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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 11 MAY 2013 No 1908 60p

Final repairs completed on electricity network

A significant amount of work has been done to rebuild the transmission network

REPORT
 by JENNIFER LYON
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Engineers have finally completed repairs to the electricity network on Arran and Kintyre following the snow storms which caused major damage to the transmission towers in March.

Although all electricity supplies were restored by 29 March, a significant amount of work has been done to rebuild the transmission network and replace steel towers affected in Kintyre, and to construct a temporary diesel generator power station in Brodick.

These constructions are the largest of their type anywhere in the UK and were completed within two weeks.

Alan Broadbent, head of engineering at Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE), said: 'We would like to thank customers for their patience while we carried out these essential repairs.'

'We tried to ensure the inconvenience was kept to an absolute minimum as this was the final step in the repair process following the unprec-

edented situation we faced in March.'

To allow the work to be completed safely and efficiently around 2,000 properties in Brodick and Whiting Bay experienced a short interruption to their electricity supply while they were transferred to the temporary diesel generator power station.

This allowed the repairs to be completed without a loss of power.

There was a very short interruption to the electricity supply to these properties between the hours of 3am and 4am on Thursday to allow the transfer to the generators and again between 3am and 4am this morning (Friday) when they were transferred back to the main electricity network.

Brian Smith, Angus Raeburn and Andrew Perrie, Arran's very own Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) team worked non-stop for days when snowstorms cut all power to the island on March 22.

They were joined by a team of nearly 400 men from SSE, and many have remained on the island fixing cables and poles until this week.



Arran lifeboat roars to the rescue

The Arran lifeboat roars off from Lamlash pier on Tuesday on an training emergency rescue.

Mark West was at the helm, accompanied by crew Tim Crockett and Dawn Ulivi. This was a part of the annual Arran Avoids Accidents two-day event aimed at making youngsters more aware of dangers in the home and at large. Full report and photos on page 6. 02_b19aaa01

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Support pledged for storm hit Arran farmers

This could provide a lifeline

Arran farmers could be in line for a small slice of the £6million government assistance following the severe weather and heavy livestock losses.

In response to the Scottish Government announcement that it is making available £6million to help farmers affected by the recent extreme weather, National Farmers Union of Scotland President, Nigel Miller said: 'This significant package of support is a very positive result which, for many people, could provide the lifeline they require.'

'Some of the worst storms of recent times might now have passed, but they have left in their wake losses for every farming sector, a legacy which will have its full impact this autumn when lambs are sold and crops are harvested.'

'There are some areas of the

country, such as Arran, where the winter snowstorms devastated sheep stocks and some early lambs, but the severe weather problems of 2012 and 2013 have impacted not just in these areas but across the whole of Scotland resulting in livestock and crop losses, as well as significantly increased feed requirements.'

'This variability has been recognised in the package of Government support and will mean that aid can be targeted at those in need wherever they are located.'

Added island MSP Kenneth Gibson: 'Many island farms have budget challenges compounded by bad weather and increased input costs.'

'This Scottish Government assistance will help them pilot their way beyond last winter and into 2014 and recovery.'



Mark Wetton is pictured with sister Vicki, dad Stephen and mum Karen after his homecoming parade at Catterick.

Brodick soldier returns from Afghanistan

A soldier from Brodick has returned safe and sound after a six month tour of Afghanistan.

Mark Wetton, aged 27, who serves with the REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) arrived safely back to the UK in the middle of April.

A welder by trade, whilst in Afghanistan he was fighting with One Close Support Battalion and spent many months engaged in fighting with the Taliban.

Mark's girlfriend Jennifer

Emsley said: 'The first half of the tour was worse than the second for me, but it was the other way round for Mark.'

'Christmas was tough without him here as you're constantly reminded that it's a

time to be together. We just had to keep busy especially at the weekends.'

Mark's family joined him at Catterick last week for his homecoming parade and medal presentation.

New Lochranza sea wall proposed

Plans have been lodged by CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) for the removal and replacement of a sea wall at Lochranza.

The work at Lochranza ferry terminal is estimated to cost £350,000.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues should be made to Marine Scotland, Aberdeen.

Concern over Whiting Bay Nursery closure

Whiting Bay villagers are concerned about the announcement that the local nursery group is having to close.

Barbara I'Anson, treasurer of Whiting Bay and District Improvements Association said: 'It was with great sadness and regret that we learned of the closure of Whiting Bay Nursery.'

'Regrettably a smaller intake of children over the next two years, coupled with ever increasing demands and new regulations by the Care Commission offered no alternative other than to close.'

'It is, however, unfortunate, that due to restrictions placed on the Nursery Committee by North Ayrshire Council, the village community were unaware of the situation, and unable to offer any assistance to the Nursery, which has been such a valuable asset to the village for almost 30 years.'

'This is a sad loss to our community.'

'However, through our Primary School and the many and varied village clubs and Groups, Whiting Bay will continue to thrive and provide a safe and stimulating environment to raise a family.'

Got a story for The Banner? Call 01770 302142

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Ferry crew member helps find mystery couple

An inspired act of kindness by a crew member on the ferry MV Caledonian Isles has reunited a Coylton couple with their family photos.

A camera memory card was found on the ferry three weeks ago, and the crew member took it along to the ASDA store just along from the car marshalling area.

In the photo booth he viewed the host of photos and selected one of a couple outside a house.

He printed it and passed it on to Lynn Boal of VisitArran who subsequently posted it on the VisitArran facebook page.

The photo attracted 28,500 views and over 350 people shared it.

Eventually the couple were identified as Mr and Mrs Poole of Coylton, Ayrshire.

Lamlash dental surgery extended

Essential renovations and extensions are being carried out at the dental surgery at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash.

Patients are being warned that workmen will need access for a mobile crane and lorry to install wall panels and roof trusses.

The car park next to the Ambulance Station will need to be kept clear and will be closed from Wednesday evening (May 8) until Tuesday 14 May.

The crane will be in use from Friday 10 May until Monday 13 May.

During this time, a temporary traffic management system will be implemented by the contractor to control pedestrian and vehicle movement to and from the hospital. Your patience and co-operation is appreciated.

Lamlash Clearances Memorial gets a makeover

The striking memorial to the Clearances was unveiled in 1977

The Lamlash Clearances Memorial has been given a facelift.

Following several reports in the Banner last year from visitors who felt that the memorial looked neglected, Lamlash Improvements Group in collaboration with North Ayrshire Council, Arran High School and Lamlash Primary School have given the iconic reminder of The Clearances a makeover.

Last Monday morning, Council staff removed the overgrown heather and they were followed by four students from the High School who dug over the earth and spread a dozen bags of horse manure, procured from Arran Riding for the Disabled.

When the Banner turned up, Elliot Morrison, Lewis Yuill and Kieran Aherne were all busy with rakes and forks.

The other student, Stewart Crawford, had left, because apparently teacher Jimmy

Stewart had insisted he return to the High School for a maths lesson.

A 10 tonne load of fresh topsoil was added to the mix and covered with a fibre matting to prevent weed growth.

Slits will be made in the fibre for planting, and the whole area covered in white chips.

Guidance

The Improvements Group is taking guidance from Arran Garden Club about planting, and hope to establish a mix of perennial shrubs and evergreens.

The striking Memorial to The Arran Clearances was unveiled by Mrs Myrtle Cook Maxwell of New Brunswick, Canada on 9 May 1977.

It commemorates the hundreds of Arran souls who were ousted from their settlements in the glens to find a new life in North America during the harsh Clearance Years of 1829 to 1840.



Lewis Yuill, Elliot Morrison and Kieran Aherne at work on the Lamlash Clearances Memorial last Monday.

02_b19clear01

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Mystery man in Arran Show photo

Arran Farmers Society 177th annual show will be held at Glenkiln on Wednesday 7 August.

But the Society has a little mystery that one of the Banner readers may be able to solve.

Current show secretary Christine McBride has sent the Banner a photo of what appears to be the committee of Society directors taken at the 1951 Show in Lamlash.

Christine has the names of all but the mystery gentleman on the right of the picture.

The other names are, standing, from left, Hector McNicol, (Royal Bank of Scotland, Brodick); William Kerr, Corriegills; Willie Kelso, Parkhouse, Torbeg; Rob Miller, Margenaish, Kildonan; John McNeish, Sliderry; Willie Cook, Bellfield; mystery man; seated, from left, James Bone, Glenkiln, Lamlash; Robbie Tod, Lamlash; K D Hamilton, Ardlui, Kings Cross; George Harvie, Dougarie.

If anyone recognises this mystery man, please contact Christine on 01770 820291 or email christine@shannochiearran.co.uk



The Arran Farmers Society photo taken at the 1951 show.



Rehearsals for 'The Steamie' well under way

Rehearsals for the performances of 'The Steamie' later this month are well under way as the cast make final

preparations for the show.

A superb line-up of principals complement Sheila Gilmore's superb production of the classic Scottish play that will be staged at Brodick Hall from May 27 until June 1.

Returning again for her hilarious portrayal of Dolly is Rosie Cook; just one of the many local amateur actors that makes this play so special.

The play depicts the work-worn women from the Glasgow tenements that struggled

to bring up families in the 1950s.

Tony Roper, the writer, successfully captured the very essence of the camaraderie in the old public washhouses known as the 'steamies' in Scotland and the combination of such catchy songs added to his script ensured the hit it became on stage and on television.

Tickets will be on sale very soon so look out for details in The Banner in the coming weeks.

Winning design for Folk Festival logo

Katherine O'Donnelly, an art student from the High School, has designed the logo for the 19th Arran Folk Festival.

Organisers from Arran Events once again asked teacher David Wedge and his art students to put forward ideas for the logo.

Andy McCallum of Arran Events, said: 'We were absolutely delighted with the winning design.'

Scouts hold successful Fun Day

The Shiskine Scouts held a Family Fun Day and Car Boot Sale recently at Bridgend Campsite in Shiskine.

Elizabeth Bell, one of the pack leaders, said: 'We had a very successful family fun day we raised £570 which will help our group funds so as we can pay hall rent, insurance, equipment and activities.'

'Thank you for supporting us by coming along, and a special thank you to the local businesses who supported us by donating fabulous prizes and help.'

She added: 'We'd also like to say a special thanks to Bridgend Campsite for allowing us use of the campsite to host our Fun Day.'

Free summer swimming for youngsters

A pilot programme of free summer holiday swimming for 0-18 year olds in Arran was considered at a meeting of the council's cabinet on Tuesday 30 April.

The pilot scheme would see the council work in partnership with KA Leisure and the Auchrannie Hotel to deliver a free swimming programme for under 18s from 29 June - 18 August on the mainland, and free timetabled sessions through the summer months at the Auchrannie Hotel in Brodick.

The programme would complement the cur-

rent range of swimming programmes taking place across the area and forms part of the council's commitment to increasing opportunities for participation in physical activity for all young people in North Ayrshire, to help improve their overall health and wellbeing.

North Ayrshire Council Library Cards and the National Entitlement Card would be used to gain access to the free sessions and monitor usage, to help evaluate the pilot scheme and consider the continuation of the programme in the future.

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Beach clean success in Whiting Bay

The Whiting Bay beach clean last Sunday turned up an amazing amount of debris.

Liz Kennedy, chair of Whiting Bay Improvements, said: 'On behalf of the Association we would like to say thank you so much to those who turned out on Sunday to help tidy up the village and beach, what a difference a few hours can make.'

'Also huge thanks to everyone concerned in transporting and spreading the bark in the adventure play area at Sandbraes; many hands made light work of this task.'

'Thank you again to everyone responsible for the boats and tubs around the village, now that Spring has eventually sprung, they are providing a very welcome splash of colour.'



Brodict Lunch Club cancelled

Next week's Lunch Club in Brodict has been cancelled.

Lexie Andrade, Commanding Officer Arran and Irvine Salvation Army, said: 'Due to unforeseen circumstances the Salvation Army Lunch Club in Brodict sheltered housing complex, due to take place on Monday 13 May at 12.30pm, has been cancelled.'

'The next lunch club will be in Lamlash, McKelvie Road on Monday 20 May at 12 noon.'

'We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause any of our regulars.'

Legion could reform

Attempts are being made to re-establish the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion.

A meeting is being held in the McLaren Hotel at 2pm on Thursday 16 May in the McLaren Hotel.

Please come along if you are interested in keeping the Legion going on the island and call 860234 for more information.

Devilish spirit wins prestigious design award

The Devil's Punch Bowl whisky has won a top award at the recent World Whiskies Design Awards for its innovative packaging and demonic design.

The whisky from Isle of Arran Distillery, released last year as the first in a trilogy of wicked spirits, came top in the 'Best Single Malt under £99' category where it was described by judges as 'brooding, dark and conceptualised'.

The story behind the design helped The Devil's Punch Bowl clinch the top spot as the whisky is named after the glacial hollow Coire na Ciche on Arran, which evokes a very sinister atmosphere and is only accessible by boggy footpaths.

When it was released last year just 6,660 bottles were made, which sold out in record time.

Commenting on the design the judges said: 'Excellent piece (of design work) with a great story that has been well executed in the design. Fantastic use of typography too.'

Revealing a demonic obsession, Arran Distillers is set to unveil the Devils Punch Bowl part 2 in June this year. Euan Mitchell, managing director of the distillery, said: 'A lot of hard work goes into producing an exceptional spirit. That same care and attention goes into the design and all other elements of every product.'

'So it is satisfying when our products are recognised by the industry and our peers. With our next release we're continuing to push boundaries and challenge the notion of what quality malt whiskies should look like.'

Footballers showcase new strips

Jubilantly displaying their new strips on Friday were Lamlash Primary School's young football team.

The black and white kit with shorts and socks was very kindly donated by

John Copperwheat and the team are now sponsored by Copperwheat's restaurant.

Coaching
The team have been receiving coaching from Jamie Sillars along with

Mr Copperwheat on Friday evenings at KA Leisure.

The whole team are very excited at the prospect of the seven-a-side primary football tournament in the coming weeks. 01_b19lam01

Sponsor a Sheep and help a farmer

In last week's Banner we mistakenly reported that the Sponsor a Sheep on Arran scheme is a charity.

It is not a charity, it is a fundraising activity. The woman behind the initiative explains why she has created the activity to help Arran's farmers.

She said: 'When I read online that the recent heavy snows came under 'an act

of God' and there would be no compensation for some farmers who lost livestock I was disgusted. I thought there must be people like me who felt the same. 'So, the idea of 'Sponsor a Sheep on Arran' came about.

'It is not a charity, just a fundraising initiative with the intention of reimbursing Arran farmers for some of the loss of livestock, help with veteri-

nary bills, repairs to fencing and essentials for which they would not otherwise be compensated or covered by other bodies.'

She added: 'Ideally any money raised can be administered by representatives of Arran Farmers. A moot point until a 'Sponsor a Sheep' bank account is up and running and some funds are actually in it.'

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Arran Avoids Accidents 2013

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The annual Arran Avoids Accidents exercise was held in Lamlash over Tuesday and Wednesday.

Members of the local emergency services plus mainland trainers held a variety of activities for High School pupils at Lamlash pier on Tuesday and at Lamlash Fire Station on Wednesday.

These were all designed to alert youngsters to the dangers in the home and in the great outdoors, and what actions to take in order to stay safe.

In the lifeboat station, Ronnie McGinlay of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue was putting the children and some of the teachers through a procedure wearing goggles that gave them double vision.

They had to collect a number of traffic cones from the floor and stack them together and then replace them in line, then go back and sign their name. Ronnie explained that



Lifeboat crew Tim Crockett and Mairi Livingston instruct pupils on the lifeboat. 02_b19aaa05

this replicated the feeling of being drunk and highlighted the dangers of alcohol affect-

ing vision and decisions. The pupils went round a number of activities in rotation, including experiencing being treated in an ambulance and having an ECG taken.

One of the most spectacular exercises was the chip pan fire which highlighted the grave danger of putting water on boiling oil.

The RNLI operations manager Geoff Norris announced that a casualty had been reported on board a vessel in the bay. The lifeboat was quickly launched and powered out to the scene.

The 'casualty', actually new recruit Mairi Livingston, was transferred to the lifeboat and brought ashore for treatment. No-one was actually hurt in the exercises, but a lot of lessons were learnt by the children.



The dramatic chip pan fire, demonstrated by Community Firefighter David Townsend. 02_b19aaa04



Ronnie McGinlay explains the importance of a smoke alarm. 02_b19aaa03



Jane Macbeth and Tilly Ford try to sign their names while wearing double vision goggles. 02_b19aaa06



Shirley Anderson and Yollie Campbell attend to a man who has 'collapsed' on the pier. 02_b19aaa07



The Arran lifeboat Leicester Challenge II bringing a casualty ashore, with Mark West helm and crew Tim Crockett and Dawn Ulivi. 02_b19aaa02

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SEA WALL, LOCHRANZA FERRY TERMINAL**

Notice is hereby given that **Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd** has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of **removal and replacement of a sea wall** at:

Cost	£350,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Lochranza Ferry Terminal	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates
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	55 42.445°N	05 18.059°W
55 42.452°N	05 18.092°W	
55 42.466°N	05 18.086°W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the **Information Board at Lochranza Ferry Terminal**.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

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

FKB/A1411
Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

THE DRIFT INN

Turn left at Lamlash Bowling Club

Friday 10th May
Live music - Matt Johnston 9.30pm - 12.30am

Saturday 11th May
Closed from 5pm - 10.30pm to public due to the Rugby Dinner Dance
RE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 10.30PM UNTIL LATE WITH DJ

Auchrannie's Aspa opens for business

'A truly unique spa experience'

Scotland's first island based destination spa opened its doors at the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick last week.

The luxurious new Aspa offers patrons a truly unique experience; an amazing spa, situated amongst some of the island's most beautiful scenery as well as exceptional customer service.

Work to create the new spa began just after Christmas and last week owner Linda Johnston was clearly delighted to declare the stunning new treatment rooms open.

Sumptuously decorated in hues of grey and silver, from the moment you walk through the doors of Aspa you can feel yourself automatically beginning to unwind.

Linda Johnston, owner and group director of Auchrannie, said: 'We are absolutely delighted with the finished result.

'The deluxe treatment rooms are the perfect place to relax

and pamper yourself and the relaxation pods which were built by local joiners are so comfortable you can just leave the outside world behind for a little while.

'Aspa is a truly unique spa experience.'

For Arran's residents and visitors the specially created day packages are designed to give you the ultimate pampering experience.

The Aspa invites guests to take some time out for some quality 'me time', join a group of friends, get together for a girls day out or spend some quality time with a loved one.

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Above:
The luxurious Aspa features specially made 'relaxation pods'.

Left:
Aspa offers a truly unique spa experience.



Sumptuously decorated in hues of grey and silver, Aspa is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

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We must support our troops

It's wonderful news that a soldier from Brodick has returned safely after a six month tour in Afghanistan.

Mark Wetton who serves with the REME joined the Army three years ago but this was his first taste of real battle.

Sadly Mark's safe return also coincided with the terrible news that three Scottish soldiers from the Royal Highland Fusiliers were killed by a roadside bomb.

This is the regiment of another brave Arran lad Stuart Gillies who has just started a tour of the war torn country.

As a result of this, Stuart's dad Neil is organising a sponsored walk in June to raise money for Help4Heroes - a very worthwhile cause.

Sometimes when we read about wars in far flung places it is easy to feel detached from the reality.

But when you hear of brave young lads from Arran fighting for democracy and facing challenging situations that we can never even imagine it brings the reality of war into our happy island community.

Last year my brother also fought in Afghanistan with the Grenadier Guards.

Without a doubt 2012 was the hardest year of my life as you live in a constant state of fear and worry.

Each day I tried hard to go about my normal business - getting up and going to work, covering events, writing for The Banner - whilst all the time wondering if today is the day the phone will ring to tell me my brother isn't coming home. My brother returned safely in November and then my friend Mark started his tour and the fear and worry started all over again.

Whatever your views on the war in Afghanistan you cannot help but feel incredible pride in the young people that volunteer to fight for this country.

Few will disagree that following the recent tragic events that all soldiers and their families should have our support in their time of need.

So I hope that as many people as possible will show their support by participating in or sponsoring someone in this fundraising walk across Arran for Help4Heroes.

This charity provides practical direct support for servicemen and women who have sustained life-changing injuries in the line of duty. These brave young people have done their duty and it is our duty to support our soldiers when they return from conflict, and reduce the stigma around asking for help for mental suffering.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (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 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



No big cats here

Sir,
Regarding the so-called big cat sightings which have been reported, although I do not dispute what these people believe they thought they saw, I do however question the assumption made that it was a big cat. Mr Goodwin of Penrith has completely missed the salient points, no one is disputing that some of these smaller exotic cats can indeed live in small pockets of the UK. What is in dispute is where people and certain groups say there are such cats here wild, free and breeding, when in fact there has been not one shred of evidence and hard science fact. First of all, the Isle of Arran is as we all know an island which is separated by 14 miles of the Clyde River from Brodick and six miles from Lochranza, there are no exotic parks and zoos on the island and no one has ever been recorded as owning and or has brought over any such exotic feline species.

Therefore, just how does an exotic feline get to be on the island in the first place? Swim...no, tigers can swim and do swim good distances but there are no tigers here. Secondly, why make the assumption that the sighting was indeed a big 'black' cat, why black, why a cat?

Thirdly, given that 99 percent of the population own a mobile phone with a built in camera, then where is the evidence of this sighting?

If this sighting is to be held as true then using heresy as evidence is not the best manner, fact is built up on true, hard, tangible, must have and see ipso defacto hard scientific fact and not on someone saying, 'I saw something'.

Yours,
Paul Paterson
Big Cat and Animal Welfare specialist
Tighnabruaich

Shout to the top

Sir,
How sad to have to keep opening the letters page in The Banner and reading so many negatives concerning

your beautiful island.

My wife and I regularly visit Arran and spend much needed tourist pounds which we are delighted to do to help support the hard working islanders.

Why is there so much anti-tourist feeling amongst the local population?

We are concerned that these negative feelings will ultimately damage the feelgood factor that Arran generates and begin to have visitors question whether to visit the island or spend their cash elsewhere.

Having read that Lochranza is against the granting of a drinks licence to the Youth Hostel, Lamlash residents wish the tourists off the island, roads are closed for months on end and are in a disgraceful state, perhaps it is better if no-one bothers to visit the island and we leave you all to it!

Come on Arran, get positive, throw away the big chip on your shoulder and get behind making a success of all the good things that Arran has to offer-and that includes tourists and locals alike.

Our eldest son lives and works on the island, as does our daughter-in-law and grandchildren and would not be best pleased if tourists stayed away from the island.

Do what it says on the tin - shout it from the rooftops - Arran is the destination of the year!

Yours,
David and Pauline Trousdale
50 Nursery Lane
Leeds

Day tripper

Sir,
Regarding my recent letter about a possible coach service to Glasgow Airport, I wanted to expand my letter further but obviously there was insufficient space to do so.

I have often wondered why there is not a high profile luxury coach service directly from Glasgow offering quality day trips to Arran.

Such a coach, painted in summer colours such as sky blue and perhaps with the iconic picture of Brodick

Bay with a backdrop of the CalMac ferry and Goatfell, would be an eye catching addition to the city centre of Glasgow.

Such a coach could depart from George Square and perhaps call at a few of the large hotels en route to Ardrossan.

As before in my previous letter, the coach would travel across on the ferry offering a full day to Arran taking in Brodick Castle, the distillery etc.

Of course a coach service of this kind would be purely for paying visitors to Arran and again would need to be thoroughly and properly advertised.

What I am suggesting is a service where those who join the coach are not just passengers but guests of Arran.

Perhaps the coach could be called The Arran Day Tripper or the more luxurious Arran Day Liner.

Yours,
Colin Thomson
350 Ruchazie Road
Glasgow

Who came up with this timetable?

Sir,
I was really looking forward to the Ardrossan to Campbeltown ferry service timetable coming out and planning a day out and maybe an overnight stay.

How disappointing it was when I saw the times of the sailings. Who on earth came up with this timetable, thinking it would be any benefit to anyone wanting to plan a trip from Ardrossan?

The two sailings leaving on Thursday/Friday at 6.40pm get into Campbeltown at 9.20pm - hardly time to do any sightseeing.

And after finding a B & B one is expected to leave on the 7.35am/7am sailings the next morning to return to Ardrossan.

Oh yes, there is a ferry leaving Ardrossan on the Sunday at 1.50pm arriving in Campbeltown at 4.30pm - and leaving again in 25 minutes for the return sailing!

Come on CalMac, if you are going to provide a ferry serv-

ice to Campbeltown, at least come up with a timetable that is beneficial to the people.

Everyone I have spoken to finds it hard to understand the reasoning behind these sailings. This could have been very rewarding for everyone concerned, but instead it can only be described as a wasted opportunity.

Yours,
Dennie Pape
7 Harvey Gardens
Ardrossan

Allaying concerns over alcohol

Sir,
It is probably fair to say that few people in Lochranza would object to the Youth Hostel being licensed to sell alcohol to their residents, and apparently the hostel has said that they have no intention of selling alcohol to the public.

However, according to the licensing authorities the hostel had the opportunity, in their operating plan, to state that they have no intention to sell alcohol to the public.

They did not do so. If the youth hostel really has no intention of selling alcohol to the public between the hours of 10am and 10pm, which they have applied to do, saying so publicly and in print would allay the concerns of many.

Yours,
Tony Baboolal
Ladeside
Lochranza



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Arran Trust helps with Mountain Leader scholarships

The Arran Trust proudly presented the Arran Mountain Festival with £750 to provide financial scholarships to help three people gain their Mountain Leader award.

This award assesses candidates in the skills required to lead hillwalking groups in summer conditions on mountainous routes, not requiring the planned use of a rope.

The Festival runs a full programme of guided walks over a four-day period in May and this qualification is vital to the Festival's continued success.

Every walk is led by a qualified mountain leader who is responsible for the safety of the group in the hills.

All these leaders are volunteers who love to share their expertise on how to visit the

mountains safely and in an environmentally conscious way, and educate participants about the historic and cultural delights found on Arran.

Jo Totty, AMF chair said: 'Those that receive the Arran Trust scholarship will benefit by gaining a recognised qualification, one that demands financial and time commitment, often taking years as mountain experience is needed from across Britain.'

'The Festival will gain as there will be a bigger pool of volunteer leaders available, and the community will benefit through increased responsible environmental tourism.'

Sheila Gilmore, Arran Trust Development Manager, said: 'The Arran Trust is delighted to be supporting the AMF ML programme.'

'As a visitor gifting scheme, the Arran Trust embraces the opportunity to encourage visitors to enjoy Arran's fantastic outdoors.'

'The Arran Mountain Festival is a great way for people to take to the hills with experienced guidance.'

Anyone who is interested in being selected for one of the three scholarships needs to contact the Arran Mountain Festival directly at info@arranmountainfestival.co.uk for more information.

This year the Festival runs from 17-20 May. If you are still hoping to get onto one of the walks, please urgently book as many routes are now full. Bookings can be made online via www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk or phone 01770 302244.



Jo Totty, chair of Arran Mountain Festival receiving a cheque from Sheila Gilmore of the Arran Trust.

The Moderator visits

The Right Rev Albert Bogle arrived on the island last Thursday morning and had a conducted tour of the North of Arran with the Rev Angus Adamson.

They visited all of the North Parish Churches including a visit to the restored Clachan Church then on to a meeting with Arran Youth Foundation, finishing his day with a very challenging sermon to a large congregation from around the island in Lamlash Church at 7.30pm.

On the Friday he visited both Whiting Bay and Kilmory Primary Schools.

At both schools he engaged with the children and was warmly received by both staff and pupils.

Corrie Film Club

Flame and Citron (2008 Cert. 15)

This weekend's Corrie Film Club presentation is Danish director, Ole Christian Madsen's exciting thriller 'Flame and Citron'.

Set in occupied Denmark in 1944, and based on fact, as the Second World War's bloody conflict is ravaging Europe, this film tells the thrilling story of two fearless and deadly freedom fighters who choose to put their lives at risk fighting for the Holger Danske Resistance.

Their codenames are Flame and Citron.

Their ultimate target the hated and feared chief of the Gestapo, Hoffmann.

Surrounded by deception

and betrayal the two men also have to battle against treachery within their own ranks.

This film is based on groundbreaking research into Denmark's explosive and secret history and will keep you gripped until the last moment.

See this film in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Sunday May 12 at 8pm.

As usual all are welcome. Visitors may give a small donation to hall funds.

Please feel free to bring a bottle to share.

Three Arran gardens open under the Scotland's Gardens scheme

This year three gardens on the island will be open under Scotland's Gardens scheme.

Strabane, the garden of Lady Jean Fforde, will be opening on Sunday 19 and Sunday 26 May between 2pm and 5pm.

Dougarie Lodge will be opening on Sunday 30 June between 2pm and 5pm.

Brodict Castle will be opening on Sunday 8 July between 10am and 5pm.

Scotland's Gardens 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.

Donated

Forty-per-cent of the funds raised can be donated to a charity of the garden owner's choice and 40 per cent of the Strabane openings will be given to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

and to the Arran Youth Foundation.

At Dougarie 40 per cent of the proceeds will go towards the Pirmill Village Association and the castle will give to Scotland's Gardens beneficiaries.

Make a point of enjoying these gardens.

They are all different but well worth a visit.

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Top: The Douglas Hotel team with their awards: Jim Reid, general manager; Kate Hill, accounts manager; Elaine Campbell, marketing manager; Ailsa Barr, reception manager; David Jenkins, bistro manager; David Hind barman and Greg Russell, head chef. 02_b19hot05

Above: The Glenisle team with their awards: Owner Geoffrey Dallamore, Judith Murray, restaurant manager; Robert McGregor, sous chef; Georgina MacLean, front of house manager; Jonathan McIntosh, head chef; Emily Pullyblank, head housekeeper and Timothy Billings, owner. 02_b19hot04

Rastislav Valko, Geoffrey Botterill, Antony Butterworth and Helen Driver in the Morning Room at Kilmichael House Hotel with their awards. 02_b19hot03


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BRODICK CASTLE, COUNTRY PARK & GOATFELL

Monday 13th May **PAINTINGS TOUR**
 2pm-3.30pm
 Explore Brodick Castle's history, adventures & connections by discovering the stories behind its beautiful paintings.
Adults £5 (with entry to the Castle & Country Park)
 Not suitable for under 16s
Booking essential, numbers strictly limited -

Tuesday 14th May **GARDEN WALK**
 2pm-3.30pm
 Discover the seasonal highlights of Brodick Castle Garden's spectacular plant collection.
Free with Garden entry, donation suggested.
 Meet at the reception centre 2pm

Tuesday 14th May **BRONZE AGE ROUNDHOUSE EXPERIENCE**
 10.30am-12 noon & 2pm-3.30pm
 Explore our newly built replica roundhouse and discover what life was like on Arran during the Bronze Age. Hands-on fun for all!
Adult £5 (with Country Park entry);
Child £2.50 (with Country Park entry)
Limited spaces, booking essential

Friday 17th May **CASTLE SECRETS TOUR**
 11.30am-1pm
 A special tour of the Castle, revealing unseen areas that are not normally open to the public and access to the battlements (weather permitting).
Adults £5 (with entry to the Castle & Country Park)
 Only suitable for over 16s

Sat 25th and Sun 26th May **MARVIN'S SCULPTURE COURSE**
 10am to 4pm
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Arran's fine after hotel a

'I am sure people will want to come and visit our fantastic island and see why we are the Destination of the Year'

As reported in last week's Banner, the island received a massive boost when four local hotels scooped over 20 awards at the tenth annual Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards ceremony in the Crowne Plaza, Glasgow on Sunday 28 April.

Now the management teams from these hotels have come back down to earth, so we went to see them in their home surroundings to see how they had recovered from the euphoria of the celebrations.

Top award

The highlight of the glittering event was when representatives from all four hotels went up on stage to receive the top award of the night on behalf of the whole island, Destination of the Year.

Gordon Hay, business development manager at Auchrannie Resort, said: 'It was a fantastic night for the island.

'And it definitely does raise awareness of the island as a whole.'

Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings of Glenisle Hotel said: 'After the havoc caused by the heavy snow earlier this year, this Destination Award, combined with the major awards won by island hotels will send out a strong message that not only is the island fully open for business, but we can offer an award-winning product.'

Sheila Gilmore, executive director, VisitArran, added: 'This is a great accolade for the whole island, which recently demonstrated



Left: Gordon Hay, Linda Johnston and Richard Small of Auchrannie with their awards. 02_b19hot02



Craig Beedie of Auchrannie, Executive Chef of the Year. 02_b19hot01

st celebrate awards

great community spirit and resilience under difficult circumstances.

'Arran has something to offer everyone - castles, distillery, scenery, activities, fantastic food and drink, quality accommodation, niche retail and of course, we're very family friendly!'

Elaine Campbell, marketing manager at the Douglas Hotel, said: 'We were all delighted to receive this award, especially after all of the snow and power cuts at the start of the season - it is a wonderfully positive boost to all of the Arran people and businesses.'

On a personal basis, Geoffrey Dallamore said: 'Everyone at the Glenisle is thrilled to be named Best Seaside Hotel and also to have won a Laurel for Social Media. A great many people have put a lot of work into the transformation of the hotel which has been going on for the past five years.'

Craig Beedie of Auchrannie was named Executive Chef of the Year.

He told the Banner: 'We had a great night at the awards ceremony and I am delighted to receive this honour.'

'It was great opportunity to meet old pals from the catering trade that I hadn't seen for years and all celebrate together.'

Geoffrey Botterill of Kilmichael commented: 'As you can understand, we are thrilled with our awards.'

'We are particularly pleased about Helen's award as a Dame of Hospitality which recognises long and exceptional service, and Rastislav's gold medal for his outstanding commitment to an excellent standard of service.'

Sheila Gilmore summed up: 'I am sure that people will want to come and visit our fantastic island and see for themselves why we are the Destination of the Year.'

Full results are online at www.scottishhotelsoftheyear.com

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Make the most of Arran

Rugged mountains, shaded woodland and long meandering coastal paths on Arran have created not only one of the most beautiful places in Scotland but also one of nature's greatest adventure playgrounds.

Stagecoach Arran

One of the best ways to get around on Arran is using the Stagecoach bus service.

Coaches meet every ferry and can help you get from A to B wherever you plan to go on the island.

For walkers the buses run frequently to all parts of the island so can be easily picked up at the end of a hike over Arran's hills.

Stagecoach offer a wide range of island tours which are a great way of seeing the stunning landscapes and wildlife from the comfort of a bus.

Hop aboard the Arran open top bus for the best views of the island either on the way to Brodick Castle or while heading south to Lamlash and Whiting Bay.

Forestry Commission on Arran

Exploring Arran's forests is a fun and active way to get to know the island's special heritage and wildlife.

Easy-to-follow family trails lead to interesting archaeology and picnic sites, while more demanding routes take you above the trees to sensational sea and mountain views.

Enjoy stunning views of the Glenashdale Falls from the specially constructed forest viewpoint and then

shine a light in the mysterious King's Cave in the afternoon.

Take a picnic to the coast or mountain bike for miles along a forest trail.

Whatever you enjoy there will always be something to see and do in Arran's woods.

Mogabout Arran Safari

Share Mogabout's passion for nature, history and breathtaking scenery and climb aboard their unique 4x4 Mercedes Unimog 16 seater vehicle with large windows and comfortable seating and experience the Isle of Arran from a different level.

Mogabout is dedicated to bringing the great outdoors closer to you and will take you on a journey of discovery into the magnificent hills and forests of the Isle of Arran. Explore the unknown with an experienced ranger on tracks opened up by specially for Mogabout by Forestry Commission Scotland and discover the phenomenal environment Arran has to offer all year round, whatever the weather.

This unforgettable experience allows you to explore forest tracks and iconic sites such as Glenashdale falls, tumbling 140ft to the gorge below.

Each journey will be unique and hopefully will live on in your memory as the high point of your stay on the Isle of Arran.

Their goal is providing safe, stress free access into pure, pristine mountainous and woodland areas of Arran while respecting, understanding and protecting the fragile nature of these exclusive unspoilt and iconic areas all year round.

Climb aboard this phenomenal

vehicle and discover everything that is truly magnificent about Arran's great outdoors.

Brodick Castle and Country Park

If you fancy a spot of glamping (glamorous camping) look no further than Brodick Castle and their fantastic new camping pods.

Recently installed adjacent to the Shore Lodge bunkhouse, just north of Cladach, these lovely timber cabins have the appearance of a Romany caravan without wheels and offer luxury camping at a budget price.

They are carpeted and have light and heat, a kettle and a small fridge.

Barbecues and garden furniture will be provided and glampers can make use of the showers, toilets and laundry in the adjacent Shore Lodge.

Part of the National Trust for Scotland's role on Arran is to help people to get out there and see for themselves the beauty of Arran from the shore to the mountain summits either alone or with the Rangers on their guided walks.

Some of the island's most spectacular scenery and most stunning wildlife can be seen within the Country Park.

Arran Adventure Company

The ethos behind Arran Adventure Company stems from a commitment to delivering outdoor activities in a relaxed, friendly, professional manner and the directors' combined 30 years experience of instructing and coaching at the highest levels, provide an assurance of quality and enjoyment.

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as sea kayaking, gorge scrambling, climbing, archery and abseiling as well as mountain biking, there really is something for everyone from adrenaline junkies to those just looking for a bit of gentle exercise.

The Arran Adventure Company regularly organizes annual events for Scouts, Scripture Union, university students, local authorities, schools and colleges and they have an unblemished safety record when it comes to all activities.

Throughout the summer they have some great new kayaking sessions, multi day trips, training and safety sessions and of course the classic five day round Arran kayaking trip to help you make the most of the stunning scenery.

Arran Bike Hire

Why not enjoy cycling on the island with Arran Bike Hire.

They have a fleet of Giant trail and hybrid bikes of all sizes including children's bikes and tag along.

Significant parts of Arran's road network are challenging to off-road cars but their trail bikes are ideal for the task featuring Suntour XCT Front Suspension, Hayes Disk Brakes and wide ranging gearing is made for on-road hills and the off-road trails.

Our hybrid bikes are Giant City with carriers. Panniers can also be hired if required.

The bikes are regularly maintained by a qualified bike mechanic so that you can enjoy the journey.

Arran has 15 mountain bike routes and nine road routes to suit most levels of experience and Arran Bike Club has done a great job of opening up new routes as

well as maintaining established paths.

So if you are interested in a leisurely cycle along the road to Corrie or a climb through the Claulands Forest, Arran Bike Hire are ideally suited to get you there in comfort and safety.

Unfortunately, you do need to provide the pedal power.

Arran Active

When enjoying all that the island's spectacular landscape has to offer it is important to make sure you have all the correct gear and Arran Active stocks everything from compasses to top-of-the-range walking boots.

With its clever location at the foot of the Goatfell path, the shop at Cladach is the perfect stop for castle garden strollers as well as hardy walkers tackling Arran's highest peak who perhaps need new kit before they set off or a reward for completing the hike on the way down.

Arran Mountain Festival

There's just one more week before the start of the 2013 Arran Mountain Festival on 17-20 May and festival organisers have reported a record number of bookings this year, from both new and returning visitors.

To go with the busy days on the hill, there is also an exciting programme of evening entertainment, which is open to everyone. The highlight will be the illustrated talk given by local hero Calum McNicol on Saturday 18 May at Corrie Hall.

Find out

about his record breaking attempt when rowing across the Atlantic Ocean earlier this year. Doors open at 7pm and your chilli and rice dinner is included in your ticket price - 50 per cent of each ticket sale will be donated to Calum's charity, Ayrshire Hospice.

The night has been generously sponsored by Arran Active, the Outdoor Specialist shop found at the Cladach Visitor Centre, a long-term and faithful supporter of the Festival.

Please be generous and back this fabulous evening: tickets are available at Arran Active or online.

Returning by popular demand is the

Friday night social gathering, this year at the Ormidale Hotel in Brodick from 5.30pm.

On the Sunday night there will be the mountain pub quiz, again at the Ormidale, starting at 8.30 pm.

If you are still hoping to get onto one of the Mountain Festival walks, please urgently book as many of the routes are now full.

Bookings can be made online via www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk or phone 302244.



www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk
Isle of Arran Mountain Festival
17 - 20 May 2013



talk night sponsored by



Arran Active Outdoor Shop



The Ormidale
www.ormidale-hotel.co.uk - Tel: 01776 102291

Social gathering - Ormidale Hotel, Brodick - Fri 17 May from 5.30pm - buy own food and drink

Calum McNicol Atlantic Row talk - Sat 18 May
Corrie Hall, doors open 7pm
£10, under 16s £7- includes food - BYOB
Tickets online, or from Arran Active

Pub quiz - Ormidale Hotel, Brodick - Sun 19 May
8.30pm - £2pp, buy own food and drink

www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk

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Open Top Timetable
MONDAY TO SUNDAY from 25th May until 18th August 2013

Whiting Bay, Ashdale Bridge	1145	1425			
Lamlash	1200	1440	1540		
Brodick Ferry Terminal	1055	1210	1310	1340	1450 1550
Brodick Castle	1105	1225	1320	1350	1505 1605
Brodick Castle	1105	1225	1320	1350	1505 1605
Brodick Ferry Terminal	1120	1240	1335	1400	1520 1620
Lamlash	1130		1410	1530	
Whiting Bay, Ashdale Bridge	1145		1425		

Hop aboard the Stagecoach Open Top Bus for the best views of the island. The bus meets the ferry and you have the choice of going to Brodick Castle or heading south to Lamlash and Whiting Bay.

Details online at www.stagecoachbus.com

Stagecoach WEST SCOTLAND

A fair wind blows for Arran Yacht Club

Many readers will be aware that Arran Yacht Club has a long history of providing sailing facilities for the local community on Arran.

The club was formed in Lamlash in 1956 and has operated since then by a small army of willing volunteers.

With an emphasis on safety, the club is an affiliated member of the Royal Yacht Association (RYA) and a fully accredited RYA Training Centre. Membership is currently 290 which includes 50 junior sailors.

A key activity of the club is to provide regular RYA based training for Arran young people and the children of the island's seven local schools. Indeed, many readers who have grown up in Arran will have fond memories of learning to sail in Lamlash bay.

Club Activity

Demand for the sport has grown over recent years and Arran Yacht Club now finds itself at the centre of water sport activity on the island. It shares a base with the RNLI and maintains a slipway for local and visitor use.

Importantly, during school term-time, through a local authority active schools programme, it provides a well supported weekly sailing programme for school children. It also promotes weekly dinghy training and racing, together with regular keel boat events.

The club now hosts the



Some of the junior sailors at Arran Yacht Club.

GP14 Dinghy National Team Racing Championship and supports local diving and canoe clubs. For the wider community, the club provides a base for the Holy Isle Ferry and supports a range of annual charity events including the Lamlash Splash and the Boxing Day Dook.

The club also provides base facilities for the annual Scottish Islands peaks race and plays a key role in organising high profile Tall Ships visits to Arran.

To keep step with growing demand, a much needed regeneration and development programme is well underway.

Slipways and hardstandings have been repaired and the club now boasts a modern fleet of training dinghies to fit all ages.

In addition, working with the RYA, it now has now a

strong base of RYA instructors to further improve training - although more help is always needed. Recent successes of younger members include Neil and Rory Hunter who are now ranked number one in Scotland sailing 29er dinghies.

They are members of the Scottish Squad and Rory hopes to continue with Youth Sailing to get into GBR Squad within the next year or so. Neil is now moving to 49ers which is an Olympic class dinghy. The great news for Arran is that both Rory and Neil are still instructors at the club and will be passing on their expertise to young sailors on the island.

New clubhouse

The next element of the club's regeneration programme is the replacement of its shore-based facilities. The club's current clubhouse and changing facilities date

back to WWII naval operations and are no longer fit for purpose.

The great news is that with the help of SportsScotland, the Robertson Trust, Arran Trust and support from members and sponsors, the club is now in a position to replace its old dilapidated accommodation with new facilities at Lamlash. Work on the project will begin this summer and it is hoped that the new building will be complete by late autumn. The old buildings will be removed and in their place a single structure will provide local sailors and Arran school children with much needed changing rooms, together with briefing and dry storage facilities.

The club's Commodore, Gavin Fulton, said: 'This is a great step forward for the club and reflects a growing demand for water sports on the island.

'We are confident this will help support the local community by attracting more visitors and, importantly, give our young people better access to the sport.'

Membership and volunteers

Membership has been growing steadily over the years and the club's focus on sailing and supporting young people remains top priority. Operating on a voluntary basis, the club is always keen to have new members and would especially welcome support from parents to assist during Tuesday night junior sailing sessions.

Please come along and help, or join us sailing as a full time club member - we would love to have you and could even train you as a safety boat driver. If you are interested please contact Gavin, Angus Campbell, or any member of the committee. JL.

Friends prepare for day trip

Friends of Brodick Castle are reminded that the day trip to Dumfries House and Knockroon Visitor Centre will take place on Friday 17 May, travelling on the 8.20am ferry and returning on the 6pm ferry.

Friends are also reminded that as it proved to be impossible to hold the Duck Derby on Easter Sunday, this will now be held on Saturday 4 August during the grand Victorian house party event.

Anyone who has not yet returned the form should bring it on that day or return it (with payment) to Ann Whattam, Galena, Blackwaterfoot.

Bowls fund day at Brodick

Brodick Bowling Club are having an Open Day on Saturday 11 May from 2pm onwards.

This is a chance for anyone, young or old, to try their hand at this relaxing sport - all sizes of bowls will be provided, for children too.

No previous experience is necessary as a number of Brodick's experienced bowlers will be on hand to provide individual tuition on the day.

All you need to bring are flat soled shoes or trainers - all other equipment will be provided.

Who know, you might get hooked on the game!

Arran's famous three named

A list of famous Ayrshire people has just been issued by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce.

They range from James Macrae of Ayr (pirate hunter/Madras governor) born 1677, to Nicola Sturgeon of Irvine (politician) born 1970.

Out of the 94 famous folk named, there are three entries with Arran connections.

The Arran 'famous' three are Jack McConnell (politician), Jackie Brambles (radio and TV presenter) and Nicola Benedetti (classical violinist).



An impression of the new AYC clubhouse, about to replace the old one.

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Arran Social Scene

Sneak preview of new Aspa at Auchrannie

Representatives from some of Arran's businesses were invited to the Auchrannie last Thursday for a sneak-preview of their luxurious new Aspa.

Overwhelmed

Those invited were clearly overwhelmed by the deluxe decor which creates the perfect relaxing atmosphere.

Sipping champagne and

nibbling on canapés, the guests were shown around the new treatment rooms and were able to experience the gorgeous relaxation room for themselves.

Auchrannie owner and group director Linda Johnston and general manager Richard Small were there to show-off the stunning new

spa and were clearly delighted to be opening its doors to the public.

Breathtaking

'It's absolutely breathtaking,' said one Brodick woman. 'I was expecting Aspa to be special but this is just incredible. It's beautiful, I can't wait to book myself in for a pampering session.'



The Aspa staff. 01_b19spa01



Auchrannie's general manager Richard Small with owner Linda Johnston and marketing manager Gordon Hay. 01_b19spa02



Lynn Raeburn and Vivienne Coulthard. 01_b19spa05



Janice Miller and Irene Currie enjoy a glass of champagne. 01_b19spa03



Anne Tattersfield and Sheila Barr. 01_b19spa04

Launch of 'Yes Arran' campaign on Arran

Blessed by a day of good late April weather, the 'Yes Arran' campaign was launched

on Saturday 27 April in Brodick. Aimed at promoting a 'Yes'

vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum to be held on 18 September 2014, the

Yes campaign team engaged with locals and visitors alike, providing information and answering questions on Independence issues.

'Today's event is just a small part of what will be the biggest community-based campaign in Scotland's history,' said Kenneth Gibson MSP.

'We are here to talk, to listen, and to encourage.'

'There has been a good, positive feel about the day.'

'In a few hours of sunshine we were delighted to gather many signatures to the 'Yes Declaration'.

'When people take a few moments to read it, they usually nod and sign.'

Further events are planned, in May and early June.



The launch of the 'Yes Arran' campaign in Brodick.

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

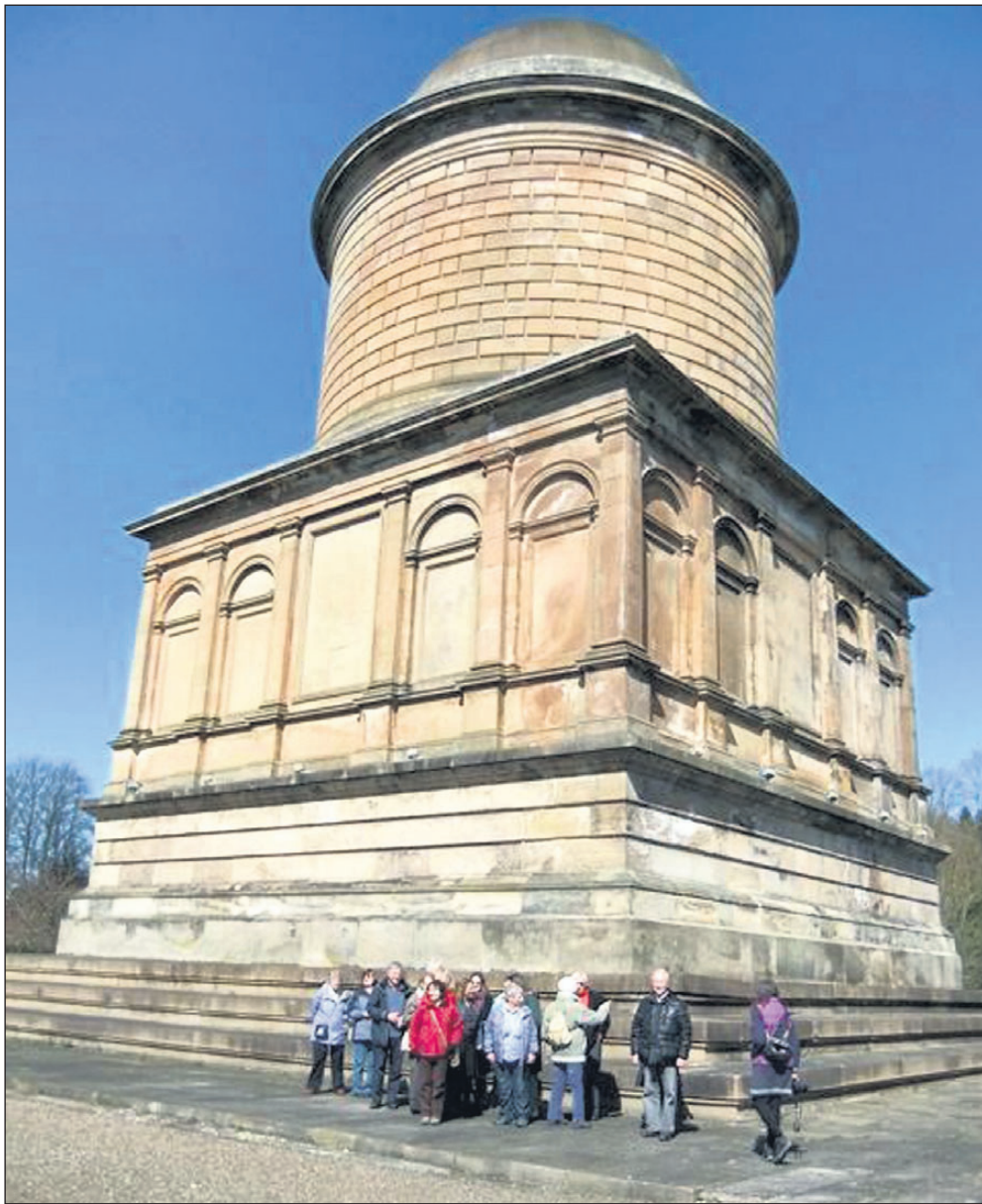
Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.

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

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Hamilton Mausoleum with the Arran group pictured at its base. b19ham01NO



Chatelherault, a hunting lodge and stables again built for the Duke by William Adam not long after the Old Parish Church.

Civic Trust enjoy day out to Hamilton

Members of Arran Civic Trust visited the home and burial crypt of the Hamilton family last Tuesday as 19 of them enjoyed a day out on the mainland.

All three venues had an association with the Duke of Hamilton who of course also has a long association with Arran.

The first of these, Hamilton Mausoleum, built by the tenth Duke, known as El Magnifico, in the 1840s as a family burial crypt.

It is a massively imposing, domed structure built of interlocking sandstone blocks with huge sculpted lions guarding the entrance.

Above the crypt is a magnificent chapel with an exotic, inlaid marble floor and a towering ceiling capped by a circular window, the only light source in the building. Two bronze doors cast with biblical scenes lie on display inside having originally been the Mausoleum's entrance doors.

Despite sinking over its lifetime, due to coal mining, by a staggering 18 feet, the building held together, a tribute to the masons who built it.

In one sense it is a monument to outrageous vanity and can be seen as grotesque in its arrogance, opulence and the muscular assertiveness of the stonework but it is certainly fascinating and everyone was pleased to have seen it and listened to a well constructed talk from the Hamilton Museum guide.

The second venue, Hamilton Old Parish Church is a

masterpiece built by William Adam, father of Robert in the 1730s.

Inevitably, it has had later alterations particularly to the interior, but the original fabric still stands. It is in the form of a circular hub with outlying cruciform, classical Italianate in feeling and well preserved and looked after by its congregation. The interior has an imposing circular balcony and a massive organ. A member of the congregation David Gibbs led a conducted tour. In the churchyard is a Covenanting memorial and the famous Netherton Cross of early Celtic period.

The third venue was Chatelherault, a hunting lodge and stables again built for the Duke by William Adam not long after the Old Parish Church.

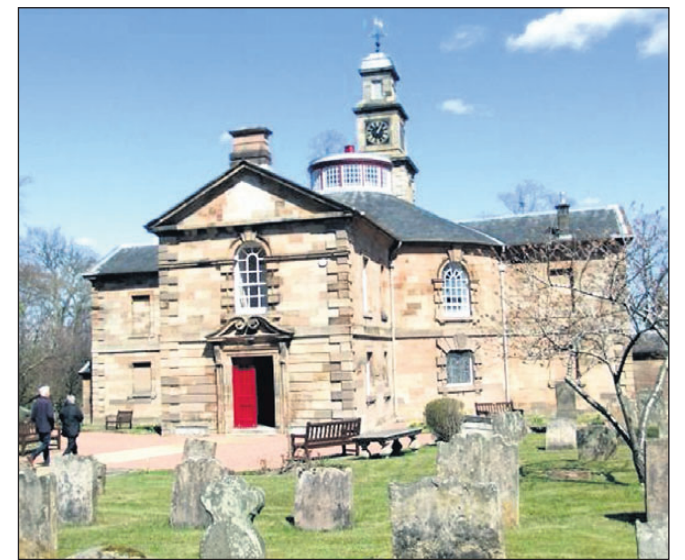
It consists of four joined

blocks with a central Italianate gateway and faces a magnificent panoramic stretching as far as the Cobbler at Arrochar with the Mausoleum and the now demolished Hamilton Palace in its foreground.

The interior has been faithfully and skilfully rebuilt after a fire in the forties and the decorative classical plasterwork has been a worthwhile job-creation scheme.

Nearby in the same High Parks is the deep gorge of the Avon and the old Cadzow (original name for Hamilton) castle now undergoing restoration. There are ancient oaks over 500 years old and white cattle of a mediaeval breed.

The whole day was capped by unexpected, beautiful weather, which enhanced everything and everyone returned happy and satisfied with the day out.



Hamilton Old Parish Church is a masterpiece built by William Adam, father of Robert in the 1730s.

Arran consigned cattle sold at Ayr Auction Mart Spring Sales

Messrs Craig Wilson Ltd, Ayr Auction Mart, sold 331 Arran consigned cattle at their recent Spring Sales.

The quality of the stock from the island was without question the best for many years resulting in previous buyers paying well over the odds to secure their regular lots.

Top prices (per head):

Charolais Stots: £1,060, £1,000, £980, £970 Auchenhew; Limousin Stots: £1,090, £985, £960, £900, £895 Bellview; £900, £850, Craigview; £980 Cairnhouse £885 Clauchlands. Luig Cross Stots: £1,045, £800 Bellview. Aberdeen Angus Stots: £895 Cairnhouse; Simmental Stots: £1,020 Bellview; £835 Clauchlands; £815 Cairnhouse; £750 Dippenhead. Holstein Stots: £740 Tigheanfraeoch.

Suckled calves stots:

Simmental: £1,060, £890 Birchburn; £905, £780, £720 Bellview (B/W); £730 Springfield; £660, £640 Glenree; Aberdeen Angus: £1,005, £725 Birchburn; £820 Clauchlands; £720 Glenree; Charolais: £820 Creagraineach Limousin:

£800 Springfield Hereford Bulls: £1,360, £1,177 Clachaig.

Heifers:

Limousin: £1,010, £890 Bellview; £905 Glenree; £835 Cairnhouse; £900, £800 Craigview; Charolais: £900, £880, £815 Auchenhew; £850, £750 Moor; Simmental: £930, £870 Clauchlands; £870 Burnhouse; Aberdeen Angus: £760 Clauchlands.

Suckled calves (heifers):

Simmental: £840 Bellview (B/W); £830 Birchburn; Charolais: £700 Creagraineach; Limousin: £660, £620 Springfield; £625 Craeagraineach; Aberdeen Angus: £800, £730 Birchburn; £575 Bellview (B/W).

Top prices (per kilo) steers:

Limousin: 241.9p, 228.9p, 227p, 223.9p Bellview; 233.3p Cairnhouse; 221.2p Clauchlands; Charolais: 251.9p, 244.3p, 243.9p Auchenhew; Aberdeen Angus: 223.8p Cairnhouse; Charolais: 251.9p, 244.3p, 243.9p Auchenhew; Holstein: 178.3p Tigheanfraeoch; Hereford Bulls: 216.0p Clachaig.

Suckled calves (stots):

Simmental: 279.6p, 261.8p Birchburn; 274.8p, 268.9p, 254.9p Bellview (B/W); 239.3p Springfield; Aberdeen Angus: 254.4p, 237.7p Birchburn; 228.5p Glenree; Charolais: 262.0p Creagraineach; Limousin: 239.3p Springfield.

Heifers:

Limousin: 214.9p Bellview; Charolais: 222.6p, 214.6p Auchenhew; 215.5p, 214.1p Moor; Simmental: 225.9p, 211.4p Clauchlands.

Heifer calves:

Simmental: 222.4p Bellview (B/W); Charolais: 222.2p Creagraineach; Limousin: 220.8p Creagraineach; 214.2p Springfield; Aberdeen Angus: 222.2p Birchburn.

Cast cows:

Belgian Blue: £1,060 Cairnhouse; Aberdeen Angus: £830 Cairnhouse (171.1p/kg).

Sheep: Texel Hoggets £70, £65 Springfield; Blackface Ewes with lambs at foot £70 Margenaish.

Spring migration gets underway

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

The colder March continued into April with winds mainly from an easterly and northerly direction.

As a result our summer migrants, particularly the early ones, seemed to be arriving later than in recent years.

The April 'firsts' for Arran summer migrants were: a Wheatear at Machriewaterfoot on the 1st, three Manx Shearwater off Silver Sands on the 3rd, two White Wagtail at Kilpatrick Point on the 10th, two Sand Martin in Sannox on the 12th, six Sandwich Tern in Machrie Bay on the 13th, four Arctic Tern off Cosyden on the 14th, a Chiffchaff singing in Sliderry on the 14th, two Common Sandpiper at Blackwaterfoot on the 14th, a Swallow at Catacol on the 14th, a House Martin at Glenloig on the 15th, a Willow Warbler at Knockenkelly on the 18th, a Common Tern at Machriewaterfoot on the 19th, a Blackcap in Sannox on the 22nd, a Whitethroat in Sliderry on the 28th and a Sedge Warbler at Port na Feannaiche on the 29th.

While some of these 'first arrival' dates were later than 2012, for example Chiffchaff 28 days later and Sand Martin 18 days later, there was some catching up with later species arriving more or less at the same time as last year.

Like that harbinger of summer the Cuckoo, the first report was a bird calling in Glen Rosa on the 19th, only a day later than last year.

By the end of the month there were widespread reports of Cuckoo and the songs of other summer migrants like Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff were beginning to fill the air.

On the other hand, by the end of April the bulk of some of these summer migrants, like Swallow, had still to arrive.

Delayed spring

Another sign of the delayed spring was the absence of April records of Whinchat, Tree Pipit, Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler, Garden Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher, all of which are often reported before the end of April.

April is an ideal time for watching migration, for example, on the coast there

were four Great Northern Diver off Dougarie on the 2nd, small groups of Linnet passing along Corriecravie shore on the 4th, four Black-throated Diver off Cosyden also on the 4th, a female Merlin hunting migrating Meadow Pipit in Auchenhew Bay on the 10th, small groups of Twite passing along Cleats Shore on the 19th and six Whimbrel at Auchenhew Bay on the 22nd.

In addition, there was a

flock of 137 Golden Plover at Sliderry on the 27th.

The signs of migration were also evident from the garden records in April.

Lesser Redpoll garden records were unprecedented with numerous records ranging from Shannochie in the south to Lochranza in the north.

In addition there were many widespread records of Goldfinch, with 12 at Shannochie

on 24th being the largest group seen at one time. Siskin were similar, with eight at Shiskine on the 23rd being the largest group seen at one time.

However, when Terry Southall, licensed bird ringer, put up his mist nest in his garden in High Kildonan, he caught 36 Siskin in a few hours.

This gives an insight into the thousands of birds which are on the move through Arran at this time.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

APRIL



Unprecedented numbers of reports of Lesser Redpoll were made this April.

Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you.

DISCOVER SCOTLAND'S WILDLIFE



THE TUFTED ACROBAT*



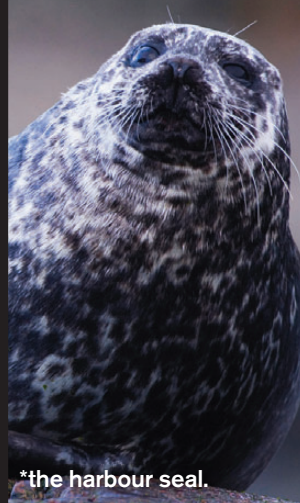
*the red squirrel.

THE ROARING MONARCH*



*the red deer.

THE CURIOUS SEADOG*



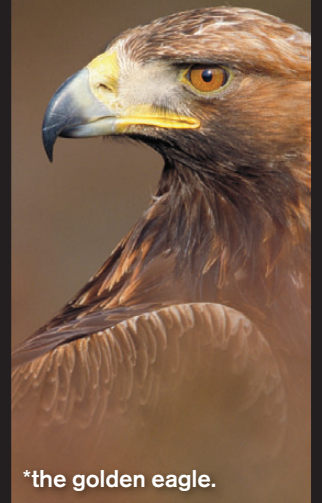
*the harbour seal.

THE WHISKERED DIVER*



*the otter.

THE HIGH FLYER*



*the golden eagle.

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Year of Natural
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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 15 March, 1993

Due to adverse weather..

The front page picture is blank.

It had been reserved to show the Dalai Lama on Holy Isle this afternoon so that we could fill the front page with this unique visit.

However deteriorating weather by Thursday made it a little uncertain and by this morning, freak weather for the time of year made it unlikely he would make it.

Snow on the hills and higher roads and strong north easterly winds meant at 11am it was announced the Dalai Lama would not be coming to Holy Isle.

Bogged down

At least one of the two proposed off tracks appears to be getting slightly bogged down in objections.

Councillor Tom Knox said: 'I've had no official calls from the Kilmory side but as for the Blackwaterfoot proposal, I've had 34 letters condemning it.'

Dead eagle

Another dead golden eagle has been found, this time at the top of the Boguille.

Two Brodick gentlemen Hugh Hamilton and Alex McMillan found it on Sunday when they were out walking.

'I don't think it had been dead that long,' said Mr Hamilton, 'because it's not exactly stinking.'

Distillery go ahead

'It's all systems go now,' said Mr Hal Currie of Isle of Arran Distilleries this week, having just heard that his plans to build a malt whisky distillery in Lochranza have finally been given the go-ahead.

Having initially been approved there were some outstanding objections to the proposal

from Scottish Natural Heritage.

A full environmental assessment was to be carried out but the Secretary of State has dropped this demand and permission has now been granted.

Hunterston 'in play'

A long term possibility for an alternative ferry port for Arran has long been Hunterston.

At a meeting of the local Federation of Small Businesses CalMac chairman Sandy Struthers answered questions about the Arran service which focused on the ferry getting in and out of Ardrossan.

The official line is that the new ferry is more manoeuvrable but Mr Struthers did concede that once the wind reached a certain level no boat will get into Ardrossan.

Boat sinks

A boat at anchor belonging to Mr Eddie Waterland of Whiting Bay sank just off the village on Tuesday evening despite the beautiful weather.

Apparently it had rocked in time with the waves until a big one had gone over the gunwale.

Remain in play

Whiting Bay's tennis courts are to remain in play until the end of September so that the tennis provision is available throughout the season.

After that the ground will revert back to Cooriedoon Nursing Home.

Arran Haulage Cup

The Arran Haulage Cup was won by Southend Football Club last Friday at Lamlash in a game against Brodick which ended as a 2-2 draw and had to be decided on penalties.



Trophies were presented last Monday evening to the winners and runners up of Lamlash junior Badminton Club. b19twe02



Arran's Ladies Hockey team reached the final of their annual sevens tournament in between tent raising and burger grilling. b19twe03



During the Arran Haulage Cup game several of the players felt a great urge to ignore the ball and have a dance and fortunately we were able to record this little interlude. b19twe01

Send your old photographs to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodick Castle, Garden Open
Arran Heritage Museum

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

Quiz
Food and craft market
Garden Walk
Bronze age roundhouse experience

The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm
Brodick Castle, 2pm-3.30pm
Brodick Castle, 10.30-12noon, 2-3.30pm

Saturday 11th May

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Lawn Bowls
Lamlash Bowling rink games
Whiting Bay rink games
Spring Fair & BBQ
Rugby Dinner Dance
Rugby - Arran v Mull

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Lamlash Bowling club 2pm
Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm
Corrie Primary School, 12pm-2pm
Drift Inn, 7pm-10.30pm
Ormidale Park, 12noon

Wednesday 15th May

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

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

Sunday 12th May

Alcoholics Anonymous
New Al-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Folk Music Session
Folk night
Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)

Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
Call 601206 for details
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm
Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm
Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm – 3.30pm

Thursday 16th May

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Live Country/Folk music
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Ladies Netball
Weight Watchers
Lawn Bowls
Shiskine Tennis Club
Lunchbox
Cooriedoon 25 years of care
Quilt Arran
Royal British Legion

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Adults 6pm onwards
Ormidale pavillion, 12.30-2.30pm
Cooriedoon, whiting bay 2pm-5pm
Fire Station, Lamlash 7pm-9.30pm
McLaren Hotel, 2pm

Monday 13th May

Quiz
Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Morning Fitness
Breathe Walk Class
Table Tennis
Badminton
Volleyball Club
Arran Junior Football Club
Summer Bridge Tournament
Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game
Whiting Bay rink games
Lamlash Bowling rink games
Paintings Tour

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm for 6.45pm
Brodick, 6.45pm
Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm
Lamlash Bowling club 7pm
Brodick Castle 2pm-3.30pm

Friday 17th May

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Brodick Farmers Market
Castle Secret Tour
Herb Walk

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm
Brodick Castle, 11.30-1pm
Drimlabarra Herb Farm, Kildonan 6-7.30pm

Tuesday 14th May

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary club
Streetly Dance pre school
Streetly Dancing Classes P1-S7
Youth Club
Rowan Singers
Weight Watchers
Junior Hockey Club
Healthy Outdoors
Cricket Practise
Scottish Country Dancing
Run Arran (intermediate)
Lawn Bowls

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 3.45pm – 6pm
Brodick Hall, 6.30 – 8pm
Lamlash church hall, 7.30-9.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm

Saturday 18th May

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game
Whiting Bay Rink Games
Lamlash Bowling rink games
Goatfell Race

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Brodick, 2pm
Whiting Bay bowling club 7pm
Lamlash Bowling club 2pm
Ormidale park, Brodick 12noon

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email: alan.macalister@mitie.com

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Kenneth Gibson MSP
 will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 13 May	
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall	11.30-12.30
Shiskine Village Hall	13.15-14.15
Lamlash ACVS	15.00-16.00
Monday 10 June	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15-12.15
Kildonan Village Hall	13.00-14.00
Brodick Health Centre	15.00-16.00

No appointment necessary

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office:
 15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687
 Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 12th May
Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

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

Sunday 12th May
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship
Pirmill Church, 10.45am Morning Worship
Shiskine Church, 12noon
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 12th May
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In both churches:
Rev. Dr. Ian MacLeod
Sacrament of Communion
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday 12th May
Sunday Morning Mass 11am
Vigil Mass 7.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 12th May 2013
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All very welcome.
Christian Aid Week begins on 12th May.
Please give generously to help those in need.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 12th May
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no. 600222.
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Services as follows
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on

road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Ernest Brown
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)
Sunday 12th May
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 15th May
at 7pm, 5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS
Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223 or 302779.

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

DEATHS

NORMA DODDS - of Ardlui, Kingscross. Norma passed away suddenly on 3rd May, aged 91 years: the much-loved wife of the late Joe Dodds, and a beloved mother and grandmother, who will be much missed by all her family and friends. A funeral service will be held at Whiting Bay Church on Tuesday 14th May at 11.30am. Any enquiries to Hendry's Funeral Service, Brodick. No flowers, please: donations, if desired, may be made in memory of Norma to the Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters' League, by way of a retiring collection.

GODFREY-SUE (nee Cameron). Very peacefully at The Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday the 3rd of May, after an illness bravely fought, Sue, much loved wife of Phil, loving Mum of Rich (partner Amy) and Stu. Sue lived a happy and full life during which time she enjoyed her five main loves; her family, travelling, aviation, rugby and Arran. Having left her mark on many people, and in many places, as she journeyed through life her final days saw her flying back to Arran to close a circle which started in the War Memorial Hospital in 1958. In her leaving to fly with God she sent out one final transmission to all who knew her 'Thanks for your friendship, it was great fun knowing you-over and out'. The family express their grateful thanks to Doctors Thompson and Hoelzl and all the wonderful nurses and support staff at the War Memorial Hospital who made Sue's final days so special. Dr Counsell, Miss Vestey and all the nurses and doctors in the Oncology Unit Cheltenham who looked after her so well over the last two years. Fathers Hennessey and Colford for their spiritual support and to Clair and David Hendry for their sympathetic funeral arrangements. Finally, our thanks to all of those who have sent cards and messages of condolence.

PERSONAL NOTICES

THANK YOU

Jean Cameron wishes to thank everyone who sent good wishes by card, letters, phone calls to the family, flowers and many many visits. I know they all improved my wellbeing whilst I was in hospital. The love and care from my own family has been second to none, as has the kindness of Doctors, Nurses and other staff at Lamlash Hospital Ward 1, my wonderful neighbours and last but not least Jean and Angus from the church.

THANK YOU ALL!!

John Pennycott would like to thank all staff, parents and pupils, past and present, for all the cards, kind messages and amazing gifts on his retirement. Leaving with lots of happy memories from 25 very special years!

Thank you

Hazel Macleod would like to thank Doctors, Nurses and staff at Cooriedoon for care and attention given to Faye during her illness. Also many thanks to friends for cards and support during this sad time and to Clair and David Hendry for the funeral arrangements.



Happy 21st Poppy Jade

Love from all the family xx

Can anyone help, please?

Last year a cat was abandoned on our doorstep and he has lived with us ever since. During the summer we go away quite a lot so are looking for a kind person to take him into their home for 6-8 weeks from mid-June onwards. He is affectionate, housetrained, neutered and does little more than sleep and eat. He has to have a pill a day. We would supply the food and pills.
If there is anyone who would consider helping us out, please phone Sibbie on 700442



The marriage took place between Helen Margaret Collins, only daughter of Geoffrey and Margaret Collins, Brodick, To Davy Walter Cruddis of Whalsay at Whalsay Kirk Shetland on 5th April 2013.

The wedding cake was decorated by the brides mother Margaret Collins.



Private Paddy Burns

A former pupil of Corrie Primary is pictured after his recent passing out parade at Catterick. He is serving with the 3rd Battalion Blackwatch.

BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS

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REMEMBER

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS TUESDAY 4PM

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Arran Junior Hockey Club attended an all-day training event in Helensburgh with youngsters from the town as well as Oban and Clydesdale.

Arran youngsters enjoy mainland hockey festival

Arran Junior Hockey Club took part in an all-day hockey training event in Helensburgh on Saturday 27 April.

Accompanied by their coaches Martin Kemp, Gillian Anderson and Lorraine Hewie, as well as seven parent helpers, the 27 Arran children attended the training with 80 other players aged 7-14 from Oban, Clydesdale and Helensburgh.

The pitch was a recently-built water pitch in the school grounds of Helensburgh Hermitage Academy and the children were surprised how fast the ball travelled on it and how slippery it was!

In the morning the children were split up into small groups to practice different shots and tactics under supervision of two coaches per group.

In the afternoon they experienced match-playing in teams of under-10, under-12 and under-14.

There was a lot of determination and skilled playing on display and the club is looking forward to more match opportunities and the Area Hockey Festival which takes place on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September at the Ormidale pitch with several invited teams staying over the weekend.

Bridge across the Clyde for Arran players

The origins of bridge on Arran go back almost 70 years

The Arran Bridge Clubs' application to 'Awards for All' Scotland has been successful in the sum of £8,486 to fund the clubs' project 'Bridge across the Clyde'.

This money will be used to purchase modern equipment, including an electronic random dealing machine and computerised scoring system, saving secretaries and card-masters time and 'head-aches'.

Levels of play can be programmed for training purposes and to challenge more advanced players.

The equipment will also allow island clubs to compete with mainland clubs, adding to the fun of the game.

Playing bridge on Arran will continue and flourish in the 21st century.

The origins of bridge on Arran go back almost 70 years.

On 17 January 1947 a meeting, held in Wooley's tea-room, formed Brodick Bridge

Club. From the 19 people present office bearers and a committee were appointed and the meeting unanimously agreed to welcome lady members.

They joined the Scottish Bridge Union, held matches between Lamlash, Shiskine and Lochranza clubs and Bridge Congresses took place on Arran. New members were welcomed and beginner players, many of whom are the backbone of Bridge playing on Arran today, attended lessons.

As regular player Alison Bilsland said: 'This forward thinking has continued and flourished.'

Janette McBride, Brodick Club president said: 'Everyone in the club is excited at the prospect of being able to recap our bidding and play on the web-site.'

'In the past three months there have been 9,000 hits on our website.' www.

bridgewebs.com/arran, indicating a level of interest beyond Arran's shores.

Brodick secretary, Brenda Livingstone said: 'We are determined that with the best equipment available bridge playing will continue and attract new members.'

'We are looking forward to challenges against other clubs.'

The clubs meet at Lamlash Golf Club on Monday evenings and Brodick Golf Club on Thursday evenings throughout the winter, visitors and new members are always welcome.

During the summer an informal session is operated every Monday in Lamlash High School at 6.30pm.

Anyone interested in taking up the game or returning to it should contact one of the following club members: Linda Trickett 302297, John Dick 700386, Janette McBride 600603.



Glen Sloss, far right, with other prizewinners at the Scottish Gas Masters Championships.

Glen swims to glory

Glen Sloss from Sannox swam to glory and won two gold medals at the 2013 Scottish Gas Masters Championships at Scotstoun last month.

Competing with Lomond Masters Swim Team, Glen raced in ten events; the 50m, 100m, 800m freestyle; 100m and 200m breaststroke; 100m back stroke; 400m individual medley and the 50m, 100m and 200m butterfly.

Glen said: 'I won two bronze, two silver, 2 gold and also won gold in the men's 100-119yrs 4x50 Medley Relay.'

'Over the two days I swam 12 events, which is double my usual six so I was over the moon to break my personal records and set new ones in races which I have never tried before.'

He added: 'For me, my highlights were going 10:28.32 in the 800m freestyle, and also being tantalising close to the 60 second barrier on the 100m freestyle with my time of 60.17s, 1.1seconds of my previous record.'

After the event the officials double checked the points which each swimmer gained towards their respective age group category.

Transpired

Glen was racing the A group for 25-29 year olds, and after the event it transpired that he was joint first overall with David Sutherland of Silver City Blues from Aberdeen out of the 19 swimmers in the age group.

'All those hours of training at Auchrannie have paid off, but I'm sure I can and will go faster next time,' said Glen.

Youngsters enjoy gymnastic festival

A three-day gymnastics festival was held recently at Arran High School with 43 youngsters from the island in attendance.

The kids enjoyed three days of aerobics with several coaches from Irvine Bay gymnastics club providing full array of gymnastic disciplines.

They also enjoyed a Parkour (freerunners) demonstration from a group of boys based in Irvine.

Over the three days the children also worked on a small demonstration which parents were invited along to watch on the last day.

The festival was funded by Active schools with the hope of helping local volunteer Carole Johnston fulfil part of her coaching course to become a UKCC qualified gymnastic coach.

Northend host Festival of Football

A Festival of Football organised by Northend FC is being held this weekend at Lochranza.

Starting at 10am on Saturday (May 11) there will be a junior fun fives tournament for children (boy or girl) in P4-P7 until 12.30pm.

From 1pm onwards a senior fives tournament (S1-S4) will take place and there will be a barbecue throughout the day.

Entry fee is £2 per child and there is a maximum of eight to a team.

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Jim Sloss bowls the first ball at Lamlash Bowling Club. 01_b19bowl02



Lady champion Cathie Steed bowls the first jack of the season at Whiting Bay. 02_b19whb01

Bowling clubs open

Two of Arran's bowling clubs held their opening day of the 2013 season last Saturday afternoon.

Whiting Bay and Lamlash opened for the summer season on an unseasonably cold May day that forced members to wrap up warm in hats and gloves.

Whiting Bay Bowling Clubs president Keith Irving welcomed 32 members and guests from other clubs and remarked on the good condition of the green.

He paid tribute to the volunteers who had worked hard on the green, including the repainting of the clubhouse.

On what was an unseasonably cold day, last year's lady champion Cathie Steed agreed to remove her warm coat in order to bowl the first jack and wood of the season.

Whiting Bay rink games throughout the summer are at 7pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and at 2pm on Saturdays.

Honour

Last year's champion bowler at Lamlash was given the honour of bowling the first wood this season.

Jim is not only last year's champion but one of the club's longest serving members.

Victory for Northend

There was an exciting start to the Arran football season on Monday night when Northend beat Shiskine 2-1 in Lochranza.

In the preliminary round of the Arran Haulage Cup Northend's Stuart Lawson and youngster Alastair Innes put two goals past the Shiskine keeper.

Fergus Judge scored the visitors' only goal of the night after they missed a penalty early on. The man of the match chosen by the referee was Northend's goalie Spanky (Benjamin McCallum).

The semi finals of the Arran Haulage Cup take place this Monday with Northend playing Lamlash and Brodick taking on Southend.

Bowls federation fixture

The Arran Bowls Federation has released its fixtures for the summer season.

They are as follows:

Laidler Gardiner - triples: All matches to start at 7pm. In the event of wet weather the call off time is 6pm.

Tuesday 4 June: Lamlash v Whiting Bay, Brodick v Blackwaterfoot. Thursday 6 June: Whiting Bay v Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot v Brodick. Tuesday 11 June: Lamlash v Blackwaterfoot, Whiting Bay v Brodick. Thursday 13 June: Blackwaterfoot v Lamlash, Brodick v Whiting Bay. Tuesday 18 June: Lamlash v Brodick, Whiting Bay v Blackwaterfoot. Thursday 20 June: Brodick v Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot v Whiting Bay.

Arran Federation Draw - all to be held at Lamlash at 7pm.

Monday 1 July - Ladies singles: Blackwaterfoot v Lamlash, Brodick v Whiting Bay. Gents singles: Brodick v Lamlash, Whiting Bay v Blackwaterfoot. Tuesday 2 July - Pairs: Blackwaterfoot v Whiting Bay, Brodick v Lamlash. Rinks: Lamlash v Brodick, Whiting Bay v Blackwaterfoot. Thursday 4 July: All finals.

Summer Bridge

The results of the tournament on Monday 6 May were as follows: N/S 1 Roddie Thomson and Eendy McNiven -1590, 2 Helen Boyd and Jean Murchie -2720, 3 Tricia Martin and Elizabeth McKellar -3110. E/W 1 John and Mary Dick +5840, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce +5070, 3 Brenda Livingston and Morag Gardner +4070.



First game of the season

Sannox Cricket Club's opener Eric Dunn is dismissed as the visitors snatch the initiative. The island's team played their first game of the summer season on Sunday with a friendly against Kilmaccolm CC.

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