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Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 30 MAY, 2009 | No 1702 | 52p

Twenty's plenty for Arran villages

Residents welcome traffic-calming measures

Report by JENNIFER LYON

Residents in Lamlash, Whiting Bay and Brodick are rejoicing this week after news that traffic calming measures are to be introduced in the villages.

Councillor Margie Currie revealed this week that North Ayrshire Council is planning to install advisory speed limits at Glen Court, Brodick, Park Terrace, Lamlash and Montrose Terrace in Whiting Bay, but only if local residents give it the go ahead.

'There have been calls for a number of years now for traffic calming measures to be introduced in these areas,' said Councillor Currie. 'It looks unlikely that speed bumps would be put in place as they are too expensive but 20mph advisory speed limits are being discussed. For this to happen though we need the full support of all the residents living in these areas.'

Within the next week each household on these streets will be sent a questionnaire asking for their thoughts on the proposals.

These should be returned to Whiting Bay Post Office, Lamlash Council Offices or The Arran Banner office in Brodick by Friday June 12.

An NAC spokesman said it could be some time before the measures are introduced. 'From our experience in similar small sites within North Ayrshire, it is likely that the traffic calming assessment at this time will produce a sufficiently high ranking result in comparison with other sites in the area,' said Ronnie Small, head of infrastructure and design services.

'However, as the ranking of sites can alter, for example due to changes in accident patterns or other factors s, all identified sites are continually monitored by our roads services.'

He did confirm that the council are considering advisory speed limits covering all of the three areas mentioned. 'Advisory speed limits of 20mph may be introduced if they are requested by the local communities demonstrating their co-operation and support for such measures,' he said.

Vicki McDowall of Park Terrace, Lamlash, fully supports the idea. 'I think this is a good idea. I have small grandchildren who come here regularly. They always play in the garden because it isn't safe for them out on the road,' she said. 'Since the new high school was built I have noticed a sharp increase in the amount of traffic using this road and they can sometimes be quite speedy. Hopefully these signs would make a difference.'

Debbie Jackson lives in Glen Place, Brodick with her husband and two children. She also operates as a childminder from the house. 'I think that the signs are a good idea but I don't think they will have much effect,' said Debbie. 'We really need speed bumps here because they force drivers to slow down. I think too many people will simply ignore the 20mph signs.'

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'Obviously the advisory 20mph speed limit will not be enforceable by the police but any road traffic safety measure is to be welcomed.'

• All questionnaires should be returned to Whiting Bay Post Office, Lamlash Council Offices or The Arran Banner office in Brodick by Friday, June 12.

Chicken Ranch girls Lisa Duncan, Janet Rawlins, Nicola Swinton-Boyle and Mary Crawford strut their stuff on Brodick Hall stage watched by Caroline Hester, Sheila Gilmore and new girls Alison Howie and Laura Selkirk. b22tex07

The Best Little show in Brodick

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas has been playing in Brodick Hall all week.

It is this year's offering from Arran Music and Drama Club and is far removed from traditional stage musicals.

This is a raunchy musical tale of a true story about a brothel in a small town in Texas that provided a service to the community in a safe environment. It operated quietly for more than 100 years but in 1973 was exposed by crusading do-gooder and television presenter Melvyn P Thorpe and ultimately closed down. Thorpe is played by Campbell Seaton who is larger than life and a striking stage presence.

The costumes are outstanding, the dialogue witty and the scenery imaginative.

An extra dimension is given to this production by the new musical director Dave Payn who not only conducted the mini-orchestra but played trumpet and dressed in a stetson and bandana. It is also notable for the number of new faces and young cast members.

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas runs for two more nights on Friday and Saturday.

See pages 10 and 11.

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Police files

Purse theft

Between 10 and 11am on Friday May 22, a purse was stolen at the Co-op in Brodick.

Police are appealing for information about the theft and would like to remind members of the public to keep their valuables in a safe place.

Anti-social behaviour orders

A 32-year-old man from Irvine was issued with an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) ticket for drinking in public on Shore Road in Brodick on Saturday night.

On Sunday afternoon a 27-year-old Brodick man and a 44 year-old man from Strathaven were issued with ASBOs for similar offences.

Theft at the Drift Inn

As a result of police inquiries into a theft from the Drift Inn, Lamlash, a 15 year-old Brodick youth was reported for theft and breach of the peace at 12pm on Monday.

A 13 year old from Brodick was also reported for theft and assault and a 14 year old from Lamlash was reported for theft.

Woman rescued from top of Goatfell

A woman from Glasgow had to be rescued near the summit of Goatfell by the Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) on Friday night after she dislocated her knee.

The 45 year old from Glasgow had fallen between the summit of Goatfell and the Glenshant Hill area and at 4pm AMRT were called.

After the extent of her injuries were assessed, she was stretchered off the mountain to the team Landrover above Brodick Castle drive and handed over to paramedics at the mountain rescue post at 8pm. Deputy team leader Neil Bulger said: 'The team argocat again proved its worth, carrying two team members and heavy equipment close to the area, to provide the casualty with much needed first aid as quickly as possible.'

Neil explained that great care is needed to remove a casualty off the hill but it also should be done as quickly as possible.

'Members of the public should try to give accurate and detailed information about their location,' added Neil. 'Mobile phones are very useful but you should make sure they are fully charged before heading out and do not rely on them, as coverage and their working 100 per cent of the time is not always assured.'

Graham Tinto and Diana Turbett at the Fairtrade stand in the lobby of MV Caledonian Isles. b22far01

Fairtrade fun on the ferry

Members of the Arran Fairtrade group were manning a display on board the Arran ferry last Saturday.

Graham Tinto and Diana Turbett along with other volunteers left Brodick on the 8.20am sailing and promoted their wares and principles throughout the day.

Arran became a Fairtrade island last year and there are now over 60 outlets and users of Fairtrade products ranging from North Ayrshire Council to Kilmory Primary School, the Ormidale Hotel and Arran Free Church (continuing).

Graham said: 'Many of the people on the outbound journey from Brodick already know about Fairtrade but a lot of the visitors coming over from Ardrossan have been showing quite an interest in the products.

'We had someone on the 9.45am sailing who was coming on holiday from Preston. They were very interested because Garstang, just north of Preston, was the first ever Fairtrade town in the UK in 2000.'

The Fairtrade system seeks to ensure fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers in developing countries, in particular giving producers a fair and stable price for their goods.

Arran Fairtrade group will have a presence at Kilmory Farmers Markets throughout the summer.

Man plucked from sea

A man was dragged from the water just off the Lochranza pontoons last Friday evening after he fell into the sea when his boat capsized.

The yachtsman from Troon had been travelling back to his yacht in Lochranza Bay when his boat tipped.

Robbie Cummings of Lochranza was returning to the pontoon onboard his father's boat when he heard the man's cries from help.

He managed to pull the man from the water before ferrying him back to his yacht.

According to Terry Crawley, *The Banner's* northend correspondent, the man had been in the water for some time.

'It appears that after he fell into the water he was unable to locate the ladder onto the pontoon in the darkness,' said Terry. 'His lifejacket failed to inflate and he was in the water for about 10 minutes. I think that if Robbie hadn't come long when he did it could have been a very different story.'

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Turft theft at Southend

Watch out, there's a thief about.

But this thief is more of a horticulturist than a cat burglar. Local council workers recently repaired a stretch of grass verge at High Kildonan.

A vehicle had gone off the road into a ditch, chewing up the verge. NAC roadmen carried out remedial work and replaced a long stretch of turf. But within a couple of days the turf had gone. Someone had lifted it, probably under cover of darkness, and probably to lay in their own garden.

A council worker who did not wish to be named said: 'I can't believe it. Whoever took the turf ought to own up, and if anyone knows who it is they should grass on them.'

Retreat pods planned for Holy Isle

Plans were passed by NAC last week for two unusual residential units on Holy Isle.

At the planning meeting in Cunninghame House on Tuesday the application was approved with three conditions.

The Samye Ling Holy Isle retreat pods will be built into the hillside and partially underground at the southern end of the island.

They will be turf-topped with floor to ceiling double-glazed units to the front with thermal solar panels on a copper-clad retaining wall. The buildings will be halfway up the hill between the lighthouse buildings and the Lama Yeshe's own private retreat building. A spokesman for Samye Ling said: 'We seek to augment the female retreat to the south-west and the male retreat with modern exemplary sustainable units closer to the Lama Yeshe's own private retreat building.'

Bernie Jackson with grandsons Rhys and Ryan outside his house decorated with Christmas lights last December. b51ber02

Bernie's Christmas lights under threat by new rules

Bernie Jackson of Whiting Bay is a worried man. He is worried that he may be banned from putting up Christmas lights.

For 16 years he has decorated the outside of his house in Montrose Terrace with an array of Christmas lights to the delight of local children and adults. Each winter the collection has grown with Bernie buying more elaborate displays.

Now local councils have been given the power to impose fines of £150 on householders like Bernie for supposedly disturbing the neighbours.

Last Christmas an Irvine man was banned from switching on his lights after complaints.

Bernie said: 'The only complaints that I get is that I don't put the decorations up soon enough. Folk come from all over to see them and leave a donation for local charities.'

Ferry rope ties up Sannox boundary

An old ferry rope will now define the boundary of Sannox Oval cricket pitch. After years of being used to tie up the Arran ferry, this white rope will now determine whether a shot has gone for four or six runs.

For sports lovers everywhere the question as to whether the ball was on the line or over the line is a constantly recurring one.

Who can forget Superbrat John MacEnroe's shouted: 'You cannot be serious, the ball was on the line!'

Was the ball over the line in the 1966 World Cup? Well of course it was.

More locally, Sannox Cricket Club's boundary has always been marked by a very close cut with a lawn mower. But even so, during matches, it was occasionally questionable whether the ball was a four or a six.

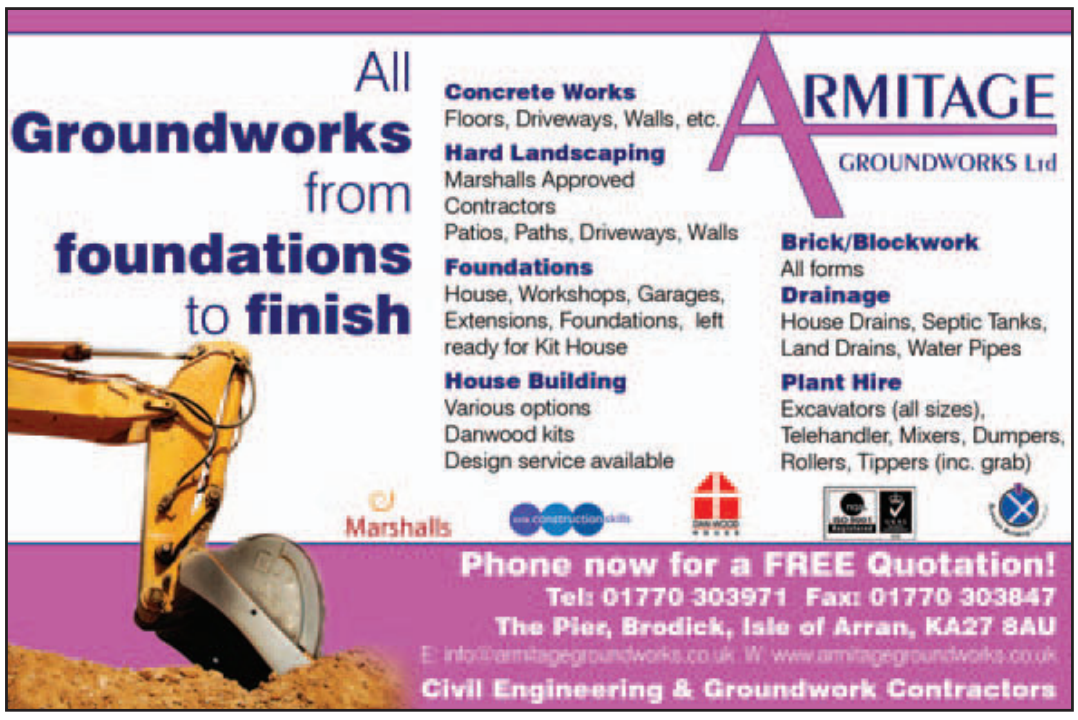
Now with a recent development at the club, with help from Cal Mac, these doubts can be banished for good.

Cal Mac has given the club lengths of redundant ropes from the Caledonian Isles. This is ideal for the purpose of denoting the boundary and also helps to make Sannox Oval one step closer to resembling a proper cricket ground.

The ball driven along the ground will now stop at the rope or bounce over it making umpire Roddie Thomson's decision that bit easier.

Sannox would like to thank CalMac for their help in this and is grateful to farmer James McKinnon and Arran Estates for their continuing support of the club.

The new boundary rope at the Sannox Oval. b22rop01



Mairi's wildlife safari comes to Rotary

Arran Rotarians meet every Tuesday evening in the Glencloy suite at Auchrannie and as well as a meal have entertainment in the form of a speaker.

The speaker two weeks ago was one of their own number, Mairi Christie of Lamlash, who told them of her trip to Kenya last month. Mairi and her husband George flew from Glasgow to Mombasa with the hope of seeing some spectacular wildlife at close quarters.

One of Mairi's photos of a zebra with her baby.

Things didn't go quite to plan as they were moved from one hotel to another.

Mairi said later: 'The economy is in a terrible state.

'In the shanty towns around Mombasa you could see tiny children trying to scoop up water to drink from dirty puddles. The food on offer was extremely dubious.

'I virtually lived on bananas. The waitress in our first hotel hadn't been paid for a month.

Disaster

'You could say that the holiday was a bit of a disaster, but one wonderful safari made it all worthwhile. We took a nine-hour drive into a game reserve and I got close-up photos of lions, cheetahs, giraffes and red elephants.

'One evening a crocodile visited our camp but the Masai warriors drove it off with spears and sticks.

'It is such a different world; I could have given another talk to Rotary about the social conditions in Kenya. As we were driving through Mombasa I saw a man with no legs in a Rotary wheelchair with our yellow logo on it, so at least we are doing some good.'

Mairi Christie tells Rotarians about her safari in Kenya. b22rot01

Photo Competition 2009

It's that time of year again, when we ask Banner readers, locals and visitors, to share with us their photographic gems from the last year.

As in previous years, whether your pictures are magnificent Arran's views, make us roar with laughter or bring tears to a glass eye, we will enjoy seeing them all.

Now in its 29th year the 2009 photo competition will follow the usual highly successful format. It is open to both residents of and visitors to Arran, and entries should be in one of two classes: People (and/or animals) and Places. The only proviso is that all entries MUST have been taken on, or around, Arran after August 2008

Each year, after the competition has closed, we select as many entries as possible to show in The Banner prior to announcing the winners in early October. The Banner therefore reserves the right to publish entries.

The closing date is Tuesday 15 September and the decision of the judges is final.

Send your entries to: editor@arranbanner.co.uk, or, if technology is not your thing you can still send us prints of your favourite photos by filling in the address form. Please send a SAE if you would like your pictures returned.

Maximum of 6 photos per entry.

We reserve the right to publish entries in Arran Banner publications

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Title of picture.....

Please send all entries to **The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ** and enclose a SAE if photographs are to be returned.
Email: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Brighten up you garden this summer with bedding plants

Regular Arran visitor Bob McCaw of Glasgow is a keen gardener and writes about brightening up your garden this summer with pretty bedding plants.

Now that we have sown and grown our bedding plants and the sales of plants have reached its crescendo, it is time to plant them in their final positions.

A good gardener cannot only grow plants, but also has a good imagination and can look at a blank piece of ground and know where to place their plants and the effect they wish to create.

Bedding plants such as French Marigolds, Impatiens, Geraniums, Petunias, Pansies and Begonia Semperflorens, are more striking and bold if planted in blocks of the same, rather than mixed together, and edged with blue Lobelia and white Alyssum.

Try blue and white Ageratum 'Hawaii' series a lovely alternative.

Or for something different try 'Hawaii' series mixed, it comes in colours of blue, shell pink, sky blue, white and royal which is a violet purple colour.

This Ageratum grows to six inches in height and is ideal for edging.

Before you begin to plant fork over the ground and rake level. Add some slow release fertilizer that will supply four to six months of feed.

Remember follow the instructions on the packet. Now you are ready to plant, look at the area of ground and mark it out with sand, sawdust or string, try to imagine the effect you want to achieve.

After you have completed marking the area, water the plants thoroughly, and leave for half an hour to ensure the compost is soaked.

Now carefully remove the plants from their box or pack and space some of them out on the soil, making sure you have enough for the area.

At this stage you can adjust the spacing slightly to make them to stretch out over the area. Follow the instructions that are on the label, this will tell you the amount of space recommended between plants, as every type and variety differs.

After planting water well, remember it is better to water first thing in the morning or when the sun is going down in the evening.

Spot or Dot plants are used to give height to a bed of low growing plants.

African Marigolds are popular plants for this purpose and can be bought in boxes or packs.

They are an inexpensive option; try to get a tallish variety, such as 'Perfection'.

They grow to a height of approx 16 inches, have large orange or yellow blooms and should be planted in groups of three or five depending on the size of bed. As for Cordylines especially the purple leaved varieties such as 'Australis Purpurea' and 'Red Star' are also excellent for this purpose.

However, they can be expensive for good-sized plants.

Bedding plants such Pansies are more striking and bold if planted in large blocks together.

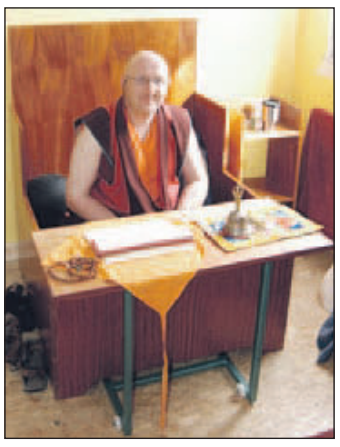
Monks to emerge from centre after four-year retreat

Next Friday 20 men will come out of a four-year retreat at Samye Dechen Shing, the Buddhist centre on the Ross Road, formerly known as Glenscorrodale.

They will be driven down to the Samye Ling centre at Eskdalemuir near Dumfries for a kind of debriefing and rejoin society on June 11.

On June 23 2005 the settlement of Glenscorrodale was totally closed from the outside world and has remained that way.

Resident warden Jorden lives in a caravan outside the walls and has delivered supplies to the threshold which is a doorway into the courtyard.



Tokmay, formerly known as Michael, a university lecturer from Dublin, in his bed box. All monks sleep in a sitting position, cross-legged. b22gle02

The four-sided courtyard formation of former farm buildings comprises a workshop where the stables were, a refectory and kitchen in the old barn, a temple in the byre and two residential blocks, each with 11 bedrooms and a shower room where the house used to be.

Jorden said: 'I will have a few months hard work doing maintenance and repairs within the centre and the next batch of men for a four-year retreat will be coming in next Spring.'

During the four years the men have woken at 4am every day and done exercises and prayers, spending up to 15 hours a day in their single rooms.

Outsiders see around the temple, formerly the byre, on the final day before the centre closed its doors to the public four years ago. b22gle01

Middle East cycling challenge for Hilary

She can usually be found in front of the cooker at Machrie Bay Tearoom but soon Hilary McMaster will be jetting off to the Middle East to take part in a women only cycling challenge.

Hilary has responded to an appeal by leading infertility expert professor Robert Winston to join the cycle across Jordan to raise funds to improve the health of women and babies.

More than 1,000 women from across Britain have already raised more than £1.5 million for the Institute of obstetrics and Gynaecology Trust's 'Women for Women' fund by taking part in cycling challenges all over the world.

Along with Rebecca – her daughter – and around 80 other women, Hilary will be cycling some 300 kilometres from the Dead Sea valley, through the desert and up to the red rock city of Petra.

From there they will go through the mountains and eventually down to Aquaba on the tip of the Red Sea.

'Much of the cycling will be off road so training on Arran's roads, avoiding the potholes, is ideal', said Hilary. 'I am also going to try and cycle on some of the island's forest tracks.'

Hilary needs to raise a minimum of £2,500 to help fund groundbreaking research work at the Wolfson and Weston Research Centre for family health and she is hoping local people can help her reach this target.

Hilary McMaster will be jetting off to the Middle East to take part in a women only cycling challenge. b22hil01

Funds raised by Cycle Jordan 2009 will support women scientists and clinicians who specialise in research affecting women and their babies.

With up to 250 babies dying every week in the UK from complications during pregnancy, their work has never been more essential.

The ninth 'Women for Women' cycling challenge will take place in October 2009.

To raise the money Hilary will be holding various events at the Machrie Tearoom starting with one of her well-known Indian Nights on Saturday June 6. She will also be selling some of her secret recipes for the good cause too.

Baby joy for Arran's MP

Arran's MP is celebrating this week after the birth of her first child, a daughter.

Katy Clark returned home at the weekend after the birth of her baby daughter Susanna last Monday (May 18).

Following postnatal care, the 41-year-old Labour MP and her newly born daughter were able to return home on Sunday.

Baby Susanna was born at 10.37am last Monday in Crosshouse Hospital at a healthy 8lbs 4oz and is Katy's first child.

Katy said: 'My partner and I are absolutely overjoyed. There aren't enough words to thank all the staff at the Ayrshire Maternity Unit at Crosshouse Hospital for their care and professionalism.'

Jim Murphy MP, secretary of state for Scotland, said: 'I am really delighted for Katy and her entire family. It's great to have a new mum sitting as a Scottish MP.'

Lochranza gardens day

Garden gates are being unlocked at the north end of the island this weekend as Lochranza hosts its annual open gardens day.

Beginning at 11am on Sunday (May 31), there will be nine gardens open for inspection this year including the community garden at the village hall.

Kate Hartley, chairman of the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall committee, said: 'All the gardens will be identified by balloons and posters on the gates. The gardeners have been very busy this week and we are all praying for good weather so they can show off their efforts.'

Tickets will be on sale at the hall or at any of the participating gardens and they will entitle people to visit all the gardens and enjoy a cream tea in the hall.

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WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK

Wedding ring lost

A Polish man visiting the island from Warsaw has lost his wedding ring.

The man believes he may have dropped it somewhere between Goatfell and Cir Mhor on Monday May 25.

The white gold ring is attached to a black pendant with a leather strap.

If anyone has found the ring could they contact the Arran Brewery on 302353.

Royal British Legion

The next meeting of the Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion will be held in the MacLaren Hotel at 2pm on Thursday June 4. All welcome.

Silver bracelet found

The owner is being sought of a silver bracelet bearing the inscription 'Tom Pullen 8 Nov 08' that was found on the woodland path between Brodick and Lamlash last week.

It has been handed to the Police Station in Lamlash.

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Bird Notes - The Dawn Chorus

By Jim Cassels

The Willow warbler.

One of the birding delights of May is to listen to the dawn chorus.

By May, most of our summer visitors have arrived and our woods and gardens particularly are full of bird song. What does it mean?

Song is to do with territory, with its food and the opportunities to breed. While bird song gives great pleasure to a great many humans, to other birds the message is 'this is my patch'.

It is meant as a 'come on' to the fairer sex and a warning to rivals.

Why dawn? There could be various reasons: sound carries 20 times better at dawn than in the middle of the day, birds who are able to sing well after a night without food demonstrate their vigour, egg laying is often close to dawn, and when the light gets up the hunt for food becomes a bigger priority.

If you listen regularly to the dawn chorus, there seems to a sequence.

Robins are often the first to sing, closely followed by blackbirds, song thrushes and then wrens. Next are warblers like the chiffchaff and willow warbler, along with some of our resident birds like the chaffinch and house sparrow.

Between first and last can be a couple of hours. Research seems to suggest that this order may be related to the size of the eye, birds with the largest eye singing first.

While the dawn chorus can be a cacophony of noise to humans trying to sleep, bird song has been an inspiration to many of our poets.

For example the song of the skylark sung from on high influenced many poets including Shelley, Blake, Wordsworth and George Meridith whose poem begins:

He rises and begins to round
He drops the silver chain of sound
Of many links without a break....

While this captures the essence of what Wordsworth called the 'ethereal minstrel' it is not much help in field identification.

The song thrush.

Rewarding

It is a fact that a lot of birds can be heard more easily than they can be seen, and it can be rewarding to be able to identify birds from their song or call, but it is a challenge.

Bird books often try to put words to bird sounds. Descriptions like 'chack-weet', 'tsee', 'tchook', 'tchink' are not a great help.

Putting calls or songs to words is a little more helpful. Imagine the school pupil trying to get the attention of teacher and calling rapidly 'teacher, teacher, teacher' and you are close to the call of the great tit.

Some birds' names give a clue to the call, like cuckoo.

Chiffchaff is another, but its two notes might be better represented as 'chaffchiff' with some times more 'chaff' than 'chiff'.

Descriptions can help. For example, song thrush use short melodious phrases and each is repeated three or four times before moving onto the next one.

By far the best way to get familiar with bird calls and songs is to listen to them. Ideally this should be with an experienced bird watcher.

On Saturday , as part of the Arran Wildlife Festival, there was such an opportunity during a Dawn Chorus Walk lead by staff from the RSPB.

At this time of year similar walks are lead by Brodick Country Park Rangers.

In addition there are many commercial tape sets, CDs and DVDs of bird calls and songs available for all sorts of home and portable sound systems including iPods and MP3 players.

Using a recording is a reliable way to build up your birding skills and add to your enjoyment of the dawn chorus.

Enjoy your birding.

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

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Demolition well under way at Breadalbane

Demolition work at the site of the Breadalbane Hotel has been going ahead steadily for several weeks.

The popular five-bedroom hotel and restaurant was bought by property developer Derek Callaghan of Dreghorn in April 2007. An application to demolish the hotel and build 10 two-bedroom houses on the site was approved in March with 15 conditions and subject to the applicant providing a sum of money for upgrading play facilities in the area.

Following concerns from a local resident that work was proceeding without necessary agreement, a council spokesman confirmed that the demolition was being carried out in accordance with the approval.

The fireplace in the Breadalbane lounge with the carpet covered plasterboard. b20bre02

Willie McNish, chairman of Kildonan village hall committee said: 'The committee will ensure that the relevant planning conditions are closely adhered to.'

Developer Derek Callaghan said: 'We are taking it apart bit by bit. There has been quite a lot of asbestos that must be disposed of with care.

'The building is like a rabbit warren so we are having to be very careful. I would hope to be in a position to build the back four houses on the plot this time next year.

'They'll be ideal for first time buyers and I would prefer them to go to local people. I'll also be looking at shared ownership.'

Three of the bedrooms stripped out upstairs at the Breadalbane. b20bre03

Hospice donation in memory of much loved mother and daughter

A retired GP from Glasgow who recently lost his wife to cancer has donated a significant amount of money to the Arran Hospice Fund.

Colin Guthrie, age 58, retired to Brodick several months ago after the death of his wife last November.

Eleanor Guthrie, who was also a GP, died in the Beatson Clinic in Glasgow at the age of 51.

Tragically Colin's 21 year-old daughter, Lorna, took her own life last month after failing to cope with her mother's death.

Colin has given the Arran Hospice Fund £5,000; a significant boost to the island charity's funds, in memory of his wife and daughter.

'I think that with everything that has happened to my family recently it highlights just how important it is to have a proper support network in place for families coping with a terminally ill member,' said Colin. 'I think there can be quite a lot of pressure on families to take care of people at home but sometimes that just isn't possible and in the case of my wife, she had to be in the Beatson.

'The facilities there for family members are fantastic – there was good food, a place to sleep as well as fantastic staff to look after you too – and I think that a facility similar to this would be a great asset in Arran.'

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

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

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

Janet Redfearn, treasurer of the Hospice Fund, said: 'This is the largest donation that we have had so far and it is absolutely fantastic because it takes us just over the £20,000 mark.

'I agree with Colin that a proper facility to support families of terminally ill patients is absolutely essential. We are very lucky on Arran to have a superb support network already in place but the hospice room will make a great difference.'

The charity needs to raise a further £30,000 to get the hospice rooms up and running.

Colin Guthrie, who recently lost his wife to cancer, presents Janet Redfearn of the Arran Hospice Trust with a cheque for £5,000. b22hos01

Feis Arainn application forms distributed

Application forms and information sheets for this year's Fèis Arainn were distributed to all the primary schools and Arran High School a few weeks ago and are now due for return.

The dates are Tuesday 28 to Friday 31 July –in the High School from 10am to 2.50pm each day. All youngsters who will be eight years old by the start of the Feis are welcome to come, including any visitors who might be here at that time. We can also accommodate a small number of adults and the workshops will include fiddle, accordion, clarsach, chanter, drums, whistle and guitar as well as Gaelic singing and drama and stepdance and Celtic art.

The closing concert will be in the High School theatre on Friday afternoon, July 31 and the Tutors' ceilidh and family dance on Wednesday 29 July in Whiting Bay Hall.

Any questions or requests for additional forms should be made to Aileen McLaughlin on 700209 and forms returned as soon as possible via the schools or direct to Aileen at Taigh-an-Dara, Whiting Bay, KA27 8RE.

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THE ARRAN
BANNER

It's okay to fall

North Ayrshire Council has said this week that it is considering introducing 20mph advisory speed limits at specific points in Arran's larger villages to make the roads safer for those living there.

Speaking to parents of small children and older people who live on Montrose Terrace, Park Terrace and Glen Court, there is an overwhelming feeling that people no longer feel as safe as they once did on the island's roads.

One young mum made it quite clear she would not let her children play anywhere outside of their small garden for fear of a car hitting them.

Residents in these areas say that drivers speeding through their small cul de sacs and terraces have plagued them for years.

Despite the relatively small size of these areas – that already exist in a 30mph zone – some drivers are accelerating at almost twice the speed limit as they pass by.

It seems almost unbelievable that children living somewhere as idyllic as Arran are becoming prisoners in their own homes.

In the national news this week it has been reported that children should be allowed to play dangerous games and risk minor injuries as part of a wider lesson in life. By scraping knees, grazing elbows and getting bruises, children learn 'valuable lifelong lessons' that will help them to avoid more serious injuries in later life.

We need to ask ourselves whether it is better for a child to break a wrist falling out of a tree, or to get a repetitive strain wrist injury at a young age from using a computer or video games console.

When children spend time in the great outdoors, getting muddy, getting wet, getting stung by nettles, they learn important lessons – what hurts, what is slippery, what you can trip over or fall from.

Some people are accused of being sentimental when they harp on about things being different 20 years ago – but in this instance it is true.

We are in danger of bringing up a generation of young adults who have no interest in the great outdoors and cannot tell a sheep from a cow. We need to try to break down the perceived safety barriers to playing outside.

In recent years, tragedies – like the disappearance of Madeleine McCann – have made parents increasingly fearful for their children's safety.

What we need to remember is that a place like Arran is still relatively safe and we have to allow our children to play outside and make the most of these beautiful surroundings.

Research for a children's society suggests that 43 per cent of adults think children should not be allowed out with friends until they are at least 14.

Surely if children are able to interact with the world around them, they learn to push their boundaries and develop their assessment skills which are absolutely vital in later life.

Why do we fall? So we can pick ourselves back up! It is an essential part of growing up.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We preach Christ crucified: To those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)

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

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Toxocra perspective

Sir,

In response to the article about the Brodick beach dog mess two weeks ago then, yes it is disgusting, but on the question of Toxocara worm, we should get this into perspective and not alarm people.

(By the way, I own two dogs myself.)

The Toxocara worm is rare and certainly can be very nasty but it is not present in every dog poo lying about.

These larvae can also afflict cats too and there is a multitude of cats in Arran!

Why is there never any mention of the huge pile of mess the horses leave on the beaches, especially at Blackwaterfoot?

This is just as obnoxious as anything else and especially nasty to children playing on the beach.

The answer is to be a responsible owner and lift your dog's mess with any kind of plastic bag – it is quick and simple – and deposit it in the designated bins (provided it isn't full to the brim as the council seem to fail to empty these regularly).

Worm all of your animals regularly, then there will be no danger from worms, Toxocara or otherwise.

Yours,

Elizabeth Cox
33 Drumbreck Place
Lenzie
Glasgow

Responsible dog owners praised

Sir,

I am a 12-year-old Westie called Angus and I am proud to say that my humans are very good at picking up my 'business' in little nappy sacks.

They always put this in the square thing that sticks up out of the ground that has a picture of one of my friends on the front.

Last Saturday I took my humans for their daily walk across Fisherman's Walk and onto Brodick beach.

As I was nearing the beach I was very excited and had to do my business, which was immediately picked up by my lady human.

As we crossed the bridge she tried to out it in the square thing only to find that it was full and overflowing with business bags!

What a mess and it looked very bad; they were piled on top and lying on the ground.

It has taken me years to train these humans and I know that others are complaining about 'business' being left on the ground but how can we expect humans to do the right thing when all the bins are full?

If the council humans are reading this can they please make sure that they get the square things emptied to save my humans getting into trouble?

I am lucky to have well trained humans and I know we are trying to train more but if the square things are full sometimes it leaves them with little choice but to leave the business behind.

Yours,

Angus
Address supplied

Wildlife Festival success

Sir,

Thank you for your coverage of the Arran Wildlife Festival in last week's edition. It was certainly the most successful festival so far.

Through your letter page on behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who contributed to its success.

There would have been no festival without the participants and our thanks go to the many locals and visitors who came along and enjoyed one or more of the many events of the festival.

Our thanks also to all the local primary schools for taking part in the Cool Seas Road Show.

Finally the organising committee would like to publicly thank our co-ordinator, Lucy Wallace, for her first class organisation of this complex festival.

Throughout the festival her enthusiasm shone through.

The committee will be meeting soon to review the festival. Any suggestions or feedback would be welcomed.

Our thanks to everyone concerned.

Yours,

Jim Cassels
Chairman of the organising committee of Arran Wildlife Festival

On Saturday May 2 John Mallone and Stella Prentice, both of Aberdeen, were married at Brodick Castle. John has been coming to Arran every year for almost all his life, his family occupying the middle house at Mount Pleasant Farm in Lamlash for the summer holidays. He introduced Stella to Arran a number of years ago and they return every year to their co-ownership lodge at Auchrannie. The couple thank Ken Thorburn and all his staff at the castle, Eleanor for flowers, Chalister for chariot, Nigel for photography and all the staff at Auchrannie for their help. Photo ArranPhotoco

On Saturday May 23 Matthew Larry Cox, son of James and Jean Wells, and Aileen Jayne Galbraith, daughter of Irene and the late Miller Galbraith, were married by Rev Elizabeth Watson at St Molio's Church, Shiskine with a reception at the Kildonan Hotel. Matthew and Aileen live in Michigan, USA and came back to Arran to wed in the childhood home of Aileen's mum and dad surrounded by family and friends. Matthew is a personal assistant in a family real estate business and Aileen is manager at a local bank. b22wed01

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Prospective Tory MP Philip Lardner presents Murdo Fraser MSP, the deputy leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, with a bottle of 10-year-old Arran Malt.

Arran Malt travels to Perth conference

The Arran Malt made a special appearance at the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party conference in Perth last week.

Philip Lardner, the Conservative Westminster candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran, presented a bottle of the 10-year-old whisky to Murdo Fraser MSP, the deputy leader of the Scottish Tories.

'I had organised a 'Free Spirits' fringe meeting for the Freedom Association and Murdo was our main guest speaker,' said Philip. 'I presented the bottle to Murdo to thank him for coming and also for his support on the issue of red squirrels which he raised in the parliament last year. I have been involved in increasing the appreciation for the role that Arran can play in protecting the endangered mammal.'

Philip also organised a small raffle, which saw another bottle of Arran Malt being donated to the winner.

'In light of the recent press coverage of Westminster, as a would-be MP, I can at least say I bought and paid for both bottles out of my own humble school teacher's pocket! No expenses, no refunds!' said Philip.

Speaking exclusively to The Arran Banner this week, Douglas Davidson, managing director of Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, said the company has witnessed record sales this year despite the economic recession.

'Bottled malt sales have increased by 23 per cent and reached more than £1 million for the first time,' said Douglas. 'We have increased our whisky production by 13 per cent compared to 2007. Our operating profit is up and we have had record sales at the Visitor Centre.'

The company have also entered four new whisky markets in the past year; Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

Marine environment to be discussed

People interested in Arran's marine environment are being urged to attend a meeting about the future management of the Clyde and the activities that take place within it this Monday).

A consultation event is being held on the draft Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick.

An informal drop in session will be held from 4pm until 7pm where people can chat with the project team about how the plan has been developed and how it will benefit the Firth of Clyde.

In the evening a presentation will be given by John Donnelly, the project officer on the plan at 7.30pm.

The presentation will last for around 30 minutes after which there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

In March, the environment minister, Roseanna Cunningham, launched the draft Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan.

Let your voice be heard

Voters from Arran are preparing to go to the pools on Thursday June 4 to have their say on who will represent them in the European parliament.

The European Parliament can approve, amend or reject new European laws in a range of areas which impacts on our daily lives such as flexible working hours; food packaging and the environment.

If you are registered to vote you should have, by now, received a card giving details of the polling place where you can cast your vote.

You don't need to bring this on the day, but if you've not received one, then please call one of the numbers below to find out where your polling place is – it may not be the same one as the last time you voted!

On June 4 you can vote in person at your local polling station, which will be open from 7am to 10pm on the day of the election.

Every polling place will be wheelchair accessible and there will be help for anyone with sight impairments.

When you arrive, you'll be asked to confirm your name and address, and given your ballot paper.

There are 12 registered parties and one independent candidate. To make your choice, simply mark an 'X' next to the name of the party or independent candidate you want to represent you.

Staff will be on hand to help you if you have any questions or you need assistance.

If you've never voted in person before, visit the Electoral Commission's 'virtual polling place' at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk for more information.

Don't let anything stop you from having your say on June 4.

What happens in the European Parliament affects lives in Arran much more than many realise, it's worth making your voice heard.

High-speed boats come racing into Lochranza

Mike Deacon of Lymington, Douglas Crocket from Glasgow, Swiss man Stephan Wittmer, Karl Heinz-Baumgariner from Germany and Colin Lucket and Bernie Hanreck of Hornchurch sped into Lochranza on board their high-speed RIBs on Friday. b22rib01

Five high-speed boats came racing into the pontoons in Lochranza on Friday night.

The Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBS) included the current holder of the round Britain speed record.

Hot Lemon completed the trip in 31 hours and 22 minutes.

The boat belongs to Mike and Dave Deacon and Graham Firman who broke the record for boats under 30 feet long.

Terry Crawley, The Banner's northend correspondent, said: 'The five RIBs and crews are members of the British Inflatable Boat Owners Assoc (BIBOA.com). They are a cruising/racing club and on this occasion they had been on a cruise for the day.

'Based at Holy Loch they had sailed to Rathlin Island, Ballycastle, back to Kintyre and then Lochranza before returning to base.'

The club was founded 20 years ago in Scotland and has about 200 members throughout Britain, Switzerland and Germany.

Hot Lemon is the holder of the round Britain speed record and it arrived in Lochranza on Friday. b22rib02

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The Best little Whorehouse

Lynda Davidson as housekeeper Jewel sets of for '24 hours of lovin'. b22tex06

'Texas has a whorehouse in it; Lord have mercy on our souls.'

That was the startling revelation made on Brodick Hall stage this week by crusading television 'Watchdog' presenter Melvin P Thorpe played by Campbell Seaton.

Arran Music and Drama Club had chosen the true story of 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas' for their annual Whit week production. It was a bold choice and far removed from previous safe and more traditional offerings such as My Fair Lady and Pirates of Penzance.

Entertainment

And it worked a treat. This was real entertainment and stretched the boundaries of Arran musical dramas. The programme notes even had a cautionary tone saying: 'We have no intention to shock or titillate but rather to bring something new and vibrant to the Brodick stage.' It certainly did that.

The script was littered with profanities, but all in context. In particular, Allan Nicol's portrayal of a corrupt but beleaguered Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd was the most powerful of the night. His part was played by Burt Reynolds in the 1982 film, but true to type, Burt played it more for laughs than the role demanded.

Janie MacIntyre was the leading lady as Miss Mona, the kind-hearted whore who had graduated to brothel-keeper, emulating Dolly Parton in the film. She was bold and brassy while caring for her girls and providing a valuable

Janie MacIntyre as Mona comforts the beleaguered sheriff, Allan Nicol. b22tex05

Chicken Ranch girls Dawn, Caroline Hester, and Taddy Jo, Sheila Gilmore, look forward to welcoming guest to the brothel. b22tex07no

Campbell Seaton as crusading television presenter Melvyn P Thorpe. b22tex02

Where's Archie?

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Last week Archie was very wet having been for a romp in the sea. Michelle thought he was at Cairnhouse but he was sat outside the new mountain rescue hut at Cladach and Fiona was first with the right answer. This week he is waiting by a 5mph speed limit sign, but where is that sign?

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in Texas . . .

and controlled service to the community of a small town in Texas. The story centres on the Texas brothel known as the Chicken Ranch because during the American depression customers had been inclined to pay for 'services' with chickens when times were hard.

The Chicken Ranch operated from the 1840s to 1973 when it was closed down by the revelations of Houston radio presenter Melvin P Thorpe. Arran has many fine character actors but this part was made for Campbell Seaton.

Inevitable

He burst onto stage with an over the top presence and maintained it throughout. For decades the community and authority had turned a blind eye to the existence of the Chicken Ranch but he ruined all that. Maybe it was inevitable and a sign of the times and the power of the media.

Miss Mona's 10 girls were burlesque at its best. They had a firm code of conduct, but when Melvyn P Thorpe exposed them the writing was on the wall. Lynda Davidson as Jewel, the Chicken Ranch housekeeper was a tour de force.

When she took a day off to meet her lover she declared: 'What I've been watching you girls sell all week, I'm gonna be giving away tonight.' Sheila Gilmore made the very most of her cameo part of Doatsey Mae, the waitress at the Texas Twinkle Café. 'Doatsey's not as simple as she seems,' is her plaintive song.

Another thespian who has not trodden the boards for many a year was Iain Small who succumbed in a weak moment in the Ormidale to take the part of Senator Wingwoah. A visual gem was his embarrassing emergence from a bordello bedroom with his pants around his ankles.

Funniest

But posssibly the funniest moment of the night was the 'full monty' display by Canice Donnelly, Steve Garraway, Stewart Kilpatrick, Colin MacDonald, Neal Tait and Allan Nicol as the victorious Aggies American football team who would be rewarded by a night at the Ranch.

Two years ago the club made a brave departure from the norm by performing 'Jack the Ripper'. This was every bit as brave and successful.

If you have not seen it yet, you have two nights left.

Campbell Seaton tells the television viewers about the scandal of the Chicken Ranch. b22tex04

Janie MacIntyre as Mona and Alison Howie as new recruit Angel. b22tex03

New girl Laura Selkirk as Shy is dressed in a fine evening gown by Heather Johnston as Ginger. b22tex08

Young farm boy Neal Tait is the first customer for Laura Selkirk at the Chicken Ranch. b22tex09

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Auchrannie loyal service rewarded

Some of the staff at Auchrannie celebrating their long service awards. b21auc01no

A number of staff members at Auchrannie have just been rewarded for 10 years' loyal service to the company.

The Johnston family arranged for a small gesture of appreciation and have given these employees vouchers to spend on goods and services at Auchrannie.

At a champagne reception the following people were congratulated on reaching or passing this milestone: Ronnie Mann, finance and development director; Kate Russell, accounts and IT manager; Richard Small, general manager; Jillian Plenderleith, recreations manager; Pat I'Anson, front of house manager; Brian Sherwood, night porter; Eric Milton, horticulturalist; Gordon Allsop, assistant leisure manager; Andrea Hammond, Management PA.

Auchrannie is Arran's largest private employer and has a total of 112 employees, a number that will increase as the season progresses.

Of these 112 people, some 101 are in permanent full or part-time positions. Half are men and half women. Eighty-two of the staff are British with 16 eastern European, nine from Australia and New Zealand and five others.

The average length of service is three-and-a-half years and 75 percent of the staff are under 45 years old.

George MacIlwham and his flute.

Summer delight

Summer Serenade is once again coming to Corrie Parish Church.

The popular musical evenings have become a favourite with holidaymakers and residents alike.

Featuring among others the talents of George MacIlwham, Jean Bowden and John Forgie, the serenades will be on Tuesday July 21 and Wednesday July 22. This will be the 15th year that Corrie Church has echoed to the flute of George, voice of Jean and anecdotes from John.

NHS gets even baby friendlier

The local NHS trust is one step closer to gaining UNICEF 'Baby friendly' status in the community.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran have launched a campaign to ensure that pregnant women and new mums receive care and support in the community to breastfeed their babies, both before they give birth and after they leave hospital with their new baby.

Ayrshire Central Hospital became the first large maternity hospital in Scotland to receive UNICEF 'Baby Friendly' status in February 1999. Elizabeth Smith, community infant feeding co-ordinator for NHS Ayrshire and Arran explains: 'The hospital has been baby friendly for more than 10 years. We are committed to following this care, by undertaking 'Baby friendly' in the community. Having 'Baby friendly' status means that when new mums are discharged home from hospital, they will continue to receive care from staff who are fully trained in breastfeeding support, and who can provide information on support groups in the area.'

NOW ON SALE

THIS MONTH IN YOUR NEW LOOK SCOTTISH FIELD...

READ...
ISLAY'S HEROES: on board with the sea rescuers.
SEA TROUT: 10 of the best spots.
DRAMS FOR DADS: our pick of the best whiskies.
TARTAN INVASION: the clans are gathering.

WIN...
2 NIGHTS DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST FOR 2 PEOPLE: plus 2 days salmon fishing at the kenmore hotel.
WHISKY: a bottle of Glengoyne 10yo.
TICKETS: to the greatest show on earth, the Royal Highland Show.
GET PUBLISHED! send us your photographs and win A subscription to Scottish Field.

DISCUSS...
GO TO OUR FORUMS: share views, rate whiskies or restaurants, or submit book reviews at www.scottishfield.co.uk

Lamlash Cubs having a good time at district badge day at St Matthews School in Ardrossan.

Lamlash Cubs' fantastic district badge day

Lamlash Cubs travelled to St Matthews School in Ardrossan for a district badge day recently.

During the day they all worked very hard to achieve badges like athlete plus, DIY, cyclist, IT, creative challenge, artist and hike away.

During the day 120 cubs from North Ayrshire met up and had a fantastic time.

Akela (Rachel Armitage) said: 'A special thank you to Dave Ingham and Hazel Mackenzie for coming along and getting their hands dirty.'

The *Arran Banner* on holiday

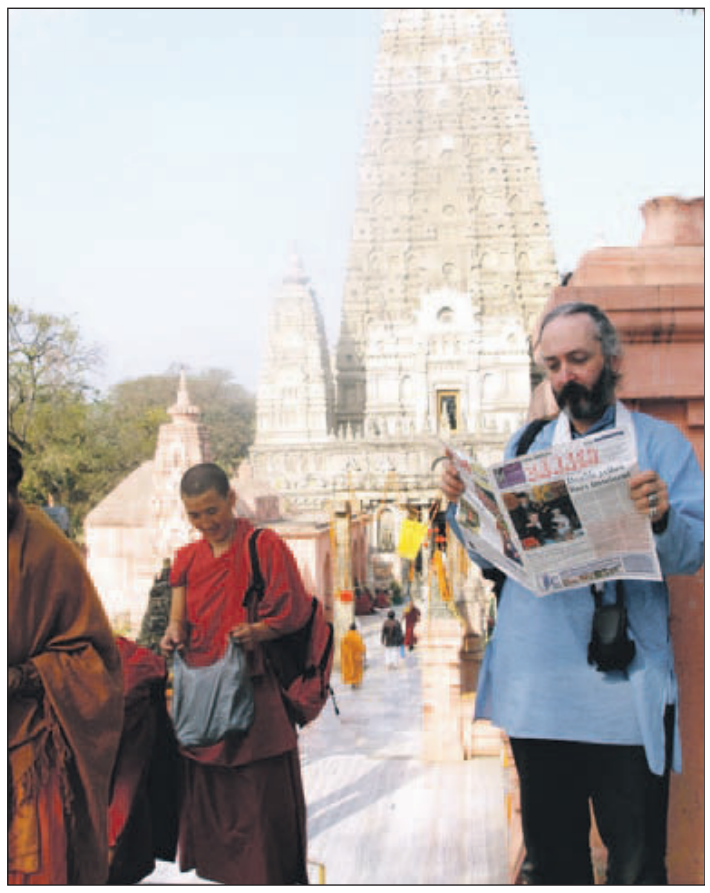
Arran residents and holidaymakers are making sure that they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday. It could be from Grangemouth or Gran Canaria, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.

Northend Thistle players Martin Wallbank and Norman Bond catch up on some news, moments before they were shot 200 feet into the air on a bungee ride, during their recent trip with the team to Lloret de Mar in Spain.

Mark Bunyan, Murray Boal, Kenny Ross and Steven 'Teabags' Candlish took their Banner all the way to Land's End on a recent motorbike trip around Britain.



Suriyavamsa (John Lammie) is pictured reading his Banner on a recent pilgrimage to Bodhgaya in the Indian state of Bihar. This is the central place of significance for Buddhists of all denominations across the world as it is where the Buddha attained enlightenment over 2500 years ago.

Support needed for epic Indian bike ride

Readers of The Arran Banner are being urged to take part in an epic bike ride to raise funds for the Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong in February next year.

Last year, Janice Small of Brodick joined 10 complete strangers to cycle 412 miles in seven days from Kolkata in the south of Bengal to Kalimpong in the north.

'We were following the symbolic journey of destitute Anglo-Indian children taken from the Kolkata slums to the sanctuary of Dr Graham's Homes in the foothills of the Himalayas,' said Janice.'We had one common purpose – to raise funds for the Homes and to enjoy the experience of a lifetime.

Experience

'I would not have missed this experience for the world. The sights and sounds that I witnessed will live with me forever and are too numerous to mention but my overall abiding memory will always be of the people.'

Accompanying Janice on that trip was the Reverend John Webster of Kings Cross who has been fundraising for the Dr Graham Homes for many years.

'Through our last ride in February 2008 the 10 of us have managed to raise more than £40,000,' said John. 'In February 2010 we hope to have at least 20 cyclists on the road.'

Janice praised John's encouraging guidance throughout the arduous journey.

'John Webster inspired us all with his leadership, his humour, his compassion and his sheer guts and determination,' she said.

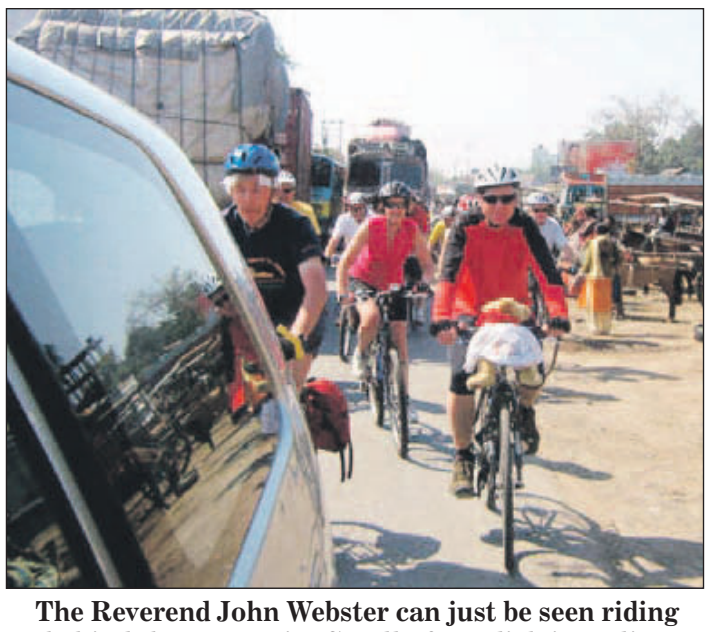
'He never missed a day, even the longest which was 91 miles. Often he was bent double but he would not give in.

'His incentive was considerable for the greater amount of money raised, the greater number of destitute children could be admitted to the comfort of Dr Graham's Homes.'

Cyclists taking part in the trip firstly need to own a mountain bike and secondly need to be reasonably fit enough to cycle up to 90 miles a day.

For more information about the 2010 trip contact the Reverend John Webster on 700747 or e-mail him at johngwebster@talktalk.net.

Kolkata to Kalimpong; the trip of a lifetime for many. b21ben01



The Reverend John Webster can just be seen riding behind the car. Janice Small of Brodick is cycling behind. b21ben02

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

The office bearers and committee for Corrie and Sannox WRI for the 2009/2010 session have been appointed as follows:

President: Elma Stevenson, secretary: Isla Blair, treasurer: Mhairi MacMillan, press secretary: Elma Bayne.

Committee members: Heather Donaldson, Gillian Currie, Pam McConnachie and Vikky Milne.

Federation representatives: Gillian Currie and Mhairi MacMillan.

The quaich for last session was won by Heather Donaldson; runners-up being M Turnbull and A Pringle.

It was a happy occasion on Thursday May 14 when several members gathered at Kirk Care housing at Glen Estate to congratulate friend and fellow member Mrs Ruth Russell on reaching her 100th birthday.

Now an honorary member of the institute, Ruth is still able to live independently in Kirk Care and was able to come outside to witness the planting of a rhododendron bush which she will be able to see from her window.

Ruth tells us that she has been a member of the WRI since 1946. Surely a membership of 63 years must be a record!

The Ormidale
Brodick 01770 302293
HOME COOKED BAR MEALS
Served daily 12.30pm – 2pm and 6pm till 9pm
Beer Garden Children Welcome
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
Thur – **General Knowledge Quiz** – 10pm
Fri – **Over 21's Disco** – 10pm
Sat – **Over 21's Disco** 10pm
Sun – **Country/Blues with string theory** 9.30pm
Tue – **Pop Quiz** 10pm
Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

A cuckoo.

Numerous cuckoo sightings all over the island

Since a report in last week's Banner that the first cuckoo had been seen in Lamlash on May 15, we have been inundated with sightings earlier in the year.

Interestingly all of these reported sightings have been at different parts of the island.

So, do cuckoos nest at different times in the different villages of Arran?

Jim Cassels, our weekly Bird Notes contributor contacted us. He said: 'On Saturday May 16 there was Bird Notes report in The Arran Banner of a cuckoo heard almost a month before on Thursday April 16 in Corriegills.'

'Since the first one on April 16, as bird recorder for Arran, I have received numerous reports. These have been widespread from Lochranza in the north to Shannochie in the south and from Kilpatrick in the west to Corrie in the east.'

Nina Hamilton of Brodick said that she first heard the cuckoo on April 20 in the Fairy Glen between Brodick and Lamlash and the next day up Glen Rosa at about 7.30pm.

Doreen Scotland also heard the cuckoo in Glen Rosa on April 24.

Sandy Kerr from Auchencairn, Whiting Bay, rang The Banner to tell us he had heard the cuckoo 'up the glen' on May 6 at about 6.30pm. He said it was the only one he had heard.

Keep the reports coming in.

Jim Cassels has also set a small challenge fore our readers.

'How about reporting on the last cuckoo seen, or heard, on Arran in 2009? That is more difficult,' he said. 'Here's a small hint – in 2007 the last cuckoo was reported on Arran on July 29 and in 2008 it was July 30.'

Cosmic Garden trip for Arran Rotarians

Arran Rotary Club is organising a coach trip to a very special garden in aid of a special cause on Friday, June 12.

The Garden of Cosmic Speculation at Portrack House near Dumfries is one of the 21st century's most original and important places created by the internationally celebrated architectural critic and designer Charles Jenks

. He and his late wife Maggie started working on the landscape that, after her death in 1995, continued to grow into a larger project that covers 40 acres of land.

The garden uses nature to celebrate nature and by spectacular features such as optical illusions and sudden surprises like a water cascade of steps that recounts the story of the universe. The club is privileged to have as guide the head gardener Alistair Clark who was awarded a certificate of merit by the Royal Caledonian Society, one of only 50 awards given out over the past 25 years.

Drop-in centres

Once a year Charles Jenks opens the garden to the public, this year on May 3 but because of the first ferry being 11.05am the club could not go. More than 2,000 people did go, and raised a lot of money for the Maggie cancer drop-in centres up and down the country, first dreamed up by Maggie Jenks when she was dying of cancer. She died unfortunately only two weeks before the first centre opened in Edinburgh.

A good-sized cheque was recently sent to Glasgow's Maggie centre, and much to the delight of Arran Rotarians, the garden is to be opened specially for them on Friday June 12.

In order to fill a coach, Rotary needs some more Arran folk to join them. The party will travel on the 8.20am ferry and meet the coach at Ardrossan pier, then on to Dumfries stopping for lunch on the way.

There will be about three hours in the gardens, a visit to the souvenir shop and return for the 6pm ferry with a bite to eat on the way.

Charles Jenks is moving on to transform the site of an open cast mine in Kelty, Fife into the biggest landscape art project in Scotland.

Anyone wanting to take the opportunity of joining Rotarians on this special trip should contact President Gillean Bussell on 600513.

Wildlife photo winners impress

Arran's wildlife had a starring role during last week's Wildlife Festival and participants were able to enter their snaps of birds and animals taken during the week into a photography competition.

The standard of many of the entries was high, but one stood out head and shoulders above the rest.

Local photographer Steve Ewart was impressed by Leslie Holburn's stunning image of a black guillemot, taken at Imachar on the May 15.

Black guillemots have bold black and white plumage, but their most striking feature is their red feet and the red inside their beaks.

Leslie managed to photograph this charismatic bird beautifully with a crisp image of outstanding quality.

Winning the competition was an added bonus to a great holiday.

'Its the first time I've seen the black guillemot,' he said. 'I think I'm very privileged to have been able to photograph them. We really enjoyed the time we had on Arran and would love to come again.'

Meanwhile local youngster Bailey Robinson submitted the winning entry into the under 18s class.

The photo was of a group of mallard drakes and Steve Ewart felt that this was a good effort for Bailey's modest 10 years.

Bailey's mum Angela said: 'He was very pleased to have won the competition! I think winning has spurred him on to start taking more photographs and the book he won will help him to do that.'

The wildlife festival organising committee was impressed with the quality of the winning entries, and look forward to giving them a starring role in next year's publicity.

Leslie Holburn's stunning image of a black guillemot, taken at Imachar on May 15.

Bailey Robinson, aged 10, won the under 18s Wildlife Photography competition with his picture of a group of mallard drakes.

Traditional music treat at Heritage Museum

There is nothing like the skirl of the pipes to get you going and the Isle of Arran Pipe Band will be performing at the Heritage Museum's annual craft day on June 14.

Everything starts at 1.30pm and in addition to the pipe band there will be traditional dances performed by local schoolchildren to the accompaniment of Gaelic mouth music.

The same singers will be performing Gaelic Waulking songs – the traditional songs used in days gone by to 'waulk' newly-made cloth to make it thicker by washing, soaking, beating and shrinking it by a group of ladies rhythmically moving the cloth.

'Moothie' playing and accordion music will also be evident throughout the afternoon when visitors can see all sorts of local traditional skills and crafts demonstrated.

Finally the museum storeroom will be open to allow visitors to see the many items held by the museum, which due to space restrictions cannot always be on display.

Staff will be on hand to discuss and explain the uses of some pf the more obscure objects.

This is clearly a day not to be missed.

• Do you have a story for **The Arran Banner**? Call our reporters on 01770-302142

THE DRIFT INN
www.thedriftinn.co.uk
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ISLE OF ARRAN

Friday 29th May
POKER NIGHT
First 18 guaranteed a place at the table

Saturday 30th May
Live Music from
The Far Side from 9pm
Strictly over 18s I.D will be requested.

Tuesday 2nd June
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from 9pm

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BRODICK CASTLE

GUIDED WALKS

Tues 2nd and 9th June: Guided Garden Walk, £2, 2pm
No booking required

Thurs 4th June: A walk up Maol Donn, £15, 10am - 3pm
Booking essential

Thurs 11th June: North Island Safari, £20, 10am - 4pm
Booking essential

To book please phone 08444 932154

BANNER

WHAT'S ON...

EVERYDAY

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

SATURDAY 30th MAY

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years	Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Over 21s Disco	The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game	2pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Rink Game	2pm
RNLI Shop Open	Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
Farmers Market	Kilmory Hall, 11.30am - 3.30pm
"Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"	Brodick Hall, 8pm

SUNDAY 31st MAY

Alcoholics Anonymous	St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes	Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games	Arran High School 1 - 4pm
Lochranza Open Gardens	Various Gardens, 11am - 4pm
Salvation Army March	Montrose House to Bilslands, 2.15pm
Open Gardens	Strabane, Brodick, 11am - 5.30pm

MONDAY 1st JUNE

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10am & 11am (Gym)
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Badminton	Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie Spa, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
AB Attack	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio,6pm - 7pm
Weight Wise	Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
Netball	High School Sports Hall, 8pm
Folk Session	Kildonan Hotel, 9pm
Summer Bridge	High School, 6.45pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game	6.45pm
Kilmory Wildlife Viewing Camera	Kilmory Hall, 10am - 5pm

TUESDAY 2nd JUNE

Lochranza Swimming Club	Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Pop Quiz	The Ordidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran Civic Trust	Ormidale Pavillion 7.30pm
Legs Bums & Tums	Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 7pm (Studio)
Army Cadets	Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Pop Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Pulmonary Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12pm - 1pm (Gym)
Open Music Session	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Body Conditioning Class	KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Youth Club	Kildonan Hall - 6pm
Senior Fitness	Auchrannie, 10am - 11am
Open Folk Session	Bar Eden, 7.30pm
Rotary Club	Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Kilmory Wildlife Viewing Camera	Kilmory Hall, 10am - 5pm

WEDNESDAY 3rd JUNE

Hockey	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm (Games Hall)
Core Strength	Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training	P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm- 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers	Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am (Hotel Pool)
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)
Yogalates	Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am (Studio)
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy	10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training	Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal	Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group	Village Hall 10am - 12pm
Lamlash Beaver Scouts	High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Selt Making Class	Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game	2pm
Coffee Morning	Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am - 12pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Rink Game	7pm
Kilmory Wildlife Viewing Camera	Kilmory Hall, 10am - 5pm

THURSDAY 4th JUNE

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10am - 11am
General Knowledge Quiz	The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club	Hall, 2pm
Pilates	Auchrannie Studio, 6pm- 7pm
Coffee Morning	St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 2pm - 3pm
Table Tennis	Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog	KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class	KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise	Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs	Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts	Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Junior Tennis	Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5pm - 7pm
Cricket Practice	Sannox Oval, 6pm
Open Folk Session	McLaren Hotel, 9.30pm
Royal British Legion - Arran Branch, Social Meeting	McLaren Hotel, 2pm
Kilmory Wildlife Viewing Camera	Kilmory Hall, 10am - 5pm

FRIDAY 5th JUNE

Arran Pipe Band Practice	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Quiz	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Adult Tennis	Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 4.00pm - 6.30pm
Yogalates	Auchrannie 10am - 11am
Over 21's Disco	The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Foundations at the Cabin	Brodick, 7pm - 9pm
Kilmory Wildlife Viewing Camera	Kilmory Hall, 10am - 5pm

SATURDAY 6th JUNE

Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Hillbilly Golf Competition	Butterhill, Kilmory, From 1.30pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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Saturday 30th May

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Please apply in writing to : **Gareth Lee, Manager**
Arran Brew Ltd, Cladach, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DE

Or to **gareth@arranbrewery.co.uk**
Phone **01770 302353**, for more details.
Closing date – **05.06.09**

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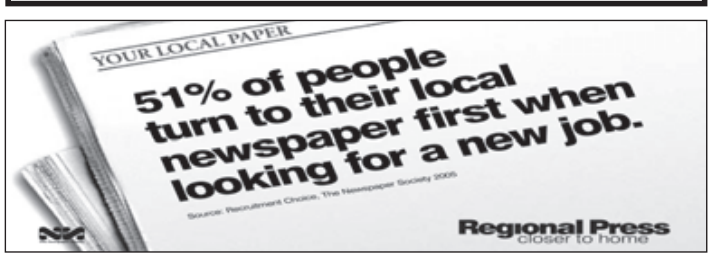

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays.

Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below within the specified time from the date of publication of this notice. Any representations received will be open to public view.

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992

Applications for planning permission - Notice to be published in accordance with Article 12(5) Written comments to be made within 14 days.

Application No: 09/00157/PP **Address:** Site To The North Of Dunfion Farm, Corriegills, Brodick, Isle Of Arran **Proposed Development:** Erection of detached dwelling house

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Chief Executive
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BIRTHS

HOLTEN

Allan and Suzanne (nee Stewart) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Isla Elizabeth, born on 28th March 2009, at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

WEST

Kirsty and Mark are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Fergus Donald Mark on 21st April 2009, weighing 8lb 1 oz.

A brother for Annie.

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Minister
Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
Mrs Jean Hunter.
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times. to which all are invited
Sunday 31 May
Brodick Church 10.30am
Corrie Church 12pm.
Lochranza 9.30am
Pirnmill 10.45am
Shiskine 12pm & 7pm. Service of Health and Healing
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 31 May
(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
Shiskine 11am
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
Rev David Karoon
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Vigil Mass, 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH
Sunday 31 May
Worship for Pentecost will be conducted by the Minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 31 May
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 3 June
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
All Welcome.

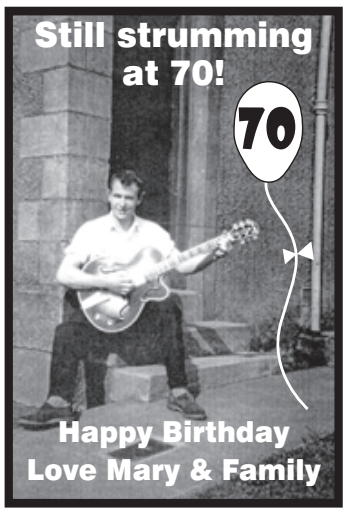
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 31 May
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In both Churches
All welcome, including families, children's area

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND *(continuing)*
Communion Services
Sunday 31 May
11am,Trust Housing Lounge,Glen Estate,Brodick
Evening Service,5 Glen Road,7pm
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 3rd,7pm
Rev.D.Macleod
All welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
Sunday 31 May
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship and Word
Speaker: Rev Willie Wright
All welcome.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER
Taizé worship
Thursday 4 June
8pm
St Margaret's Episcopal Church
Whiting Bay.
All welcome

PERSONALS



CONGRATULATIONS, NICOLE, ON YOUR 18TH BIRTHDAY.

Lots of love & best wishes from Mum & Dad and June & Lyle
xxxx

John Jo and family
would like to say a huge thankyou for all the lovely cards and good wishes from everyone. The love and support over the last few weeks has been amazing. John is recovering well from his surgery.
Many thanks to ARCAS for taking the worry out of travelling, what a fabulous service we have on Arran.

John & Jean Lammie
would like to express their gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all our family and friends.
The support and help in so many different ways have helped us through the past weeks.
The medical care, cards, letters, phone alls and visits are very much appreciated.
Our sincere thanks to everyone.

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Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday May 14, Ladies Club Championship Qualifier II.

Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 85-20=65, 2 Christine Maxton 80-9=71. Bronze: 1 Jerry Arthur 98-29=69, 2 Viv Parks 94-22=72, best scratch 80.

Saturday May 16, Club Championship Qualifier I.

1 Graham Martlew 80-14=66, 2 Hamish Bannatyne 74-5=69, 3 Robert Macrae 79-8=71 BIH, best scratch Hamish Bannatyne 74.

Magic twos from J Stewart, C Allison, A Liddell, G Stewart and G Martlew.

Sunday May 17, Club Championship Qualifier II. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 70-5=65, 2 DK Henderson 73-6=67 BIH, 3 Willie Kelso 73-6=67.

Best scratch Hamish Bannatyne 70. Magic twos from J Stewart and Mark Sherwood.

Thursday May 21, Club Championship Qualifier III. Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 82-18=64, 2 Alice Anderson 87-20=67. Bronze: 1 Viv Parks 88-22=66, 2 Sally Brookes 93-24=69.

Best Scratch Jenni Turnbull 82.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Ladies section: The final of the Easdale match play knockout was played on Saturday between Susan Kidston and Lynn Walker.

The weather, as always, was a feature of the game. Lashing rain, followed by low cloud meant on some of the holes the golf ball wasn't seen until it dropped out the sky! Nevertheless, it was a great final.

Lynn got off to a flying start and was 4 up at the turn. Susan fought back strongly and coming down the 18th, she needed to win the hole to draw level.

The thought of going back up the first to find a winner was on both minds when Lynn's second shot headed into the rough!

However, a splendid chip saved the hole and sealed the match for Lynn.

Sunday was the start of the Ladies Club Championship. Nine ladies played in the qualifying round in dry but windy conditions.

The top eight go through to the knockout rounds, with the final being held on Sunday June 14.

Lynn Walker won Sunday's competition with an 84, net 63.

In second place was Pat McDonald with an 84, net 66 and third place was Jean Davidson with a 95, net 69.

Gents section: Wednesday May 20, 27 played in the next round of the Summer Trophy, SSS 63, CSS 63.

1 Danny Head (5)60 BIH, 2 Gus MacLeod (12)60, 3 John Pennycott (11)62 BIH, 4 Sandy Kelso (18)62.

Danny won scratch with 65 and there were magic twos from David Morrison and Calum Monteith.

Sunday May 24 was the first round of the McKelvie Cup with the top eight scratch scores qualifying for this year's club Championship.

The winner of the first round was John Simmons (16)61, 2 John Dick (15)62, 3 Eddie Hope (19)63 and 4 David Morrison (5)64.

Nicol Auld and Malcolm Pennycott had the top scratch score of 68, with Nicol winning on the better inward half. Still all to play for next week!

Fixtures: Sunday May 31, McKelvie Cup round two. Wednesday June 3, quarter finals of the JC Reid Trophy. Thursday June 4, quarter finals of the Club Championship. Sunday June 7, Medal.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday May 20, Summer Cup, 51 played, CSS 64.

1 B Smith (15)58, 2 L Hartley (16)59, 3 K McMillan (11)60, scratch G McCrae 67.

There were 10 twos, Matt Keir got two.

Saturday May 23, Many of the first round ties of the Dorothy Rudge Memorial Trophy (mixed foursomes) were played on Saturday.

Players were later joined by many others in the clubhouse for a curry evening and quiz. Great to see the Clubhouse busy again, and thanks to Aileen Latona for the organisation, and to Tricia and Rosie for the catering.

Sunday May 24, Navy Shield (stableford), 29 played, CSS 64.

Sweep results: 1 I MacDonald (8)43 pts, 2 A Dobson (8)42 pts, 3 T Raeside (8)41 pts.

There were eight twos, Kenny MacMillan and Iain MacDonald got two each. Winner of Navy Shield Iain MacDonald, runner-up Alastair Dobson. Lots of fantastic scores, the best scoring of the year by far.

Fixtures: Sunday May 31, Sweep open draws at 8.30am and 1pm. Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7, Arran Open. Places still available, draw will take place on Wednesday June 3.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday May 21, Summer cup and seniors game (age 55+). Total number of entrants was 33, eight seniors played. (Yellow tees) 1 H McArthur 80-17=63, 2 H Thomson 86-21=65.

Summer Cup 25 played, Scratch D Macfarlane with a 65. 1 I Murchie 66-3=63 BIH, 2 I Bremner 70-7=63, 3 D MacFarlane 65-1=64. There were two magic twos both at the 16th from D Macfarlane and G Andrew.

Saturday May 23, Championship first round no upsets. Dougie, Lee, Neil and Iain won their games.

Sunday May 24, Medal. Only nine played in favourable conditions, the Rangers v Dundee United perhaps had an influence on this day.

Scratch D Robertson with a 72, 1 R Magee 77-10=67 BIH, 2 Todd Jameson 85-18=67, 3 D Robertson 72-4=68, 4 S McLaren 79-10=69.

Two magic twos D Robertson at the second and S McLaren at the 17th.

Fixtures: Saturday May 30, final of championship 36 holes at 1pm and 5pm. Sunday May 31, first round of the Hastings Cup at 9.30am and 1pm.

Lamlash Ladies section: Wednesday May 20, Stroke (2) CSS 65. The sun shone on Kate McAdam with a score of 84-21=63 and in second place was Sheena Murchie 81-13=68 and lowest gross also by Sheena Murchie.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday May 19, Lady Mary/Peter Sutton. 1 David Price 59, 2 Alistair McDonald 66, 3 Mark Sherwood 67, scratch David Price 71.

Fixtures: Tuesday June 2, first round of the Club Championship Ladies/Gents, tee-off 12.30/5.30pm. Saturday June 6, Duncan Sillars and second round of the Gents Club Championship 1pm tee-off. Monday June 8, Gents Quarter Finals of the Club Championship. Tuesday June 9, second round of the Ladies Club Championship and Gents Peter Sutton 12.30/5.30pm tee-off.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday May 20, Medal. 1 R Logan 64-6=58, 2 S Beardsley 69-7=62, 3 M Macdonald 80-17=63, scratch R Logan 64.

Saturday May 23, Championship Qualifying round two: 1 E I Cannon 75-17=58,

2 M Sherwood 66-7=59, 3 S Beardsley 67-7=60 BIH, scratch M Sherwood 66 BIH.

John Adams Cup, 1 E McKinnon 129, 2 R Logan 137.

Fixtures: Wednesday May 27, Medal, tee-off from 5pm. Friday May 29, Club Championship Quarter Finals. Saturday May 30, Medal, tee-off 9am and 1pm.

European adventure for Britain's worst football team

They are reputedly Britain's worst football team, but last weekend Northend Thistle took Europe by storm when they attended the San Miguel International seven-a-side football tournament in Spain.

Despite opening with a creditable draw against a strong team of Army PTIs, Northend soon lapsed into their usual match practice – losing their remaining three group games 1-0, 7-1 and 5-0.

Alan Jeffrey demonstrates his excellent ball skills to the European footballers.

Although according to one source inside the camp, the last two results could more accurately be described as 'absolute gubbings' rather than the euphemistic term defeat.

No matter what the sport though, athletes require a suitable period of acclimatisation on foreign soil.

Silky Skills

Many of the Northend players found it hard, if not impossible, to reproduce their silky footballing skills on the flat playing surfaces of the Costa Brava completely devoid of boulders, sheep dirt and potholes.

Player/manager/captain Matt Milne was confirmed as the team's most consistent penalty taker – he missed every one.

The team was nominated as the worst movers in Europe after receiving a collective yellow card during a post-match banquet at McDonalds for performing a well known 'boy band' routine during the main course.

Northend Thistle travelled to the San Miguel International seven-a-side football tournament in Costa Brava, Spain last weekend.

Only a timely intervention by an honourable member, on holiday at the taxpayers' expense, prevented a diplomatic incident.

Afterwards, the unknown diplomat stated: 'The Northend players have done nothing wrong. They acted within the rules.'

Readers have probably already come to the conclusion that this venture, like all other Northend footballing escapades, ended in failure.

Judgement

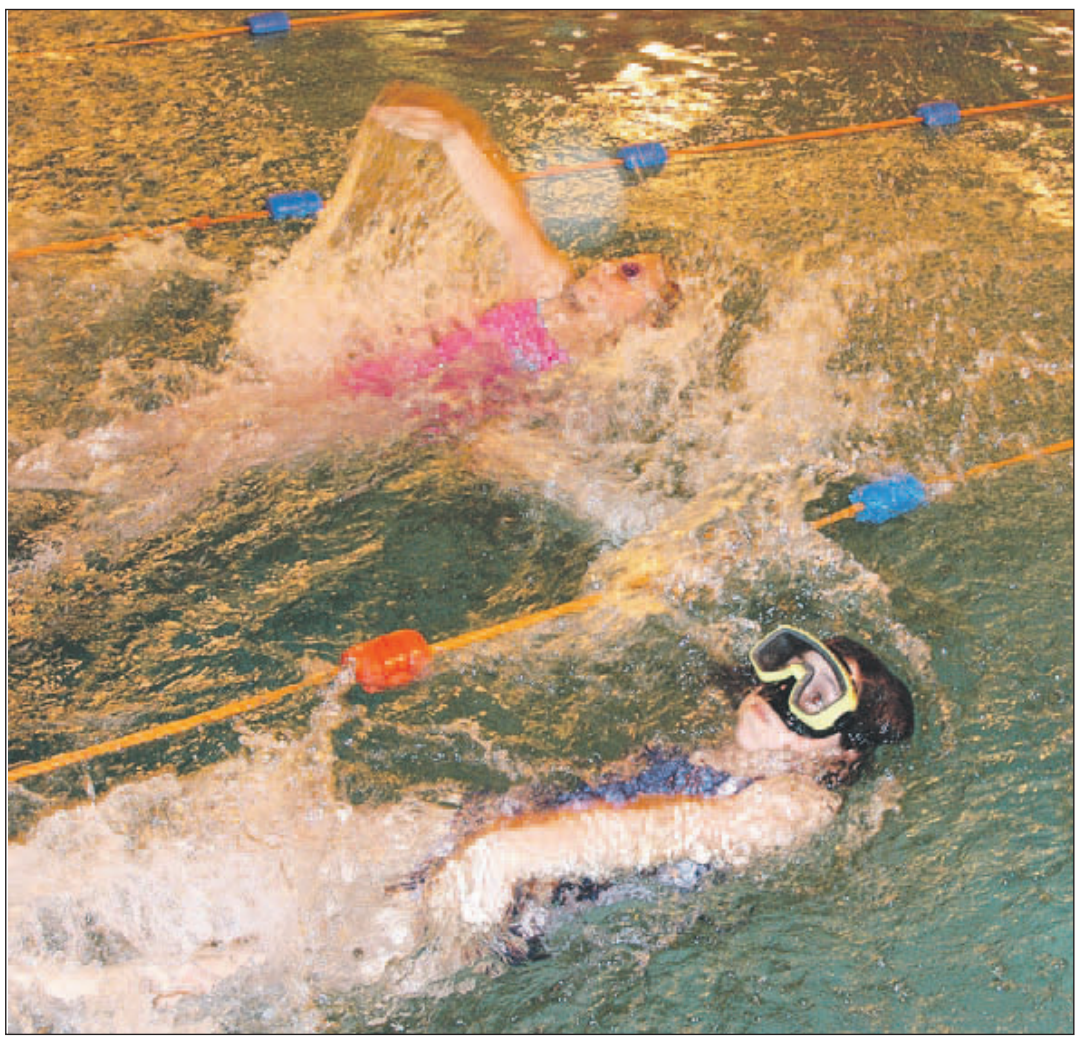
That would be a harsh – but true – judgement.

However, they did finish ninth in a European tournament. No other team from Arran can lay claim to that (no other team from Arran would want to). The fact that only nine teams took part in the competition does, undoubtedly, somewhat tarnish an otherwise commendable performance by our local heroes.

To quote big Arnie, a well-known fan of Northend and much admired social commentator, 'Hasta la vista, Espana. We'll be back.'

Annual Arran primary schools swimming gala results

The primary schools swimming gala was held at Auchrannie pool last week and as usual the place was hot, steamy and very noisy. Mums, dads and grandparents were crammed in round the walls and the children enthusiastically encouraged each other.



A keenly contested girls' backstroke race. b21swi02

Rory Hunter was the boys champion and Erin Boal was the girls champion.

P1 boys – one width: 1 James Reid (Lamlash), 2 Rory Currie (Shiskine), 3 Liam Bremner (Whiting Bay).

P2 girls – one width: 1 Isla Sneddon (Whiting Bay), 2 Laura McVicar (Lamlash), 3 Charli McKillop (Lamlash).

P2 girls – one width: 1 Elyse Aitken (Brodick), 2 Eilidh Hamill (Shiskine).

P2 boys – one width: 1 Dylan Smith (Lamlash), 2 Sean Smith (Brodick), 3 William Sneddon (Whiting Bay).

P3 girls length: 1 Sophie Andrews (Shiskine), 2 Emily Armitage (Whiting Bay), 3 Kirsty Kerr (Brodick).

P3 boys – one length: 1 Jaden Lemay-Simpson (Whiitng Bay), 2 Innis Thorburn (Shiskine), 3 David Copperwheat (Lamlash).

P4 girls – one length: 1 Maili Beaton (Pirnmill), 2 Lucy Crawford (Shiskine), 3 Sara Jackson (Corrie).

P4 boys – one length: 1 Ryan Wilson (Brodick), 2 Oisean Gold (Corrie), 3 Ben Innes (Pirnmill).

Girls champions race: 1 Erin Boal (Brodick), 2 Ailsa McMillan (Brodick), 3 Taylor Smith (Shiskine).

Boys champions race: 1 Rory Hunter (Lamlash), 2 Fraser Blain (Corrie), 3 Finlay Murchie (Shiskine).

P6 girls – two lengths back crawl: 1 Elli Miller (Whiting Bay), 2 DD McAleer (Brodick), 3 Dee McGloin (Corrie).

P6 boys – two lengths back crawl: 1 Harry Anderson (Brodick), 2 Fraser McKenzie (Whiting Bay), 3 Jamie McLaren (Corrie).

P7 girls – two lengths back crawl: 1 Ailsa McMillan (Brodick), 2 Taylor Smith (Shiskine), 3 Gemma Bennet (Shiskine).

P7 boys – two lengths back crawl: 1 Peter Gilson (Pirnmill), 2 Struan Robertson (Shiskine), 3 Lewis Bennet (Pirnmill).

P5 girls – two lengths breast stroke: 1 Fiona Bulger (Corrie), 2 Katie Murchie (Shiskine), 3 Alex Muir (Kilmory).

P5 boys – two lengths breast stroke: 1 Lee Smith (Brodick), 2 Cir Tulloch (Whiting Bay).

P6 girls – two lengths breast stroke: 1 Ellie Miller (Whiting Bay), 2 Hannah Bone (Lamlash), 3 Gabrielle Allison (Lamlash).

P6 boys – two lengths breast stroke: 1= John Luke Betley-Stewart (Shiskine), Jamie McLaren (Corrie), 3 Jasper Herbert-Lilly (Shiskine).

P7 girls – two lengths breast stroke: 1 Gemma Bennet (Shiskine).

P7 boys – two lengths breast stroke: 1 Rory Hunter (Lamlash), 2 Fraser Blain (Corrie), 3 Finlay Murchie (Shiskine).

P5 girls – two lengths front crawl: 1 Fiona Bulger (Corrie), 2 Katie Murchie (Shiskine), 3 Ellis McKelvie (Corrie).

P5 boys – two lengths front crawl: 1 Lewis Coyne (Brodick), 2 Joel Armitage (Whiting Bay), 3 Scott McKay (Lamlash).

P6 girls – two lengths front crawl: 1 Asha Lemay-Simpson (Whiting Bay), 2 Hannah Bone (Lamlash), 3 Megan Ingham (Lamlash).

P6 boys – two lengths front crawl: 1 Harry Anderson (Brodick), 2 Ben Leslie (Lamlash), 3 Jamie McLaren (Corrie).

P7 girls – two lengths front crawl: 1 Erin Boal (Brodick), 2 Ailsa McMillan (Brodick).

P7 boys – two lengths front crawl: 1 Rory Hunter (Lamlash), 2 Alistair Innes (Pirnmill), 3 Kieran Robertson (Kilmory).

Medley relay: 1 Corrie.

Freestyle relay: 1 Lamlash, 2 Whiting Bay, 3 Brodick.

Freestyle relay: 1 Corrie, 2 Kilmory, 3 Pirnmill.

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Arran ladies on the run

Six Arran ladies from Shiskine crossed the water to Kintyre last weekend to join up with about 700 other entrants for the Mull of Kintyre half marathon and 10k race in Campbeltown.

Kirsty Barton of Kilpatrick was one of the six and she was doing it for the third year.

She said: 'The weather was windy and quite cold, but once you got running it was perfect.

'We started by the big hotel on Main Street and ran out to the new Machrihanish golf links and back to finish on the green. It was Carol Brown's first half marathon and she did very well.'

Four of the Shiskine ladies opted to do the 10k which was quite energetic for them and involved running, jogging and sometimes walking around the three sides of Campbeltown harbour.

Enjoyed

They were Fer Murchie, Kate Henderson, Anne Curtis and Joan Cook. Kirsty said: 'I think they quite enjoyed admiring the gardens en route. And Anne notched up a personal best time.'

Kirsty was the sixth lady home and plans to do the Coll half marathon in August.

Joan Cook, Kate Henderson, Ann Curtis, Carol Brown, Kirsty Barton and Fer Murchie after the Mull of Kintyre half marathon and 10k race. c22mok20

Free netball coaching sessions

The newly formed Arran Netball Club that meets on Monday evenings in the High School Sports Hall has invited two qualified coaches over to provide a fun introduction to the game on Monday June 8.

Come along and learn something new or refresh your knowledge of the game.

From 7pm until 8pm youngsters from Primary 4 to Primary 7 can come long with a parent or guardian.

High school students and adults will have their own coaching session from 8-9pm.

May cannot save day for Sannox

Jonathan May hit his third consecutive half century on Sunday but could not stop Sannox succumbing to a strong Kilmarnock team in the Scottish Small Clubs Cup.

Chris Marriott won the toss and put Kilmarnock in to bat. From the off, Saeed and Alem stated their intentions.

The Kilmarnock batsmen looked aggressive and disciplined and finished their innings on 214 for four.

With and average of 7.13 an over to make it was a big ask and with the A71 and A725 traffic roaring in the background, Sannox took to the crease after the turn around. Tony Brookes and Steven Beardsley took on the Killie attack which in the shape of McFadzean and Gibson was tidy and quick. Beardsley fell in the fourth over for a duck and Brookes limped on for another three minutes for a shaky three.

Martin Kemp at number three and Jonathan May at four dug in. Kemp made an encouraging 16 before being caught off Raine's bowling.

But it was a sparkling display by May that gave a respectability to the Sannox team. He gave a series of feisty and beautifully shaped shots, his driving and cutting looking particularly developed. He made 59 not out after 64 minutes. He was ably supported at number six by skipper Marriott who realised that hitting out was the only way that the home team could be threatened, but was caught for 27. Eric Dunn tried to affect the consistently sound Kilmarnock attack and finished on 13 not out.

But 132 for five, which on any other day would have been a very respectable total for Sannox was not enough. Kilmarnock go on to the next leg of the cup.

Gazing wistfully at the scorebook through tired eyes, long after the kit has been put away, does not change the outcome of the day.

Sannox practice on Thursday evenings from 6pm. All welcome. All kit supplied. Next match is at the Sannox Oval on May 31 against Glasgow Accies. Spectators welcome, seating available. Scoreboard.

Jonathan May on his way to his third consecutive half-century against Kilmarnock.

John Drummond of Brodick challenges Allan MacLeod for the ball. b22soc01

Win for Brodick

Brodick beat Southend 2-1 in a league encounter at the Ormidale Park on Saturday evening.

The Jingly Jangly men took a two-goal first half lead, both coming from Kyle Barbour and assisted by Archie McNicol, but Southend managed to pull one back in the second half with a goal from Nicky Emsley. Gordon Robertson missed a penalty for Brodick in the first half.

Bowling club results

Despite the unseasonable May weather, a number of rink games have been played.

Here are the results so far are. May 2 (opening day of the season): A Wooden +2, May 11: A Hollingworth and J McConnachie +12, May 13: A Wooden, N Thomson, L Hendry +23, May 16: J Lauder and L Hendry +11, May 18: J lauder, J Kerr and C Hendry +10, May 20: R Peacock, A Wooden and W Barr +14.

Summer bridge

These are the results of the tournament on Monday May 25.

N/S: 1 J Dick and M Dick, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton, 3 D Bruce and S Logan.

E/W: 1 A Carr and P Thomson, 2 E Sillars and M McGill, 3 H Boyd and L Paul.

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