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# Householders urged to be on their guard

## Warning after gang try to steal £13,000 from elderly couple

A man has been praised after he prevented his elderly neighbours from being fleeced out of £13,000.

Only the quick thinking actions of Billy Richardson led to the rouge traders being caught before they completed their scam.

And now other householders are being urged to be on their guard as fears grow that cheaper ferry fares are leading to more cold callers trying their luck on the island.

Billy, who lives in Murray Crescent, Lamlash, had just returned home last week when he became suspicious of three men working on a neighbour's roof with a power washer.

The 51-year-old joiner said: 'I know enough about the building trade to know that you are not supposed to power-wash tiles.'

As a result he called in to see the elderly couple, who did not wish to be identified. The woman told him the workmen had told her that

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

she had moss which required to be removed and they could clean it off and put a special coating on the roof and walls to stop it returning.

Billy said: 'The surreal bit of the story is that I asked the woman how much it was going to cost and she said 13 which, she said, was a reduction from the normal 16 because they were on the island. I thought she meant £1,300, which I reckoned wasn't too bad if the work really needed done.'

'But she meant £13,000 and the gang had already said they would take her to the bank.'

As a result Billy went outside and challenged the workmen before phoning the police.

He said: 'I cannot praise the police on the island highly enough for the way they handled the matter. Since no money had been exchanged

they said a crime had not been committed, but I understand they escorted the workmen and the van to the ferry and told them not to come back.'

'I think people on the island are good at watching out for each other and I would just urge people not to stand back but to intervene or at least call the police if they think they see anything suspicious.'

Another neighbour said: 'It doesn't bear thinking about what would have happened if Billy hadn't intervened.'

One of the officers involved in the incident said the cold callers had been 'robustly dealt with'.

He said police on the island were aware of new liveried vans, which look legitimate, coming to the island and added: 'People just need to be a bit more vigilant.'

Chief Inspector Tim Ross, from Irvine police office, added: 'Callers come to your door for a variety of reasons, most are likely to be genuine,



**Billy Richardson who helped foil the scam. 20\_b18scam01**

however, it's important to remember, door step crime occurs throughout Scotland and that the perpetrators of this type of crime attend at your door with the sole purpose of

stealing from you. 'If you are suspicious about anyone who attends at your door contact the police on 101. If you feel threatened then contact us on 999.'

## Arran in aid plea for Nepal

An Arran woman has made a plea for islanders to give what they can to a Nepal Earthquake Disaster Fund she has set up.

Following the tragic events which have unfolded in Khatmandu and across the country Zabdi Keen has established the help fund.

She said: 'We go to Nepal every year paragliding and we want to help our friends who are transporting supplies and tents to the Gorkha region in Pokhara. If you can help please donate via my website [www.flyingfever.net](http://www.flyingfever.net) or if you can do some fund-raising then you can transfer the amount to Nepal direct.'

**Remote regions**  
Aid is now reaching remote regions near the epicentre of Saturday's devastating earthquake in Nepal. As relief efforts continue in the Kathmandu Valley, the UN says the response is broadening to include areas such as Gorkha and Dhading. The 7.8-magnitude quake killed more than 5,000 people. Many survivors are in desperate need of food and water.

She has already received messages from friends in the country asking for help including Rishi Acharya. She told Zabdi: 'I have visited Gandaki Regional Hospital Pokhara, to help and support Gorkha's earthquake victim

**Continued on Page 2**



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## A fiddler's fling for everyone

Everyone is invited to a Fiddlers' Fling being held in Whiting Bay Hall tonight (Saturday).

The concert will feature 15-year-old Bethany Walsh from Whiting Bay, who has been a member of the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra for the past two years and has found it a really exciting group to be playing in.

She has learnt an extensive repertoire of tunes and enjoys the challenge of playing some of them at incredibly high speed. There will also be some enjoyable performance tricks which include the cellists standing up and spinning their cellos on the spot.

Bethany has also just got into the Junior Conservatoire on traditional fiddle and she says that the orchestra has definitely helped to strengthen her playing and performance skills.

There will also be a turn by The Arran Fiddle Club which comprises several young aspiring players on the island ranging in age from 6-15 years, tutored weekly by Glasgow fiddle teacher, Lynsey Tait.

Every two years it goes on international tour and this year it is heading off on its most ambitious tour to date, to South Africa in July for a 15-day concert tour. For this a fundraising raffle will be held during the concert.

Tickets cost £5 are available from the Brodick Tourist Office and Arran Active.

# Holding out a helping hand for Nepal

Continued from page 1  
such as medicine, food and tents for immediate help. I am heading to Gorkha within a few days as soon as possible.

'As many as 90 per cent of houses in some villages of Gorkha's have been destroyed in an area that is home to 288,000 people. Many died and thousands are injured. It's my country and my people are in trouble, so I decided to do my best. For this I have started fund raising work.'

'All funds collected will be properly utilised and will be spent to buy necessary stuffs

such as medicine, food and tents for immediate help. I am heading to Gorkha within a few days as soon as possible.

'So, I would like to request all of you good-hearted people all around the world to please help during this disaster in our country Nepal.'

'We are safe so that we can save hundreds of others' lives. If we don't do something now, then when? We did lots of praying, now it is time for action.'

Zabdi added: 'We'd be extremely grateful for any help.'



An injured child at a hospital in Gorkha.



A friend of Zabdi's with an aid truck packed up and ready to go in Nepal.

## Pharmacies open on May Day

With GP practices closing for the May Day bank holiday on Monday, Arran residents are being urged to prepare to cope with any common health concerns.

Community pharmacists can answer questions on choosing and using the right medicine and provide easy-to-understand advice on treating every day ailments such as coughs, colds and flu.

NHS 24 also has a number of community pharmacists who are able to answer medicine and pharmacy-related questions over the telephone on freephone 111.

People can also do a number of things to ensure they are prepared to deal with common illnesses for the coming months. Have a sufficient supply of medicines like paracetamol, sore throat and cough remedies, as these will help to relieve the symptoms of common ailments.

Arran pharmacies will be open on Monday with limited hours. Arran Pharmacy in Brodick will be open from 9am to 4pm. Arran (Lamlash) Pharmacy will also be open from 9am to 4pm while the Arran Pharmacy in Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran will be open from 11am to 2pm, with the pharmacist available between 1pm and 2pm.

If anyone needs a doctor urgently and their GP's surgery is closed, call NHS 24 on 111.

For emergency dental treatment, call NHS 24 on 111.

Meanwhile, James Clark, who recently launched the Balmichael Family Fun Park, is on his way to Nepal. He is the founder of the Boots on the Ground charity and has previously worked with children in Haiti and during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina which hit the American deep south in 2005 along with other humanitarian aid work.

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## First annual awards night

Local youth group Arran Youth Foundations will host a screening of the latest round of short movies made by its film-making club.

The screening, which will take place at St Bride's church hall on Friday 15 May, will also see the youth club host its first annual awards night.

Youth work project manager Graeme Johnston said: 'This will be the third film screening we've hosted over the last few years and the local community has always come out in numbers to support them.'

'There will be loads of great clips on show - a short they made called 'I Love Arran because...', highlights from the previous year's activities, and the big premiere of the night, the film they recently finished for Arran Medical Group.'

'We'll also be giving out awards for things like best attendance, hardest worker, and AYF Ambassador, to recognise all the tremendous work the young folk have completed in the last year.'

The evening will start at 7pm and should last for around an hour or so. Entry is free, though donations would be greatly appreciated.

## Camera tripod found

A couple found a camera tripod below North Goatfell on Monday 20 April. If anyone believes it belongs to them, it is in lost property at Lamlash Police Station.

# Kate has the warmest welcome in Scotland

Receptionist of the year Kate Russell this week spoke about what it's like to be recognised as having the warmest welcome in Scotland.

As reported in last week's Banner, Kate, who is the front of house manager at The Douglas Hotel in Brodick, recently picked up the award at the prestigious Scottish Hotel Awards in Glasgow.

Back on Arran Kate, who has been involved in the hospitality industry most of her working life, said: 'It was an honour to be recognised for having the warmest welcome in Scotland and to get a kiss from Fred MacAulay.'

'We are a small team here at The Douglas and pride ourselves on our Scottish hospitality and giving everyone that walks through the door a friendly welcome and ensuring our guests get the most from their island experience by promoting all the other fantastic shops, cafes and tourist attractions we are lucky enough to have on Arran.'

### Grown up

Having grown up on Arran, attending Whiting Bay Primary and Arran High School, Kate returned after college to work at The Whiting Bay Hotel as head receptionist for Ronnie Mann.

After the hotel was sold on as a nursing home in 1987, which became Cooriedoon,

where her mum now stays, it led to both of them being involved with the creation of the Auchrannie with Iain and Linda Johnston.

Kate said: 'I spent 21 very happy years being part of the management team there.'

It was there I also met my husband, Gregg, who is now head chef at The Douglas.

### Adventure

'After getting married and spending a couple of years working for my brother Jonathan Hill at Bilslands, Gregg and I joined Sean and Elaine at the Douglas Hotel and it's been an adventure ever since.'

'There are exciting times ahead with the hotel fast gaining recognition as a stylish boutique hotel and other expansion plans.'

'We are also very proud that we were regional winners for style hotel and island bar of the year categories at the awards,' she added.

Marketing manager Elaine Campbell said: 'One of our main comments we get here in The Douglas is about how lovely our staff are, and for Kate to get this excellent recognition has made us all so proud. Kate's lovely personality shines through and she engages so well with everyone, so it's no surprise really - we are just delighted to have her as part of our team.'

\*See the Auchrannie's new look rooms on page 9.



Receptionist of the year - Kate Russell. 20\_b18kate01

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# At the hustings . . . At the hustings . . . At the hustings . . .

The is the final Banner before the country goes to the polls at the general election on 7 May. This week we gave the candidates standing in the North Ayrshire and Arran seat the chance to have their final say to voters. Here are the responses we received.



## SNP candidate Patricia Gibson

If privileged to be elected, first and foremost I will be a conscientious, hard-working constituency MP, serving the people and communities of North Ayrshire and Arran.

Arran needs an MP who is visible, present and understands the concerns of island constituents.

The SNP has demonstrated its commitment to Arran since coming to power at Holyrood.

The SNP ensured Corrie Primary School - no doubt with other island schools to follow - was not closed by the then Labour-run North

Ayrshire Council; £15.5 million invested in affordable homes such as St Molios in Lamdash and Red Quarry Road in Corrie; a new £5.7 million state of the art Montrose House and £100 million invested over the next eight years in ferry services. The £2 million annual investment in RET, making journeys to Arran more affordable, will inject £16 million more each year into the Arran economy, helping create and sustain employment whilst ensuring businesses thrive.

The new £18 million Brodick Harbour and linkspan and £60 million-plus for new vessels to replace the Caledonian Isles and Isle of Arran will provide enhanced facilities, reduce the likelihood of weather disrupted sailings and enable an all-year-round two ferry service by 2018.

Across Scotland the choice is between austerity offered by Labour and the Tories - who on 13 January voted to-

gether at Westminster to impose £30 billion of additional cuts across the UK - and the SNP's challenging of that agenda.

Increasing spending by a modest 0.5 per cent annually will inject £180 billion into the economy over five years for investment in capital infrastructure, public services and sustainable employment.

In every other country, deficits have fallen through economic growth. We should cut the UK deficit the same way.

Shockingly, the UK parties plan to squander £100 billion on replacing Trident, whilst there are families in this constituency struggling to put food on the table.

Westminster politics has become stale, tired and remote. It is time for change. The SNP will provide it and be stronger for Scotland.



## Scottish Labour candidate Katy Clark

It has been a huge privilege to serve as the Member of Parliament for Arran. I have very much enjoyed working alongside the community on a wide range of issues, in

particular successfully lobbying the Government to include the island in their island fuel duty discount scheme and with COAST on marine protection.

If re-elected I look forward to continuing to work with Arran residents on the current challenges facing the island such as high fuel prices which I have called on the Competition and Markets Authority to investigate and the threat of privatisation of the CalMac ferry services caused by the Scottish Government's unnecessary tendering process.

The choice at this election is between a Conservative government committed to further cuts and austerity or a Labour government that will deliver investment, jobs and improve living standards.

Under the Tories we have seen taxes cut for millionaires while ordinary people have had the biggest fall in wages on record. Labour is committed to measures such as restoring the 50p tax rate, establishing a mansion tax for homes over £2 million and reintroducing the bank bonus tax.

The money raised will be invested into our NHS paying for 1,000 new nurses across Scotland and job creation programmes providing guaranteed work for young people and the long term unemployed. We have a radical

plan to create a million green jobs.

For those in work Labour will ensure that jobs are more secure and well paid. The next Labour government will increase the minimum wage, provide tax breaks for companies that pay the living wage and start to tackle the cost of living crisis. Employment tribunal fees will be abolished, paternity leave doubled, exploitative zero hours contracts banned and it will be made illegal for agency workers to be used to undercut the wages of permanent employees.

I therefore ask you to support me for my record, my work as a constituency MP and the many campaigns and issues I have pursued. I am a strong and independent voice and I hope Arran feels able to support me.



## Scottish Conservative candidate Jamie Greene

In just a few days, you will be going to the polls to choose the person you think will best represent the people of Arran in Westminster. I would like to clearly spell out my promises to you so you can make your own mind up. I pledge:

\*To increase employment in North Ayrshire and Arran, over and above the 2,800 people we have put back into work in this area since 2010.

\*To continue cutting tax for the lowest earners, over and above the 4,000 people we have taken out of tax completely in this area since 2010.

\*To continue to help people back into work, over and above the 34 per cent reduction in Job Seekers' Allowance claimants in this area.

\*To support tax breaks for small businesses that pay their staff the living wage and a continued pledge to increase the minimum wage above inflation.

\*To increase the State Pension and protect pensioner benefits, over and above the increases already delivered these past five years.

\*To continue to fight for a reliable, economical and resilient ferry service between the mainland and Arran. I will not let party politics or ideology get in the way of this.

\*To ensure you get a fair deal on petrol prices. It is shameful that you pay more than the national average and on this issue, I will not let you down the way your current MSP and MP have.

\*To never let the SNP use the United Kingdom's shared Armed Forces or our national defence as a political pawn to put this country at risk.

And here is my biggest and most important promise to you:

I will never do a deal with the SNP in Westminster which could result in the break-up of the United Kingdom. Can Labour honestly say the same?

If you agree with me, then please vote for me.

**Note: Two other candidates are contesting the seat. Ruby Kirkwood, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Sharon McGonigal of the UK Independence Party.**

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# Forestry presses ahead with Machrie plans

## ...but it's not a 'done deal'

The Forestry Commission made it clear this week that it is pressing ahead with its plans to build a timber transfer station at Machrie.

However, at a meeting in Brodick, representatives insisted the proposal was not a 'done deal' and were to set up a community working group to take the plans forward.

The Forestry Commission had been invited to speak to the Arran Community Council on Tuesday night to discuss its timber extraction proposals for Arran. A number of Machrie residents also turned up to hear what had to be said.

### Long term aim

Dumfries-based assistant operations manager Jim Lauder told the meeting that it was the commission's long term aim was to have three timber transfer stations on the island at Brodick, Machrie

and a site in the south east, as previously reported in The Banner.

He said options on the west coast for a site were 'extremely limited' but they had now leased the site north of Machrie which, he said, was their only viable option at the moment for the transfer station.

### Food for thought

Mr Lauder said that earlier discussions with residents in Machrie had given them 'a lot of food for thought'.

He said they would try to keep disruption at the Machrie site minimal, but admitted they had a lot of material to move if the proposal goes ahead.

He said North Ayrshire Council didn't envisage the need for traffic lights on the main A841 road, which the timber trucks would have to cross, and is a concern for

residents. But he insisted the facility did not have right of way and loaders crossing would have to wait until the road was clear.

### Other routes

Shiskine representative Neil Arthur asked the commission team, which also included Arran head forester Andy Walker, what other routes had been considered for the transfer of timber.

Mr Lauder said other options had been considered but they were very 'few and far between'.

He said the Machrie transfer station would save 186,000 miles of road transport of private and public sector wood over a 10-year period.

But Mr Arthur said: 'I can see how it is a convenience for the Forestry Commission but I am concerned there are declared based interests in



The council and members of the public listen to Jim Lauder outline the forestry plans. 20\_b18machrie01

all of this. The commission has breached all of its own protocols over public consultation.'

He asked if the commission had considered bringing the timber across the String and turning left, siting a transfer station on the shore north of Brodick and thereby cutting the sea miles.

Mr Lauder said that for the moment it was concentrating on the Machrie option.

He said: 'We have a lease for preliminary works but it is not binding for any length of time. If planning permission or a marine licence is not granted it cannot go ahead.'

'It is not a done deal by any manner of means.'

At the end of the discussion it was agreed to set up a community working group which would comprise members of the community council, members of the local residents' action group, the Forestry Commission and other interested parties. Their remit will be agreed once the group has been formed.

## Green wood workshop

Roots of Arran are holding a green woodworking workshop today (Saturday) and tomorrow.

Although most of the spaces are already booked the public is welcome to drop by and see the experienced green woodworkers helping them construct a pole lathe and saw horse for the community woodland group.

The course is being provided by Bob Fleet from Wooplaw Community Woodlands and Tim Stobart from Bute Community Land Company from 10am to 4pm outside the Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamlash.

A pole lathe is a traditional tool dating back to the Vikings for making chair legs and other spindly items such as rakes and rolling pins.

### Desired shape

The shaving horse is a device used to grip a length of wood (a branch, round or square piece of wood) very tightly which frees up a person's hands to use a draw knife for shaving the wood into the desired shape.

It is also provides a comfortable seat where people's legs push on a treadle which keeps the vice grip going.

Anyone still interested can phone 700508 to see if a

space is available, or go and watch progress for a donation. Take a packed lunch and

wear clothing suitable for the weather, all wood and tools provided.



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## Koffee for Kalimpong

The Friends of Dr Graham's Homes are holding a 'Koffee for Kalimpong' morning at Corrie Village Hall on Saturday, 9 May from 10.30am until 12 noon.

As usual there will be delicious home baking, bric a brac and hopefully some plants for sale. Not to be missed is the fabulous raffle, stimulating company and interesting chat.

One of the organisers said: 'Please come along and support the Children of Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, we would love to see you there.'

## Council reaches awards finals

North Ayrshire Council has been named as a finalist in three different categories at the national MJ local government achievement awards 2015.

The council has been named as a finalist in the best senior management team, best council services team (facilities management), and innovation in channel shift (customer services) categories.

The shortlisted finalists will now be asked to give a presentation prior to the winners being announced at an awards ceremony in London on 18 June.



Primary two pupils at Lamlash were the youngest to enjoy the forest school.

# School is out for Lamlash youngsters

Children from Lamlash Primary School had a day out of the classroom last week.

They had their lessons in the nearby Whitehouse Woods at a forest school run by Roots of Arran.

Children from as young as six took part and they entered into all the activities with great enthusiasm, and benefited from learning how to

handle tools, light fires etc in a safe manner.

They also enjoyed learning about the various plants and trees, how to recognize them, and what their uses are.

There are now three qualified Forest School Leaders on Arran and courses are available throughout the year for visiting groups in term-time.



Three youngsters enjoy their packed lunch outdoors. 20\_b18forest02

## Young photographers urged to get out and capture Arran's flora and fauna

Calling all budding young photographers. A new competition has been launched to celebrate Arran's flora and fauna.

The Audrey Walters Memorial Photographic Competition has been set up by the Arran Natural History Society to celebrate the life of Audrey, who died aged 78 in August last year.

Audrey had a lifelong passion for birds and was the bird recorder for the society from 1992 to 2005. Audrey collated all the Arran bird sightings, organised surveys, contributed regularly to the nature notes in the Arran Banner and each year produced the annual bird report.

In memory of Audrey, who was passionate about Arran's natural history, it is hoped the photography competition will be held annually to promote the interest young people have in their local environment and wildlife.

There are two age categories: under 12 years and under 18 years at the closing date of competition.

Entrants can submit up to three images of any Arran flora or fauna, taken on the island between 1 December 2014 and 30 November 2015, which is the closing date.

A small panel from ANHS will judge the images and select the winners and runners

up. The voucher prizes will be exchangeable with selected Arran businesses that fit with the ethos of the ANHS.

These will be listed on the website nearer the time.

First prize in both age groups will be a £50 voucher plus a mounted print. Second prize will be a £25 voucher plus a mounted print.

Highly commended entries will receive a mounted print.

One image of a bird, will also be selected to appear in the annual bird report and the entrant of this image will receive a copy of the annual bird report.

Full rules and submission guidelines can be found on the ANHS website which has been updated to detail the competition. There is a dedicated email address for competition entries and the results will be published by 31 January 2016.



The competition is in memory of Audrey Walters.

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# Arran pupils share North Ayrshire schools band success

North Ayrshire Schools Concert Band has hit the right notes yet again as the only Scottish band to win a coveted Platinum title at this year's National Concert Band Festival (NCBF).

Competing in the Youth Wind Band category, the band won the prestigious Platinum Award after showcasing a 20-minute performance to renowned adjudicators in Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music recently.

The NCBF is the UK's largest woodwind and big band festival, bringing bands from across the UK together to compete for the coveted titles.

The competition, which is in its 30th year, is only open to bands which have won a platinum award at the regional heats. North Ayrshire's success comes after picking up the top title at the Scottish heats in November last year – the only local authority school band in Scotland to do so.

North Ayrshire Schools Concert Band is made up of 38 pupils from local secondary schools - including four from Arran High School.

They are: Innis Thorborn and Lucy Walsh, S2, Alison Provan, S3 and Fraser Blain, S6.

Their Platinum Award comes as a result of an extensive rehearsal schedule with Matthew Chinn from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the council's music services team and the combined effort of all the band members' dedication and commitment to their music.

North Ayrshire Council's music service co-ordinator, Mae Murray, said: 'I couldn't be prouder of this amazing group of young musicians.'

'The amount of work they have put in to prepare for the national competitions has been absolutely phenomenal. Their performance yesterday reduced me to tears, it was flawless and the Platinum Award is so well deserved. I would like to thank Matthew Chinn and all the music service staff for their support and encouragement and a special thank you to all the pupils who have worked so hard.'

Musical director Matthew Chinn said: 'I always very much welcome the opportunity to work with the aspiring young musicians from across North Ayrshire. Following the band's success of receiving a Platinum Award in November 2014 at the National Concert Band Festival in Edinburgh, the band has been working



The awards winning North Ayrshire Schools Concert Band.

extremely hard at preparing a new exciting programme to perform at the NCBF finals.

'The band has been on a tremendous journey over the past 10 months, working on the eclectic mix of challenging repertoire which the young musicians from North Ayrshire performed with extreme confidence, enthusiasm and maturity at the concert.'

'There is no better example of school peer synergy than

when you are given the opportunity to work with and conduct 38 aspiring young musicians, all working as a team to produce the finest of performances, and as a result

receiving a Platinum Award at the finals. The award is testament to the hard work and determination of every one of the young musicians, the support they receive from parents

and to the ongoing fantastic work and commitment of the North Ayrshire instrumental music service, led by Mae Murray and its professional instrumental music staff.'



This school photograph is thought to have been taken in the late '60s.

## Shiskine school memories sought to celebrate 150th anniversary

In 1865 Shiskine Primary School opened its doors to boys from Shiskine Valley and its environs. Consequently this year it is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

Staff and pupils would welcome any memorabilia that people may have regarding the school.

They would copy or photograph any photos or artefacts that would be included in a

memory box which will be on display at a garden party to be held on Saturday 6 June, from 1pm till 4pm, to which all who have ever had any connection with the school are invited.

The school can be contacted by telephone, (01770) 860207, email: shiskine@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk or by post Shiskine Primary School, Shiskine, Isle of Arran, KA27 8EP.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Help stamp out cold calling

Arran has in recent times been seen as a soft target for cold calling and rouge traders because of the ageing population.

So the recent incident in Lamlash should be of concern to everyone.

Traditionally, the number of incidents of doorstep crime increases at this time of year and people are now rightly being urged to be wary of any uninvited visitors.

What is also worrying is the fear that cheaper RET ferry fares may encourage more of this nefarious activity which targets the elderly and the vulnerable in society.

The actions of Lamlash joiner Billy Richardson are to be commended, but others may be tempted to turn a blind eye, although he is confident neighbours on Arran look out for each other.

Often rogue traders who arrive at your door unannounced will attempt to use high pressure tactics to get people to sign up for a service or buy their goods.

This includes traders who claim that your home or garden is in need of urgent repair work, those who charge unreasonable prices or increase the price as the work is undertaken, or those who take your deposit and don't return.

Residents should never feel forced into letting someone into their home and should always ask any cold caller to produce a valid identification card.

In addition, nobody should ever sign any paperwork without a witness present.

Police on the island say many of the rogue traders come to the island in new liveried vans which look really legitimate. But often an 0800 number on the side is a giveaway.

They say the public on Arran just need to be a bit more vigilant and have their wits about them if anyone comes to the door.

Anyone with any concerns should speak to a relative or neighbour, contact the police or the North Ayrshire Trading Standards team.

And let's send out a strong warning that there is no cold calling on Arran.

### 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 endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## 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



## Online roadshow

Sir,  
Further to your article last week about the benefits of being online I would like to agree with the Banner in suggesting that Michelle McManus, Keith Brown and the Let's Get On team are putting the cart before the horse with their campaign. They need to become aware of the true reason why so few people on Arran take full benefit of the internet.

For the above team being on the internet is a constant, whether at home or on the move. The luckiest Arran residents are blessed with speeds of up to 8mbps at home while the rest of us struggle along with up to 0.5mbps (and always remember that 'up to' can include zero). Even the best speeds given here for Arran would be considered appalling by those who have dreamt up the Let's Get It On campaign.

Not only are we on Arran disadvantaged by not being able to shop, or stay in touch with family. Businesses suffer because they cannot take card payments or online bookings, research the most economical suppliers online, or submit their tax returns.

Even the background music in shops and hotels is streamed in the mainland: not so here. As if that weren't enough, our health services are also having to be reconfigured to take account of poor connectivity island-wide.

The situation is far worse when you look at mobile access to the internet. Large swathes of the islands have almost no mobile coverage, and nowhere is there the 4G signal which underpins mobile internet access.

3G is virtually non-existent, with 2G being the best mobile signal achieved on Arran, and that only at a very limited number of sites. This makes the work of the ambulance service more difficult as they grapple with communications issues, and limits the support that first responders can provide as they cannot be reached by dispatch when needed.

Many Arran residents will have stopped reading this letter by now as all of these connectivity concepts are so far from our own 'online experience'. This is the issue which needs to be addressed urgently as Arran gets further and further behind, not through an unwillingness to engage with the internet but because it is inaccessible to us, and getting further away with every technological advance.

Provide us with internet access. Then sing to us of its benefits. Please.

If anyone connected with Arran wishes to be part of the ConnectArran liaison group, please contact me or join the group on Facebook (ironic, I know).

Yours  
Samantha Payn  
Harefield  
Shannochie

## Historical mystery

Sir,  
Could any of your readers solve a historical mystery I am investigating?

It is commonly believed that the Millhouse in Pirnmill dates from about 1740, and that it was built to make pirns (bobbin) for Clark's thread mill in Paisley.

Various local history books state that the mill started operations in 1780, and finished in 1840 when the local supply of wood ran out.

However, I have discovered that this cannot be correct. Clark's thread mill did not open until 1812. Moreover, I can find no contemporary, first-hand evidence for the mill's existence.

I have studied the detailed maps of the Hamilton Estates produced by Beauchop in 1812, but although every structure in every clachan appears to be included, there is absolutely no sign of the mill. Nor is it mentioned in the report of 1834 produced by the factor, John Paterson.

The earliest reference I can find to the mill is in the Name Book (1855-64) produced by the Ordnance Survey.

The mysteries I would love to solve are:

\* When, and by whom was

the mill actually built?

\* How did the owner(s) get permission from the Duke of Hamilton to cut down trees (which the duke's trustees appeared determined to protect and extend)?

\* When did the mill really start making pirns?

\* Where is the contemporary evidence it even existed?

Yours,  
Alison Kilpatrick  
Upper Millhouse  
Pirnmill

## Deeply refreshed

Sir,  
I was encouraged to see that the main item this morning (Wednesday 22 April) on the BBC website home page was a feature with the headline Arran, Skye, Lewis and Harris among 'best UK islands'.

The list was compiled from Tripadvisor reviews and Arran was placed fourth before any other Scottish islands after Jersey, Isle of Wight and St Mary in the Scilly Isles. I believe this is a significant recognition of the uniqueness of Arran.

I know some residents on Arran are not so keen on the increase in tourism but I for one am delighted to share the great beauties and fascinations of Arran with visitors.

We had a friend staying with us this last weekend from the Caribbean island of Martinique which is exotic enough, but she found her brief stay on Arran to be full of good things.

She came here after going through a very rough patch and went away feeling deeply refreshed and healed.

Arran has room enough to be a blessing to thousands - let's be generous, let's be welcoming!

Yours,  
David Pott  
Lochranza

## High standards

Sir,  
We'd like to publicly thank Auchrannie Resort for inviting us to 'evaluate' its new accommodation last Friday evening. The new extension to Auchrannie Spa offers extremely high standards of accommodation particularly for

families visiting the island. We were both in awe of the décor, attention to detail and atmosphere the Auchrannie team has created. We know this has only been achieved through extremely hard work from both management and staff and we wish you every success.

Yours,  
Jane Boyle and  
Eileen Griffin  
Brodick

## Animal home

Sir,  
Further to your editorial about the wonderful 'Give a Dog a Bone... and an animal a home' charity, can I also add that if anyone is interested in finding out more about the charity, or need financial support to adopt a rescue animal, please call Louise on 07969 742 858.

Yours,  
Janis Heaney  
GADAB Volunteer

## Successful fair

Sir,  
Pirnmill Primary School and Early Years Class held a very happy and successful school fair on Saturday 25 April.

I would like to thank the children who manned their stalls without a complaint, the parents who gave both their time and donations of soup, sandwiches, home baking, bric a brac etc and the staff who gave up their Saturday without too much complaining. I'd also like to thank Pirnmill Hall for providing us with the additional equipment we required.

A sincere thank you to the businesses that donated fabulous raffle prizes and support us every year. The total amount we raised was £929.82. We only have 10 families attending the school so we rely on community support and you certainly haven't let us down.

Yours,  
Susan Kelly  
Head Teacher

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# New rooms with a new look at award-winning Auchrannie

Arran's award winning Auchrannie Resort has unveiled its new rooms and suites.

The 20 new rooms are available to book from today (Friday).

But at a soft-opening last weekend friends of the hotel and their families were invited to try out the new facilities.

It came just days after the Auchrannie was named Scotland's top hotel in the Scottish Hotel Awards, as reported in last week's Banner, which now has pride of place at the resort reception desk.

Auchrannie was also named Scotland's best independent hotel at the Scottish Entertainment and Hospitality Awards.

The new building offers guests additional choice and improved services and brings the resort room stock to 85 bedrooms and 30 luxury lodges.

The 18 new executive rooms and two suites are quite different in style from others at Auchrannie; offering opulent, contemporary interiors with an atmospheric feel and a quirky connection to the natural environment.

Executive rooms are an impressive 34sq m and come equipped with facilities to appeal to families, couples and

individual travellers. Guests can look forward to large picture windows, bespoke wall coverings, ambient lighting and sumptuous furnishings throughout.

In a move ideal for families, each of the new rooms also has a separate bunk room - complete with a TV at each bunk - creating enhanced levels of privacy and comfort for families.

Both the main room and the bunk room have built-in plugs for electronic devices including consoles, cameras and DVD players.

### Luxury

Rooms are finished with luxury bathrooms, spacious enough for a separate shower and bath.

The two 51sq m luxury, top-floor suites contain all the features of the executive rooms but will be further enhanced with a separate lounge, unique chill-out pod and private balcony.

As well as stunning finishes to all bedrooms, each of the three floors will have a guest lounge leading to an external balcony, the upper floor also featuring an outdoor hot tub enjoying fabulous views of Glen Cloy.

Designed to make life easier for those travelling with small children, a family resource centre with laundry facilities,

microwave and ice machine will also be sited on each floor.

General manager Richard Small said: 'Adding this new style of accommodation is a result of listening to guest feedback. We hope that the look, feel and style of these rooms will appeal to both our existing customer base as well as attracting new customers to Auchrannie.'

Executive director Linda Johnston added: 'Expansion of our room stock will help the resort to achieve sustainability, putting more guests on site to use the extensive facilities we have invested in over the last few years.'

Prices for two adults sharing on bed and breakfast in a new executive double/twin start from £134, including luxurious accommodation, full Scottish breakfast, access to the resorts leisure facilities and, for passengers arriving on foot, complimentary transfers to and from Brodick ferry terminal.



The hotel of the year trophy is proudly displayed by the Auchrannie staff with the new extension behind them.



The living room of the new suite complete with chill out pod. 20\_b18auch02



The view from the outdoor hot tub. 20\_b18auch03



Each of the new rooms has an extra family bunk room. 20\_b18auch01

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For more information contact the Castle 01770 302202 or the Rangers 01770 302462 [brodickcastle@nts.org.uk](mailto:brodickcastle@nts.org.uk)



The new walk starts and finishes at the gardens entrance to Shore Lodge. 20\_b18walk05



The path passes the famous plant hunters walk which it is also hoped to reopen. 20\_b18walk06



Tim at the start of the reopened lower rhododendron walk. 20\_b18walk01

# Walk gives visitors a chance to see rhododendrons

'The plants in this part of the garden are of high quality'

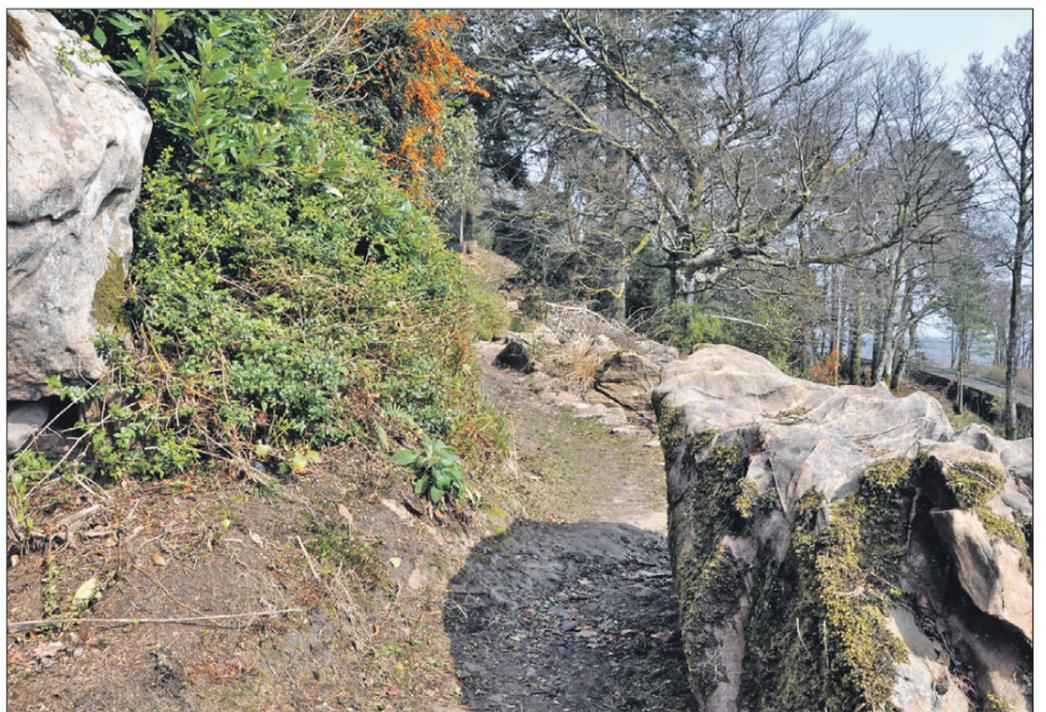
The lower rhododendron walk at Brodick Castle has at 'long last' reopened for visitors.

The area has been closed for at least the past five years since the outbreak of the plant disease Phytophthora which had devastated parts of the garden in recent times.

Head gardener Tim Keyworth told *The Banner*: 'We are very pleased to be able to open this part of the garden up in time for the visitors to enjoy the stunning rhododendron collections in this part of the woodland for the current season, while the plants and flowers are looking there best.'

'A lot of hard work was carried out by the estate team in this area over the winter months, a main focus being reinstating the paths that have suffered heavily from the weather and no visitor footfall. However it is important to remember that there is still a lot of clearing and replanting to do before the lower rhododendron walk is back to it's best.'

'A new shelter belt of native trees and shrubs planted a few years back have taken well and once thinned out will give us the backbone to be able to potentially plant rarer things in this area to compliment the two existing plant collections'



Part of the walk traverses a rocky outcrop. 20\_b18walk07

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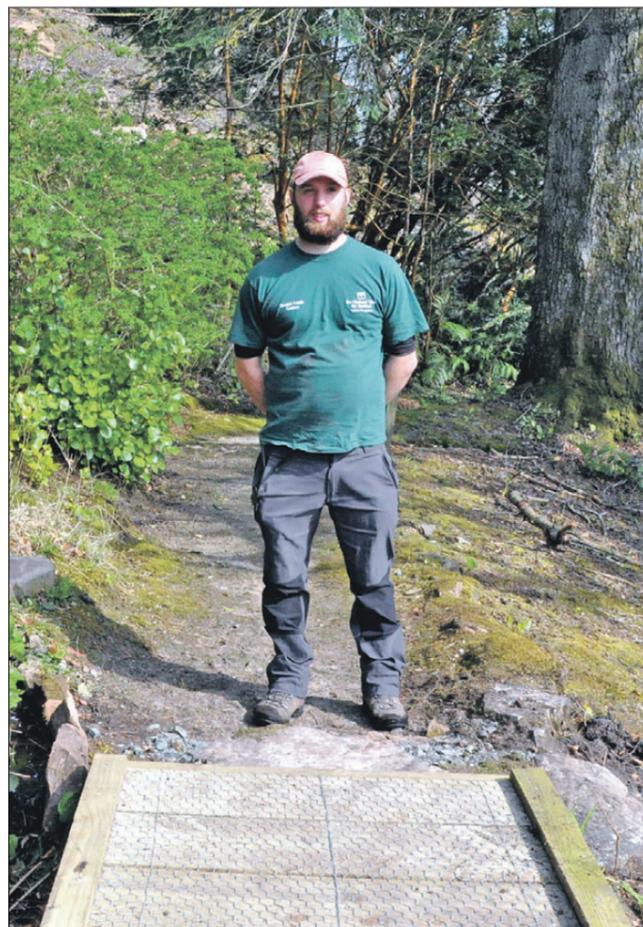
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Tim at a new footbridge on the walk. 20\_b18walk04



Some of the splendid rhododendrons on the walk. 20\_b18walk08

# ors a chance to on collections

uge significance.’ says head gardener Tim

of mature rhododendrons many of which date back to the 1920’s and before.’

He went on: ‘The plants in this part of the garden are of huge significance to the garden and it was very fortunate that they seem to have come through the clearing of this area unscathed and in good health. It is worth saying that the plant most susceptible to the plant disease that severely affected this area is rhododendron ponticum and a lot of hard work has gone in to clearing a huge amount of it from the garden and thus we have currently been disease free for nearly three years now.

‘The plant hunters walk is currently not in use and is closed to the public as we are seeking funding to reinstate this much loved part of the garden created by the vision of the late Nigel Price. It is hoped that we can reinstate this in the near future. Other smaller parts of the garden such as the middle rhododendron path also still remain closed until much needed path work can be undertaken.

‘It is a very exciting time and the reopening of this area is just part of several projects that the garden and estate team are working on,’ Tim added.



Tim stands under a tree branch which makes an attractive arch on the walk. 20\_b18walk02

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## Dealers coming to island offer top cash prices for your unwanted items

**Two of Television's favourite antiques experts will visit Arran this May.**

The dealers, well known from their many appearances on day-time television, will be appearing at The Douglas Hotel in Brodick on Thursday 14 May 2015.

The dealers will be offering top prices for antiques, gold and silver and are inviting people to come along and meet them.

### Trusted dealers

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth regularly appear on television and are highly trusted and respected for their knowledge and expertise.

With almost 60 years' experience of buying and selling antiques, gold and silver between them, Simon and Tim have joined forces to offer the public an opportunity to sell their heirlooms direct.

Simon Schneider said: 'Tim and I receive so many enquiries from people asking us to value and buy their antiques, gold and silver that we have set up a series of venues and frequently visit Scotland.

'We have had a great response everywhere we've been and we are looking forward to visiting the lovely Isle of Arran.

'We hope people will

search their cupboards and bring along their unwanted antiques and forgotten treasures.'

### Best price

Tim Hogarth commented: 'Although we're rivals on television, Simon and I get on really well and the venues are great fun.

'Simon and I have our own specialities and together we cover all aspects of the antiques business.

'This means we can ensure we are able to offer the very best prices for those items we want to buy.'

The dealers hope the venue will prove popular and promise no-one will have to wait long.

Simon Schneider explained: 'Tim and I aim to see everyone who wants to meet us as quickly as possible.

'We guarantee no queues and no appointments are necessary, however, we are always happy to do home visits if anyone is unable to come along during the day or has something too large to bring in, in which case please phone or email us to make an appointment.'

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth deal extensively in general antiques and are inviting people to bring along their antiques and forgotten treasures and take this opportunity to turn them into cash.

### Well known

Simon Schneider is very well known and respected for his knowledge of 20th Century Decorative Arts. He specialises in Art Nouveau and Art Deco but also deals extensively in silver and Oriental antiques and has a passion for fine ceramics.

### Ceramics

Simon said: 'The market for early 20th Century ceramics is particularly strong at the moment so this is a good time to realise their value.

'We are always very keen to purchase Moorcroft, Clarice Cliff and Royal Worcester and the market for Oriental ceramics and antiques is very buoyant.

'I also hope we'll be able to buy some quality antique silver items, especially Scottish silver. Gold and silver remains very strong and I'm sure we'll be able to tempt the public with our prices!'

### Jewellery

Tim Hogarth specialises in gold, silver and antique jewellery. He is an experienced dealer and an expert in valuing diamonds and precious stones.

He also has an extensive knowledge and experience of dealing in gold and silver, med-

als and vintage wrist watches.

Tim said 'I'm hoping we'll find some lovely antique jewellery and I'm keen to buy whatever the condition.

'Diamond jewellery is particularly sought after at the moment and we we'll be offering top prices for quality examples.

### Watches

'Good quality amber and coral beads are also very wanted and we are always keen to purchase vintage wrist watches, especially Rolex, Cartier, Omega and Patek Philippe.'

'We'll be offering top cash prices to any-one who wants a deal and I'm sure we will discover some interesting and valuable items.' said Tim.

The dealers will be appearing at The Douglas Hotel, Brodick on the Isle of Arran on Thursday 14 May between 10am and 4pm. The dealers will also be appearing at The Arrandale Hotel, 2 - 4 Cassillis Street in Ayr on Friday 15 May between 10am and 5pm and Saturday 16 May between 10am and 4pm.

For more information please contact Simon Schneider by telephone on 07801 474331 or email [info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk](mailto:info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk)



Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth will be on Arran for the first time this May, offering great prices for your unwanted gold, silver and antiques.

The dealers have come up with the following wish list of items they would particularly like to purchase. They came up with the following, so go and check your cupboards now!

GOLD AND SILVER

GOLD JEWELLERY - IN ANY CONDITION

POCKET AND VINTAGE WRIST WATCHES IN ANY CONDITION

DIAMOND RINGS, PENDANTS, EARRINGS AND BROOCHES ETC.

SILVER TEA SETS, TRAYS, CADDIES AND TROPHIES

AMBER BEADS AND CORAL BEADS

MEDALS

ANTIQUE SCENT BOTTLES AND SNUFF BOXES

ORIENTAL CERAMICS AND LACQUER ITEMS

BRONZES AND IVORIES

ROYAL WORCESTER, CLARICE CLIFF, SHELLEY AND MOORCROFT

ART NOUVEAU AND ART DECO ITEMS

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# Cats Protection branch in plea for help after charity cash boost

An Arran charity has benefited to the tune of more than £660 after the staff at the Lamlash Co-operative store held a hamper raffle.

Their chosen charity was the Isle of Arran branch of Cats Protection. When the hamper was won last week the store had collected a total of £661.75.

The money was handed over by store manager Barry Miggin.

Branch co-ordinator Linda Hartley said: 'We are delighted and more than thrilled, especially as we know the staff at Lamlash Co-op worked so hard in selling tickets and the cats will benefit from a record sum being received. Thank you so much on behalf of the cats of Arran, the Isle of Arran Branch and the National Charity of Cats Protection of whom we are a part.

'All branches rely on donations and the generosity of the public and sums raised go towards the work they carry out. Yet we also rely heavily on people helping. Volunteers run the branch and no one is paid for doing the work. We are passionate about cats. Love them or hate them we believe that every cat has the right to a kind, loving home where its owners have an understanding of feline needs.

'Unfortunately there are people who do not understand their needs and as a consequence many cats or kittens find themselves without homes for a variety of reasons.

'One part of our work is to assist owners in having their cats neutered. Did you know that from a single female it's possible for there to be 20,000 descendants in the



Store manager Barry Miggin pictured with branch co-ordinator Linda Hartley outside the Lamlash Co-op.

20\_b17cats01

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course of five years? Allowing your cat to continually produce litters is detrimental to both her health and that of her kittens. Unneutered toms can cause problems by passing on diseases through fighting, mating and through their territorial behaviour which often upsets people when they visit homes searching for females,' she added.

Making a plea Linda said: 'We do not have enough volunteers to help in our work and we are not able to fulfil the full range of activity we could due to such shortages.

'A few more people giving an hour a week would help us cover much more than we are able to at present. So if anyone reading this would like to give an hour or two a week just contact us via Face-

book or the website or phone 820611.

'We offer the ability for you to add to your CV a range of skills and experience that would enhance not only your ability to find a more permanent job but also for your own satisfaction of adding a new skill set.

'For retired people you're never too old to learn, it helps keep your mind active and maintain memory skills as well as meet many people across the island both residents and tourists.

'If you don't want to volunteer but have a passion for adventure or running or some other sport or pastime you enjoy why not have a go at the Tandem Sky Dive (World Animal Day 4 October) or the Fort William Mar-

athon or Kintyre to Tarbert Relay Race. For details see posters in post offices, THE Library or vet surgery or contact Karen Vaughan on 01825 741967 or [Karen.Vaughan@cats.org.uk](mailto:Karen.Vaughan@cats.org.uk).

'At community level this kind of support matters so much in helping us with our work to find homes for cats on the island, to help have cats neutered whether they are owned or stray or feral in an effort to ensure no unwanted kittens are born and that cats can be as healthy as possible.

'To know that the community of Arran have helped by donating this amount of money shows us that our work is important and matters to people - as well as the cats,' she added.

### Round the Rurals - Lamlash

## Kathleen steps down after three years

President Kathleen Sowden welcomed members to the AGM in the fire station.

After a very full business meeting dates for committee meetings and show trays were arranged.

The new committee was also appointed. The result of the fund raiser for the village party was also announced and £170 was raised.

Thanks to Kathleen's husband a team-quiz had members digging deep into memory banks for answers.

The winning team generously circulated their prize of chocolates during supper.

At the AGM all members are hostesses so a

very varied and delicious supper was enjoyed by all.

Vivienne Haigh proposed a very well deserved vote of thanks to Kathleen for all the hard work she had put in during her three year presidency. Mrs Haigh said she would be missed in her position and would be a hard act to follow.

She has also been secretary for the past year and has agreed to carry on in this post.

Since the AGM the new committee has met and plans for next year are well under way.

Members will meet again in the autumn and at the SWI show.

# Minister sees sustainability initiatives at island fish farming sites

The Scottish Salmon company played host to the minister for environment, climate change and land reform, Dr Aileen McLeod MSP, during a recent visit to Arran.

Scottish Salmon managing director Craig Anderson gave the minister a tour of the company's Lamlash Bay site and the nearby Arran mussel farm, before leading a discussion on the environmental sustainability of the salmon farming industry.

## Presentations

This included presentations on the company's existing pilot researching sustainable best-value fish farming project, Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA), and the positive social and economic impacts the company has upon the rural and remote communities in which it operates.

With 60 sites across Argyll, the west coast of Scotland and Hebrides, employing

over 450 staff, the company is constantly striving to develop innovative farming practices in line with sustainable business development.

Over the past three years, the company has been working with support from the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS), to develop its Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) project. Various species of sea life, including seaweeds, queen scallops, sea urchins, oysters and mussels are being grown alongside salmon to help gain an understanding of how these species interact in creating a naturally balanced ecosystem.

After the meeting Mr Anderson said: 'It was a privilege to be able to show the minister around our Lamlash Bay sites and to discuss our sustainable business development plans with her.'

'We take great pride in our farming practices in some

of Scotland's most striking natural landscapes, and hold environmental stewardship at the core of our company ethos.

'We are constantly striving to develop innovative ways to make our business even more sustainable, from environmental initiatives such as the IMTA project, to our close involvement with the local communities in which we live and work.'

## Delighted

Dr McLeod said: 'I was delighted to visit the company to hear about the sector's continued growth, the creation of jobs and the investment in local communities.'

'I particularly welcome the investment that is being made in innovative sustainability initiatives such as the use of cleaner fish as a biological control, and multi-trophic farming where seaweed, mussels, and salmon are farmed symbiotically.'



Environment minister Dr Aileen McLeod (second right) with Scottish Salmon managing director Craig Anderson holding a salmon, David Attwood, Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd (third right) and other company staff.

## Brewery looks to weaving tradition as they take over an Ayrshire pub

The Arran Brewery has made two acquisitions as part of its continuing expansion plans.

It has bought the former Bowers bar in Kilbirnie, North Ayrshire and the Small Devil's Dyke brewery in Cambridge.

Bowers bar is to be refurbished and renamed the Weavers, in honour of the town historic connection with the weaving industry.

While the Devil's Dyke brewery is where Arran Brewery will provide a staging post for the lucrative Cambridge and London ale market as it pushes forward

with its ambitious expansion plans.

The Kilbirnie site on Bridge Street is part of Arran Brewery's plan to opening its own bars and restaurants.

The site has been purchased by the brewery and will offer the full range of Arran, lagers, ales and whisky. Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'Kilbirnie is one of Scotland's employment black spots but yet has a proud history in the weaving and more recently steel industry.'

'It has a population of around 7,500 and is only

about 20 miles from Glasgow with some fantastic scenery and has both lochs and castles on its door step. However, currently it is the kind of place you pass through rather than stop at.'

'The Arran Brewery hopes to change that by opening the Weavers to give people a reason to stop for fine, ales and lagers, unique soft drinks and of course fine Arran and Ayrshire fare.'

'As we start to develop our new Arran View Brewery, in Dreghorn, we want to expand the number of bars we operate.'

'We want to play a small part in the rejuvenation of the area we are on the lookout for further local opportunities that will build our business and release the huge talents we have found in the people of North Ayrshire.'

## Crowd funding

Arran Brewery will be seeking to raise funds to increase its expansion by offering a second round of Crowdfunding in May/June in which it is hoped people from Arran and beyond will support the growth of the business.



The new Arran Brewery pub in Kilbirnie as seen from the river.

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# A good time to watch how birds attract a mate

In springtime many birds prepare for breeding. Many, like the black guillemot, moult from a winter plumage to the more eye catching breeding plumage. Song is important to many

birds in establishing breeding territory and woodlands become alive with the songs of many species advertising their presence to attracting suitors and discouraging rivals. The length of the song

can be a measure of the vigour of the bird.

Birds also use flight displays to attract mates. Even small woodland birds like blue tit have a fluttering moth-like flight for this purpose. For the birds of the open country these display flights are particularly important. The parachute flight of the meadow pipit or the soaring flight of the singing skylark advertise their presence, the healthier birds making the most frequent song flights. The common buzzard can be seen engaging in spectacular aerial displays, soaring, tumbling, looping the loop, a whole range of aerial manoeuvres, all to attract a mate. Around our settlements and villages look out for collared dove and woodpigeon doing their rising up and stalling flight display.

On the coast, ducks use colour, sound and movement to attract mates. Male eider throw their head back showing off the pink flush on their

chest while giving that familiar 'ah-ooo' call.

The male red-breasted merganser with metallic green head with the shaggy crest, bright red bill, white neck ring and red/brown breast put on a display that involves neck stretching, bobbing the front of their body, raising the rear like an ungainly courtesy. In a group of males with a single female present there can be almost a frenzy of stretching, ducking and bobbing.

Now is a good time to look out for birds attracting mates by colour, song and display.

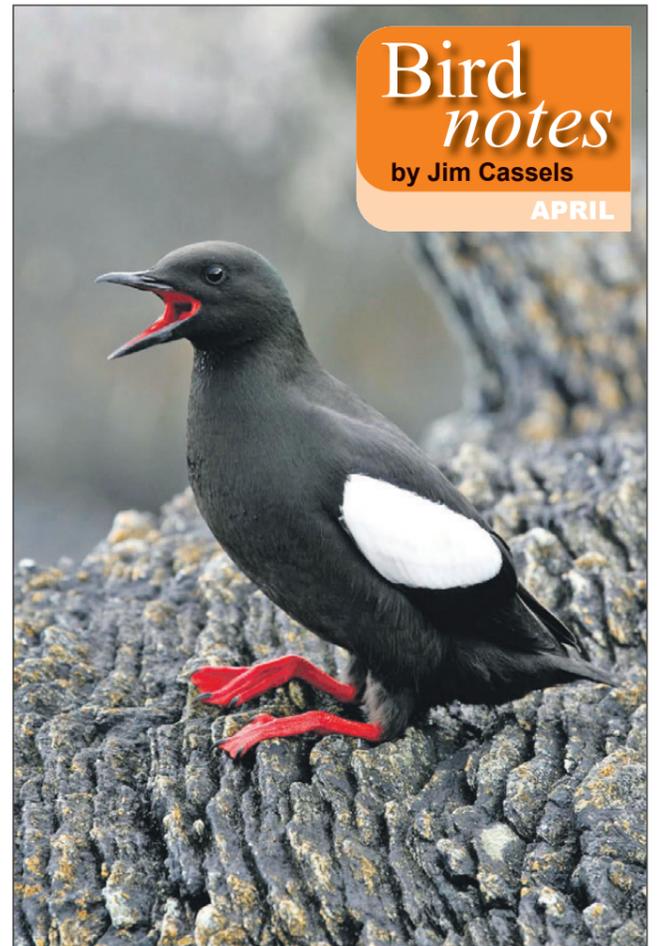
Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to Jim Cassels at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or by email to jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Grasshopper warbler in full song.

Photo by Dennis Morrison



Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

APRIL

Black guillemot in black breeding plumage.

Photo: Lesley Hoburn

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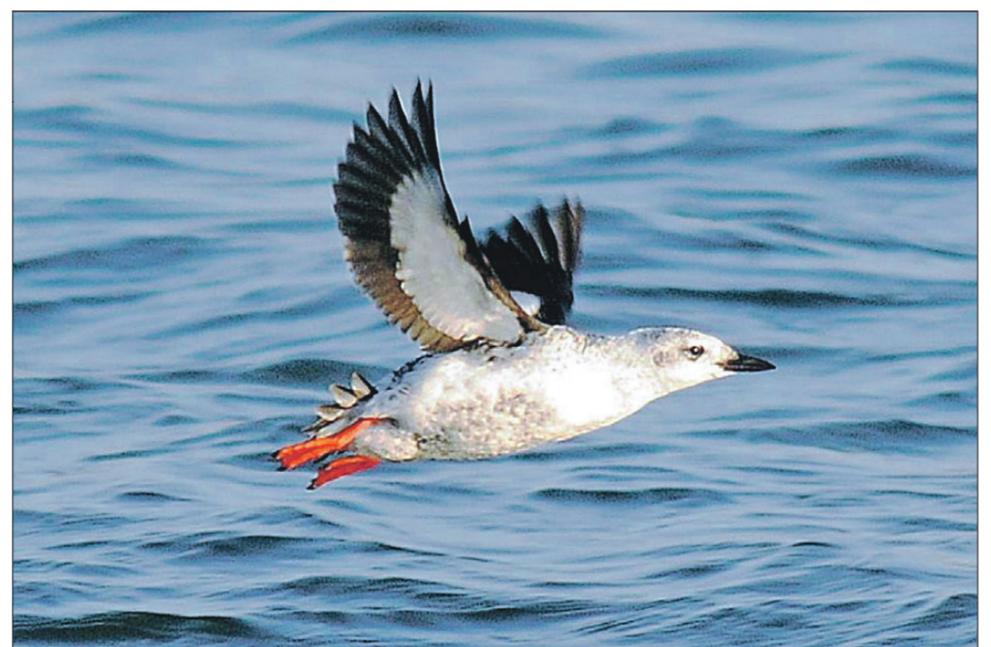
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Black guillemot in winter plumage. Photo: Angus Hogg



Red-breasted merganser strutting its stuff. Photo: Dennis Morrison.

# An afternoon of reminiscence about Old Brodick

John brought along a display of old photographs courtesy of the Arran Heritage Museum

The speaker at the April meeting of the Arran Antiquarians should have been Duncan Lunan, an astronomer from Troon, who had to cancel at a late date due to family illness, but we need not have panicked as our great friend, John Sillars, stepped in and entertained 70 members to a wonderful afternoon talking about one of our favourite subjects, Old Brodick, writes *Norma Davidson*.

John brought along a display of old photographs courtesy of the Arran Heritage Museum. Some were recognisable, some decidedly not.

The picture of the first motor car on the island was a far cry from today's shiny models.

Signs of human life dating back to Mesolithic and Neolithic ages are to be found in the Brodick area. These take the form of cists, standing stones and stone circles, and indeed, not many years ago, a souterrain was discovered when work began in the Auchrannie Hotel area.

A clachan once stood in Glencloy near to the site of the new Montrose House. This was probably the origin of Brodick. We have to remember that the bay then came much further inland. Place names in the Brodick area are of varied sources, Norse, Welsh and Irish Gaelic; for example, Strathwhillan means 'The land of the holly'.

From Corriegills in the south to the castle in the north, the settlements were clachans.

John Burrell and John Boyd Anderson, who were Trustees for the Duke of Hamilton, surveyed the island. Early tenants had paid rent 'in kind', but after this date tenancies were applied for and in 1780, for example, a tenancy lease for land in Mayish was granted for the price of £1 annually for a 99-year lease.

In 1800 the Hamiltons gained land from the Marquis of Bute and began to reduce the numbers of houses in the clachans.

In one clachan 27 families were reduced to seven small steadings. Houses in the castle fields were cleared and in Glen Rosa and Glen Sheraig 16 houses were reduced to four smallholdings.

This pattern continued until the 1850s when Princess Marie of Baden reviewed all the castle policies and removed many houses but built Douglas Row (now Douglas Place), and Alma Terrace for the estate workers. One house built in the early years of the 19th century cost £7 to build and this included the quarrying of the stone.

Two generations of Pattersons were factors, and their management was very draconian. When they retired the feus became much easier. There was, however, no building north of the bay as

specified by the castle. The 1800s saw many familiar buildings constructed; Brodick Hall in 1880, the Heathfield, Cora Lynn, the Bank of Scotland, Woolleys tea room, which became Coopers licensed grocer, Alexanders which belonged to Henry Ribbeck, the Chocolate Shop was a shoe shop, and Tigh Na Mara was a shop too. The Book and Card Centre was the Post Office and telephone exchange until it was bought by Pellegrini. In 1946 the Post Office moved to its present location, which was the smiddy. The Church of the Holy Cross was a former courthouse which in the 1920s was taken over by the British Legion.

In 1872 when the first pier was built, the visitors and their needs became a major consideration. Estate workers could rent out their homes to visitors but had to pay an increased rent if they did so. Horse drawn wagonettes came to the village, and in 1919 the first omnibus. The old golf course on the Mayish and Knowe fields was supplanted by the new course in 1913. Boating and bathing huts became popular and a putting green opened in the 1920s and was so popular that it was extended in 1930.

Ice cream was becoming popular and probably the major supplier was Pelligrini who ran the ice cream shop and café and also had a wee pony and trap which went out to provide the folk in Corrie with ices.

Modern bungalows began to be built in the 1920s on Alma Road and Knowe Road, Strathwhillan and Corriegills.

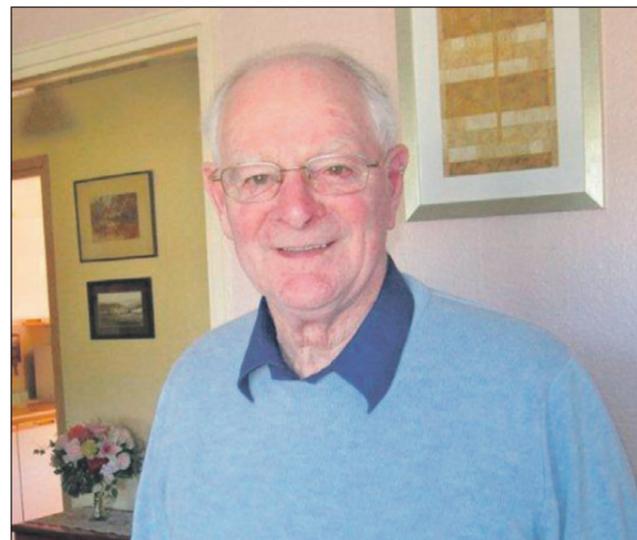
Ten years later the first council houses were built. Brodick Church, which had stood at the entrance to Glen Rosa, was replaced in 1910.

John's knowledge of the buildings in the village that we see every day is vast, and we shall all look at them with new eyes and look beyond the modern facades to see what they were originally. We owe a big thank you to John for stepping in at short notice to help us out, but also for entertaining and informing us in his own inimitable way.

Our next meeting will be

in Brodick Hall on Monday, 18 May, when Tam Ward, formerly of Biggar, will talk about the Border Rievers.

Our annual summer outing is to Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfriesshire, and subject to availability this will be on either 25 or 26 June. Final details will be issued soon.



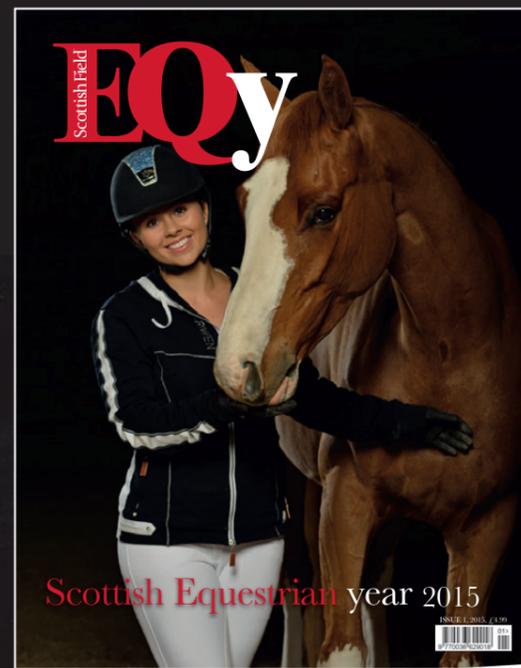
John Sillars entertained members with his talk on Old Brodick.



Alma Terrace was built for estate workers. 20\_b18anti02

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 6 May, 1995

Buyer beware

Sale of the century, or buyer beware? Well in terms of the interest it created it was perhaps the former. But the feeling afterwards was the latter.

Ridiculous, a con, good entertainment, a load of rubbish were all comments about it afterwards. Certainly people were talking about it.

It started with a full page advert in last week's Banner for a liquidation sale by Inter-city Marketing in the Douglas Hotel.

On the day a queue quickly formed outside the hotel and soon it was almost down to the road and four deep.

Inside there were reports that the sale was mobbed but most people failed to see the stock of low priced electronic gadgetry they had been promised in the advert. Instead they found that each item was being sold separately - a bit like the Barra's in Glasgow, but instead of the Glasgow patter it was a well rehearsed script.

Campbell Seaton of The String music shop in Brodick summed it up. He said: 'They had people performing like animals, but still it was good entertainment.'

Chinese crackers

A new Chinese restaurant opened with a bang in Lamlash on Saturday afternoon.

One neighbour later said they had rushed outside expecting to see all their roof slates had fallen in the yard. In fact it was the new proprietors of The China Palace marking the opening of the restaurant by letting off a string of firecrackers suspended from the roof.

Last summer Billy Currie, formerly of Lamlash Garage, took over the premises which

had variously been called Middlestons, The Moorings and Andy's Place and subsequently opened Steamers Bar.

Now he has leased the adjacent rooms to Alan Lee who came from Hong Kong in 1987 to run the Highland Star restaurant in Glasgow and is now hoping to establish a successful sit-in and carry-out business in Lamlash.

Church dedication

The dedication of a new church is a rare event on Arran. Yet such a dedication took place at St Margaret's Kirk in Whiting Bay in front of a congregation of more than 60 on Monday.

In use since last August following the sale of Sandbraes House, the small building which began its career as a Free Church, this week became a full fledged Episcopalian Church with its dedication by Bishop Douglas Cameron of Argyll and the Isles.

Brodick rampage

Three youth from the 'Young Shawlands Yosse' went on the rampage in Brodick on Saturday night. We know that this is what they call themselves because one of their activities was to spray paint the Knowe road with these words.

During the evening they also broke into Ribbecks Garage and their directed their vandalism urges to Brodick Golf Club.

They then turned their energies on each other when one struck another on the head several times with a metal pole. That youth then had to be taken to hospital in Lamlash while another was arrested, in the first instance for serious assault.

A full recovery has been made of the property taken from the garage and reports on all three are going to the procurator fiscal.



A long queue forms outside the Douglas Hotel for the liquidation sale. b20twe01



Bishop Cameron shakes hands with Mrs Peach of Lamlash as the congregation leaves the church. b20twe02



Competing for the Kiscadale Salver at Whiting Bay Golf Club last Saturday were teams from Brodick, Shiskine and Lamlash. Pictured as the winning Shiskine team with the Salver are reveal their non-playing captain Susie Currie. b20twe05



Arran Scouts who camped at the Dyemill last weekend as part of the Scottish Arran adventure weekend. A total of 392 Boy Scouts camped at the site on Glenkiln Farm, plus many Scout leaders. b20twe04

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, bank & boat fishing  
 9am-Dusk  
 Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sun: 12.30 - 5pm  
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
 Open all day  
 Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm

RunArran  
 Bridge for beginners  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Metafit  
 Feis Arainn AGM

Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm  
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm

## Saturday 2nd May

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s Disco  
 Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Live music  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game  
 Brodick Market  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Sannox Christian Centre Open Day  
 Traditional gathering  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Open day  
 Bingo  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club Open day

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 Brodick bowling club, 2pm  
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm  
 Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm  
 From 11am at the Christian Centre, Sannox  
 Sannox Christian centre, 7.30pm  
 Bowling Club, Lamlash, 2pm  
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm  
 Bowling Club, Whiting Bay, 2pm

## Wednesday 6th May

Rock & Pop Bingo  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 RunArran  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Drift Inn Quiz  
 Mixed Hockey  
 Dog classes  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game  
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Parkinson's Support Group  
 Coffee Morning

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9am-10am  
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Lamlash, 9pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Brodick bowling club, 6.45pm  
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm  
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm  
 Lamlash Fire station, 2-4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30 - 12noon

## Sunday 3rd May

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 AA Meeting  
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome  
 Faith Mission week final celebration

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm  
 Sannox Christian Centre, 7.30pm

## Thursday 7th May

Morning Fitness  
 General Knowledge Quiz  
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends  
 Yoga  
 Bridge Club  
 Ladies Hockey  
 RunArran Beginners  
 Cardiac Rehab  
 Body & Mind  
 Country Park Volunteer Day  
 QuiltArran  
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
 Woollen Woods Workshop

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm  
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-4pm

## Monday 4th May

Over 50s Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Morning Fitness  
 Table Tennis  
 Badminton  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Yoga  
 Circuit Training  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
 10/10 Total Body workout  
 Citizens advice  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 Lunch Club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
 Brodick bowling club, 6.45pm  
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm  
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm

## Friday 8th May

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

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

## Tuesday 5th May

Pop Quiz  
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth Club  
 Rotary club  
 Healthy Outdoors  
 Garden Walk  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Auchrannie 7pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Glenclay Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 2pm - 3pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm

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2002, petrol, 105K, one owner from new.  
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UNDER £30	OVER £30
Pedal Go-Kart in red would suit 5 to 10-year-old with £30 call 700 488/481	Gas cooker - good £60, Fridge - excellent £45, House safe and 2 keys £90, strimmer as new £90, Tel: 07980671267 (wбай)
Yoshi handbag black leather 8"x11"x8" good condition seldom used £25, Blundstone boots brown leather size 7, unworn £30 Tel: 07831 385545	Kitchen for sale, soild wood doors (oak type) 2 corner wall units, 1 sink unit, 3 x 3 draw units, 2 corner units, worktop, sink. Offers Tel: 700636
Logs - 10 large bags of hardwood logs £25 at £2.50 per bag bargain £25 tel: 07443642408	Honda Ride-on Mower 38" cut good condition Tel: 700389
Microwave as new £30, gents mountain bike £30 US mail boxes £25 each Tel: 07980671267 (wбай)	<b>FREE TO UPLIFT</b> Free to good home: old, tatty but working built-in electric oven, dishwasher, gas hob, and metal sink and mixer tap. Collect from Kildonan. Tel: 820615
Corner computer desk (Ikea) plus swivel seat £25 Tel: 810243	New minibus seats: Tel 01770303899
Kitchen worktop length 2200mm x 38mm depth - white/grey marbled effect £30, Heated foot warmer cushion new in box £7.50, Gleneagles Crystal champagne flutes new in box - make a great gift £15.00 Tel: 600238	<b>FREE TO GOOD HOME</b> 8 month old lurcher/collie cross good with children & other dogs. Very loving & lively Phone 600201 or 600303
Mans white Arran hand knit cardigan 48" chest new £28, black leather handbag - 13"x9"x4.5" single main compartment two side one with holders for phone, cards etc complete with enclosed umbrella - never used £30 Tel: 850275	<b>BANNER CLASSIFIEDS</b> <b>BANNER CLASSIFIEDS</b> <b>BANNER CLASSIFIEDS</b>

**HOUSE CONTENTS SALE**

At  
Whitehill, Corriegills  
on Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May from  
11am till 4pm  
Beds, furniture, bric-a-brac, linen etc  
**Tel: 302412**

**ARRAN BANNER CLASSIFIEDS**

**TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!**

**UNDER £30 FREE!**



**Simply complete the form and return to the Arran Banner office**

**PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 4.00pm**  
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....

DESCRIPTION.....

PRICE..... TELEPHONE.....

**ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON**

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Tel: 01770 302142 Fax: 01770 302021  
Email adverts@arranbanner.co.uk www.arranbanner.co.uk

# Recruitment

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Enthusiastic and committed office assistant required for busy office. Good typing, organisational skills and computer literacy are essential

Applications in writing please to:  
**John Thomson Construction Ltd., Park Terrace,  
 Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB**  
 email: [mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk](mailto:mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk)

## Arran Active Outdoor Shop

### WEEKEND STAFF

We are looking for weekend staff to start immediately. Applicants should be all the usual things a shop is after (reliable, enthusiastic, hardworking, etc) but knowledge of outdoor gear would be good as well as familiarity with Arran's mountains and wildlife.

Email [andrew@arranactive.co.uk](mailto:andrew@arranactive.co.uk) or call 01770 302416

## LAMLASH GOLF CLUB VACANCY

MAY TO MID-OCTOBER 2015

**LEASE OF CLUB RESTAURANT WITH FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN**

PRESENT LEASE HOLDER  
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For further details of vacancy please contact the club secretary on: 01770 600272 or  
 Email: [secretary@lamlashgolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@lamlashgolfclub.com)  
 Closing date 7th May 2015

## auchrannie resort • auchrannie job vacancies

### IT Technician

We are looking for a part time IT technician who can maintain the hotels Server and Network systems and can carry out hardware and software maintenance.

### Hotel Porter

This is a full time position and must be flexible to cover night shift to cover holidays. Candidates must have customer service experience.

### Leisure Assistant

We are looking for a full time leisure assistant who is flexible to work between 6.30am-9pm. Candidates must have customer service background. Full training will be provided.

Full descriptions can be found at [www.auchranniejobs.co.uk](http://www.auchranniejobs.co.uk) or contact [hr@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:hr@auchrannie.co.uk)

## Brodick Bar & Brasserie

We are currently recruiting for permanent & seasonal staff

**Sous chef & Kitchen Staff  
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Please apply by email to:  
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# Public Notices



PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE BANK HOLIDAY, OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON **4TH MAY 2015**.

THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN ON **TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2015**.

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

## ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP

# May Day Holiday

The Island GP surgeries will be closed on

**Monday 4th May**

If you need medical advice when the surgeries are closed you should phone

**NHS 24**

On

**111**

In an emergency please phone 999

## GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

M.Boal trading as J.W Boal & Sons Ltd of East Knowe, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8BY is applying for a licence to use East Knowe, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8BY as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicles.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre (s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 3rd May

Holy Communion, 11.00 am.

Rev Paul Fletcher with party from East Kilbride.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 6th May

Holy Communion, 2.15 pm.

ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on

Thursday 7th May

at 7.30 pm

in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.

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 3rd May

Lochranza Church, 9.30am

Morning Worship.

Pirmill Church, 10.45am

Morning Worship.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am

Morning worship

including Celebration of the

Lord's Supper.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer

Meeting, 12 noon Morning

worship including Celebration

of the Lord's Supper.

There will also be a Service of

Worship including Celebration

of the Lord's Supper

in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 3rd May

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Rev. Lily McKinnon

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 3rd May

11am Morning worship

in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion,

Brodick

Tea & Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Communion Weekend

Saturday 2nd May

Preparatory Service, 7pm

5 Glen Rd. Brodick

Sunday 3rd May

Morning Service 11am

The sacrament of The Lord's

Supper will be dispensed at

close of morning service.

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road Brodick

Thanksgiving Service

Monday 4th May

at 7pm

Hazlebank, Pirmill

All services taken by

Rev Ian Mackenzie (retired)

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)

Sunday 3rd May 2015

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 to which

all friends are welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 3rd May

Shiskine 11am (Church on road

between Blackwaterfoot and

Machrie)

No evening service at Brodick

Rev Malcolm Peters

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at

11am. For meeting venue ring -

830622, 820223

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Golf

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 22 April, Summer Cup, 42 played, CSS 64. On yet another perfect golfing day, 23 players broke 70 nett.

Good to see Iain back among the prizes and Robbie's return to form didn't take long after his recent illness. 1 Iain Pittman (12)62 acb, 2 Robbie Duncan (11)62 acb, 3 Gordon Hendry (6)62. Scratch Gordon Hendry 68. There were 11 magic twos with club pro James Browning getting three of them, Greg McCrae got two, and lots of others got one each.

Friday 24 April, Brodick v Shiskine. Drizzle turning to rain didn't spoil this friendly match against Shiskine, especially as we adopted their very sensible format of only playing 12 holes.

In announcing the result, captain Terry said that after five matches Brodick were 12 up only for Willie Kelso to beat 5 Brodick players 12 up and therefore the match was a draw. The golfing highlights were a lip out by Joe Faulkner for a 1 on 15 and David Henderson holing out for a 2 from heavy rough and over the bunker on 16...the ball went straight into the hole without touching the green! An excellent social evening followed in the clubhouse with the usual top notch catering from Trish. We look forward to our trip over the String next year.

Sunday 26 April, Belhaven Medal, 24 played, CSS 66. Some good scoring on a day of wintry April showers and strong winds...not the sort of day you'd expect someone who's just jetted in from the Majorcan sunshine to lift the trophy! However Bob defied the odds to beat two recent competition winners. Bobby and Chris qualify to represent the Club at Erskine Golf Club on Friday 21 August. 1 Bob McCrae (8)64, 2 Chris Pattenden (11)65, 3 Gordon Hendry (5)66 acb. Scratch: Gordon Hendry 71 acb

There were six magic twos, Chris Pattenden got two of them, and the mighty McCrae got his with an eagle at the 11th. Also a mention for Bruce Jenkins, for a rare two at the 8th.

Fixtures: Sunday 3 May, AGA Spring Handicap at Corrie, Sunday 10 May, Brandon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 22 April, 26 played, in the 3rd round of the Summer Trophy, on a glorious day with blue skies and little wind.

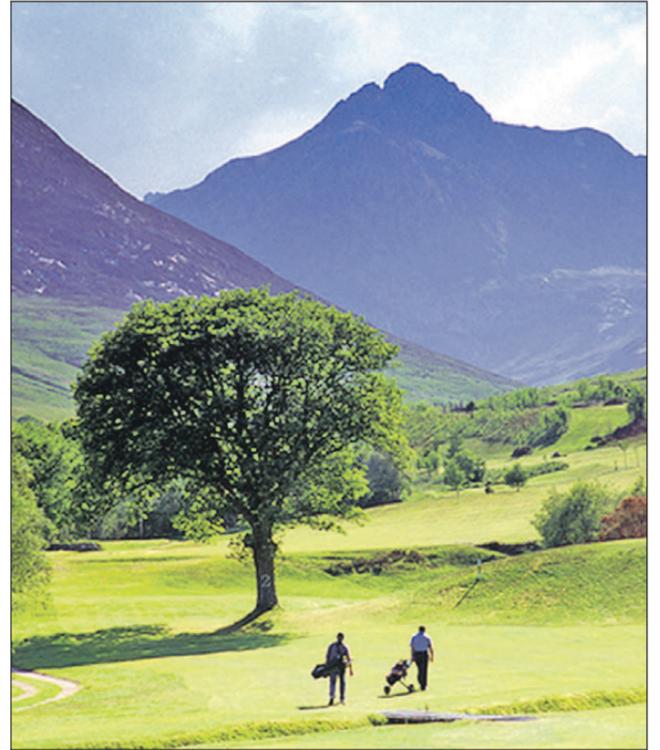
Scoring was good with the top five all coming in under par. 1st place went to Bob Hastings (14) on 59. Jamie MacPherson (6) and Danny Head (6) both came in on 60 with Jamie taking second place on a countback. David Morrison (10) was fourth on 62. The lowest gross went to Jamie MacPherson - 66. There were magic twos at the 3rd by John Dick; at the 4th by Ryan Armstrong, David Morrison and Stan Rainey; at the 6th by Jamie MacPherson and at the 17th by Pete Smith.

Sunday 26 April, Wolfi and Gege Kroner Stableford, 25 played, including notable guest participants, Chantal Smith, who joined the boys and carded an impressive 32 points and James Browning, PGA professional at Brodick GC, who thoroughly enjoyed the course... It was nice to see them both and hopefully they will join us again.

On a morning that gave us four seasons in one day, except Summer, bright sunny spells changed quickly to cold squally showers of rain and hail. It was a relief when they turned to snow but at least they didn't last long.

Despite the weather (and Wolfi's extensive on course hospitality) scoring was good. 1 Danny Head (5) 40pts, 2 Graeme Crichton (13)39pts, 3 Marcus Kroner (10)38pts (ACB), 4 John Pennycott (13)38pts. Magic twos went to David Morrison at the 3rd, Keith Kelsall and George McKechnie at the 4th and Markus Kroner at the 17th.

Wolfi and Gege's Stableford is always a fun day at WBGC and this was no exception. Many thanks go to them for their generous prizes and hospitality, especially Wolfi's refreshment buggy/ambulance - just like Gleneagles - that revived many a frozen body at the top of the course. Thanks also to the field for



Corrie Golf Club

the £25 raised for the club machinery fund.

Fixtures: Wednesday 6 May, Summer Trophy, played throughout the day with an evening draw at 5.30pm. Friday 8 May, AGA Seniors Bowl round two at Lamlash at 5pm. Sunday 10 May, Eric Wood Stableford competitions. Usual draws at 9am and 10.30am for men. Tee reserved at 11am for the ladies competition.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 23 April, Summer Cup, 22 played, CSS 64. 1 Willie Currie 73-10=63(BIH), 2 Paul Jameson 74-11=63, 3 Dougie MacFarlane 64-0=64(BIH), 4 Scott MacFarlane 80-16=64(BIH). Scratch Dougie MacFarlane 64. Magic twos Scott MacFarlane at the 16th, Scott Campbell at the 16th. Senior Medal 1 Allan Martin 82-15=67. Sunday 26 April, Drift Inn Quaich, 12 played, CSS 67(R/O). 1 John O'Sullivan 36pts, 2 Paul Cowan 32pts, 3rd Ian Bremner 31pts(BIH). Scratch Paul Cowan 28pts to Stableford. Magic twos Paul Cowan@14th, Ian Bremner@13th, Lee Dutton @ 16th. Many Thanks to the Drift Inn for the prizes. Fixtures: Thursday 30 April, Summer Cup, see starter for tee times. Friday 1 May Seniors Bowl from 5pm. Sunday 2 May AGA Spring Handicap at Corrie GC.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 22 April, sweep, 16 played, CSS 61. 1 Mathew McDonald 38+37=75-18=57, 2 David Henderson 35+35=70-8=62, 3 Stevie Beardsley 37+33=70-7=63 BIH over I McMillan. Best scratch S Beardsley 70 BIH over D K Henderson. Magic twos J McGovern at the 8th,

M McDonald and L Hartley at the 17th. Twos pot at the 17th won by M McDonald and L Hartley.

Saturday 25 April, medal round, 10 played, CSS 61. 1 Marvin Elliot 73-14=59 BIH, 2 Euan McKinnon 58+1=59. Best scratch E McKinnon 58+1=59. Magic twos A McDonald @5th, E McKinnon at the 18th, M McDonald at the 17th.

Fixtures: Wednesday medals start at 5pm. Saturday 2 May, Millenium Trophy, 8.30am and 1pm starts. Sunday 3 May, AGA Guy Spiers at Corrie, late entries accepted. Monday 4 May, junior handicap at Corrie, start 4pm.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 28 April, Peter Sutton/LadyMary, six played in very poor conditions.

1 Brian Sherwood 76-12=64, 2 Hamish Bannatyne 71-6=65, 3 Campbell Laing 86-19= 67. Magic two from Hamish at the 14th.

Fixtures: Members are reminded of the Hugh Steel Cup on Saturday 2 May is nine holes only starting at 1pm. Competition is for over 60's men, but all are welcome to play.

Arran Golfers Association

Seniors Bowl 1st round @ Lamlash Golf Club on Friday 1 May, First game off at 5pm with other games following. Draw: Whiting Bay v Lochranza (winners play Lamlash), Machrie v Shiskine, Brodick v Corrie. Semi Finals on Friday 8 May at 5pm.

Spring Handicap / Guy Spiers at Corrie Golf Club Sunday 3rd May sheets on notice boards, draw will take place at the AGM.

Junior handicap at Corrie Golf Club Monday 4th May at 4pm.

# RunArran joins visitors in relay race

RunArran members joined the The Stocksfield Striders on the annual Round Arran Relay last Saturday.

Fifteen striders from Northumberland were joined by a number of members of Run-

Arran on the various legs of their 55-mile trip round the island starting and finishing at the Corrie hotel.

### Own pace

Organisers said; 'Everyone runs at their own pace, no one

is left behind and participants can run as long or as short a distance as they like.'

Drink and food was enjoyed at the Corrie hotel for those that had taken part in the day-time event.



Above: Arran runners join the Stocksfield Striders on their relay round Arran.

Left: Emma Campbell and Kirsty Smith, far right, with Striders at the finish line.

Right: Lorna Logan, who ran 23 kilometres of the relay, shares a joke with Laura Aitcheson of RunArran.

Photos: Christopher Hogge



# Arran bowling season gets underway

Bowling greens across the island are opening up after a snowy winter proving summer is on the way.

A large turnout of Brodick Bowling Club members and bowlers from other island clubs met for the first game of the season on Saturday 25 April. John Lauder, last year's Arran Bowling Federation mens' singles winner, opened the proceedings by bowling the first jack and bowl.

On the same beautiful, but windy and cold, sunny afternoon Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club held their opening tournament.

This was the first time a tournament had taken place in front of the new club pavilion.

Twelve members competed in the round robin match where everyone played everyone else. Margaret Kerr won with Marian Brambles and Judith Porter coming

second and third after a very competitive game.

Club members said they welcomed new players, whether they have played before or not at the bowls club, on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 1.45pm.

### Arran Bowling Federation fixtures

Arran Bowling Federation fixtures for the season are as follows: Laidler-Gardiner competition, all matches start at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 19 May: Lamlash v Blackwaterfoot, Brodick v Whiting Bay

Thursday 21 May: Blackwaterfoot v Lamlash, Whiting Bay v Brodick.

Tuesday 26 May: Brodick v Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot v Whiting Bay.

Thursday 28 May: Lamlash v Brodick, Whiting Bay v Blackwaterfoot.

Tuesday 2 June: Lamlash v Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot v Brodick.

Thursday 4 June: Whiting Bay v Lamlash, Brodick v Blackwaterfoot.

Federation Trophies, 7.00pm at Blackwaterfoot.

Monday 15 June: Ladies Singles Lamlash v Whiting



John Lauder throws the first bowl at Brodick. 20\_b18bowl01



Marian Brambles, Judith Porter, Christine Robinson and Lorna Hallyburton checking a crucial point at Blackwaterfoot.

Bay, Brodick v Blackwaterfoot.

Rinks Lamlash v Brodick.

Tuesday 16 June: Gents Singles Lamlash v Blackwaterfoot, Whiting Bay v Brodick.

Rinks Whiting Bay v

Blackwaterfoot

Wednesday 17 June: Pairs

Whiting Bay v Blackwaterfoot, Brodick v Lamlash and Ladies Singles Final.

Thursday 18 June: Gents Singles Final, Pairs Final, Rinks Final.

## Anyone for tennis at Shiskine?

The season is well underway at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club.

Junior coaching is held every Wednesday from 4.30pm 6pm (term time only) and senior club night is on a Thursday starting at 5.30pm.

Non members are welcome to join in at club nights.

A club spokeswoman said: 'We'll provide the balls, we also have a few extra rackets for juniors. We'd love to see all standards of juniors and seniors come along.'

The courts are also available during the day although booking is advisable.

For more information contact Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club on 860226 or Sheila Gray 07833 010599

Got a story for The Arran Banner? Call 01770 302142

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# Sport

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# On your marks for second castle gate to gate fun run

## Family friendly entry extended this year to teens

The second Brodick Castle Gate to Gate fun run is proving even more popular than the first.

Entries are well up on last year and castle bosses say they are expecting a big crowd along to support the runners.

To make it even more family friendly the entry age has been lowered from 17 to 12 years, allowing all secondary school pupils to take part.

Organised jointly by Run-Arran and Brodick Castle, the 5k fun run will take place on Saturday 20 June with a 12.30pm start.

### Big boost

The event has been given a big boost after it was accepted as part of the Jogscotland Challenge Series and is intended as a family fun day. There will be children's games and activities along with a visit by JogScotty, the official jogscotland mascot.

And this year local charities are being offered stalls at the event if they want to come along and raise some cash.

Last year a total of 79 runners took part from as far afield as the US, Wales and Northumberland, and also included many from Glasgow and Ayrshire.

Registration, stalls and family fun events will this year be staged in the square outside the main castle door to free up the visitor centre car park.

The route takes runners from the castle to the Corrie

Road gate and back past the castle to the exit gate with a uphill return to the finish line.

All the running is within the castle grounds and well away from traffic.

The 2015 jogscotland Challenge Series is a total of 10 fun, friendly events across Scotland guaranteed to be welcoming and achievable for first-timers, as well as offering an enjoyable event for more experienced runners.

Three of the other events are being held in Glasgow, with others in Pitlochry, Inverness and Edinburgh.



David Cameron

Castle property manager David Cameron said: 'It looks like it's all coming together to be an even bigger and better event than last year and if we get the same kind of weather everyone is in for a fantastic day.'

Registration is now open and the entry fee is £12.

Details of the event can be found at <http://scottishrunningguide.com/race/gate-to-gate-5km-fun-run>. If your charity is interested in participating by taking a stall please email: [davidcameron@nts.org.uk](mailto:davidcameron@nts.org.uk)



The finale to the routine sees the children create a tower.

20\_b18gym01

## A bendy way to spend Easter

More than 30 children from across the island enjoyed three days of gymnastics during the Easter holidays.

The event held by KA Leisure in Arran High School was for primary school aged children and they were put through their paces by instructors from the Irvine Bay Gymnastics Club.



The children are taught the moves for a routine.

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### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.