles.

That is those brewed naturally without the addition of distilled alcohol; usually in the higher quality Sakes the alcohol is distilled from sake, as a filter aid to enhance aroma and mellow flavours. This was because under UK licensing laws the addition of distilled alcohol would significantly increase the UK price.

Gerald said: 'I was delighted to see the clear favourites were the classification Junmai which is what we plan to brew.'

Kilmory SWRI April meeting

On Monday 8 April, Kilmory Rural held an in-house Training Evening with 'Traditional Baking Recipes'.

These recipes were supplied and demonstrated by members of our own Institute. It proved to be really good fun and far too much sampling of the baking was had by all present!

The gingerbread competition was won by Eleanor MacKinnon.

Congratulations to Mairi Duff for winning the Rose Bowl for most competition points gained in 2012/2013.

Our last meeting for this session is our Institute Rural Dinner to be held in Kildonan Hotel on Monday 13 May.

Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club

Winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club prize draw for April were: 1st Janet Warren, 2nd Peter Yates.



From left, Roy Lewis, Laura Stevenson and John Picken, seated, Phyllis Picken and Jill Jeffries, b18prize01

Belles and beaux at Grand Spring Ball

The Grand Spring Ball at Kilmory Hall last Saturday night was an outstanding success.

Around 65 people attended and entered into the spirit of things.

Irene Currie and Sheila Gilmore acted as judges for the costumes, and prize for best dressed lady went to Jill Jeffries, best dressed gent was Roy Lewis, best dressed couple were John and Phyllis Picken. Laura Stevenson won a prize for having the lucky ticket. Full report and photos on pages 10 and 11.

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New play area at Old Byre

There is now another attraction to draw locals and visitors to the Old Byre Showroom and Cafe Thyme at Machrie.

Children can play safely opposite the cafe in a newly made large play area with swings, slide, castle, trampoline, sand pit, goal net and various other toys.

The owners Lorna and Hamza decided it would be nice for both visitors and their own boys to let off steam

where the sign displays 'welcome to Archie and Gregor's play area, cool kids allowed'.

Relax over excellent home-baking, a delicious freshly prepared lunch or a Turkish pizza baked in the wood burning oven. Free wifi is now also available in the cafe so you can check your emails and then sit back and take in the spectacular view.

Once you're done you can enjoy a spot of retail therapy, may it be some love-

ly knitwear, a new handbag, some pretty Seasalt clothing, a new throw for your home or a Barbour jacket below RRP.

Simon's Pottery is open next door where kids or adults can paint their own pot or buy one of the many designs available.

Don't forget it's take away night every Friday night at Cafe Thyme - freshly breaded haddock and real chips or wild boar and apple burger from 5 to 8pm.



The new cool play area for kids at Machrie.

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It's all happening at Auchencar, Machrie!

Skerryvore rock Lochranza



Skerryvore in Lochranza Hall last Friday night. 01_b18ske01

'Put Your Hands Up' tour thrills the crowds on Arran

As part of their 'Put Your Hands Up' 2013 tour, Skerryvore played to an ecstatic audience in Lochranza Hall last Friday night.

The folk rock band performed on stage, as did 45 young members of Arran Fiddlers who are learning to play the fiddle.

The six piece band features accordion, bass, drums and fiddle.

The group were originally formed on the island of Tiree in 2005, but have since become legendary, performing to packed houses throughout Europe and beyond.

After playing Arran and Mull last weekend, the band are appearing at the Shetland Folk Festival this week, followed by the Nuit Celtique Festival in Belgium.



Some of the young Arran Fiddlers performing on the Lochranza stage. 01_b18ske03

Tha sinn air tilleadh! We're back!

Fèis Arainn will be returning this year from Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 July and registration forms have now been distributed in all primary schools on the island.

They are also available from the school office and the music department in the High School or from Aileen McLaughlin (700209). They should be returned as soon as possible and by Friday 31 May at the latest.

As always, we welcome youngsters who will be 8-18 at the start of the Fèis (including visitors) and we will have the usual wide choice of workshops.

The venue will be Arran High School and transport will be available for those living outwith Lamlash. *Tha sinn a'coimhead air*

adhart ri'r faicinn ann!

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Bidh Feis Arainn a toiseachadh am bliadhna, air Di-Mairt 23rd gu D h-aoine 26th de'n Og Mhios, mur sin, feumaidh gach bileag a tha air an cuir mu sgaoil anns gach sgoil air an eilean, a bhith air an lionadh, trath anns an Mhagh. Mur is abhaist tha an Fheis a cuir failte air gach deugair a tha eadar ochd agus ochd bliadhna deug a dh'aois aig toiseach na Feis. Tha an Fheis a tairgsinn iomadh buth-obrach ealanta. Se an lathair Ard Sgoil Arainn, agus bidh athais, air a chui air bhonn, do gach neach a tha fuireach, air an taobh am muigh do Lamlash.

State of the art lodging for Auchrannie staff

A £300,000 state-of-the-art accommodation block arrived on the island this week for staff at the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick.

Built by Powerwall, the buildings come with all beds, furniture, televisions already fitted.

State of the art design also makes them incredibly environmentally friendly - when windows are opened the heating automatically switches off.

Gordon Hay, marketing manager for the resort, said:

'The accommodation in these new modular blocks is top quality.

'We want our staff to have the best and most comfortable lodgings and these new buildings will have rooms for 10 people, all en-suite.

'With the opening of the new Aspa we have recruited a number of new beauty therapists so they will be moving in here next week.'

The finishing touches will be made to the buildings this week in time for the new staff to move in.



The modular accommodation blocks for Auchrannie staff are top-of-the-range and come with all furniture already fitted. 01_b18pod01

Library services in the palm of your hand

A new mobile library app has been launched by the council to allow members to access accounts 24/7, to search the catalogue and renew books, making your smartphone your library card.

It is available free to download and is compatible with all mobile Apple, Android and BlackBerry devices.

Speaking about the launch Provost Joan Sturgeon said 'The long tradition of libraries being a point of information and knowledge for local communities has taken on a new dimension with the introduction of the Library App.

'This opens up services to a whole new group of people rather than just the 'traditional' library user. I am delighted to be part of this launch and I look forward to making use of the online services.'

Got a story for the Arran Banner?
call 01770 302142



PUBLIC MEETING Brodick Terminal Redevelopment

As part of the ongoing design development stage of the infrastructure improvements at Brodick Ferry Terminal, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) would like to update local individuals, groups and businesses on the project progress. You are therefore invited to attend a public meeting where CMAL will present the proposed redevelopment masterplan layout.

Public Meeting:
Arran High School, Lamlash, Isle of Arran
Tuesday 7th May 2013 19.30hrs



Mandy Barnett's fresh fruit and veg stall. 02_b18mar01

Competition to join the referendum telly debate

STV has teamed up with Debating Matters to give secondary school pupils on Arran the opportunity to debate the big issues in the run up to the referendum on Scottish independence in 2014.

The Scotland wide competition will be open to secondary five and six pupils in North Ayrshire who will have a chance to compete with other schools in their local authority area in preliminary rounds this summer.

From November 2013 the winners of the preliminary rounds will take part in eight regional heats, followed by the semi-finals held in Aberdeen, and the final at STV's Glasgow studios in spring 2014.

Education Secretary Michael Russell said: 'The Referendum on Scotland's future on September 18, 2014, will give many young people their first voting experience and political engagement.'

'Debating is a valuable skill and this historic time in our country's growth gives us an opportunity to engage and inspire young people to help shape the Scotland they want to grow up in. I would urge schools to give pupils the chance to debate, discuss and explore all the arguments surrounding Scottish independence.'

For further information about the debating competition visit stv.tv/debate

Missing memory card found

A memory card for a Panasonic digital camera was found at the petrol station at the top of Glasgow Street in Ardrossan on Monday 15 April.

It was found by Thomas Borland who said: 'The photographs will have sentimental value to the owner and I am contacting you in the possibility that the owner was visiting the island and had fuelled up their car in Ardrossan before going home.'

'If the card belongs to you contact me at tamborland@gmail.com and if they can verify the content of the memory card I shall gladly return it.'

Council's new website

Residents will see a huge transformation in the way they access North Ayrshire Council services online next week.

North Ayrshire Council launched its new easy-to-use website on Wednesday and it has been designed to be as simple to use as possible so that everyone on Arran can get information, make payments, give feedback and access services online - no matter whether they are seasoned net-surfers or visit the web once in a while.

Visitors to www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk will find a streamlined, user-friendly website which will make a big difference to the way residents engage with the council.

Councillor Willie Gibson, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'What was once an alternative source of information for a minority of the population the internet has now become a key frontline service.'



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New Brodick Farmers' Market now up and running

A new Farmers' Market has just started up in Brodick.

Ernest Ribbeck has opened the huge shed on Auchrannie Road that used to be part of Glencloy Garage.

Now it is the venue for a range of stalls selling goods from Arran reared beef and lamb, to fresh fruit and vegetables, hand-made crochet work, soft furnishings, prints, cards, brush, needle and silk paintings and even a soup kitchen.

Wet weather venue

Ernest explained that the building could house up to 20 stalls and was an ideal wet weather venue and year-round facility for residents and tourists alike.

'It's a large open building and we could even do car boot sales here.'

'It gives small artisan producers an ideal opportunity to have a regular shop in Brodick for a day a week and brings together local craftspeople,' said Ernest.

He added that the building had a historical significance as well, having been the naval base in Lamlash during the Second World War.

The market opens from 8am to 6pm every Friday, and any local producers wanting the opportunity of taking a stall can contact Ernest on 01770 302141.



Some of the soft furnishings and paintings. 02_b18mar02

Brodick Farmers Market



Weekly Farmers Market located on Auchrannie Road, Brodick Friday 8am-6pm

Produce and Crafts local to the Isle of Arran. Supplying local goods to the people of Arran, as well as visitors to the Island.

10 minutes walk from Brodick Ferry Terminal. New stall holders welcome.

**Auchrannie Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8BZ
Facebook - Brodick Farmers Market**

THE ARRAN BANNER

Shout it from the rooftops - Arran is the place to visit

Much has been written in the Banner and the national press about the week-long crisis that hit the island last month when heavy snow caused much of the west of Arran to be cut off and powerless for days.

At the time we stressed that this crisis seemed to have brought out the best in people and exemplified the unique community spirit here on the island.

And this came just before Easter when hotels and tourism operators were getting ready for the new season with high hopes of some much-needed cash coming back into the coffers.

It wasn't a complete washout, but there certainly weren't as many tourists around as there might have been.

Everything is back to normal, and now the island has been given the shot in the arm that could be salvation.

The Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards in Glasgow are the hallmark of the hospitality industry.

This is the tenth year of the awards, and Arran establishments have traditionally picked up a handful of awards each year.

But last Sunday night they hauled away a positive sackful of awards and accolades with the applause of their fellow hoteliers throughout Scotland ringing in their ears.

An award in itself may seem like a mere trinket or bauble, but in this industry it is the professional recognition, under great scrutiny, of perfection, attention to detail and commitment.

The four Arran hotels that were honoured are now back home, hard at work, jumping as high as the customer wants them to, and looking forward to a long and busy season.

There is no excuse for it not to be - the local hospitality industry has stood up to the mark and been hailed as the best by the cream of the industry and it is now up to tourism operators like VisitScotland to shout it from the rooftops - Arran is the place to visit.

Bring your family; enjoy the great food, great outdoors, great attractions and great hospitality.

And tell other people about it.

There is absolutely no point in these Arran businesses knocking their pan out, being nationally recognised and putting the bar even higher for themselves next year if the customers don't come pouring in.

Let us hope that the message has hit home.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

press policy

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

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Grumpy rude locals

Sir,
On Saturday afternoon my friend and I arrived on the island, looking forward to a pleasant weekend break in Lamlash (where we spent quite a lot of money).

As we queued in an orderly fashion for the bus a rather large gentleman with a beard announced in a very loud voice to a woman standing behind us that 'these tourists are a pain in the you-know-what'. She agreed with him and also stated 'the quicker they go home the better'.

Being rather better mannered than this pair, my friend and I ignored them, but I do wonder if local businesses who rely on tourists realise that they are being sabotaged in this fashion by some grumpy, rude locals who are certainly old enough to know better.

Yours,
Linda Gresham
8 Broadloan
Renfrew

Abreast of developments

Sir,
Many thanks for keeping us abreast of latest developments (Stop press page 2 April 27 edition). This is indeed a valuable service. A big thank you also to our MSP Kenneth Gibson for securing the morning and evening concession at Kilpatrick.

I doubt that this would have happened without his intervention on our behalf.
Yours,

Susan Knox
Strathwhillan Road
Brodick

Early to bed?

Sir,
Last week's Banner reported in some detail alterations to ferry schedules.

However, one couldn't help but notice our unelected Ferry Committee's almost Victorian paternalistic attitude towards the timing of the last boat on a Saturday. It may come as something of a surprise for this august group to learn that Arran residents, just like their neighbouring communities,

are entitled to a trip to the theatre or cinema, or a visit to family or friends and be able to return on the same day.

It would be interesting to learn of any similar views opined by the Ferry Committee that impinge on the travelling public, views which as yet remain unreported.

Any consequential operational arrangements arising from improvements to the service rest with the ferry company and should be within the scope and remit of senior management.

It must be reasonable to assume that if our neighbours in Dunoon, which is not an island, have a final sailing, provided by the same company, on a Saturday/Sunday at a quarter to one in the morning, then 10pm is positively early.

Perhaps, unlike Dunoon, Arran does not make sufficient noise, or simply lacks positive representation.

There is not another target group of fare and subsidy paying customers in North Ayrshire who are essentially marooned after 6pm.

There is more to Arran than tourism.

Yours,
Ian McCallum
Whiting Bay

Habitat for big cats

Sir,
Much Paul Paterson knows about big cats, expert though he claims to be, if he derides the idea of pumas seen on Arran (Banner 27 April).

Pumas and other big cats have been seen widely in many parts of Britain in late years, especially after the 1970s Act tightening up the rules on keeping them privately (many were surreptitiously released into the wild), and Arran is a very suitable habitat for them.

Until less than a thousand years ago, Britain was home to numerous wild beasts, all now extinct here.

Has this one swum across, for instance?

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers Lane
Penrith

PS. I saw one, 15 miles east of Penrith, in the 1990s.

Embrace this change at youth hostel

Sir,

I was disappointed, saddened and slightly angered when I read the article in last week's Arran Banner 'Villagers up in arms over youth hostel alcohol licence'.

Let me say from the beginning that I love Arran and Lochranza in particular.

I have been visiting Arran for the last 34 years. I love, and have stayed, at Lochranza Youth Hostel many times over the last 17 or so years.

I would also add that I have spent a lot of money in the Lochranza Hotel, the Catacol Bay Hotel and the Lochranza Village shop which is sadly no more.

The fact that Lochranza Youth Hostel has applied for an alcohol licence will not affect the trade of any business in Lochranza.

And I can assure parish assistant Jean Hunter who '...knows people who come there solely because it is a temperance hostel...' that the granting of this licence will not mean that Lochranza will descend into a drunken brawl every night.

What it will mean is that the many people who stay at the hostel (and who pump a fantastic amount of money into the local economy) will now have the option - if they so choose - to purchase a bottle of wine or beer to enjoy with their meal cooked in the hostel kitchen.

This will not, however, stop these same people from enjoying a few drinks or meals in the Lochranza or Catacol Bay Hotels or spending money at the distillery or the Lochranza Pier sandwich shop.

Rather than be 'up in arms' about all of this I would encourage the people of Lochranza to embrace this change and support the hostel as it has, and will continue, to contribute a significant amount of money to the local economy.

Yours,
Hugh Spicer,
Glasgow

God's waiting room

Sir,

At a local meeting recently, a Lochranza resident (of six years) declared that there should be no more tourists stopping off at Lochranza, 'we have enough and shouldn't encourage any more.'

Another local has declared, on behalf of others, there should be no liquor licence at the SYHA in Lochranza.

The Chairman of Lochranza's Resident's Association has jumped to the defence of local pubs and the impact off sales from the Hostel will have on them.

A number of years ago, during a conversation with me a Brodick man described Lochranza as 'God's waiting room'.

The first time I visited Lochranza, it was a vibrant community, complete with local characters and was welcoming. I returned many times, and still do.

But gone is the vibrancy and character. I now know what the Brodick man meant. Lochranza has become a retirement village. Reactionary to any change, self satisfied and unwelcoming.

I hope that the SYHA is successful in its licence application.

Visitors to Lochranza have higher expectations than before and that includes being able to have a drink whilst enjoying their evening, without having to go to a pub, or drive 30 miles to the Co-op.

Residents in Lochranza are temporary, tourists are permanent, and could be/are the residents of the future.

Change happens and is a dynamic, if given the opportunity.

Yours,
Craig Wallace
PT Lochranza

Less convenient for pedestrians

Sir,

Ahead of the next presentation of proposals for the new ferry terminal, readers might like to know the current state of play in respect of both Brodick and Ardrossan.

Continued on Page 9

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Letters to the Editor



Continued from Page 8

The Arran Public Transport Group has been engaged in correspondence with Clydeport and CMAL over Ardrossan and with CMAL's chief engineer over the new Brodick terminal.

As far as Ardrossan is concerned, Clydeport has spent £600,000 over the last two years on improving facilities at the terminal and has stated that there is no objection to CalMac using the Irish (inner) berth in marginal conditions - that decision is up to the captain.

They do not, however, comment on the lack of a passenger gangway at that berth. They are unsympathetic to the idea of Hunterston as a port of refuge, understandable as it is a busy commercial port. Fairlie, which our investigations have shown is more suitable, is not owned by Clydeport.

They also reject the idea of a floating breakwater at Ardrossan, although CMAL are prepared to consider this. When the new ferry comes into service in 2016/17 it will be necessary to construct new passenger gangways at Ardrossan since the access ports of the two boats will differ.

At Brodick, the current state of affairs, possibly further amended after the next public meeting on 7 May, is that the travel distances for pedestrians from drop-off points to the boats have been shortened and the long 110 metre ramp accessing the passenger hall level has been omitted. Instead, the stairs have been widened and two large capacity lifts will be provided.

To climb to a height of 5.5 metres, that is to the gangway and hall levels, would require 30 steps (a house has 13 to reach the first floor). Regarding vehicles, only one linkspan will be fully flexible and able to load vehicles at all states of tide.

The second one will be a fixed concrete ramp, only usable when the tide is at median level. As far as parking for

short visit vehicles, 80 spaces will be provided, presumably to the east of the new marshalling area. That is about the same as the number of vehicles parked at present in Shore Road on a busy day.

Perhaps your readers would care to consider whether a scheme which provides much less convenient access for pedestrians than at present, especially the elderly and infirm and young parents, represents good value for the £20million which is the current forecast cost.

They might also bear in mind that virtually nothing has been or will be spent on Ardrossan or upon a viable, convenient port of refuge on the mainland.

Yours,
Ian Ferguson
Northbeck Cottage
High Corrie

Standard of service

Sir,
It is a shame indeed if Natalia and Michal at Lochranza hostel feel isolated as a result of the sensational Banner headline.

I should like to point out that there are villagers who agree with the views expressed in the letter from Tony and Irmgard Church. The very least Arran can offer visitors is the standard of service they enjoy at home.

Yours,
Lorna Sherry
by email

Objectors not a majority

Sir,
With reference to your recent article concerning Lochranza villagers stating their objections about the proposal for a public licence for the SYHA hostel in the village, I would like to point out that the people who have voiced their objections to the proposal do not represent the majority of residents of the village.

As ever, a vocal minority claim to speak for all. The initial focus in the Arran Banner article outlined the views of those attending church on a particular Sunday.

I would be astonished if the regular church-goers in the village constituted more than a very small percentage of the residents.

In fact, the village of Lochranza has possessed two licensed premises since 1995, when the Arran Distillery was opened.

I do not recall any objections then to the provision of a licence for the premises.

As has occurred on many occasions on Arran over the years, a group of recently-domiciled residents take it upon themselves to object to any change in their village and to attempt to equate their views with those of the majority.

Similar objections were made when the distillery was mooted in the early 1990s.

I might add that the majority of those objecting to the proposal for the new licence seldom, if ever, are to be seen in the main licensed premise in the village (Lochranza Hotel).

I am convinced that a third licence in the village would not impinge on their lives in any way whatsoever. Lastly, it is a fact that the SYHA hostel was, at one time, the hotel in Lochranza and, as such, possessed a public licence. The present proposal would merely revive this licence.

On a personal note, I would like to wish the present caretakers of the hostel well with their new initiative.

Yours,
Brian Miller
Dunira
Lochranza



Winning trip for young adventurer Dan

The Arran Adventure Company has shown once again that 'quality of experience' is a winner.

Over 97 per cent of respondents to a survey organised by Arran Adventure rate the company nine or ten and say that they would recommend the business to friends and family.

Everyone who takes part in an activity with the adventure company is sent a quick and simple survey following their session, the aim being to ensure the highest levels of quality are maintained.

To encourage feedback each survey is entered into a draw for vouchers for free sessions as the prize.

The winner for the 2012 season was 14-year-old Dan Crawley who was the lucky winner of two half day activity vouchers.

Dan recently joined Arran Adventure on a kayaking session and was presented with his vouchers by company director and Atlantic Rower Calum McNicol.

Dan's dad said: 'Dan is made up with them.'

Dan was asked if he'd be using his vouchers this time

round or save them? He replied: 'I am back in the summer so will use them for the Kayaking and Gorge Walking then.'

Arran Adventure would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback forms and a Well done to Dan for winning the 2012 draw. Don't forget to fill in the form during your 2013 adventure for the chance to win next time round.



Dan Crawley recently joined Arran Adventure on a kayaking session and was presented with his vouchers by company director and Atlantic Rower Calum McNicol.

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Irene Currie and Sheila Gilmore. 02_b18soc01



Mairi and Willie Duff. 02_b18soc03



Robert Lammie, Dave Nicholson, George Stewart, Jill Jeffries and Kirsten Nicholson in Club 1934's new bar. 02_b18soc05



Samantha and Dave Payn. Sam's splendid shawl was worn by her grandmother for her own wedding. 02_b18soc02



Andrew and Jennifer Earle. 02_b18soc07



Eddie Picken in best bib and tucker. 02_b18soc06



Fancy shoes for Jennifer Earle. 02_b18soc08

Grand Spring Ball at Kilmory

The Southend's finest, and several folk from afar, pushed the boat out last Saturday night.

The first Kilmory Grand Spring Ball was an outstanding success with everyone going to great lengths to don their finest clothes and dance the night away to music from Arran's legendary DJ Charles Currie.

Ball gowns and dress kilts were the order of the evening, with a few gentlemen even donning black tie and tuxedo.

A splendid buffet had been prepared and the hall was decked out in purple with twinkling lights.


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BRODICK CASTLE, COUNTRY PARK & GOATFELL

Monday 6th May **PAINTINGS TOUR**
 2pm-3.30pm
 Explore Brodick Castle's history, adventures & connections by discovering the stories behind its beautiful paintings.
 Adults £5 (with entry to the Castle & Country Park)
 Not suitable for under 16s Booking essential, numbers strictly limited

Tuesday 7th May **GARDEN WALK**
 2pm-3.30pm
 Discover the seasonal highlights of Brodick Castle Garden's spectacular plant collection.
 Free with Garden entry, donation suggested. Meet at the reception centre 2pm

Tuesday 7th May **BRONZE AGE ROUNDHOUSE EXPERIENCE**
 10.30am-12 noon & 2pm-3.30pm
 Explore our newly built replica roundhouse and discover what life was like on Arran during the Bronze Age. Hands-on fun for all!
 Adult £5 (with Country Park entry); Child £2.50 (with Country Park entry)
 Limited spaces, booking essential

Friday 10th May **CASTLE SECRETS TOUR**
 11.30am-1pm
 A special tour of the Castle, revealing unseen areas that are not normally open to the public and access to the battlements (weather permitting).
 Adults £5 (with entry to the Castle & Country Park)
 Only suitable for over 16s

Sat 25th & Sun 26th May **MARVIN'S SCULPTURE COURSE**
 10am to 4pm
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Louise Edwards, Jean Clark, Vicky Dillon and Phyllis Picken. 02_b18soc12



Lorna McKelvie and Maureen McKenna. 02_b18soc10



Julie Hunter, Jan Murchie, Jill Jeffries and Phyllis Picken (before donning her ball gown!). 02_b18soc11



Wilma Currie and Alan Leek. 02_b18soc13



The super raffle prizes. 02_b18soc09



Vicky Dillon selling tickets for the super raffle. 02_b18soc04



Andy Ashley escorting three belles to the ball. 02_b18soc14

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Shiskine Golf Club

The completely unique 12-hole course at Shiskine Golf Club is a holiday course by definition, and pretty short, but its variety is to be savoured. Especially thrilling and challenging are three of its par threes - the 3rd, 4th and 7th - any of which can fairly wreck your card as you build your score. The recently built clubhouse houses immaculate changing facilities and Felicity's restaurant where you can enjoy a delicious meal after your game. On site all-year round is PGA professional Dougie Bell who runs the Shiskine Pro Shop and offers lessons for every golfer - young and old - whatever level you play at. Stocked with some of golf's leading brands at highly competitive prices, the shop has everything you will need to equip yourself on and off the course. Quality brands include Srixon, Sunderland, Glenbrae, Hi-Tec and Patersons of Scotland as well as a great selection of Shiskine logo branded clothing and accessories as well as lots more.

the club last month.

Golf club, cart and trolley hire are also available as well as a licensed bar and restaurant.

Corrie Golf Club

Corrie Golf Club is a short nine-hole course but full of character and very picturesque. Established in 1892, on a clear day this is easily one of the most beautiful golf courses in Scotland and well worth the short trip from the mainland. The course is quite a challenge at just 1,610 yards, Par 31 and although quite small, you will have to have a certain amount of control over your ball if you are to put together a decent looking card. Notable holes include the fourth, where there's a sign by the green warning of snakes! The club hosts their annual Open Competition on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September and places are still available. Visitors are very welcome to take part. Claire Berrie opened The Tearoom last year and it has fast gathered a reputation for excellent service and delicious food for golfers and non-golfers alike. Specialities include scones fresh from the oven and handcut chips.

Lamlash Golf Club | *Island of Arran Scotland*



Lamlash was the first golf club to be formed on the Island in 1889 and was designed by Willie Fernie who won the British Open in 1883. It is a par 64 with stunning views and is a real challenge for all golfers.

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E: secretary@lamlashgolfclub.com

Brodick Golf Club

Situated in the centre of the village is Brodick Golf Club which celebrates its centenary this year. Brodick's 18 Holes - 4,747 yards Par 65 - is a parkland and links course entirely at sea level, making it accessible for golfers of all ages and capabilities. From its opening hole - the longest Par four on the course - to its three tough cross-water Par threes, a tricky dogleg Par five, and deceptive Par four at the turn, it presents challenges and obstacles that are great to take on. There is also a pro shop on site run by PGA professional James Browning who joined

Lamlash Golf Club

Lamlash Golf Course is a delightful 18 hole par 64 golf course offering a serious challenge for golfers of all abilities. Set on the hillside above the village of Lamlash, there are some spectacular views overlooking the Clyde Estuary and the Ayrshire coast. With its lush fairways and beautiful greens, Lamlash Golf Course really is a 'must play' course in the west of Scotland. This year the Ladies Open competition over 18 holes attracts competitors from all over Scotland due to its amazing prizes and this year it takes place on Saturday 21 July with handicap and scratch prizes and all holes sponsored. Arran's most popular Gents Open competition over 36 holes takes place on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 August. There is also a coaching day for juniors. Handicap and scratch prizes and all holes sponsored. Come along and enjoy a fantastic golfing weekend. Catering facilities at the Gorsebush Restaurant and hire of buggies, trolleys and clubs are all available.

12 Hole Course 

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Whiting Bay Golf Club

With its stunning panoramic views across the Firth of Clyde to the Ayrshire Coast and Holy Isle, Whiting Bay Golf Club is a beautiful hilly course.

Founded in 1895, the club has a long tradition on the island and offers a friendly welcome to all local golfers and visitors. Whiting Bay Golf Course is an 18-hole par 63 course playing 4,063 yards.

Although quite short, the course is a fair test for golfers of all abilities and features some particularly challenging par threes. Two great summer offers for 2013 include a day's golf at Whiting Bay for just £35 a head, inclusive of two rounds of golf, lunch and transport to and from your hotel or the ferry. Or take advantage of half price green fees every Tuesday and Thursday with 50 per cent off all day tickets.

There is a fully licensed bar serving food in the clubhouse as well as clubs and buggies for hire.

Lochranza Golf Course

Lochranza Golf Course is without a doubt in the most idyllic setting on Arran with steep mountain slopes surrounding three sides with the fourth hole opening onto the Kilbrannan Sound. There are spectacular views in every direction down towards the ancient castle.

It is also the perfect opportunity to enjoy the company of the local wildlife as herds of deer have been known to spend hours lolling on the greens.

This nine-hole pay-to-play course is a Par 34 and just 2,232 yards so it is perfect for families and couples and there is no need to book.

Trolley and club hire is available as well as changing rooms and a practice area and putting green.

With lots of great places to eat and drink in Lochranza plus camping at the course, it is a great place to visit for golfers.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Machrie Bay Golf Club sits beside the sea on Arran's idyllic west coast and has fantastic views over the Kilbrannan Sound towards the Kintyre Peninsula.

The nine-hole course is ideal for golfers of all abilities and welcomes everybody, especially families.

It is fairly flat, and has improved vastly in recent years to become one of Arran's favourite courses.

They are always keen to welcome new members and there is a special offer running to allow locals to join Machrie Bay Golf

Club in 2013 for just £85 (£30 for juniors) which includes half price entry fee.

A Fun Open Day is being held on Saturday 4 May, no booking required, just turn up and play and there will be various different prizes up for grabs.

The Machrie Bay Tearoom opened this year under new management with delicious cakes and lunches as well as changing facilities inside the clubhouse.

Arran Golf Pass

For locals that wish to experience every hole on Arran's seven unique and stunning courses without the expense of joining the clubs, the Arran Golf Pass entitles the bearer to one round of golf on each of the island's seven golf courses for the amazing price of £99.

The 18 hole pass gives you access to Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Brodick and the driving range with an upgrade option to play Shiskine.

The nine hole pass covers Lochranza, Corrie, Machrie and the driving range with an upgrade option to play Shiskine.

Simply book your tee-time in advance by phone or online, turn up and play!

The Arran Golf Pass offers great value compared to the costs of paying to play each of the courses individually and the Arran Golf Pass lasts a whole year, so you can play different courses over the year all complete it all in one week.

Machrie Bay Golf Course



This beautiful course is beside the sea with fantastic views over the Kilbrannan Sound towards the Kintyre Peninsula. The 9 hole Course is ideal for golfers of all abilities & welcomes everybody, especially families. Daily & weekly tickets are available. This fairly flat course also has a putting green, practice area and tearoom.

01770 840329 www.machriebay.com

MACHRIE BAY GOLF CLUB Fun Open Day – Sat 4 May Open to Ladies, Gents and Juniors

Prizes: Scratch, 1st & 2nd netts; longest drives and nearest the pins. From 9.30 until 1.45pm

No booking required, just turn up and play (handicap allocated if you don't have one)

Non members £5.00 for 9 holes : Sweep for all entries £2.00

Prize giving 4.30pm

Catering available all day : Raffle :
and, back by popular demand, Special new membership rate

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www.lochranzagolf.com
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ISLE OF ARRAN
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AVAILABLE AT WWW.GOLFONARRAN.COM

Machrie Bay
Golf - Tennis - Play Area &
Home of Great Cakes

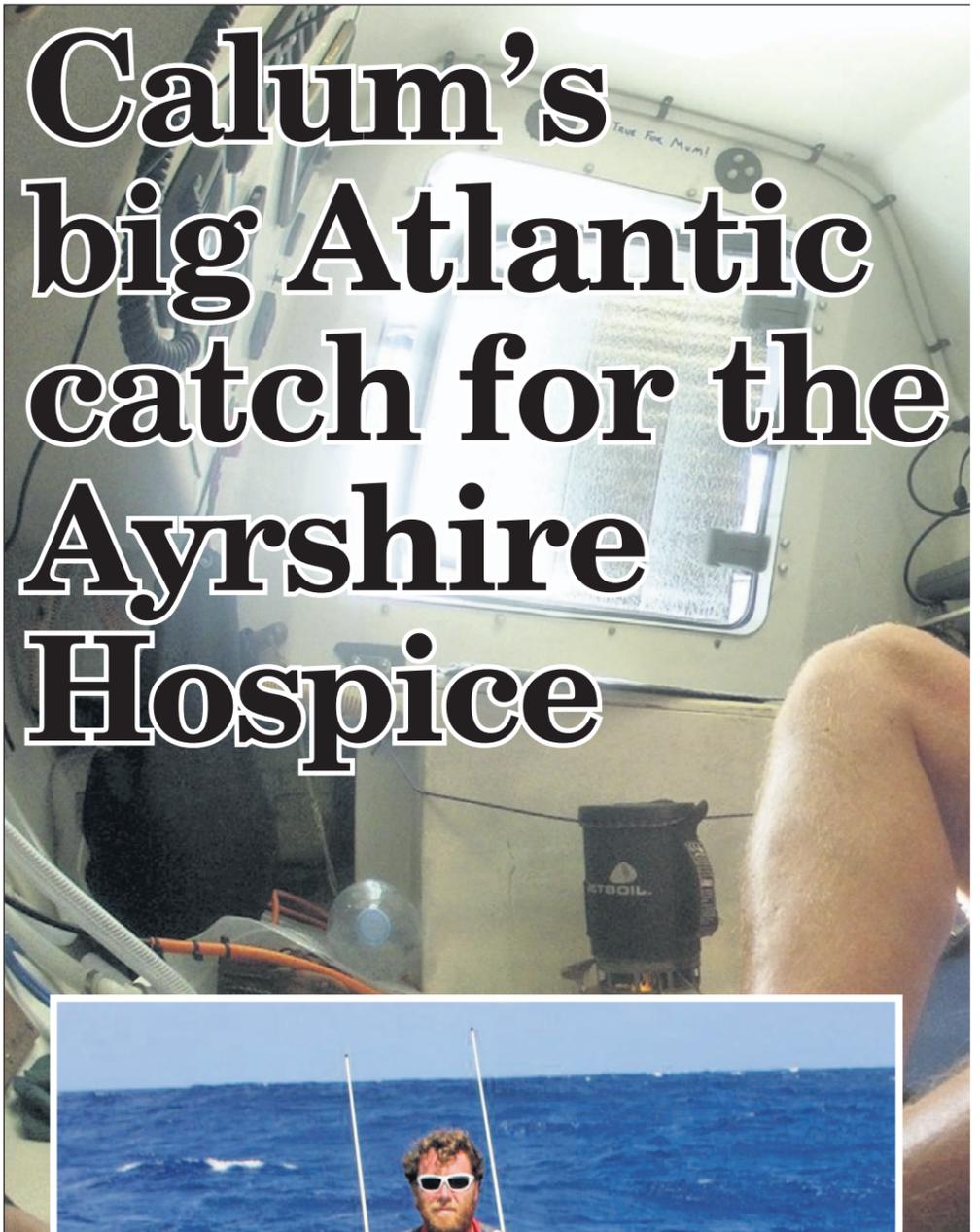
Now Open - 7 Days - From 8am Until 5pm
Reviewed this week as "Immense", "Outstanding Hospitality"
"Brilliant Home Cooking" and a "Wee Gem of a Tearoom!"

Serving Breakfast, Filled Rolls, Lunch & Tasty Snacks
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Calum McNicol of Brodick was one of a seven-man crew to row the Atlantic earlier this year.



The whole epic journey took 35 days and saw the crew rowing for 12 hours a day in two hour shifts.



A dip in the Atlantic was the only way of keeping clean.



Calum steps in for skipper Leven to boost morale to those rowing.



'It was an extraordinary experience, one that I am extremely proud to have achieved and one that I certainly will never forget'

A shot of the living quarters inside the Avalon shows there was little room for manoeuvre.

Atlantic rower Calum McNicol popped into the Ayrshire Hospice recently to present the charity with a whopping £20,027.91 after he rowed the Atlantic in 35 days – the sixth fastest time ever, and the fastest time this year.

Accompanied by one of his sons Innes and dad Iain, Calum from Brodick presented the cheque to Aileen Anderson, chief executive of the Ayrshire Hospice.

Speaking about his amazing achievement, Calum said: 'Ever since my mum Zoe died in 1997, I've wanted to raise money for the hospice.'

Second to none

'The care she was given was second to none and the whole family truly appreciates the work and support they provided.'

'My sister Natasha is a regular fundraiser, arranging an annual bowling tournament at West Kilbride Bowling Club in memory of mum, but when I heard about the Atlantic Row I knew it was exactly the fundraising challenge I had been looking for.'

Designing and building their own boat, Calum joined seven other crew members in the Atlantic Row which was skippered by Leven Brown, an internationally renowned ocean

rowing skipper and holder of seven world records.

Taking up position of first mate on the boat 'Avalon', Calum was responsible for checking weather routes, communications, maintenance and morale when skipper Leven was resting.

The whole journey took 35 days and saw the crew rowing for 12 hours a day in two hour shifts. They are each one of only 364 people to ever have accomplished the feat.

'The whole experience was just amazing,' added Calum. 'Setting off from Puerto Mogan on Gran Canaria on 17 January and landing in Port St Charles on Barbados on 26 February, we covered 3,000 miles of open ocean and spent a total of 35 days 12 hours and 41 minutes at sea.'

'For 20 of those days we were completely alone but I never felt too isolated as you could only ever see as far as the horizon three miles away.'

'It was an extraordinary experience, one that I am extremely proud to have achieved and one that I certainly will never forget.'

Calum is now planning another Atlantic row early in 2014 in which he will skipper the boat.



The Ayrshire Hospice were presented with a cheque for more than £20,000 thanks to Calum's fundraising activities.



A flying fish - just one of the incredible number of fish, whales and dolphins seen from the boat.



'The whole experience was just amazing,' said Calum.

'Ever since my mum Zoe died in 1997, I've wanted to raise money for the hospice'

Obituary: John Connolly, artist, 1929-2013

John Connolly had an unusually tough life. At the age of 11 his working-class parents were killed in the bombing of Clydebank.

After five years in an orphanage boarding school he was apprenticed as an electrician, did two years of national service and in 1952 had his first piece of good luck when he married Janice, a cheerful and supportive wife who bore four children, though their second son Dennis died when a baby of meningitis.

From 1953-59 he underwent prolonged treatment for tuberculosis which required the removal of a lung. In convalescent periods he discovered himself as an artist, practising embroidery and painting.

From the late 1950s onward he and his family lived in Maryhill and he worked as an engineer with Duncan Low Ltd., makers of electrical heaters in Maryhill.

This gave access to a welding shop and much scrap metal, from which he made metal sculptures whenever possible, more than he had room for in his three room council house flat.

He had access to a large four foot high cellar in the damp course of the tenement and by this time he had artist friends who appreciated his work.

Into that cellar they escorted others to view his larger and heavier works; one of them

was a Scottish Arts Council official who obtained for John his first major commission, the welded sculpture 'Embracing Couple' for Strathclyde University.

In the 20th Century it was almost impossible for an artist to make a living solely from their art and John took seasonal part-time employment as a lecturer in art appreciation for Glasgow University Extra Mural department, became a training officer with the Scottish Epileptic Association, but worsening health made it essential for him to get paying work he could do at home in his own time.

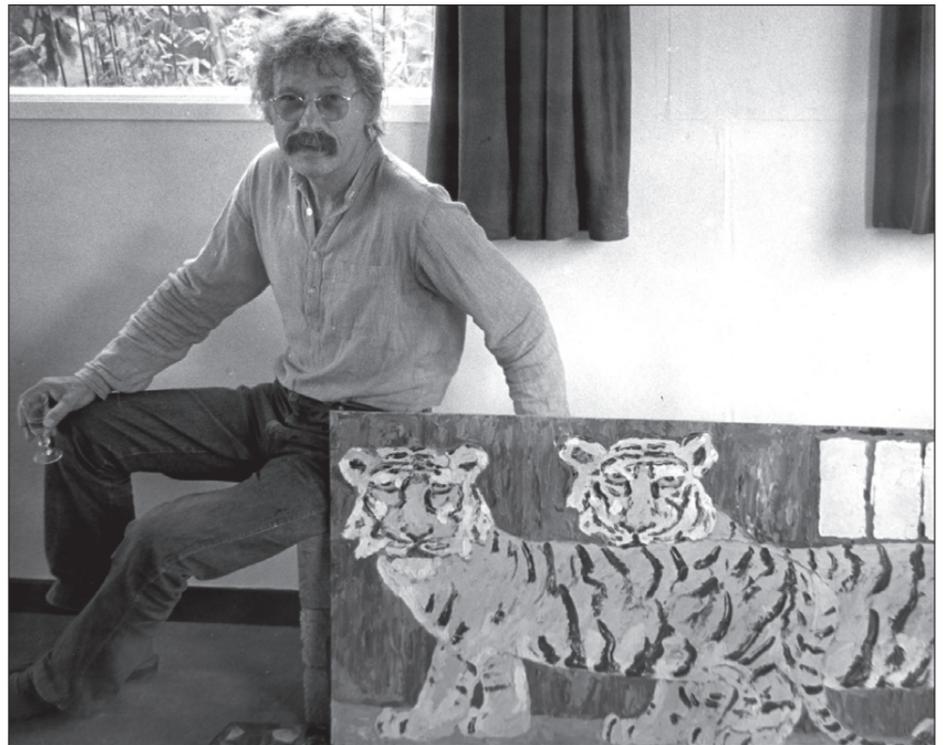
He retrained as a watch and clock mender, left Glasgow for Arran in 1972, and from

then onward lived and worked as one in his McKelvie Road bungalow in Lamlash. John's first one-man exhibition of work was in 1962 at the Glasgow University Chaplaincy Centre.

In 1986 he took a studio in Brodick to make portrait heads exhibited in the Royal Scottish Academy.

In the period between he exhibited in Hopetoun House, the Carnegie Trust Dunfermline, the Demarco Gallery Edinburgh, the North Britain Gallery Gartocharn, also with the Regent Gallery and the Glasgow Group in the McLellan Gallery.

Along with welded sculpture his portrait heads were in 'ciment fondu' though a



John Connolly with paintings that he submitted to the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1987. b18con01

late Scottish Arts Council grant enabled him to work in bronze.

His last exhibition was held by his friend Vicki Hudson in

her Lochranza gallery, where at present some of his work is still on show, including the bronze portrait head of Ricki Demarco. He also exhibited

at the Burnside Gallery in Brodick.

He is survived by his son Ian, his daughters Annette and Elizabeth.



John McConnachie bowling the first wood of the season in Brodick on Saturday. 02_b18bow01

First wood of the 2013 season at Brodick

Brodick Bowling Club got their 2013 season underway last Saturday afternoon.

Club president John Lauder welcomed the bowlers, in particular those from other island clubs who had come along to mark the occasion.

He pointed out that the wet and cold weather had done little to help the early season condition of the green.

John also stressed that they would welcome new members and any visiting bowlers to their rink games.

Then he invited island singles champion John McConnachie to bowl the first jack and first wood of the season.

The Rowan Singers Concert

On Friday April 12, we were treated to a Springtime Selection of music, courtesy of the Rowan Singers and their guest artistes.

The audience reaction varied from toe-tapping to singing along as the music stirred our emotions. Yvonne Brothers introduced the items with aplomb and humour.

The choir obviously enjoyed performing the programme and their voices blended well together, expertly conducted by Diana Hamilton and Douglas Hamilton accompanying on piano.

John Cruickshank gave a stirring rendition of The De'il's Awa and Ruth McEnaney and Sarah Thomson sang two duets by Mendelssohn, their voices complementing each other beautifully.

John Harrington delighted the audience with his viola playing, performing four pieces, with Diana Hamilton on piano, as well as accompanying the ladies with The Snow. Kerrie Calder im-



Yvonne Brothers presenting a cheque for £600 to David Cameron of Marie Curie.

pressed the audience with her flute playing and joined the choir to sing as well.

Congratulations are due to everyone who participated in the concert, particularly to Diana Hamilton who so obviously enthuses all those involved.

Yvonne Brothers, on behalf of the Rowan Singers presented a cheque for £600 to David Cameron, Area Fundraising Manager for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

HECTOR WAS GETTING CROSS, THE POSTIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY NOW WITH HIS NEW SCOTTISH FIELD!



MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

Inside:
ORKNEY RISING - Cameron Stout on his beloved islands

PLUS..
THREE CHEFS IN A BOAT - DELICIOUS RECIPES FROM ARDEONAIG

The genius of artist Joan Eardley
10 STAGGERING SCOTTISH FACTOIDS
Frogs and toads - why these barometers of our countryside's health are under threat
AN AYRSHIRE MAN - JAMES BOSWELL
Riding of the Marches - caught on camera



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COMING SOON
Spring Fair & BAR-B-QUE
Saturday 11th May 2013 12pm - 2pm
Corrie Primary School
• Bar-B-Que • Fun & Games • Cream Teas
• Home Baking • Bric a Brac • Toy Sale
• And lots lots more.
A Fun Day for all!!

Whiting Bay Bowling Club
OPEN DAY



4th May
2pm
All welcome

COORIEDOON
Celebrates 25 years of care
16th May 2013

We invite ex staff/ex relatives/professional visitors
For Bubbly & Canapés on the big day
2pm-5pm

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Ormidale 10K race

Young Rory Hunter from Lamlash finishes third

The annual 10K road race, organised by Arran Runners, took place last Sunday in blustery but dry conditions.

The flat route takes runners from the Ormidale Pavilion out to Merkland and back again. Out of the 33 runners, 13 were locals, which was really good to see.

The winner was Robert Gilroy from Ron Hill Cambslang, in a fast time of 32m 19s, but still a couple of minutes slower than the course record. Steve Daye from North Ayrshire AC finished in second place in 36m 32s.

In third place was Rory Hunter of Lamlash, the first local and only junior, in 39m 53s. Breaking the 40 minute barrier is always regarded as the sign of a good (male) runner.

Kirstie Smith of Lamlash was the first lady across the line, in an excellent time of 46m 29s, followed by Corinna Goeckeritz of Brodick and Claire Johnston of Shiskine. Arran Runners would like to thank The Ormidale Hotel for prizes and refreshments, ArranShand Business Development Services for medals, Scottish Co-op for bananas, Paul Emsley - paul@emsley.com (700689) or Mike Mellor - mikemellor@btinternet.com (302286).

The biggest thanks go to the Arran folk who volunteered to marshal the course.

It is no exaggeration to say that the race simply could not go ahead without them.

The next race on Arran is the Goatfell Race on Saturday 18 May.

This year the race is part of the Scottish Hill Runners championship series, and the entry list has closed at 250 competitors. This is, by a long way, the largest number ever to have taken part.

No more places

This does mean that there are no more places available, so runners will not be able to enter on the day.

As always, the Arran Mountain Rescue Team will be on the hill to marshal the runners and attend to any casualties. But there is still a need for around 20 volunteers to assist with marshalling the road section of the race and with other jobs around the start and finish.

If you could spare around three hours, Arran Runners would be delighted to hear from you. (Paul Emsley - paul@emsley.com (700689) or Mike Mellor - mikemellor@btinternet.com (302286).



They're off - the start of the race at Ormidale Park. 02_b18run02



Shiskine girl Claire Johnston, in 18th and wearing a tutu. 02_b18run06



Young Rory Hunter of Lamlash, in third place and first local. 02_b18run03



Ormidale 10K winner, Robert Gilroy. 02_b18run01



Gordon Allsop of Arran Runners coming home in sixth place. 02_b18run04



Kirstie Smith of Lamlash, first lady in 16th place overall. 02_b18run05

HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS LEAGUE ISLE OF ARRAN
 Charity Number: SCO17553

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held on Sunday May 5th in the Arran High School Community Theatre from 2pm.

Support your hospital when you give your garden a makeover

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
 SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SCO02089

Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.
Come along and wander down 'Memory Lane'
 Constantly changing displays of Archaeology, Geology, Arran at War, Social History, Children's Quiz and Play House, Clearances and Emigration, Farm Implements, 19th Century Cottage, 1940's Schoolroom, Original Blacksmith's Forge, Early Photography, Villages Then and Now, Riverside Picnic Area and Gift Shop with Unique Presents for all the Family.

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 Delicious meals and snacks at Café Rosaburn, seven days a week

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 8 May, 1993

All the whey from Costa Rica

Eduardo Barantes of Costa Rica made a return visit to Torrylinn Creamery with his wife and daughter last week. Eduardo worked at the creamery for several months six years ago and is now dairy manager of an agricultural college in Costa Rica.

Secretary drops in

Scottish Secretary Ian Lang made a very short visit to Arran today, Friday. He met Chris Willsher and

Larry Kearney at Arran Provisions, had lunch with representatives of the National Trust for Scotland then spoke at the local Conservative Party afternoon tea at Brambles Bistro.

Free castle entry

Entry to Brodick Castle will be free next Saturday as part of the National Trust for Scotland community open day scheme.

It is mainly aimed at island residents to make them more aware of the work of the Trust.

Radar guns trap 10 drivers

Speed traps are becoming almost commonplace now on Arran, and last weekend traffic officers were pointing radar guns at drivers in Brodick.

People driving at under 40mph in a 30mph zone were not stopped, but 10 drivers were booked for driving in excess of 40mph.

Rev Fulton to meet Dalai Lama

A meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery has decided that the Rev Douglas Fulton should represent the Church of Scotland on Arran when the Dalai Lama visits Holy Isle next week.

Council tax hikes

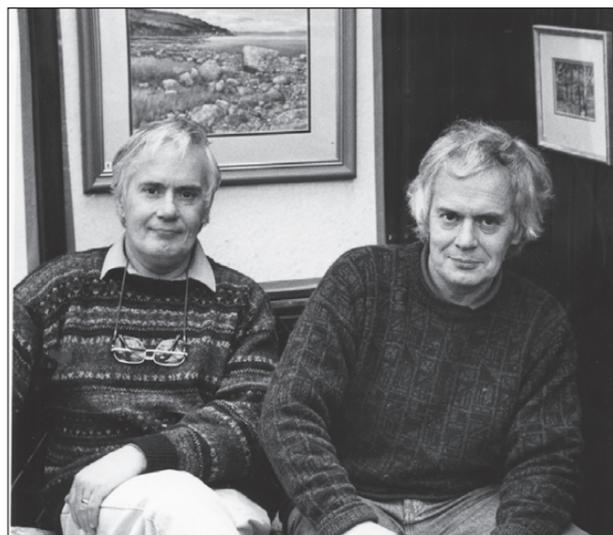
Arran householders have been receiving their council tax payment notices over the last two days, but at least eight people have already complained that they are being asked to pay too much. The discrepancies put people one band up from what they had been notified last December.

Rural ladies test drivers

Ladies of the SWRI were invited to test drive the new Vauxhall Corsa in Brodick



Eduardo Barantes of Costa Rica making a return visit to Torrylinn Creamery. b18twe02



Artists Bill and Bob Lees with some of their pictures that were on exhibition at the Ingledene Hotel last weekend. b18twe03

on Wednesday. This was a follow-on from ATM Motors running a lady driver of the year competition on the island a few months ago.

Gordon comes second

Gordon Allsop was first islander and second overall in the first Arran Triathlon last Sunday. Over £120 was raised and will be shared between Arran Runners and the Hospital Supporters League. Gordon's time was four hours, 38 minutes and 10 seconds.

Shiatsu at Cooriedoon

There will be an introductory course in Shiatsu next Tuesday at Cooriedoon Nursing Home in Whiting Bay. The course will run for six weeks and introduce a basic Shiatsu treatment which can be used on family and friends.

Paragliders flock to Arran

The Scottish Paragliding Open will be held on Arran on 15 and 16 May and will be hosted by Flying Fever. It should attract about 60 pilots flying around turnpoints laid out on hillsides.



Strathclyde police traffic officers nabbed 10 drivers with a radar gun. b18twe04



Scottish Secretary Ian Lang with Chris Willsher and Larry Kearney at Arran Provisions factory. b18twe01

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Garden Open
Arran Heritage Museum

Saturday 4th May

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Lawn Bowls
Basket making class
Lamlash Bowling Club Open Day
Whiting Bowling Club Open Day
Rugby - Arran vs Lanark
Auction of promise
Live Music - Usual Suspects
Hog Roast

Sunday 5th May

Alcoholics Anonymous
New AI-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Folk Music Session
Folk night
Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)
Hospital Supports League Plant Sale
Village Tidy

Monday 6th May

Quiz
Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Morning Fitness
Breathe Walk Class
Table Tennis
Badminton
Volleyball Club
Arran Junior Football Club
Lunch Club
Summer Bridge Tournament
Brodict Bowling Club Rink Game
Arran Haulage Cup

Tuesday 7th May

Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary club
Streetly Dance pre school
Streetly Dancing Classes P1-S7
Youth Club
Rowan Singers
Weight Watchers
Junior Hockey Club

Loch Garbad, Boat and Bank fishing
Daily 9am-Dusk
10.30am - 4.30pm

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Brodict Ranger Centre, 10-4pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Ormidale Park, 2pm
Whiting Bay golf club, 7pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 1pm
Sandwich station, Lochranza from 12noon

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Call 601206 for details
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm
Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm
Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm
Arran High School, Lamlash 2pm
Whiting Bay Putting Green, 10.30am

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Lamlash Sheltered housing 12noon
Arran High School, 6.30pm for 6.45pm
Brodict, 6.45pm Whiting Bay rink games
North End v Shiskine, 6.30pm

Tuesday 7th May
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 3.45pm - 6pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30 - 8pm
Lamlash church hall, 7.30-9.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm

Healthy Outdoors
Cricket Practise
Scottish Country Dancing
Run Arran (intermediate)
Lawn Bowls
Quiz
CMAL public meeting
Food and craft market

Wednesday 8th May

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Coffee Morning
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Senior Badminton
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
Run Arran (Advanced)
Northend Football Training
Brodict Bowling Club Rink Game
Shiskine Tennis Club
Whiting Bay Rink Games

Thursday 9th May

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Live Country/Folk music
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Ladies Netball
Weight Watchers
Lawn Bowls
Blackwaterfoot Angling AGM
Shiskine Tennis Club

Friday 10th May

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco

Saturday 11th May

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Brodict Bowling Club Rink Game
Whiting Bay Rink Games
Spring Fair & BBQ
Brodict Farmers Market

10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15 - 12noon
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
Arran High School, 8-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Auchrannie Spa Car Park, 5.30pm
Lochranza, 7pm
Brodict, 6.45pm
Juniors 4.30-5.15 P1-P3, 5.15-6 P4-P7
Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
High School sports hall - seniors, 7.30-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Blackwaterfoot Lodge, 7.30pm
Adults 6pm onwards

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Brodict, 2pm
Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm
Corrie Primary School, 12pm-2pm
Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm

ISLE OF
ARRAN
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Public Notices

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
(C147 KILPATRICK, ISLE OF ARRAN)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

On the 24 April 2013 North Ayrshire Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle (with the exception of vehicles engaged on carriageway improvement works) on the C147 south of Kilpatrick, from Kilpatrick Farm to Corriecrievie, by reason of works proposed to be executed on or near that road. Order effective 8am on 7.5.13 and will remain in operation until 7pm on 28.6.13 or until such date when the works are completed, whichever is earlier.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Blackwaterfoot Angling AGM
Blackwaterfoot Lodge 7.30pm
Thursday 9th May
All welcome

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Bellevue Cheese Company
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We are currently seeking a Dairy Assistant to join our team at Bellevue, making the award winning Arran Camembert, Arran Blue and Brie.

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For further details contact Calum on 860555

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For full job details and information about how to apply, go to www.nts.org.uk and click on the 'Vacancies' tab. Closing date 17 May 2013. Interviews are likely to take place at Brodick in late May 2013. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

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Shift cleaner at Arran High School, up to 30 hours per week Mon – Fri

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UNDER £30

Dressform - 'Diana' adjustable dressmakers form in very good condition £30 tel: 860491

Dehumidifier £10 Tel: 600609

US Mail box brand new £25 Tel:700542

Hoover aquajet 5000 carpet cleaner vgc £20, 1 round bathroom mirror - blue frame £10 vgc, 2 framed long mirrors £10 each vgc, 5 litre bottles Nilco cabinet rinse aid for professional dishwasher £8 each Tel: 302383

Dark mahogany oval dining table 47"x30" exc con £30, New pine corner TV unit £30, Electric lawnmower £20 tel: 700424

Double mountain buggy navy storm cover, cot attachment - have baby pram or side by side with toddler, from birth £29 tel: 860738

American style whirlpool fridge freezer - spare or repair offers tel:860738

WANTED

Approx 1/2 acre arable land, for use as herbal garden must have road access tel: 07969 571313

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday, 5th May
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together.
Minister: Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited.
Sunday 5th May
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches 1015am
Sacrament of Communion in Lochranza Church
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship,
Sacrament of Communion
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 5th May
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In both churches:
Mr. Alan Sanderson
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 5th May
Sunday Morning Mass 11am
Vigil Mass 7.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 5th May
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
All who love the Lord will be most welcome at His table.
There will be the usual activities for our young people in the Church Hall.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All very welcome.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 5th May
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no. 600222.
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Services as follows
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Ernest Brown
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Communion Weekend
Saturday 4th May
Preparatory Service 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Sunday 5th May
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate
The sacrament of The Lord's Supper will be dispensed at the close of the morning service.
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Monday 6th
Thanksgiving Service 7pm
Hazelbank, Pirmill
Rev. Andrew Allen
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223 or 302779.

SALVATION ARMY

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

DEATHS

BROWN - On the 21st April 2013, suddenly, Eric William aged 72 years of Crawfordton, Moniaive, Dumfries & Galloway, formerly of Arran and Preston, Lancashire, dear brother of Raymond & Maurice and much loved eldest son of Gladys & George (deceased). Service at Roucan Loch Crematorium, Dumfries, DG1 4JF on Wednesday 8th May at 10am. All enquiries through Jardine Funeral Directors Ltd. 01387 252943 (Office hours).

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results: Wednesday 24 April. A good turnout of 26 competed for the Richard Parfitt Stableford Cup, with the top four players being split only by the countback. CSS was 37 points with a lot of players in the buffer zone. 1 David Brookens 38 pts, 2 Jamie MacPherson 38 pts, 3 Kevin Jackson 38 pts, 4 Graeme Crichton 38 pts. Jamie MacPherson won scratch with 67 and there were magic twos by Ryan Armstrong and Jamie Stewart. Sunday 28 April.

A good turnout of 22 players paired up for the Tor Alvey Greensomes Trophy. The winners were Graeme Crichton and Peter Town-drow with 58.4, 2nd Jamie Ainsworth and David Brookens with 59.4 and 3rd Corey Allan and Jamie McKechnie with 59.8. Graeme and Peter also won scratch with 68 after a count-back.

Fixtures: Sunday 5 May, AGA Spring Handicap at Whiting Bay. Wednesday 8 May, Summer Trophy.

Brodick Men's Golf

Results: Wednesday 24 April Summer Cup. 43 played CSS 66. 1 J Green (22) 61, 2 G Hendry (5) 62, 3 R Waine (15) 64 There were 11 twos, and Gordon Hendry got two.
Sunday 28 April Belhaven Medal, 24 played CSS 67 Reduction only. 1 D Hendry (12) 67 acb, 2 B Jenkins (7) 68 acb, 3 I Sillars (14) 68. There were four twos.



Shiskine Shoot Out. From left, Joe Faulkner, Alan Bannatyne and Brian Sherwood.

Fixtures: Sun 5 May AGA Spring Handicap Whiting Bay. No competition at Brodick. Sunday 12 May Brandon. Class draws at 8.30am and 12.30pm.

Brodick Ladies Golf

Club Trophy 1st Round 15 played. 1 Lesley Murray (26) 71 bih, 2 Ann Hart (24) 71 Scratch Susan Butchard 86. **Fixtures:** Tuesday 7 May, Medal and CCQ1.

Lamlash Golf Club

Results: Thursday 25 April Summer Cup - CSS 65, 1 Bill Young - 78 - 14 = 64, 2 Jim Young - 78 - 13 = 65, 3 Neil Young - 70 - 5 = 65. Best Scratch Dougie Macfarlane - 69. Sunday 28 April Drift Inn Quaich CSS 65 (37pts to Stableford). 1 Graeme Andrew 37, 2 Mark Wren 34, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 32. Best Scratch Graeme Andrew 26pts to stableford (bih over Drew Wales). No twos recorded.

Fixtures: Saturday 4 May Club Championship Qualifying Round One 8.30am & 12.30pm starts. Sunday

5 May Spring Handicap at Whiting Bay, sheet for names in locker room. Monday 6 May A.G.A. Junior Handicap at Lamlash 4pm. Thursday 8 May Summer Cup, make up own groups.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results: Tuesday 23 April Arran Grouse qualifier. 1 Willie Kelso and Brian Sherwood 68.5, 2 Hamish Bannatyne and Ron Woods 70, 3 Alastair MacDonald and David Wilkinson 70.5.

Fixtures: Saturday 4 May Hugh Steel Cup, o/60, 2pm tee off. Saturday 4 May Nine hole open for Ladies and Gents, first tee off 9.30am, last tee off 1.45pm. Tuesday 7 May Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee off 12.30pm/5.30pm. Well done to the Machrie Bay ladies Kiscadale team on finishing third with eight points.

Corrie Golf Club

Results: Wednesday 24 April Medal 12 played. Sweep 1 M Elliott 75-14=61, 2 R Burke 76-12=64, 3 J Miles 85-20=65 bih over R Logan. Best scratch A Napier 72, magic twos D Crawford and A Napier.

Saturday 27 April Grouse qualifying round and Leatherby pairs, 14 played. Sweep 1 B Rooney & J McGovern 74-11.5=62.5, 2 R Logan & P McKinnon 82-15.5=66.5. No twos recorded.

Congratulations to B Rooney and J McGovern on winning both trophies; also going forward to Grouse final at Brodick and also R Logan and P McKinnon. Monday Cup 29 April, final game. Sweep 1 S Cline 82-17=65, 2 A Crawford 82-16=66 bih over E Cannon. Best scratch S Wood 76. Congratulations to Steve Wood

on winning the Monday Cup. No twos.

Fixtures: Saturday 4 May Summer Cup 8.30am and 1pm.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Seniors Bowl first round at Corrie Golf Club on Friday 3 May at 3pm.

Draw: Machrie Bay v Whiting Bay (Corrie play winners), Brodick v Lochranza, Lamlash v Shiskine.

Guy Spiers Spring Handicap at Whiting Bay Golf Club Sunday 5 May, late entries will be accepted.

Junior Handicap at Lamlash Golf Club Monday 6 May at 4pm.

Seniors Bowl second round at Corrie Golf Club Friday 10 May at 5pm.

Junior Matchplay at Lamlash, first round by Sunday 12 May, second round by Sunday 19 May and Final on 27 May at 5pm.

Shiskine Golf Club

Shiskine Shoot Out, Saturday 27 April. This was a rearranged fixture due to the blizzard!

12 gents turned up and had good fun. Jock Kelso, Joe Faulkner and Brian Sherwood were the three that made it to the last. There was a shoot out between Joe and Brian. Brian Sherwood won the Shoot Out - congratulations to him. Shiskine captain Alan Bannatyne made the presentation. Willie Kelso and Hamish Bannatyne won nearest the pins at the 4th and 10th respectively.

Fixtures: Sunday 5 May Gents AGA Spring Handicap at Whiting Bay, Thursday 9 May. Ladies Club Championship Qualifying tee off 1pm and 5.30pm.

WEDDING



Congratulations and best wishes to Mr & Mrs Hansell who tied the knot at The Big Wooden House on April 27th.

It pays to advertise in the ARRAN BANNER

Ronan and James win exhibition match at Brodick

Ronan Rafferty took part in an exhibition match at Brodick Golf Club last Saturday.

The former Ryder Cup player partnered new Brodick pro James Browning in a four ball/better ball match against Dutch Open Champion Stephen McAlister and Stewart Smith, owner of the Brodick golf shop.

Club captain Nicol Hume introduced the golfers to the crowd before the players teed off at 9.30am.

He said: 'I want to thank Stewart for organising this match in to celebrate the centenary of the course.'

'We moved down here from The Mayish 100 years ago, but not many of you here will remember that! You will all know Ronan Rafferty, seven times European Tour player, and Stephen has represented Scotland in the Dunhill Cup.'

'Our new pro James, the Invercloy boy, is doing excellent work, especially with the youngsters. And Stewart is doing some fantastic deals in the shop.'

Ronan and James won by four and two in a match that was followed by a large crowd in glorious sunny conditions.



The four golfers in the exhibition match: from left, Stewart Smith, Stephen McAlister, Ronan Rafferty and James Browning.



Stephen McAlister putting on the 18th.

A hat trick of Kiscadale victories for Whiting Bay lady golfers

The Kiscadale Salver has been won by the ladies of Whiting Bay for the third consecutive year.

The format is teams of four ladies, and last Saturday's final at Brodick saw four games played starting with Shiskine

v Brodick and Whiting Bay v Lamlash.

After the fourth set of games it was clear that the Kiscadale Salver could only be won by either Lamlash or Whiting Bay. Although Whiting Bay had a slight advantage of be-

ing two points ahead of Lamlash going on to the first tee.

It was a tremendous match with Whiting Bay going one up early in the game. Lamlash however fought back to go three up and remained that way for a good few holes going back to all square at the 14th.

With the other Whiting Bay match five holes down and playing behind, it was vital that Whiting Bay won one of the games to take the outright lead.

The atmosphere was tense as the spectators gathered to watch them battle it out over the last few remaining holes.

Susan Butchard's drive at the 15th put the ball on the beach with Lynn Walker having to take the shot out of the hazard.

Unbelievably, with a shot most pros would have been proud of, she put it on the

green, two feet from the pin for a tidy three to win the hole, taking them one up with three to play.

The 16th was won by Whiting Bay, but Lamlash fought to take it back at the 17th to just one down. The match was finally won on the 18th taking Whiting Bay two up to win the Kiscadale for the third year in a row.

The final results were, 1st: Whiting Bay (12 pts), 2nd Lamlash (10 pts), 3rd Machrie, (8 pts), 4th Brodick (6 pts), 5th Shiskine (4 pts).

Thanks go to Brodick for hosting the fixture and to all the green staff who kept the course in great condition

Thank you to all the caddies, referees and the two Trish's and Dougie. Finally, thank you to all the players for contributing to what was another great Kiscadale competition.



Whiting Bay - winners of the Kiscadale Salver for the third year in a row last Saturday. From left: Susan Butchard, (island champion), Lesley Wood, Lynn walker and Rachel Wren.



All five teams pose on the bridge at Brodick Golf Club.



The winning Whiting Bay team, back, with front, from left, Viv Parks, (Flockhart Trophy), Mary Jo Tod (Drumadoon Tray), Sheila Gray (Cir Mhor).

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Arran win thriller at Uddingston



The victorious Arran team at Uddingston. b18rug01

Uddingston 26 Arran 41

On a beautiful, sunny day, and on a pitch that was on the hard side, Arran won one of the best matches seen this or any other season.

With both teams determined to run the ball at every opportunity and as Arran were able to welcome back Lachie Jones and Jamie Murchie we were blessed with the strongest back division we possessed.

With these two plus Jack Barbour, Robbie Bayne and Ben Tattersfield, our riches were such that Murray Picken became

a wing forward for the day and Jack, surely one of the best centres in our division, played on the wing.

But to the game - Arran completely dominated the first half and Robbie Bayne ran in the opening try down the left, converted by Lachie, 7-0.

Lachie then dropped a superb goal from 35 yards and captain Niall McMaster had a typical blockbusting run to score out on the right.

The second half was played at breathtaking speed with both sides scoring 26 points. Arran's tries came from Jamie

Picken with a standard number 8 pick and drive, Jamie Murchie who profited from a defensive fumble, Ben Tattersfield from Niall's off load and Lachie Jones who also kicked three more conversions to take his personal tally for the game to 16 points.

The captain confessed after the final whistle that he felt that had there been one more scrum he doubted whether he would have reached it! Great stuff for the spectators and the mouth watering prospect of a game with Lanark, at home on Saturday. Man of the match was Jamie Picken.

Summer Bridge

Results for the Summer Bridge on 29 April:

North/South 1 Trish Martin and Alison Bilsland, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 Jan Beattie and Jean Barclay.

East/West 1 Elizabeth McKellar and Jennifer McArthur, 2 Helen Boyd and Jean Murchie, 3 John and Mary Dick



Finlay caddies for Ronan Rafferty

Former Ryder Cup player Ronan Rafferty took part in an exhibition golf match at Brodick last Saturday. Here he is pictured with his caddy for the day, young Finlay Sillars, assistant greenkeeper at Machrie Bay Golf Club. Match report on page 23. 02_b18ron04

Summer Football fixtures announced

The Arran Football League is gearing up for the start of the 2013 season and the league fixtures have been announced.

Last week The Banner printed the dates of the first four league games.

The rest of the games are as follows.

- Monday 17 June: Southend v Brodick, Lamlash v Northend.
- Monday 24 June: Brodick v Northend, Lamlash v Shiskine.
- Monday 1 July: Southend v Lamlash, Northend v Shiskine.
- Monday 8 July: Lamlash v Brodick, Shiskine v Southend.
- Monday 15 July: Shiskine v Brodick, Southend v Northend.
- Monday 22 July: Brodick v Southend, Northend v Lamlash.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.