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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 14 MAY, 2011

No 1805 55p

## Doctors say quality of Arran health service under threat

### REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

Arran's six regular general practitioners are warning that the quality of health service on the island is under threat.

In an open letter from doctors Malcolm Kerr, Angus Campbell, Elizabeth Guthrie, Faye Hamill, Greg Hamill and Alwin Hoelzl, they state: 'We learned last Friday that the budget which funds the salaries of two GPs working here, and a third who was to start work here in August has been withdrawn. Overall, this initiative threatens patient services.'

In August 2010 the Arran GPs, collectively known as Arran Health Group, wrote to Ayrshire and Arran Health Board expressing concerns about the future stability of 'out of hours' medical services on Arran. In recent years they have experienced difficulties recruiting GPs qualified to deliver the complex range of services required on Arran, such as accident and emergency and hospital patients as well as core General Practice.

The Group states: 'Two of our number are approaching retirement, and planning for the future is critical.'

'We particularly emphasised to the Board the risks associated with arduous 'out of hours' work while continuing to work full time during the

day. We asked for a dialogue with Health Board officials and senior clinicians to discuss and resolve some of the issues in a co-operative way.

'Unfortunately, despite many meetings and a voluminous correspondence, it proved impossible to make any progress.'

'One consequence of this is that the Health Board is now attempting to recruit mainland-based GPs to cover unfilled shifts. As a recent and

cluding Jean Hendry, health care manager, Alan Stout manager, Arran War Memorial Hospital and Grant McHattie, associate medical director, primary care. One of the group who did not wish to be named said: 'They outlined the provision of 'out of hours' service for Arran. We were pretty disappointed with what we heard.'

In a briefing for NHS Ayrshire and Arran staff, Mr McHattie said: 'We recognise the challenges faced by clinicians working in an island community, in particular the need to achieve an acceptable balance between work and family life. During May and June we will be working with the GPs on Arran about how medical cover will be provided on the island in the future to ensure safe, sustainable health services around the clock.'

The briefing sets out a timescale for a new model of care to be implemented by October 1, 2011.

The Arran GPs add: 'These are very worrying developments for ourselves, our families, our staff and for the island as a whole. It is inconceivable that patients will not experience a reduced service. It is now apparent that the Health Board's public statements are at odds with the reality of the dialogue on the ground. We are not prepared to endorse this deception.'

regrettable initiative, we have now been informed that the Health Board plans to fund the substantial additional costs of employing visiting locums by cutting GP services provided on Arran during the day.'

Following a public meeting about local health care in Brodick Hall on 29 November, an Arran Public Reference Group was formed comprising six local residents.

This group met with Health Board officers last week in-



## New fitness trail for Whiting Bay youngsters

The children of Whiting Bay Primary School have a magnificent new play facility. The adventure playground, called a fitness trail, has been built in the front grounds of the school. Here some of the Whiting Bay youngsters are enjoying their new fitness trail. See page 5. 02\_b19whb03



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# Comfortable re-election for Kenneth Gibson

Kenneth Gibson has been re-elected as MSP for Cunningham North, the constituency that includes Arran.

Mr Gibson polled 15,539 votes in a 21.9 percent swing to the SNP.

Former constituency MSP Allan Wilson (Scottish Labour) came second with 9,422 votes, followed by Maurice Golden, Scottish Conservative and Unionists, 4,032 votes, and Mallika Pukukollu, Scottish Liberal Democrat, 543 votes.

Mr Gibson's majority was 6,117 compared to his majority of 48 at the last Holyrood election in 2007.

One member with an Arran connection elected as a List

MSP for Central Scotland was Scottish Conservative Margaret Mitchell with 14,780 votes.

Mrs Mitchell, a regular Arran visitor, stood as candidate for Cunningham North in the 1997 General Election and came second to Labour's Brian Wilson, ahead of the SNP and LibDem candidates.

Elected List MSPs for the West of Scotland are Stewart Maxwell and Stuart McMillan, (SNP), Mary Fee, Neil Bibby and Margaret McDougall, (Scottish Labour), and Annabel Goldie and Jackson Carlaw, (Scottish Conservative).

Mr Gibson said: 'I would like to express my thanks to



**Kenneth Gibson has been re-elected as Arran's MSP.** 01\_b19ken01

all the Arran Banner readers who demonstrated their faith in me and the Scottish National Party by voting to return me as the MSP for Cunningham North.

'I feel quite humbled to

have been re-elected with more than half of all votes cast, winning in every Arran community to help secure a majority bigger than in any of the other 50 plus constituencies south of Perth.

'It is a privilege to represent the people and communities of Arran and my pledge to all islanders is that I will continue to be accessible and work to provide the best possible service at all times for both

individuals and each of the communities I represent.'

Maurice Golden, the Scottish Conservatives candidate, congratulated Kenneth Gibson on his election win.

'Locally, the result pays tribute to Kenneth's hard work and dedication to Cunningham North over the past four years and I wish him all the best for the next parliamentary term,' said Mr Golden.

'I am happy with the positive campaign I fought, as well as the constituency result, given the inevitable squeeze at a local and national level.'

'I would like to thank all those who supported me throughout the election as well as express my enjoyment at meeting so many wonderful people in Cunningham North over the past year.'

He added: 'My offer of bicycle lessons for Kenneth still stands, however; perhaps we will now need to start in Arran rather than the Scottish Parliament.'

## New Crosshouse scanner to improve patients' experience

Crosshouse Hospital has a state-of-the-art new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner.

Arran out-patients will be able to experience the benefits of this £1.3million scanner that is now operational.

Shona Wilson, superintendent radiographer, said: 'Staff are thrilled with the new equipment. The new scanner has a wider, shorter bore than

the existing system and is less noisy during scanning.

'This should improve the experience for patients.

'It also enables us to scan different parts of the body without changing the patient's position, resulting in a more pleasant experience for the patient, reducing the time taken for each scan and increasing the number of patients who can be scanned.'

## Police Files

### Alleged abuse

A Pirnmill man has appeared in court accused of serious child sex abuse offences.

The 57-year-old was detained last Thursday (May 4) and taken to Saltcoats police office on the mainland.

He appeared from custody at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on Friday charged with two counts of lewd and libidinous behaviour.

He made no plea or declaration during the private hearing and was freed on bail for further investigation.

### Driving offences

On Friday 6 May a 66-year-old Whiting Bay man was reported for driving with no insurance, no vehicle excise licence and not wearing a seat belt. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Possession of drugs

On Saturday 7 May a 45-year-old man who resides in Brodick was found to be in possession of controlled drugs in Shore Road, Lamlash. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Stolen heating oil

A large quantity of heating oil was allegedly stolen from an outside tank of a Whiting Bay house between 7 and 26 April. Police are appealing for any information.

### Drink driving

A 33-year-old Brodick man appeared at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on Wednesday 4 May charged with drink driving in Park Terrace, Lamlash. He was fined £250 and disqualified from driving for 15 months.

### Disqualified

On Thursday May 5 at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court a 26-year-old Brodick man was disqualified from driving for two years and fined £850 for road traffic offences including driving without insurance and being involved in a road traffic crash.

### Careless driving

At Irvine District Court on 5 May a 44-year-old Islay man, formerly of Brodick, was found guilty of careless driving in Brodick. He was fined £200 and given three points on his licence.

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# Volunteers desperately needed for disabled riders

**'You don't need any horse experience, just a moderate level of fitness'**

## REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Disabled horse lovers saddled up at the weekend as they restarted their Saturday sessions at Oakbank Farm in Lamlash.

Arran Riding for the Disabled (RDA) offers young riders the opportunity to access horse riding in a safe, supportive and fun way.

'Our aim is to provide the benefits of riding to both

children and adults of Arran affected by a variety of physical disabilities and learning difficulties,' explained Janis Heaney, chairman of the RDA.

### Confidence

'The riding has a wonderful effect on our youngsters. Balance and co-ordination improves and confidence soars.'

With new riders joining the group all the time, they are in desperate need of more volunteers to lend a hand.

Janis added: 'Training is

provided. You don't need any horse experience you just need to have a moderate level of fitness and a willingness to be involved, a good sense of humour also helps (especially with the weather Arran has to offer).'

The sessions run on a Saturday morning at Oakbank in Lamlash and as they work on a rota system, you don't have to be available for every session – even one Saturday morning a month would be a fantastic help.

If you would like to find out more, or would like to come up and see what's involved, please call Janis on 600553, or Rona on 600752. Alternatively you can contact them by e-mail at rda.arran@hotmail.co.uk



Disabled horse lovers on Arran are able to ride in a safe environment at Oakbank Farm, Lamlash.

**Got a story for  
The Arran Banner?  
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01770 302142**

## Red Cross meeting in Ormidale Pavilion

There will be a meeting for the Red Cross volunteer drivers and committee members in the Ormidale Pavilion at 11am next Monday 16 May.

Peter McCarthy, director of Red Cross West of Scotland,

will be present to hear of any concerns with regard to the car service on and off the island.

Also Mr McCarthy will be bringing members up to date with the running of the 'My

Bus' service.

Anyone with concerns or views on either service should contact Myrna Boal on 302582, Alison Bilsland on 303505 or any committee member.

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## Old Kilmory school demolished

The old school in Kilmory has been demolished as developers prepare to build two houses on the site.

Following a 'poor local response' to the plans to build affordable houses on the site, architect John Lamb has decided to build three detached houses instead.

He said: 'In the next two or three weeks I will be submitting a planning application for two large five bedroom detached houses, of a distinctive, contemporary architectural style with high quality fittings and finishes, with a third house to follow at a later date.

'My intention is that they will be extremely competitively priced and will be offered for sale 'off plan' so that purchasers will be able to choose from a large range of finishes and fittings, as well as making internal alterations.'

## Access panel launches website

The North Ayrshire Access Panel has launched a new website.

Its purpose is to campaign to improve access to and within buildings and premises, and for the improvement of services for disabled people throughout the region.

Information on the website will include access information on a variety of subjects including access on entertainment venues, restaurants, shops, accommodation, and transport.

It is hoped to be able to include details of a range of accessible accommodation from B&Bs through to hotels.

Another section will cover information on a range of eating places from small cafés to large restaurants.

More information will be added as premises are looked at and assessments made. If you have a business or a venue that you believe has the accessibility to accommodate disabled people then please contact NAAP at info@naap.org.uk

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Hall trustees Archie Cumming, Robert Kerr and David Henderson with Sheila McLean of the Argyll and the Islands Leader project. 01\_b19hal01

## Village hall's new kitchen

The new and improved kitchen in Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall was unveiled this week.

Just over £50,000 was used to create a fully working kitchen in the hall that will hopefully provide an income stream to help with the running costs of the facility.

David Henderson, hall treasurer, said: 'This will make the hall more attractive to people wishing to hold social and fund raising functions in the

village. The hall is hired out for weddings, parties and fund raising functions at present but catering has been limited in the past by the size of the kitchen.

'It is hoped that the hall would be in greater demand with kitchen facilities available for self catering or for use by catering companies.'

### Funds

Argyll and the Islands Leader gave the hall committee the bulk of the funds with £10,000 coming from the lottery and further £2,000 from the Co-op Community Fund.

Sheila McLean, project co-ordinator for Argyll and the

Islands Leader project, said: 'We are more than happy to help with funding when there is a clear community need.'

'In this case it was clear that the whole community of the north of Arran would benefit from the enhanced kitchen facilities here and it has been a pleasure to be involved in the process.'

While the work to the kitchen was carried out, improvements were also made to the entrance area.

The new door and entrance area means that the hall now has a separate meeting room that can be used as a bar area for functions.

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## Kilmory Spring Fayre a big success

Kilmory Primary School held their annual fundraising Spring Fayre last Saturday.

A crowd of mainly local residents enjoyed the variety of stalls both inside the school and out in the playground. Head teacher Margaret Parker and her husband Ian were kept busy cooking burgers and sausages on the barbecue.

Afterwards, Mrs Parker said: 'A very big thank you goes to all who donated, came along and supported our Spring Fayre.'

'The winner of the spring hamper was Caroline Stewart and the games organised by the pupils were very successful. Also, a special thank you must go to Midge and Willie McAllister of Braehead Beef and Lamb, Sliddery who generously donated all the burgers and sausages for the barbecue.'

'These were much enjoyed and appreciated by all.'

The Kilmory Parent Council fund benefited by £439.80 thanks to the generosity of the public.



Head teacher Margaret Parker and her husband Ian cooked up a storm on the barbecue. 02\_b19kil01



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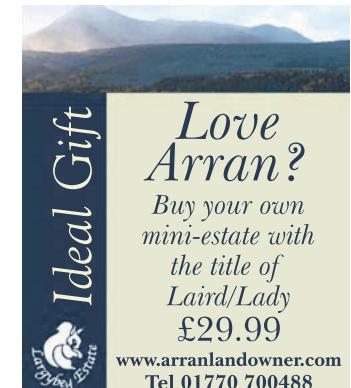
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# Whiting Bay schoolchildren get new adventure trail

The children of Whiting Bay Primary School have a magnificent new adventure playground.

And it can be seen by all passers-by at the front of the school.

Head teacher Annette Treble said: 'This is a great asset to the school and is not at all obtrusive.'

'We have spent four years trying to get funding for this, and now we are delighted with the end product.'

The children did an audit of the playground to identify additional facilities that would be of benefit to all youngsters.

'Every child chose their favourite piece of equipment and the most popular features

were selected by a democratic process.'

When asked what their favourite piece of the equipment was, some children answered 'the monkey bars' while others piped up 'the trapeze swing and the wobble board'.

The adventure playground, called a fitness trail, is designed to improve upper body

strength, balance and co-ordination. It was supplied and fitted by Wicksteed Playgrounds and Playground Equipment, based in Northamptonshire, and has undergone a thorough risk-assessment.

It has a daily safety inspection by janitor Allan Little and the children have made up their own rota for fair usage of the trail.

The total cost of £17,000 was met by a grant of £9,500 from the Lottery Fund Awards for All, £1,000 from North Ayrshire Council for transport costs, plus a bequest from Archibald Murchie MacLeod which was divided equally among all Arran primaries, and help from the Parent Council.

One extra feature is the black rubber safety matting.

Mrs Treble added: 'It cost almost as much as the fitness trail, but it means the children can use the facility in all weathers. I want to thank the members of the Pupil Council for their help in getting this fantastic piece of equipment.'



Members of the Pupil Council who helped to get the new equipment; from left, Joel Armitage, Gregor Morrison, Aimee Prescott and Lizanne Dixon.

02\_b19whb02

## Arran's gardens open their gates

This year three gardens on the island will be open under Scotland's Garden Scheme (SGS).

Lady Jean Fforde's garden at Strabane will be opening on Sunday 22 and Sunday 29 May between 11am and 5.30pm.

Dougarie Lodge will be opening on Sunday 26 June between 2pm and 5pm and Brodick Castle on Sunday

11 July. Forty per cent of the proceeds at the Strabane openings will be given to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution on the May 22 and to the British Red Cross, Arran Transport and Escort Service on May 26.

### Proceeds

At Dougarie 40 per cent of the proceeds will go towards the Pirnmill Village Association and at Brodick Castle

another 40 per cent of the takings will be given to the SGS beneficiaries.

Scotland's Garden Scheme was founded in 1931 to support the training and pensions funds of the Queen's Nursing Institute.

Since then a further four charities have been added,

The Gardens Fund of the National Trust for Scotland, the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society (Perennial), the Royal Fund for gardeners children and Maggie's Centre.

A percentage of the funds raised each year can be donated to a charity of the garden owner's choice.

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Ruth Russell turned 102 on Tuesday.

## Ruth is 102-year's young

Arran's oldest resident celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Tuesday surrounded by family and friends.

Ruth Russell who now lives in Montrose House told The Banner when she turned 100 that the secret to her long, healthy life was 'hard work, and the faith in knowing I will shall be looked after by others now'.

She was born in Kincardineshire on May 10, 1909 and brought up in Motherwell from the age of four.

Ruth first came to Arran in 1934 on holiday and met her future husband John when she was out walking at the Dhunian in Brodick.

They married in 1946 and went to live in an estate house in Corrie.



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Lamlash Community Centre as seen from Arran High School. 02\_b19lam01

## Epic cycle challenge for Arran man

### REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

for the Back-Up Trust, a national charity that aims to transform the lives of people living with a spinal cord injury and a charity that really helped change his own life.

This is a major challenge for Alan Cook, who, following an accident six years ago is paralysed from below his rib cage. For Alan, the 950-mile nine-day journey will be truly remarkable. And he will be doing it lying down, just a couple of inches off the ground, on a specially adapted cycle.

He told the Banner: 'I'll be doing over 105 miles each day without a day off. Out of nearly 600 cyclists I'm the only hand-cyclist taking part.'

Before his accident, Alan, who attended Kilmory Primary and Arran High School, was a sports enthusiast, excelling at football and rugby.

This week his mother Joan said: 'Life has now taken a different direction for him. Alan has adapted to his situation remarkably well.'

Thirty-four-year-old Alan is doing the ride to raise money

legs, is that when it comes to hills I can't stand up on the pedals and use my body weight,' said Alan. 'Also, I ride the bike in a recumbent position with my backside only inches off the road. This

not only gives me pretty poor visibility, but also means it's very hard for other road users to see me, especially in the wet where I get soaked from the spray off cars and lorries.'

If anyone would like to sponsor Alan, visit his Just Giving page at [www.justgiving.com/AlanCookRAB](http://www.justgiving.com/AlanCookRAB) which he will be updating throughout training and the ride itself via Twitter <http://twitter.com/#!/acock77>.



Alan Cook on the cycle that he will ride from John O'Groats to Lands End.

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# End is nigh for Community Centre

Lamlash Community Centre is going to be demolished.

North Ayrshire Council Educational Services has lodged an application to NAC for 'Listed Building and/or Conservation Area Consent in respect of proposed works specified: demolition of Lamlash Community Centre. Estimated cost of the works

is detailed as £30,000.

The application states: 'The property has been vacant for a considerable period of time and the fabric is in poor condition. The building would require major and extensive upgrading works which would be prohibitively expensive. Attempts to market the building for removal and

relocation to another site have, to date, proved fruitless. The property has reached a stage where it is at risk of potential partial collapse. All demolition material will be removed from site. The demolition area will be reinstated with 150mm topsoil and grass seeding to match ground levels.'

The Council was required to demonstrate by marketing the property that there was no alternative interest or potential use of the building.

The availability of the building for relocation to another site on the island was advertised in the Banner in July last year and a number of related parties expressed interest in the property. None of the parties pursued this any further.

As the building is C listed, the applicant needs the council's consent to demolish it. It is a criminal offence to carry out works to a listed building without prior listed building consent.

Lamlash Community Centre was built almost 100 years ago during the First World War as a convalescent and rehabilitation hospital for the armed forces. After the war it was gifted to the villagers of Lamlash to look after the building. When the new Arran High School with an integral community theatre was opened in 2008, the community centre closed but the old building holds many memories for Lamlash residents.

Any written representations about this demolition proposal must be made to the Solicitor to the Council at Cunningham House, Irvine by 27 May.

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Some of the Scouts on the Island Adventure camp, taking to the water in Lamlash Bay last Sunday. 02\_b19sc01

# Adventure Scouts camp on Arran

## Scouts and leaders left the island tired but happy

A host of Scouts descended on the island over the weekend of April 29 to May 2.

This was 'Island Adventure', an annual outward-bound camp for young people from all over Scotland.

A total of 510 people alighted from the 8.30pm ferry on Friday night and made their way to The Dyemill at Lamlash. There the 450 Scouts camped under canvas and made their own food under the direction of 160 leaders.

The mainland Scouts were joined by Arran Scouts from the Shiskine and Lamlash Troops.

The concept of Adventure Camp began on Arran in 1989 and since then has grown from strength to strength. The original format was to have a major camp somewhere in Scotland every two years, coming back to Arran every sixth year.

Since 1999 it has developed into an annual event, providing the experience of adventure camps to more and more young people.

The activities last weekend included sailing, grass sledging, archery, quad biking, mountain boarding and abseiling, with a visit to the adventure playground at Brodick castle and walk round Glenashdale Falls.

### Inflatable

On Sunday many of them were taking to the water in Lamlash Bay. Some were sailing and kayaking, while others tried their hand at walking on water in a huge inflatable nuclear globe or staying on board an inflatable Saturn planet.

The Scouts and leaders left the island on the 1.50pm ferry on Monday, tired but happy.

Previous adventure camps have been held at The Dyemill in 1989, 1995, 2000, and 2005.

# Air ambulance appeal reaches target

More than 18,000 euros have been raised to pay for the air ambulance that transferred

a former Arran rugby player from his home in Romania to hospital in Edinburgh.

Duncan McAlister who grew up in Torbeg has lived with a life-threatening condition called Polycystic Kidneys for many years.

Duncan was airlifted from Romania, where he has lived

for 10 years with his wife and daughter, to Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary three weeks ago but the cost of the air ambulance was not covered by his insurer.

His brother Craig and his family raised the money by running a tombola stall and prize-draw with some fantastic prizes at the Arran Rugby Sevens tournament two weeks ago.

Craig said: 'We're absolutely delighted to have raised all the money that we needed.'

'We managed to raise £971 at the rugby sevens; the rest has all been from donations.'

'Duncan has been overwhelmed by the generosity of the Arran people.'

Duncan is now in a stable condition in hospital but is undergoing dialysis as he awaits a kidney transplant.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Free press reigns on Arran

Here at The Banner we have a policy of not naming people in our weekly police files.

This decision was taken many years ago to save the blushes of people living in small communities and also because in many cases the people may go on to be found innocent of the crime they've been charged with.

In recent years there have been calls for us to change this system and to name and shame the culprits in each case.

Those who want to see names often say it is in the public's interest to know who the culprit is.

The freedom of the press and what constitutes public interest reporting has been at the forefront of the British media reports this week.

Ex-Formula One boss Max Mosley lost his European Court of Human Rights bid to force newspapers to warn people before exposing their private lives.

In 2008 the UK High Court awarded him £60,000 damages after ruling that there was no justification for a front-page article and pictures about his meeting with five prostitutes in a London flat.

Tuesday's verdict of the seven-judge court declared that the European Convention on Human Rights does not require media to give prior notice of intended publications to those who feature in them.

It said that in the UK the right to a private life was protected in several ways: by a system of self-regulation of the press; by access to civil courts to seek damages; and 'if individuals were aware of an intended publication touching upon their private life' they could seek an interim injunction preventing publication.

But there is a very serious question here about whether the newspapers should have the right to publicise very private aspects of people's lives when there's no public interest in it at all – especially when it's clearly for titillation and to sell newspapers.

As a small local newspaper we recognise that there are some things that take place here which are better to be left untouched.

We get calls weekly from people with an axe to grind about neighbour disputes, complaints about service in shops and restaurants, anger at people's dangerous driving and concern about other residents but we don't normally print them.

Most cases are not of interest to our readers but there are times when the rumour-mill goes into overdrive that we have to use our pages to set the record straight.

We will no doubt continue with our no-naming policy for some years to come but rest assured that when we see a story that we feel is absolutely within your rights to know about – we will print and be damned!

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

### press policy

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

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

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

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

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

### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor



### Hydro idea not new

Sir,

I was very interested to read the Banner article regarding plans to install a hydro-electric plant at Pirnmill burn.

It sounds a great idea but it is far from new. My mother's uncle, Johnny Anderson, installed a hydro-electric power station on the burn at Pirnmill in the late 1930s.

Low pressure turbines were fed with water through a large-bore concrete pipe and drove dynamos via belts, which were later replaced by chains for greater efficiency. The dynamo house was a wooden building on a concrete base over the burn just up-stream of the old mill.

Power was fed to a distribution control board in Johnny Anderson's nearby motor repair garage.

From there electricity was taken via poles to three nearby houses (Clisham, Kilbrannan and Kilbrannan Cottage), the shop, the tearoom and the Church of Scotland.

This hydro-electric installation was a great innovation at the time as the village had no mains electricity.

It continued to supply power successfully for many years and as a boy in the late 1950s I clearly remember it in operation.

One drawback was that in dry weather when the burn was low the house lights were very dim.

It was eventually made redundant after electricity became available from the diesel powered generating station at Brodick pier, which is now the Stagecoach bus garage.

Some remains of the hydro power station (the concrete dam and pipe) could still be seen when I last took a walk up the burn at Pirnmill a few years ago.

Yours,  
Ronnie Logan  
Mountain View  
Corrie

### Wind farms for Arran health

Sir,

Regarding the wind farms on Arran – I also love the views and wild wilderness of Arran, but I also love the Arran

community and do not wish to see the local adults and children suffer from incurable diseases and illnesses brought on by old, outdated methods of power production with their polluting toxins and poisons.

With Hunterston nuclear plant so visible across the water with its silent menace, I would much rather see small groups of medium sized wind turbines, producing free and healthy power for each village. So let us all move on to better ways with thought and careful planning.

There is no need for huge wind farms and turbines that we all see on the mainland, because as a small community all we will want to do is produce enough power for the island's needs and no more.

So sorry, Mr and Mrs Tourist, the Arran people's and visitor's health and wellbeing are just as important as your Arran holiday views.

Yours,  
Fiona Thorne  
24 Red Quarry Road  
Corrie

### For the record

Sir,

With the many rumours circulating I feel it is now essential that I clear the air in public.

I would like to state for the record that I did not take out a super-injunction to prevent publication of details of my relationships with two internationally known supermodels and I would like to draw a line under the events that have brought distress to my family.

My loving wife (a plain woman but a good woman) has agreed to stand by me and for this I am extremely grateful.

The car was a blue Honda four-wheel drive and I would

grateful.

I would also ask that the press and public refrain from pestering Elle and Naomi over the events as they too deserve a little privacy.

Yours,  
Marc A Head  
Whiting Bay

### No change here

Sir,

After my picture appeared in last week's Banner while attending the Royal knees up at Lamlash, I would just like to point out the fact that I wasn't actually part of the royal celebrations but simply attending for the beer and food.

My idea of a green and white goatee to counter Mr McIntyre's red, white and blue one would have been against the rules of the day hence why I didn't.

I just wanted to clarify the point as people of a red and white and blue persuasion have indicated I may be tempted to alter my allegiance on the football front!

Not a chance.  
Yours,  
Dougie Macfarlane  
Lamlash

### Ferry kindness

Sir,

If I may take this opportunity to thank the lady on Monday 2 May who very kindly stopped to offer myself and my son a lift to the ferry.

We were running late and would never have made the 4.40pm ferry had she not offered us lift.

We were in such a rush to catch the ferry that I did not get a chance to thank her properly.

The car was a blue Honda four-wheel drive and I would

like to thank her from the bottom of my heart for her kindness and proof that there are still kind and caring people out there.

Yours,  
Joyce Hodgson  
Flower Shed  
Monkton

### Car in the ditch

Sir,  
May I, through your letters page express a sincere thank-you to the three Arran residents who came to the help of an elderly couple when their car had to be extricated from a ditch on the Corriegills Road, Brodick last Saturday afternoon, 30 April.

Our thanks are also due to the police who, once contacted, quickly dealt with the situation in such a helpful and courteous manner.

Yours,  
Mrs M Robinson  
49 Keystene Quadrant  
Milngavie  
Glasgow

### Mobile donation thanks

Sir,  
I am writing to you to thank everyone has helped us by donating their old mobiles.

We have collected 73 mobile phones and raised £182.50 to give to Malawi. As a result we have recycled more and we are helping to reduce pollution in the world.

We would just like to say a big thank you once again to all who donated.

Yours,  
John Mulholland  
P7 Kilmory Primary School

### Blackwaterfoot beach clean

Local residents turned out in force to carry out a 'spring clean' of the beach in Blackwaterfoot on Sunday.

Thanks to the younger members of the clean-up team the volunteers managed to collect huge amounts of rubbish in preparation for the busy summer season ahead.



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## Mobile phones key to recording shark sightings

Shark spotters on Arran are being urged to record sightings as they happen using mobile phones this summer.

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) says enormous basking sharks are once again being spotted as they cruise close to the shore, hoovering up vast amounts of plankton through their gaping mouths.

Through their long-running Basking Shark Watch programme, the first basking shark of the year was seen very early - reported to MCS off the island of Canna in January, with the next two sightings reported in March, one close to Millport and the other close to Newlyn, Cornwall.

Last month's warm weather has resulted in more early close encounters for coastal walkers, who spotted these bus-sized animals close to shore at traditional basking shark hotspots.

They appear to have come about a month early compared to 'usual' years, when sharks start appearing in May.

MCS is urging people to report sightings of these huge animals as part of the Basking Shark Watch programme, to help conservationists better understand the behaviour and needs of the UK's largest fish.

'The more we can map the location of these creatures over time, the more we can discover about their lives and ensure they continue to thrive in our waters,' said Dr Jean-Luc Solandt, MCS Biodiversity Policy Officer.

'With so many people carrying smart phones these days, it's easy to go straight to our website ([www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)), record your sighting and take a picture and upload it directly to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/mcsuk](http://www.facebook.com/mcsuk)), all within moments of seeing a basking shark.'

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# Salvation Army Band marches through Brodick

A marching band is always a big attraction, and on Sunday Govan Citadel Salvation Army Band created much interest as they marched along Brodick seafront.

They were on Arran at the invitation of St Brides Church as part of their centenary celebrations.

During the service, young Matt Ramsay gave a wonderful rendition of 'You raise me up'. The children enjoyed a game and were invited to run up the aisles to get items from the congregation.

Envoy Lexie Andrade of Arran and Irvine Salvation Army said: 'They were briefly flummoxed when they were

asked to go and bring back a blessing, but quickly rallied and soon produced a Bible and hymn book!'

Following the service, the Bandsman and women were treated to a soup and sandwich lunch in the Church hall before six went off to Montrose House to conduct worship there, while the remainder marched from the Church to Bilslands where they played for the customers from 2 to 4pm.

They even managed to play outside for 40 minutes. It was soon time for them to pack up and board the boat again for their return journey to the mainland.



Govan Citadel Salvation Army Band marching from Brodick Church to Bilslands on Sunday. 02\_b19ban01

Govan Citadel are the biggest SA Band in Scotland and are widely travelled and very much in demand. They were in Motherwell on Saturday evening giving a concert of varied musical pieces.

Lexie added: 'None of this would have been possible

without the generosity of Cal Mac, Stagecoach, Iain Hendry, Jon Hill and the staff at Bilslands, and all the hospitality enjoyed at the Church itself. The police were there in plenty of time to make sure we were not knocked down, which was a great comfort.

'I know that I can speak on behalf of all those who travelled over for the day when I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who gave of their time and talents to make sure that the day went without a hitch. Even the weather improved to allow the march to proceed.'



ID No 666  
Niki Wade,  
murderess,  
life imprisonment

## When these girls are bad, they're very, very bad!

As the Arran Music and Drama Club enter their last few weeks of rehearsals for their summer production of Bad Girls – The Musical, we bring you another sordid character.

This stage adaptation of the popular television series Bad Girls will open in Brodick Hall on Monday 30 May and the controversial but humorous drama about life behind bars in a women's prison is sure to be a hit.

### Featuring

This week we are featuring Nikki Wade – played by Sheila Gilmore.

Nikki is serving a life sentence for killing a policeman

who was attempting to rape her girlfriend. Most of the inmates on G-Wing look up to Nikki as before her conviction Nikki used to run a nightclub with her girlfriend.

### Injustice

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# More Royal wedding parties



'Princess' Lisa Morrison cuts the wedding cake at the Whiting Bay royal garden party. b19wed03

The Royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton created much more interest here on Arran than most people expected.

Last week we featured a picture spread from four of the parties involving Arran folk, and this week we have another two.

Ethne Cumming hosted a grand garden party in Lochranza, and Lisa Morrison and Whiting Bay friends enjoyed the Royal occasion at Largymore. The Whiting Bay ladies held a fabulous party along with around 30 children.



These children had right royal fun at Lisa Morrison's party for Wills and Kate. b19wed04



Ethne Cumming and friends at the Lochranza garden party. b19wed01

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Iain Buchanan, Jack Ewing-Buchanan, Sinclair McLeod and Pip Siddle with their best royal headgear. b19wed02



With the season now well under way, Arran Heritage Museum at Rosaburn, Brodick is holding its first special Sunday summer event of the year next weekend. Seniors Day will be taking place this year on Sunday 22 May from 1.30pm.

A special welcome is extended to all senior citizens to come along that afternoon with the added attraction of free entry to all those who qualify as 'seniors'. Disabled access and toilet

provision is of course in place for the less mobile.

There will be a marquee on the lawn for the musical entertainment that will include the Isle of Arran Pipe Band accompanying the special afternoon teas available from Café Rosaburn.

This is also an opportunity to have a look around the museum and see this season's new displays as well as the standard exhibits, many of which have been improved and updated.

## Museum's special day

# Experience the culinary delights Eighteen69 can offer

**'Food should be fun, something to enjoy sharing with others'**

Continuing to embrace a passion for tradition and elegance, the Auchrannie's flagship restaurant Eighteen69 has recently re-opened for the season with an exciting new menu.

Despite its well-deserved reputation as one of the island's top-notch restaurants, Eighteen69 shouldn't be regarded as a stiff formal dining room reserved only for special occasions.

As head chef Craig Beedie himself said: 'Food should be fun, something to enjoy sharing with others.'

This is pure escapism, a chance to leave behind the Arran we all witness day to day and escape to a little corner of paradise and restaurant manager Sheila Bannatyne is keen to promote the restaurant to local diners.

'This is a fantastic place to eat,' she said. 'The food here without a doubt is amongst the top in the country.'

'With its relaxed atmosphere in these beautiful surroundings, it is the perfect place to eat out, not just when it is a special occasion.'

The restaurant is open five nights a week, closing on Sunday and Monday, and is open to everyone, not just hotel guests.

Craig has a team of only two others working with him; youngsters David Holland and Ian McAdam, and yet only Scotland's top chefs could match the food they produce.

The traditional yet contemporary décor in the country house hotel and adjoining conservatory is mirrored in the menu of established Scottish dishes that have been given a modern twist.

With an ever changing menu that includes west coast king scallops and wild Scottish rabbit for starters and Ayrshire pork, Highland roe buck loin venison and Scrabster halibut in the main dishes; the restaurant offers delicious food for every kind of diner.

The daily specials menu contains culinary delights such as breast of Scottish woodpigeon, spiced cream of celeriac and carpaccio of Loch Duart salmon to begin with followed by grilled John Dory or free range corn fed chicken supreme.

For dessert there is a mouth-



West coast king scallops with blackpudding. 01\_b19res05

The seven course tasting menu with wines to complement has proved increasingly popular with diners.

Eighteen69 is one of the few restaurants to also cater for vegetarian diners by offering an entirely meat free tasting menu too.

Craig has also specialised in adapting to all dietary requirements, which includes delicious menus for vegans.

'Vegan diets can be a bit of a test on the old grey matter,' he said. 'But I relish a challenge and it's superb to be able to offer vegan diners a three course meal that is unlike anything they would ever normally eat at home.'



Eighteen69's most recent award winner, chef Ian McAdam. 01\_b19res02



Head chef Craig Beedie in the kitchen. 01\_b19res01



Neil Duncan, Zsuzsa Pato and Luisa Giuntini. 01\_b19res07



Craig Beedie, centre, with Ian McAdam, left, and David Holland, right. The three chefs cook for 80 covers on average each night.

01\_b19res03



Rhubarb and white chocolate charlotte. 01\_b19res04



Highland roe buck loin venison with rosemary potato rosti, balsamic glazed beetroot and buttered baby vegetables. 01\_b19res06

## THE ARRAN BANNER

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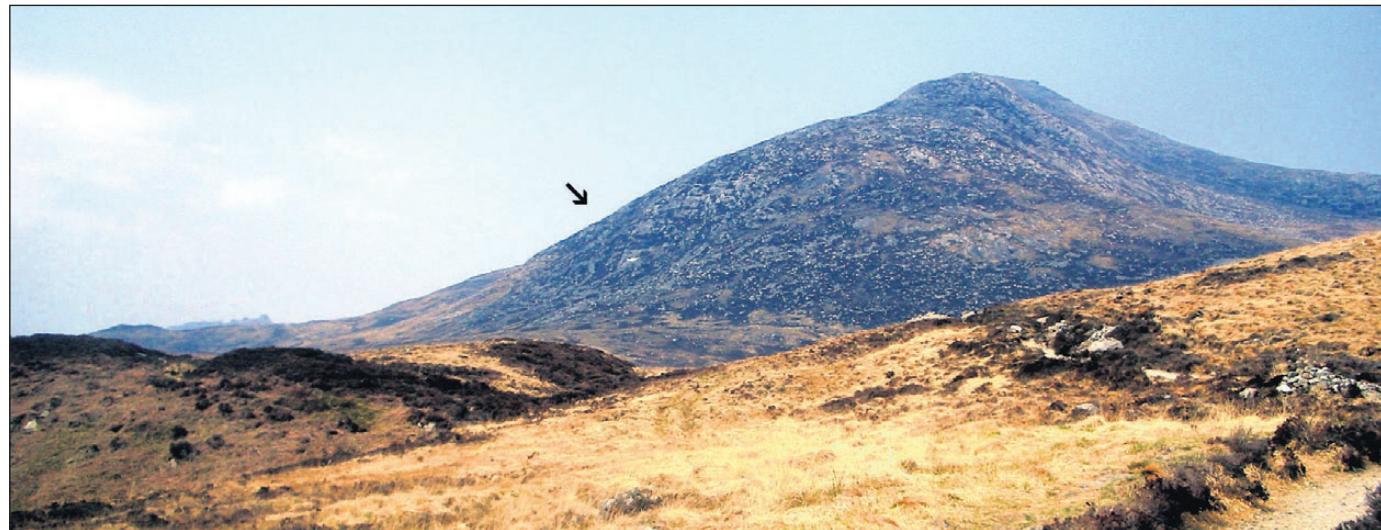


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# Goat Fell blemish explained



The 'white spot' could be clearly seen from Brodick.

'In time this shocking white will probably revert to the standard battleship grey'

Earlier this year a tantalising 'white spot' appeared on the side of Goat Fell.

As the year progressed and the snow on the cap melted, it became clear that this white spot was not part of the snowy landscape.

Puzzled by what this could be, David Pendlebury of Corriegills decided to climb up and find out for himself.

'Maybe there was no need to take it quite so personally, but when I noticed that a brilliant white spot had appeared on the southern flank of Goat Fell my curiosity was greatly aroused,' said David.

'Although it shone brightly enough, I knew it couldn't be snow; not in that position and at this time of year.'

'So it seemed like a good idea to take a walk and have a closer look.'

By the time David reached the mountainside the white spot was no longer visible and he had to guess his way towards it.

The terrain of granite boulders embedded in thick heath-

er made the search particularly tedious but after laboriously making his way across the mountainside he finally found the 'white spot'.

He said: 'From where I sat it looked as if some crazed builder had dumped a load of Snowcem over the rock.'

'Somewhat to my surprise I saw that, apart from the abrupt change from standard grey to startling white, there was no variation in the contours of the rock.'

David said that the white spot had obviously been caused by thawing winter snow washing away heather growing on top of the rock.

'The white area of granite was merely the 'natural' state of the rock, protected for many long years by the pad of earth, humus and heather which was now at last exposed to the weathering effects of the elements,' he said.

'In time this shocking white will probably revert to the standard battleship grey of the Arran hills and the whole incident will be forgotten.'



The 'white spot' on Goat Fell has been caused by heather being washed from the surface of the granite.

## Distillery prepares for open day

After the success of last year's inaugural event, the Isle of Arran Distillery is holding another Open Day in Lochranza to celebrate all that the island has to offer on May 29.

As well as a wonderful opportunity to promote the distillery and Arran's many businesses and products to visitors and locals, there will be fun activities and entertainments lasting all day and into the night.

Activities will include whisky tastings and master classes, island stall holders, wood workshop with Paul Hodgkiss, activities for kids and adults along with live music.

Callanish, playing a mixture of ceilidh and contemporary music, will be performing during the day but will take centre stage at the 'evening do' where they will be supported by the News Band in Lochranza Hall.



get set for digital

## Obituary:

# James McKinnon - an Arran champion

On Sunday 1 May sport lost a champion and big man in Henry Cooper.

On that day too, Arran lost James McKinnon - also a champion and big man in every respect. James, a sheep farmer in Sannox and much, much more, passed peacefully away at his home in the village after a long spell of illness. He was 70.

Eldest son of the late Gilbert and Peggy McKinnon, he leaves a devoted wife Sine and five adoring children - Karen, Jamie, twins Peter and Gilbert and Ewan.

He is also sorely mourned by brothers Hugh and Gilbert

along with sisters Isobel and Margaret.

James McKinnon was born in 1940 at Lamlash into a family with strong Arran roots stretching back to the mid 18th century.

### Tramped

His lifelong love affair with the hills and peaks began when, as a youngster, he tramped through the heather and bracken tending to the blackface flocks.

And one of his earlier memories was from the mid 1940s when he hitched a lift on the

back of the last truck to make the journey on the miniature railway which linked the barites mines of Glen Sannox to the old pier in the bay.

It was James' own little version of a day at Alton Towers! After attending Corrie School, he boarded at Keil School in Dumbarton before earning a place at agricultural college.

James then worked on farms in Ayrshire and returned to his beloved island to join his father rearing sheep on the hills in and around Sannox, where his parents were also mine hosts at the popular Ingledene guest house (now Sannox Bay Hotel).

Come the 1960s, James became a trusted assistant to gamekeeper Howard Walker, hosting groups of Germans who would make the annual deerstalking visit. He would also regularly take part in grouse shoots with Lady Jean Fforde, revelling in the task of handling the pointer dogs.

In 1973, he married Sine by which time the McKinnons had moved from Ingledene just a couple of hundred yards along the road to Laimhrig. On the retirement of Gilbert snr, James took charge of the sheep business, which was to expand to include a farm park and the still-thriving pony trekking operation.

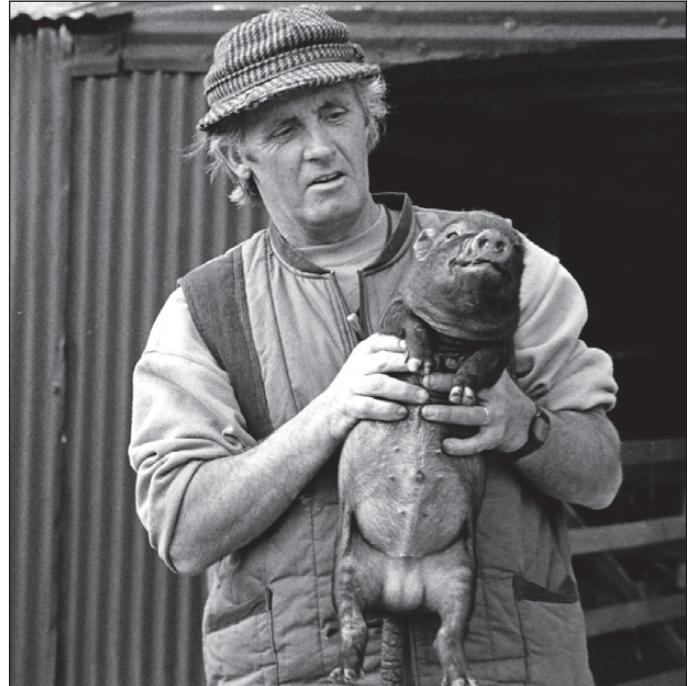
In the late 1990s, James began to suffer health problems which restricted his involvement on the farm. However, his battling spirit manifested itself both in terms of his determination to bounce back from illness on several occasions - and in terms standing up for what he believed was right and just.

From a personal viewpoint, I could fill several editions of the Arran Banner with anecdotes and memories. I look back with deep affection and nostalgia on the times I would set off with James at 4am to scale the peaks to round up the far flung ewes for clipping or dipping.

More often than not, I would be left to make my own way home to Sannox because I couldn't maintain the quick-march pace of my supremely fit mentor!

Playing a round of golf with James over the beautiful Corrie course was always an enlightening and highly entertaining experience.

A golf purist he was most definitely not. The stance was splay-legged and the grip was more suited to an axe than a driver - but somehow he managed to propel the ball a country mile (though perhaps not always in the right direction).



The much loved and much admired James McKinnon.

b18jam01

Being in the company of James was an education in itself, whether it was discussing global events or helping him tend to the sheep at the smearing house and fanks above Sannox.

### Man of God

James was also a man of God, channelling his staunch faith through the Free Church of Scotland.

During one of my most recent chats with him last summer, he

looked out over Sannox Bay and said: 'Whatever happens in the future, I am content to know that I have had the best life possible, sharing it with the best people in the most beautiful location in the world.' Who could argue?

Sadly, he is gone - but his name and memory will live on in Sannox and beyond through Sine, their marvellous children and grandchildren.

The vast attendance at the funeral service last Saturday underlined the affection and respect commanded by James. The service was delivered in powerful, uplifting and inspirational fashion by the Rev David Karoon.

As James was laid to rest and a lone piper's rendition of Amazing Grace filled the glen, it was so apt that only other sounds were those of the new lambs in the adjacent field. James McKinnon, you WERE a champion.



When his father retired James took charge of the sheep business, which was to expand to include a farm park and the still-thriving pony trekking operation at their North Sannox base. 01\_b19san01

**Goat Fell  
Race**  
Ormidale Pavilion  
Saturday 14th May  
12 noon  
**Not too serious  
dog show**  
12 noon  
**Bring Your Pooch!**

**DOUGARIE SHEEP  
DOG TRIALS**  
**SPRING TRIAL (OPEN)**  
At GLENLOIG,  
STRING ROAD  
*By kind permission of Mr C  
Fforde and Mr J C Murchie*  
On FRIDAY 20 MAY 2011  
Commencing 8.30am  
Judge: Mr A Miller,  
Isle of Arran.

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**Family events at Brodick Castle,  
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**Exhibition of Rare & Unusual Cameras**  
Sunday 15th May 11.00 – 3.30  
Free with entry to the Gardens

**Brodick Gardens & Country Park**  
2pm Tues 17th – Guided Garden walk  
Meet at Reception Centre

**Thurs 19th May – North Arran Minibus Safari**  
10.15 – 4.15. Booking Essential  
Phone 084404932154 for details

**Fri 20th May – Unseen Brodick**  
Tour of the Battlements and or Servant's Quarters  
Free with Garden Entry  
1.00pm – 2.00pm – 3.00pm  
Tours limited to 10  
Bookings advisable  
Telephone 302202

## Family Bingo Night

Whiting Bay Golf Club  
Saturday 14th May  
at 7pm

All proceeds in aid  
of the "Walk the Walk  
Breast Cancer Charity"

**ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM**  
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089  
invite you to  
**SENIORS DAY**  
From 1.30pm on  
**SUNDAY 22ND MAY**  
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all senior citizens, and  
special afternoon teas.  
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There's always  
something  
happening at  
Arran's four star  
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Rosaburn, Brodick  
Open daily 10.30 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

## ISLE OF ARRAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SC037920

### Trip to Gardening Scotland

Bus to above show at Inglinton, Edinburgh

Friday June 3rd - 8.20am ferry returning 6pm

Still a few seats available

Tel Jim on 600421 or Andrew on 601248 to book

£12 payable on the day.

Members and non members welcome

## Plant Sale & Table Top Sale

Kilmory Hall  
SC028200

**Sunday 22nd May at 2pm**

To book a table please  
phone 870345 - £5 per table.

Donations of Plants and Homebaking  
for the Tearoom can be left in the hall  
from 11am on Sunday



**What's On**  
Brodick Country Park

**NORTH ARRAN MINIBUS SAFARI**  
Discover Arran's amazing wildlife from the comfort  
of a mini-bus. Chances of seeing golden eagle, hen  
harrier, red deer, seals and maybe otters and dol-  
phins.  
10.15am – 4.15pm; adult £30, child £15  
Booking essential, please phone 01770 302462

## Friends of Brodick Castle trip to Edinburgh

This is a reminder to all Friends of Brodick Castle who will be going on the outing to Edinburgh on Friday 20 May.

We will travel on the 8.20am ferry from Brodick and return on the 6pm from Ardrossan.

Please meet on the ferry. More details can be obtained from Morag Watson, telephone number 302751.

## Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall 200 Club April draw are: 1<sup>st</sup> prize, number 64 David Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, number 78 Marco Beaton.

# New CD for Gillian and friends

Arran fiddler and singer Gillian Frame is featured on a new CD due to be released in Glasgow next Sunday, 15 May.

As part of the group Findlay Napier and the Bar Room Mountaineers, Gillian can be heard on the CD 'File Under Fiction', the second album to be released by the five-piece band.

Other band members are Douglas Millar on keyboards and vocals, drummer Scott MacKay, bassist James Lindsay, and of course, Songwriter of the Year nominee Findlay Napier.

The album is described as 'a

collection of catchy, upbeat musical vignettes recounting the tales of quirky, colourful characters, from lovesick librarians and dumbstruck magicians to peeping toms and guilty johns'.

Brodick girl Gillian was voted Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow in January 2001. Her first CD as part of the band Back of the Moon was launched at the Ormidale Hotel in Brodick in August 2001.

Gillian is currently teaching fiddle at St Matthew's Academy and Mayfield Primary School, both in Saltcoats.



The Bar Room Mountaineers with Gillian Frame on the left. b19fin01no



A Redstart was spotted near Rubha Glas on April 8.

## THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... ON NOW SALE

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# Bird Notes for April

By Jim Cassels

April is the month when spring migration gets underway with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories.

April was warmer and drier than April 2009 and, as a result, summer migrants were arriving earlier, in some cases up to 10 days earlier.

In March, there were first reports of Chiffchaff, Wheatear, Sand Martin and White Wagtail.

### Migrants

The April firsts for Arran summer migrants were: Blackcap in Lamlash on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Manx Shearwaters in Brodick Bay also on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Swallow and Willow Warbler in Whiting Bay on the 5<sup>th</sup>, House Martin at Catacol on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Sandwich Tern at Dougarie also on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Grasshopper Warbler at East Mayish on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Sedge Warbler at

Kildonan on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Common Sandpiper at Clauclands on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Whitethroat at Sliddery on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Garden Warbler at Strathwillan on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Whinchat on the Ross Road on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Spotted Flycatcher in Whiting Bay on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Tree Pipit at Kilmory on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

As for Cuckoo, with over 10 widespread reports on the 18<sup>th</sup> that seemed to be the date they arrived on Arran.

By the end of the month the songs of the summer migrants like Willow Warbler, Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler were filling the air.

With very settled conditions throughout the month, it was ideal for watching migration particularly on the coast.

For example on the 8<sup>th</sup> there were over 80 Great Northern Divers and over 20 Black-throated divers off our shores

and on the 26<sup>th</sup> there were over 100 White Wagtail at Slidderywaterfoot.

Other birds moving to breeding grounds further north included: two Redwing in High Kildonan on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Brambling at Machrie on the



With over 10 widespread reports on the 18<sup>th</sup> that seemed to be the date the Cuckoos arrived on Arran.

3<sup>rd</sup>, a Redstart near Rubha Glas on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 25 Greylag Geese at Shiskine on the 15<sup>th</sup>, seven Whooper Swans at Whiting Bay also on the 15<sup>th</sup>, two Wigeon at Cosyden on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 65 Pink-footed Geese flying over Whiting Bay golf course on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 Dunlin and 20 Turnstone at Drumadoon on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and seven Whimbrel at Slidderywaterfoot on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Other highlights included: a Little Grebe at Kildonan on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Goosander on the Iorsa on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a Red Kite in North Sannox on the

22<sup>nd</sup> and two Puffin in Brodick Bay on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

My thanks to the many people who have been in touch to share their sightings.

Those of common birds are as welcome as those of rare ones. May should be an equally interesting month with the arrival of more summer visitors including Wood Warbler, Swift and, hopefully, even Corncrake and Nightjar.

Finally spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding.

The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships. Please take a moment to report any signs of breeding birds to me. Already there have been reports of Blackbirds feeding young.

### Offence

Please remember that under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at [james.cassels@virgin.net](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net)

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THE HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

## ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Sunday 15th May 2pm – 4pm

The High School, Lamlash

Bedding Plants, Perennials and Shrubs

Come and support your hospital when giving your garden a makeover.

# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, May 11, 1991

### Long haul home

With the busy Easter season followed by May Day holidays, Arran's hauliers have been faced with major ferry problems.

When Hamish Hamilton of Shiskine found out on Friday afternoon that he couldn't get on the 3.15pm, 6pm or 8.40pm he stayed overnight but couldn't get on the 7am either.

In desperation he left Ardrossan and drove to Claonaig where he eventually caught a ferry to Arran.

### Surgery support sought

Dr Malcolm Kerr has submitted a request to the Arran Tourist Board's executive committee, seeking their support his new surgery in front of Brodick Bowling Green.

The committee declined to support his request because



Local haulier Hamish Hamilton has had to catch the Claonaig ferry this week after there was no room for his lorry on the Ardrossan ferry.

b19twe05

they felt the surgery would add to traffic congestion in that area and would obstruct one of the finest views on the island.

### Honours for John

Fittingly, since he will retire next week after 30 years as Brodick Castle's head gardener, John Basford last week carried off all the honours at the Royal Horticultural Society Show.

### Tragic accident

A 19-year-old youth died in a tragic accident last Tuesday afternoon on a hill on the north side of Glen Rosa.

Richard Beattie was one of several fellers working on a stand of trees visible from Brodick village.

He was working on his own at 2pm on Tuesday when three of the trees he had cut were hanging and for a reason that no one will ever know he walked under one of them and it fell on to him.

### Pool's progress

The filling of the Auchrananie swimming pool is now in progress and Iain Johnston told us that he expected people to be swimming in it in under two weeks.

### Wilson's poor show

In a recently published table of the number of times MPs have voted in the House, Cunningham North MP Brian Wilson comes number 479 in the league.

Top is one and bottom is 638.

### On the right course

Lochranza Golf Course is

back in business again – with 18 holes.

It is more than a year since Iain Robertson met with some local opposition to his plan to extend the golf course.

But the plans have gone ahead and the new course opens this weekend having taken over two fields to the east and one field between the road and loch.

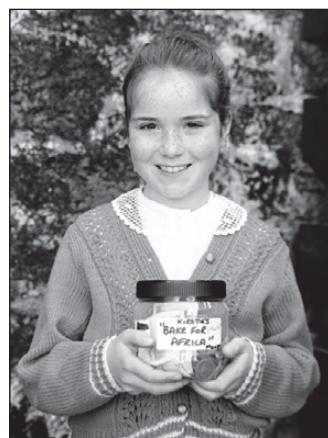
### Tom Anderson

#### memorial

Those who knew Professor Tom Anderson will not be surprised that on his death he made a very generous donation to the National Trust for Scotland.

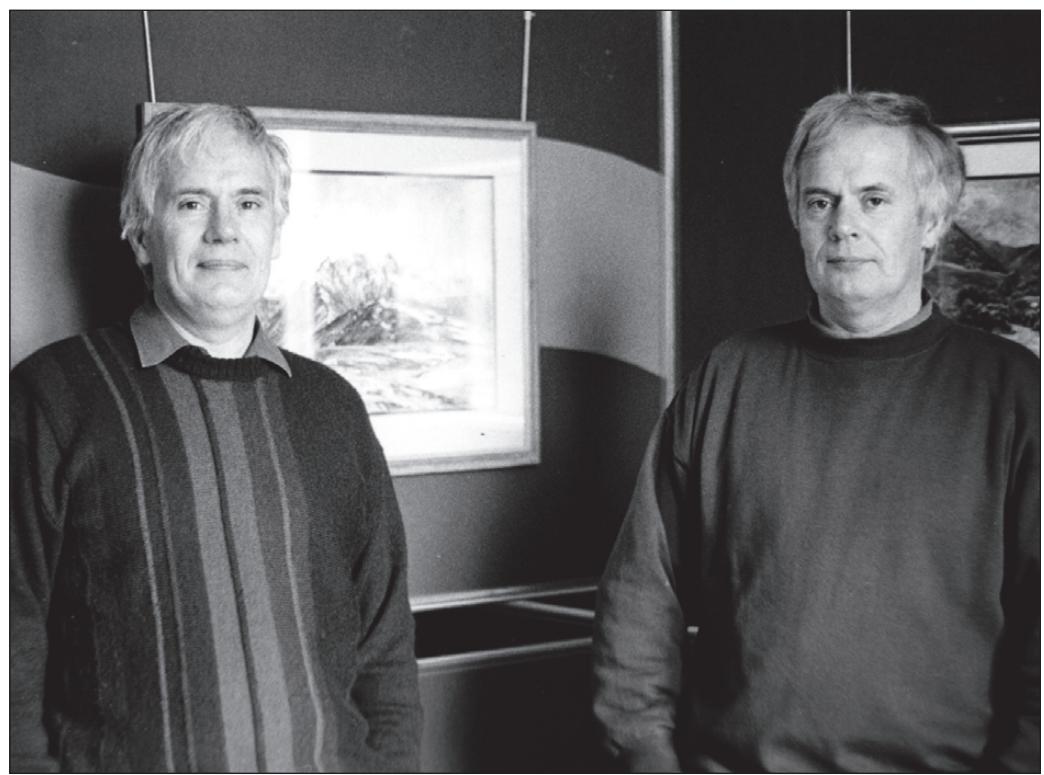
It will be used to replace the Heather House by the commemoration gate.

But in order that the new summerhouse is also heather thatched, an extra £3,000 is desperately needed.



Eight year-old Kirstie Smith of Lamlash raised £26.27 for the African Famine Relief this week when she spent her Easter holidays baking cakes and biscuits to sell at school.

b19twe04



Bill Lees on the left and his brother Bob held their fourth 'Two of a Kind' art exhibition in Corrie Hotel last weekend.

b19twe02



Iain Robertson admires one of the new views which has opened up by his extension of Lochranza Golf Course.

b19twe01

**ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM**  
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# Where's Archie?

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If you think you know then post your answer on the website  
[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)  
Or email us at:  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

Last week Archie was playing in the sea at the Silver Sands, Kildonan. First correct answers came from Rob of Tyne and Wear, Karen of Motherwell, Shep from Crewe who is currently on Arran on his holidays, and Patricia of Perth. This week he is in the car park, but what is that building behind him?

02\_b19arc01

# Whats On ARRAN

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com) Tel: 01770 302353



## EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery  
Arran Brewery Tour  
Trout Fly Fishing  
Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily  
Arran Heritage Museum

Open Mon - Sat 10.30am-4.30pm ,Sun 12.30pm - 4.30pm  
2pm  
Loch Garbad, Bank  
9am - dusk  
Rosaburn Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm

## SATURDAY 14th MAY

Karate  
Family Games  
Fun In The Pool  
Over 21's Disco  
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)  
Rink Game  
Rink Game  
Rink Game  
Spring Fair & BBQ  
Book Sale and Coffees  
Bingo Night in aid of Breast Cancer  
Goat Fell Race  
Not Too Serious Dog Show  
Arran Haulage Cup Final  
Arran in the Square

Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm  
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Arran High School, 10am  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm  
Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club 2.30pm  
Lamlash Bowling Club 2pm  
Corrie Primary 12pm - 2pm  
Brodick Hall, 11am - 2pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 12pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 12pm  
Ormidale Park, 3pm  
George Square, Glasgow, 11am til late

## SUNDAY 15th MAY

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes  
Family Games  
Fun In The Pool  
Quiz  
Glasgow Phoenix Choir  
Hospital Supporters League Plant Sale  
Arran in the Square

## MONDAY 16th MAY

Over 50's Badminton  
Badminton  
Weight Wise  
Ladies Netball  
Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games  
Citizens Advice  
Senior Fitness  
BreathWalk Class  
Circuit Training  
Table Tennis  
Badminton  
Mums and Tots Swimming Lessons  
Hatha Yoga  
Summer Bridge  
Rink Game

Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm  
Library Annex, 1.45pm  
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 2.30pm  
High School 2pm - 4pm  
George Square, Glasgow, 11am til 4pm

Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm  
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm  
Ormidale Park, 6pm  
Park Terrace, Lamlash, 10am - 2pm  
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym  
Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm  
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 11am  
Arran High School, 6pm - 7.30pm  
High School Cafe, 6.30pm  
Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm

Isle of Arran Brewery are pleased to sponsor



9 – 12 JUNE 2011

A WEEKEND OF SESSIONS, CONCERTS AND CEILIDHS

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

Rink Game  
Rink Game  
Zumba Fitness  
Arran Antiquarians John Marshall, Auchtermuchty

Whiting Bay Bowling Club 6.30pm  
Lamlash Bowling Club 7pm  
Brodick Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Brodick Hall, 2pm

## TUESDAY 17th MAY

Lochranza Swimming Club  
Army Cadets  
Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Citizens Advice  
Youth Club  
Rotary Club  
Junior Hockey Club  
Melody Movemenet. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up  
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Indoor Bowls  
Youth Club  
Rink Game  
Zumba Fitness

Kinloch 11am - 12pm  
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall - 2pm  
Park Terrace, Lamlash, 10am - 2pm  
Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm  
Ormidale Pavillion, 6pm-7pm  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
Brodick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm  
High School, 6pm - 7pm

## WEDNESDAY 18th MAY

Hockey  
Tae Kwon Do  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Selt Making Class  
Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones  
Yoga for Every Body  
Senior Badminton  
Museum, Archives & Geneology Service  
Aquafizz  
Yogalates  
Circuit Training  
Rink Game  
Coffee Morning for Christian Aid  
Rink Game  
Rink Game  
Arran Open Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group  
Elderly Forum

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall  
KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
10am -11.30am  
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm  
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm  
Lamlash Curch Hall, 10.15am - 12pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club 6.30pm  
Lamlash Bowling Club 7pm  
High School, 3.45pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am

## THURSDAY 19th MAY

General Knowledge Quiz  
Arran Music & Drama Rehearsals  
Lochranza Craft Club  
Coffee Morning  
Table Tennis  
Youth Club  
Senior Fitness  
Pilates  
Pub Quiz  
Brodick Embroidery Group  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Swimming Gala  
General Knowledge Quiz

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Hall, 2pm  
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm  
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm  
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm  
9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym  
6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio  
Kinloch Hotel, 9pm  
Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Behind Library, 4.30pm - 6.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Kinloch Bar, 9pm

## FRIDAY 20th MAY

Arran Pipe Band Practice  
Quiz  
Aquafizz  
Yogalates  
Over 21's Disco  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Dougarie Sheepdog Trials - Spring Trial (Open)

Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm  
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio  
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Behind Library, 7pm - 9pm  
Glenloig, String Road, 8.30am

## SATURDAY 21st MAY

Book Sale and Coffees

Brodick Hall, 11am - 2pm

# Wedding fever at Kinloch

Royal wedding fever really took hold of the island on the day that Prince William married Kate Middleton as parties were held all over the island.

One of these was at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot where locals held an indoor street party in front of the big screen.

All the adults and children that attended got dressed up in their glad rags and special hats for the occasion.

One guest said: 'The Kinloch pulled out all the stops, decorating the bar with bunting, balloons and flags, laying on a spread of cucumber sandwiches, empire biscuits and other goodies and to toast the bride and groom a glass or two of Bucksfizz.' Kirsty Crawford and Sheila Gilmore won the hat competition and there was a very special royal raffle with lots of great prizes to be won.

## Radio hams come to Arran

The Camb-Hams from the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club spent last week on the island with their DXpedition callsign GS3PYE/P.

The annual Camb-Hams DXpedition to the Scottish Isles is always very busy with an average of 4,000 contacts each year, but Arran this year proved particularly popular as the team exceeded the 6,000 QSO mark on Friday, with several days still to go before they returned home to Cambridge.

They are very active on all the HF bands, plus 6m, 4m, with some activity on 2m and 70cm for satellite.



Dressed up to celebrate the Royal Wedding in style at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot were youngsters Cailaen Robertson and Molly McNiven.

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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 15 May**

Shiskine, 11am

Sunday School in the Church Hall

(Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)  
Brodick 7pm  
Rev David Karoon  
All welcome

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**Sunday 15 May**

Holy Communion 11am.

Mrs Janis Gallagher

Coffee after service

**Wednesday 18 May**

Holy Communion 12.15pm

All welcome

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(SCO15072)

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

**Sunday 15 May**

Rev Gillean Maclean

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30am

In both churches

All welcome, including families; children's area

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

**Sunday 15 May**

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 7pm

13 Glen Avenue, Brodick

All welcome

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 18th 7pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

Rev D. Macleod

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

Ormidale Pavilion

**Sunday 15 May**

Tea and Coffee from 10.40am

11.00am - Morning Worship

(Church Anniversary)

Speaker: Angus Jamison

Everyone very welcome

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.

*Independent but working together:*

**Minister**

Rev Angus Adamson.

**Parish Asst**

Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times. to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome

**Sunday 15 May**

Brodick Church 10.30am

Corrie Church 12pm

Lochranza 10.45am

### DEATH

#### GALLACHER – ANN CHERRY

Peacefully at Cooriedoon Care Home, Whiting Bay on 7th May 2011, Ann aged 94 years, beloved wife of the late Bill Gallacher, late of Whiting Bay and Lamlash. Funeral service at Lamlash Church on Tuesday 17th May 2011 at 11.30am and thereafter to Lamlash Cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### YOUNG - DORIS

Lisa and family would like to thank Dr Guthrie & Dr Kerr and Vera & her wonderful team for the care and attention given to mum, also Rev Gillean Maclean and David & Clair Hendry. Special thanks to friends and family for all their support at this sad time. The church collection raised a marvellous £550 which will be donated to ARCAS.

#### MCALLISTER - CHARLES

Kitty and the family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff of the Hospital, Montrose House, Stronach, the carers, neighbours, friends and all those who helped and supported both Charlie and the family over his last years. Special thanks to Rev David Karoon, for his ongoing friendship and support. We are grateful to D. Hendry and Lagg Hotel for accommodating arrangements on the day and greatly appreciate the collection of £430.00 for Alzheimer's Scotland.

## BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### WEDDINGS



Married on Friday 8th April at Holy Cross Church, Brodick.  
Andrea Muir and John Fergusson, both from Paisley.  
The couple held their reception at the Kildonan Hotel.



Locals and visitors gathered for the first Lochranza Open Day for a number of years.



Lamlash victory by 1 up. The third game Shiskine v Whiting Bay in which Whiting Bay won both games 5 up.

Next Friday 13 May the semi-final draw is Brodick v Machrie, Lamlash v Whiting Bay. Sunday 8 May, Guy Spiers Trophy, Spring Handicap at Shiskine. Thanks go to Shiskine for hosting the game, to Dougie and Willie for starting and results, to the tearoom staff for the soup and sandwiches and to Stuart and his greenkeeping staff for the excellent condition of the course.

Scoring was difficult in the strong winds and heavy showers. Sweep results: 1 A Jeffrey 69-5=64, 2 R McRae 73-7=66, 3 A Pattison 77-10=67. Second class: 1 A Bannatyne 92-21=71 BIH, 2 D Robertson 85-14=71, 3 B Rooney 87-14=73, best scratch A Jeffrey 69. The J C Reid O/55s R McRae 66.

There were twos from A Pattison, R McRae, G Hendry, J Armit, B Smith, B Green and S Black. Winner of the Guy Speir Trophy was A Jeffrey with a 64.

**Fixtures:** Thompson Cup, first round to be played by Sunday 22 May Second round Sunday 5 June, semi-final and final at Shiskine on Saturday 11 June. Draw as follows with first name to challenge: Ian Murchie v Dougie Robertson, Alan Bannatyne v John Simmons, Lee Girbow v Bert Green, Jimmy Armit v Bob Rooney, Andy Pattison v John Pennycott, Terry Raeside v Bruce Jenkins, Alan Jeffrey v Gordon Hendry and Stuart Black v Bobby McRae.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 4 May, Wednesday medal, sweep, nine played. 1 H B McKinnon 70-10=60, 2 A Cummings 79-16=63 bih, 3 Bob Rooney 77-14=63. Best scratch, H B McKinnon 70, no magic twos.

**Fixtures:** Saturday 14 May, Club championship, qualifying round one. Counts for Summer Cup, 8.30am – 1pm and 1.45pm. Wednesday medals at 5pm.

#### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 3 May, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 63, 2 Alice Anderson 67 BIH, 3 Hugh McClelland 67 BIH. Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 68.

Saturday 7 May, Hugh Steel Cup O/60. Sweep: 1 Brian Sherwood 32.5, 2 David Price 33.5, 3 Mark Sherwood 34.5. Winner of the Hugh Steel Cup Brian Sherwood.

**Fixtures:** Tuesday 17 May, Lady Mary/Peter Sutton, 12.30/5.30pm tee off.

#### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 5 May, Ladies 12 Hole Medal, 6 played, CSS 45. 1 J Hutton 68-19=49, 2 A Anderson 59-9=50 BIH. Scratch Alice Anderson 59.

#### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 5 May, Summer Cup, 13 played, CSS 64. 1 Paul Jameson 69-11=58, 2 Iain Murchie 66-3=63, 3 Euan Evans 68-4=64. Best Scratch Iain Murchie 66.

There was one two at the 16<sup>th</sup> from Neil Young. Saturday 7 May, Club Champion Qualifier round one and Jamieson Cup, 20 played, CSS 64. 1 Euan Evans 64-4=60, 2 Billy O'Connor 82-20=62 BIH, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 69-7=62 BIH over Craig MacEachen 72-10=62. Best Scratch Euan Evans 64. There were twos from Euan Evans, Iain Murchie, Craig MacEachen and Alan Smith.

**Fixtures:** Sunday 15 May, Club Champion Qualifier round two and Scratch Cup 9.30am and 1pm starts. Thursday 19 May, Summer Cup.

### Summer Bridge

The results for tournament on Monday 9 May were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Alison Bilsland, 2 Jean Murchie and Peter Thomson, 3= Douglas Bruce and Margaret Bruce, Linda Trickett and Brenda Livingstone. E/W 1 Helen Boyd and Liz Paul, 2 Liz McKellar and Isobel McArthur, 3 Jan Beattie and Janette McBride.

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

## The senior rugby boys are back in town

Most of the last season's under 18s now qualify to play for the senior team

After taking a year out to concentrate on their younger players, the Isle of Arran Rugby Club has announced that it will have a senior team again this season.

At the club's AGM last Wednesday night a list of more than 25 players keen to join the team was presented to Bill McLaughlin, honorary secretary.

He said that with that list he was able to guarantee the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) that Arran would turn up to games with a full compliment of players.

'The last time we played in the league we embarrassed

ourselves by turning up without a full team,' he said.

'I don't want this to happen again so I need to have your full commitment this time round.'

Last season the under 18s squad topped their development league with 19 points.

**Qualify**

Most of these players will now qualify for the senior team but those aged 16 and 17 will have to sit a grip-test in order to qualify.

Both Bill McLaughlin and Murray Boal, the club president, said that it had been a pleasure to work with the youngsters and they wished

them luck as they took the next step.

Murray said: 'If any of you feel that you are not yet ready for senior rugby, that is okay. You won't be forced into the team.'

'But this is an exciting time for Arran rugby and we think we will have a pretty good chance in the league this coming season.'

Arran will be readmitted into division four of the west league at the end of August.

There will be nine other teams in the league, which means the team will have 18 matches to play throughout the winter.



Lee Little of Lamlash tussles with Nicky Emsley.

02\_b19soc02

### Southend win in extra time

Southend cruised past Lamlash in the first semi-final of the Arran Haulage Cup at Sandbraes Park last Saturday afternoon.

They didn't have it all their own way in a hard-fought match that saw the teams level pegging at 3 - 3 after 90 minutes.

But extra time saw a flood of five goals from the Pringle Joinery boys.

The final score was 8 - 3 to Southend. Home scorers were Jamie Picken, Donald Park, Murray Picken, Frazer Barr with two, Lewis Kennedy, Nicky Emsley and Sandy Kelso.

Lamlash goal scorers were Grant Adamson, Craig McEachern and David Heenan.

Monday's re-arranged fixture between Brodick and Shiskine at the Ormidale Park saw the home team running out winners by six goals to nil. Scorers were Alexander McNeil with four and one each from Ewan Smith and Gavin McRae.

Southend will play Brodick in the Arran Haulage Cup final at 3pm in the Ormidale Park on Saturday.



Matt Evans holds off Donnie Park.

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran  
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021  
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk  
Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - [www.abc.org.uk](http://www.abc.org.uk). The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 1st January 2010 and 31st December 2010 was 3,209. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.