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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2013

No 1925 60p

Staff shortage halts mobile bank service

Boss pledges 'absolute commitment' days after it is withdrawn

A bank boss has been left red faced after he pledged his commitment to mobile bank service days after it was withdrawn on Arran.

Bank of Scotland chief Rob-in Bulloch said he was 'absolutely committed' to the bank vans in an interview just days after the service was stopped on the island.

It also comes as the bank runs a major TV, radio and newspaper advertising campaign extolling their mobile services in rural areas.

Now demands have been made for the service to be immediately reinstated.

Switch

Some customers say they will switch to the Royal Bank of Scotland, which operates a regular mobile service on the island, if the van is permanently withdrawn.

But Bank of Scotland bosses insist the service interruption is temporary and they will try to get the van back on the road as early as next week, although with a reduced service.

REPORT

by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The van previously toured the island three days a week and was well used by both businesses and private customers.

The bank has blamed 'staff shortages' for the move but a notice in the main Brodick branch says it has been withdrawn until further notice.

Yet days later Mr Bulloch, the managing director of the retail arm of the bank, was quoted as saying: 'While we do want to make sure we keep pace with society, with changes and with technology, there is also a lot of our customers who value the mobile vans we have got and a lot of branches, which are still very busy.'

One of those concerned at the move is Donald Johnston of Johnston's Marine Stores in Lamlash. He said: 'The cancellation of the service is certainly a nuisance to me as I am sure

it is to a lot of people around the island. The service used to come three times a week and pre-weekend banking is important for everyone, but even that had already been stopped.

Withdrawn

'Mr Bulloch said in an interview there were seven vans when there are actually only six, after the Arran service was withdrawn. It is the second time in two years it has been withdrawn for extended periods, so it would seem his staff are not as committed to the mobile bank vans as he is.'

And Mr Johnston is incensed that when he phoned the bank he couldn't complain again as he had complained last year.

The mobile bank was introduced after the main island branch closed in Lamlash and moved to Brodick a number of years ago.

At the Gordon Brothers Shop, owner Jimmy Gordon said he believed that it was down to 'bad management' at

Continued on Page 3



Hotel marketing manager Elaine Campbell in the new Argocat with her children and a friend.

Climbing challenge buys new Argocat

A brand new Argocat has been bought for Arran Mountain Rescue Team thanks to funds raised by the Douglas Challenge.

More than £16,000 was raised for the team last year by the adventure which involved climbing the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales with an extra challenge of Goatfell to finish off.

Douglas Hotel owner Sean Henry along

with former manager Pascal van der Broek and 15 pals climbed the four peaks in four days starting at Snowdon in North Wales before moving on to Scafell Pike in the Lake District then Ben Nevis and finishing on Goatfell.

The Argo cat is a valuable addition to the team as it halves the time taken to reach a casualty on foot.

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Fire fighters to get washing for charity

Arran's volunteer fire fighters are preparing to roll up their sleeves and take part in a National Car Wash to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

Firmly established on the fire and rescue service calendar, the event organised by the Fire Fighters Charity is their largest national fundraising event of the year.

Motorists are invited to take their car along and have it washed on Saturday 21 September between 10am and 3pm at the station in Lamlash.

Donation

All fire fighters ask in return is for a donation to be made to The Fire Fighters Charity, the UK's leading provider of services that enhance quality of life for serving and retired fire service personnel and their families.

Lamlash fire fighter Gerard Tattersfield said: 'Fire fighters from all across the island will be there on the day to make sure your car is spic and span.'

'All we ask for is a small donation which can make a real difference to this important charity.'

As well as being a fun and popular event for the charity, the National Car Wash also gives the local fire fighters the opportunity to speak to people and to share important safety messages with members of their local community.

Lamlash's Julia takes daredevil plunge at 70



Daredevil Julia plunges down a rockface. Inset: Julia is still smiling.

A Lamlash lady has just completed a gruelling gorge walk for charity.

To make the feat all the more remarkable, the lady concerned is nearly 70 years young.

Julia Le Masurier completed the daredevil gorge walk and river pool plunge in North Sannox to raise money for The Valdete Trust.

And she admitted to the Banner that it had been tough. She said: 'Sometimes it was like rock climbing under water and if I couldn't get a good grip with my feet because of the algae I had to haul myself up the rocks with

my arms, which have been sore for days. Other times I was just sliding down over the rocks with water up to my neck,' she said.

But she has taken it all in her stride: 'It was really challenging, really enjoyable and I would recommend it to anyone. Isn't that what life is all about?'

And she asked to say a special thank you to Robbie Adamson of Arran Adventure, who was with her every step of the way and who she described as 'absolutely brilliant'.

Julia, who lives in sheltered housing in Lamlash and will

be 70 on her next birthday, added: 'Robbie said he was very impressed with how I did and I am proud of what I have achieved.'

Julia is a regular supporter and hopes to raise a substantial sum for the trust and its work with the physically disabled in Albania. Support sheets have been widely distributed and are still available if anyone wants to give their backing to Julia's tremendous efforts.

Donations, generally in support of the trust's work, can also be made directly to The Valdete Trust's bank account. More details on www.valdetetrust.org.

Propeller trouble hits ferry sailings

Technical problems saw the cancellation of two ferries on the Ardrossan to Brodick

service on Monday.

Operator Caledonian MacBrayne said a rope snagged round the propeller of the MV Caledonian Isles in Ardrossan Harbour around lunchtime and the ferry had to wait for divers to come and remove it.

This caused the cancellation of the 3.15pm sailing from

Ardrossan, and the 4.40pm sailing from Brodick.

'Unfortunately they were delayed and didn't arrive until later in the afternoon, but the service resumed around teatime,' a company spokesman said.

'There were knock on delays on the MV Isle of Arran because of the volume of traffic and we apologise for any inconvenience caused,' he added.

Hillwalker rescued

A hillwalker was rescued from Goatfell using Arran Mountain Rescue Team's (AMRT) new all-terrain vehicle.

The woman had fallen on the Goatfell path suffering a lower leg injury. Team members used the Argocat to reach the casualty quickly and take her off the hill safely to an awaiting ambulance. Last month a brand new Argocat was purchased for AMRT thanks to funds raised by the Douglas Challenge.

The Argocat is a valued edition to the team which halves the time taken to reach a casualty on foot.

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New investment boosts Aromatics growth plans

The island's manufacturer of luxury toiletries, lifestyle products and gifts, can work towards realising its potential thanks to a £2.8m growth capital investment from Business Growth Fund (BGF).

BGF, the independent company established to help the UK's growing businesses, has been working with Arran Aromatics for several months with a view to accelerating its growth plans.

Founded by Janet and Iain Russell in 1988, Arran Aromatics has built a brand that is recognised across the world.

The performance of the family-owned business has fluctuated over the last decade and the company was rescued from the brink of administration in 2009 by independent businessman and turnaround

expert, Iain Pittman. BGF has taken a minority stake and the company has secured international retail stalwart Alastair Kerr as chairman.

As a senior independent expert, Alastair brings a wealth of experience as the former head of Body Shop's European, Middle East and African operations.

Iain Pittman, current chairman of Arran Aromatics, said: 'Everyone working at Arran Aromatics is deeply passionate about the brand and incredibly proud of its global recognition.'

'After the hard work by all of our employees over the past four years, there is a new confidence in the business.'

'BGF's growth capital investment will go towards brand development, upgrad-

ing our IT infrastructure, investing in our retail estate and allow for a significant investment in our e-commerce capabilities to drive our online business.'

Arran Aromatics is one of the few remaining toiletries companies in the UK to control every aspect of its products lifecycle; including design, formulation development and retail distribution.

Each product is made and hand finished on Arran, using the finest ingredients including the islands mineral rich natural water, making each batch subtly different.

Mr Pittman added: 'The company has enjoyed fantastic support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International



BGF investment director Duncan Macrae, left, with Arran Aromatics CEO Iain Pittman.

over the past years and we hope these positive working relationships will continue to support further international growth and help take Arran Aromatics from a £5.2m business to a truly global brand.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'This is great news for Arran Aromatics, its em-

ployees and the island itself.'

'Such an investment boost will deliver greater security of employment, growth, expansion and raise the profile of both Arran and Arran Aromatics even higher, as sales of their wonderful products reach an ever wider audience.'

Switchback works back on schedule

Work to flatten the 'switchbacks' between Catacol and Pirnmill will begin later this month, despite ongoing opposition from islanders.

On Wednesday North Ayrshire Council (NAC) confirmed that, following a number of delays, the work to ensure low floor buses can travel around the north-end will begin at the end of September.

A spokesman for the council said: 'From 2016, all buses will be required to provide disabled access to passengers.'

'However, sections of the road between Catacol and Pirnmill are unsuitable for these low floor buses and require some work.'

'This includes a slight softening of the crests at the humps of Rubha Airigh Bheirg.'

He added: 'We are also installing rock netting along the landward side of the road and gabion baskets on the seaward side to strengthen the existing retaining walls.'

Work is scheduled to begin on Tuesday 24 September and a road closure will be scheduled for approximately 10 weeks.

Staff shortage halts mobile bank service

Continued from Page 1

the main branch on the mainland.

'This is now twice this service has been withdrawn and it is not just Lamlash that is affected but customers in Blackwaterfoot, Shiskine and around the island.

'If I have to bank in Brodick I have to close the shop, drive for three miles and then wait in a queue which can take quite some time.'

'I don't accept they can blame staff shortages. The staff in Brodick do a good job but surely there must be a pool of people on the mainland who could be brought in for support.'

'The service should be reinstated and as soon as possible.'

'I also think there needs to be more communication between departments as when I called the business section they didn't know what a bank van was,' Mr Gordon added.

Arran Community Council wrote to the Bank of Scotland last May when the service was last withdrawn and were promised a review of the service but nothing happened.

Ironically, the bank is in the middle of a major advertising campaign aimed at refreshing Scotland's oldest bank and re-asserting its traditional values.

The campaign aims to demonstrate the return of traditional values of relationship banking, customer empathy and expertise through the use of the brand promise 'With you all the way'.

A spokeswoman for the

Bank of Scotland said: 'The Brodick Bank of Scotland mobile branch service has been impacted because of a shortage of staff. We are looking in to securing relief support as a matter of urgency and hope to have the van

back on the road next week for two days. We apologise to customers for the inconvenience caused.'

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Fungi fever set to grip Arran once more

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Mark Williams picked his first wild mushroom on Arran more than 20 years ago, and so began a love affair with foraging.

He is now Scotland's only full-time foraging tutor and is returning to his old stomping ground to guide a fungi forage next Saturday with Arran Bushcraft and Survival.

Mark said: 'It all started in Brodick's wonderful woods and hedgerows.

'I had a summer job working split shifts in a restaurant and between shifts, mostly to kill time, the chef and I started going out in the woods with a handbook trying to work out what might, or might not, be edible.'

'It was an exciting time and I was hooked from the start! We didn't dare eat anything that first year - we imagined Death Caps and Funeral Bells around every tree stump. I still remember that feeling and empathise completely with novices trying to get to know the subtle differences between, say, the chanterelle and the false chanterelle.'

His interest grew year on year and he started to share his passion and knowledge in a series of articles for The Banner.

'It was amazing - fungi fever seemed to grip the island and I became known as Mushroom Mark!'

'It was like I had uncovered a nascent fascination throughout Arran. I had people turning up on my door with baskets of mushrooms for identification!'

The fungi fever came to a

head when Mark guided a fungi foray at Brodick Castle and 90 people turned up.

He said: 'As far as I know, this is a record for Arran, Scotland and possibly the UK for such an event.'

Mark's interest and enthusiasm continued to grow when he moved from Arran to Galloway.

'Wild mushrooms are only about in any quantities for five months of the year, so I decided to stop pining for the other seven months and taught myself how to forage other wild foods like herbs, shellfish and seaweeds.'

'I now pick and eat some form of wild food every day of the year - whether it's a nibble of sorrel or a full gourmet feast. I set up Galloway Wild Foods about three years ago to share my passion and things really took off.'

Foraging has become quite trendy in the last 10 years or so, and Mark now has a waiting list of top chefs waiting to go foraging with him.

Last year Andrew Fairlie - Scotland's only two Michelin star chef - invited him to stay in Gleneagles Hotel and fed Mark and his wife in return for taking him and his chefs out fungi foraging for a few hours.

'I'm especially excited about coming back to Arran to team up with Mark Bunyan of Arran Bushcraft and Survival,' said Mark.

'He has an impressive depth of knowledge and fills in the blanks in my knowledge on medicinal and practical uses



Mark, right, with a giant edible and medicinal mushroom (hen of the woods) found while filming for CBBC.



Mark Williams of Galloway Wild Foods.

of fungi, such as firelighting.

'We also get to finish the walk with a wild gourmet tasting session at his amazing Bushcraft HQ and cook our finds on an open fire while sipping wild wines. I really can't wait!'

Find out more or book your places on the fungi foray and cook-in by calling Mark Bunyan on 07876 405 080.



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HOUSES FOR SALE



Free concert in Whiting Bay

Arran is to take part in a series of free concerts as part of National Chamber Music Day on Saturday 14 September.

Creative Scotland is providing concerts all over the country, to take place in odd places where music might not be expected. Arran is to host two brilliant young women who play flute and guitar as the Duo Concertante.

They will be at the Art Gallery in Whiting Bay from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. It isn't a seated concert - the idea is that people can wander in and out at will. There is absolutely no charge - this is just one of many free events taking place in wee venues all over Scotland.

The audience is free to wander at will, looking at paintings and sculptures and enjoying the leafy courtyard at the back, while listening to the music of flute and guitar. The players are Sharon Dowsett and Adele Neilson, who come from Edinburgh.

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Marine Protected Area – What about the birds?

The Scottish government's plans for a Marine Protected Area (MPA) at the south of Arran omit to mention birds, a worrying oversight according to local bird recorder Jim Cassels.

Mr Cassels, who contributes the Bird Notes to The Banner each month, is a strong supporter of the MPA plans.

But he feels that birds need to be labelled as just as important as fish and other marine wildlife.

He told The Banner: 'In the South Arran MPA there is no mention of birds.'

'There is no mention of those species that depend totally or largely on the sea like Gannet, Eider, Black Guillemot and Arctic Tern.'

'There is no mention of those species that are totally or largely dependent on the shore and intertidal zones like



Black Guillemot, just one of the many species of bird dependent on the sea for food.

Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover.'

He added: 'To me that is a serious omission. Birds, to use the jargon of the consultation, should be recognised as "marine priority features".'

The proposed South Arran MPA is an important area for birds both in the breeding season, migration times and during the winter.

The area that is being pro-

posed for protection includes a number of small breeding colonies of seabirds on Holy Isle and Pladda as well as other places.

In addition, the South Arran MPA is an important feeding area for seabirds including for the internationally important seabird colony on Ailsa Craig.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is

recognised as one of the UK's leading community marine conservation organisations and enjoys widespread support on Arran and nationally.

The view of COAST is that the proposed MPA network represents an exciting opportunity for Scotland and Arran's coastal communities.

Mr Cassels added: 'I wholeheartedly support COAST on this issue and would encourage everyone with a love of Arran to look at the government proposals and comment on these proposals before consultation closes on 13 November.'

It's time to get picking!

Arran's residents are being urged to get out and pick wild berries after this year's warm summer has produced a bumper crop of fruit in the island's hedgerows and forests.

Scottish National Heritage is encouraging members of the public to harvest wild raspberries, brambles and other fruit to make into jams and jellies at home.

Wild berries predominantly grow in Tayside, particularly in the fertile Strathmore valley, but are also abundant in Arran this year as well as parts of the Highlands, Ayrshire and the Borders.

In warm Scottish summers, heat combined with long daylight hours help most berries ripen, creating plenty of flavour.

Ashleigh Tooth of SNH said: 'Collecting wild berries gets you out and about – and they're free too, of course.'

'We have some of the best outdoor access rights in Europe in Scotland, so we should all take advantage and get out into the countryside.'

'Just take care when you're picking the berries that you don't harm the plant.'

Mike Cantlay, chairman of VisitScotland, said picking wild fruit was a chance to celebrate the natural produce on offer in Scotland - which is being celebrated by a Year of Natural Scotland partnership between agencies including SNH, the Scottish government and VisitScotland.

'The Year of Natural Scotland is all about getting people out and about enjoying our stunning landscapes,' he said. 'We've been lucky enough to have a fantastic summer this year, and I'd urge everyone to enjoy the rest of the year, especially if there is a treat or two along the way.'

In Scotland, members of the public can pick wild berries for their own consumption, although not for commercial purposes or for profit.

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New teachers at Arran High



Faculty head Mara Gosman. 20_b36teach01



Faculty head Matthew Reid. 20_b36teach02

Arran High School has four new teachers for the new session.

Mara Gosman from Polmont, a geography teacher, is the new faculty head of social subjects, business education and RE. She has come from Larbert High.

Originally from Leicester Matthew Reid, an English teacher, is the new faculty head of languages and literacy. He last taught at Garnock Academy.

Joining them is Derek Wilson a technical teacher originally from New Cumnock who comes to Arran from Paisley Grammar School.

And finally Lyndsay Campbell-Thomson who joins as a history teacher. Originally from Airdrie she has come from Kirkcudbright Academy and previously taught in Falkirk and Biggar.

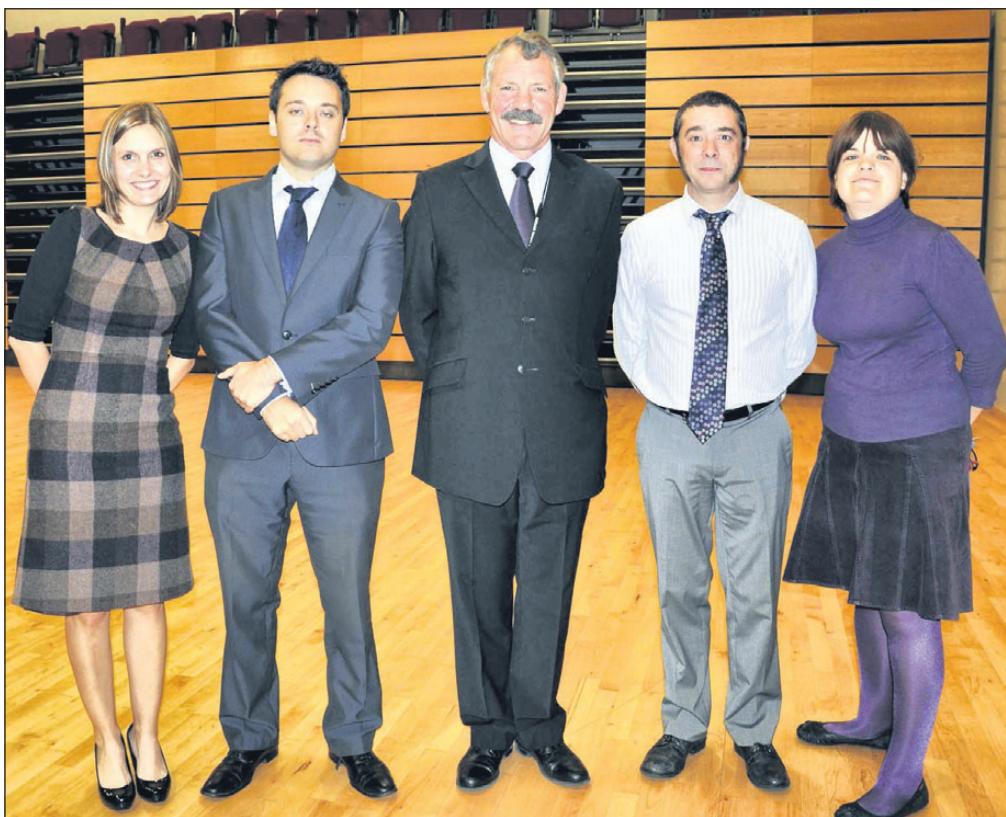
They were welcomed to the school by head teacher Douglas Auld.



Technical teacher Derek Wilson. 20_b36teach03



History teacher Lyndsay Campbell-Thomson. 20_b36teach04



Head teacher Douglas Auld (centre) with the new teachers. 20_b36teach05



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THE ARRAN BANNER

Foraging is a seductive prospect

The suggestion that there is free food on our doorstep, if we could only open our eyes to scoop it up, is a tremendously seductive prospect.

Eighteen years ago Mark Williams wrote a series of articles for The Banner about the native fungi found on the hills and in the forests of Arran.

Now he is Scotland's only full-time foraging tutor and is returning to his old stomping ground to guide a fungi forage next Saturday with Arran Bushcraft and Survival.

Interestingly this week we also have an article encouraging more of us to go out and pick brambles.

After a long hot summer Scottish Natural Heritage believe there will be a bumper crop of fruit on the hedge-rows this autumn and they want us all to get picking.

There is something rather romantic about eschewing the supermarket rat-race and reconnecting with your surroundings, by collecting dandelions and wild garlic.

Earlier in the summer Arran Bushcraft and Survival organised a food forage and it was incredible the amount of edible plants they found in a relatively small area.

All were forms of vegetation that we probably walk by on a weekly basis and yet how many of us would ever know they were edible.

There will be people on Arran, and in North Ayrshire as a whole, struggling to make ends meet at the moment.

Sadly in 2013, these people are far more likely to be visiting a food bank rather than burrowing in the hedge-row.

While it clearly isn't possible to live by foraging alone, last month Oxfam released a report claiming that more than half a million UK people may rely on food banks.

Given that food bank parcels are only formulated to meet short-term nutritional needs, the parcel contents consist of non-perishable goods in the form of tinned and dried products.

Yet with so many people increasingly in long-term 'crisis', perhaps we should be thinking about how local fresh food like that found in our forests and fields can be utilised.

Foraging is an ancient concept but perhaps in our modern world it is on that can be put to good use.

Just don't pick all the sloes - I need them for my gin!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6)

press policy

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Scouts thank islanders

Sir,

Following our recent visit to Arran, I wish, through your newspaper, to express my sincere thanks to many different people for all the unfailingly pleasant and helpful support we were given in a variety of often challenging circumstances.

Peter McInney provided essential first aid to one of our Scouts following a cycling accident on the main road north of Sannox.

Val from Kilmory offered a very welcome lift back to Brodick for another member following a double bicycle puncture.

All the staff at the hospital in Lamlash, who were excellent following both the cycling accident and (24hrs later) a different Scout suffering an asthma attack and low body temperature.

Both Claire and Margo were incredibly helpful with regard to our use of Corrie Hall, and likewise both Diana and Lizzie at Shiskine.

Neil and family at the Corrie Hotel, and all the staff at the Pier Head Tavern, Lamlash, were most pleasant and accommodating.

Finally, a big thank you to Iain Frame of Brodick for assessing our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award team.

In summary, thank you all for your welcome hospitality and assistance.

Our Explorer Scouts, fellow leaders and I were hugely appreciative of everything you did for us.

Yours,
Steve Dawson
Cockermouth Explorer
Scouts Cumbria

Hole in one

Sir,

Not long back from our annual July Arran fix.

What fantastic weather for the entire four weeks - a bit of a change from most of the last 36 years.

What has never changed is the enjoyment we and the family get from our daily game of putting on the Lamlash green.

Yours,
Douglas Hamilton
Lamlash

Surprised and delighted

Sir,

My wife and I were surprised and delighted to read the article about our forthcoming

golden wedding celebrations in The Banner of August 17. We were just about to set off from Lochranza, with our daughter Sandy and her family, on one of our favourite walks, when I was presented with a straight-off-the-press copy of your paper, with the instruction 'look at page seventeen, Dad'.

Long may it continue.
Yours,
M & D Atkins
Glasgow

Keep mountains wild

Sir,

I read with increasing incredulity Colin Gunn's letter on paths, fences and safety rails on Arran mountains. I wondered whether it was a spoof letter, but it reads perfectly seriously.

Surely the point of mountain-climbing is that one is knowingly going into a dangerous environment and plan and act accordingly.

Some of us, myself included, have climbed in the Arran mountains as hillwalkers, using established paths. Others are serious rock-climbers climbing on rock faces, requiring a quite different level of skills (and nerve).

While I would support improvements to existing paths, making them more stable, the suggestion that we should be erecting safety fences, on top of Cir Mhor, for example, or fixed ladders, is nothing less than environmental vandalism.

Also, where do we stop? Should we fence every summit, including Dun Fionn, where there is a dangerous drop? No. Mountains are wild places, where there is no place for the politically correct health and safety lobby. Those who go into these dangerous places know the risks, and should behave with due care.

Yours,
Douglas Hamilton
Lamlash

Undeterred cyclist

Sir,

During my last visit to Arran in July I was amazed to read in The Banner the claim by an islander that cyclists were vowing never to return to the island because of the state of the roads.

I have been coming over with my Brompton folding bicycle for several years now and have to say that I find the roads quite acceptable.

It would be a foolish visitor who expected mainland standards on a rural island so I make allowances and take care to ride according to the conditions.

During my last visit I clocked up about 100 miles, including a circuit of the island, the Machrie Moor road, and parts of the String and Kildonan roads. Certainly, there are some parts in need of repair. This is not surprising considering that there is no alternative to road transport on Arran and therefore everything has to be moved in increasingly heavy lorries which as a matter of course damage the roads. Every year I come across stretches of road which have been repaired since my last visit and I appreciate the much smoother ride.

Yet your article was a wonderful reminder of what did seem a fairly energetic way of getting to know my future wife, and we have continued to visit Arran, which we both love, numerous times since.

Yours,
Peter Little
York

Path work advice

Sir,

Regarding the path work in the letter from Mr Gunn, I hope that he penned it with tongue in cheek, if not then I suggest that he remains in bed with the cot sides up and copies of the Health and Safety Act as pillows, and leave the Arran hills without concrete paths and elevators to top viewing platforms where refreshments would be served.

From one who would like to get on to the tops again with all the inferred risks.

Yours,
Donald Cowan
Lamlash

We deliver the goods not excuses

Its variable surface makes it really only suitable for mountain bikes, yet there is nothing on the signs to indicate this limitation.

It is simply not the case that Arran roads are the worst in Scotland as has been asserted; they are certainly better than some in North East Fife. My only criticism of cycling facilities on Arran is the state of the so-called cycle path from Kilmory to Whiting Bay and Lamlash.

Its variable surface makes it really only suitable for mountain bikes, yet there is nothing on the signs to indicate this limitation.

I hope that any proposed Corrie-Brodick cycle path is not built to the same standard; if it is, I'm afraid I will be sticking to the tarmac of the main road. In conclusion, despite the somewhat scaremongering tone of the claims mentioned earlier, this cyclist is in no way deterred from returning to Arran and is greatly looking forward to clocking up a few more miles on them during her September visit.

Yours,
Jane Ann Liston
St Andrews

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Since 1970 the company has been responsible for training eleven local apprentices and they are now one of the main contractors for the west coast of the island. The company have been responsible for many of the new homes built in the Shiskine area in the past 20 years and plans are already in place to build many more. This is a great example of a thriving Arran business at the heart of the island community it serves.



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Arran Energy

Both Angus Smith and Duncan Mulholland were born and brought-up on the island and between them bring a wealth of technical, commercial and timber industry experience to a business which specialises in renewable energy. Arran Energy was established in 2007 when the founders realised that Arran has a wealth of renewable biomass raw materials available. This forest residue material, currently left behind during timber harvesting is now processed into an extremely useful biomass fuel to heat Arran homes and

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priced, and give the right impression for your business. Once up and running, Tom can handle the administration of your website if needed but they are all designed to be self managed if required. Along with his wife Shiona who has many years experience in digital marketing, Tom produces websites optimised to get the best possible result on Google search. If you already have a website, is it working for you? If not, why not let Tom create a website for you, with discounts for businesses on Arran you could have a better chance to make the most of the online market.



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Juniors (Prim 4-7) = 4.45 – 5.30pm	A music & movement class for little ones and their parents
Seniors (Academy) = 5.30 – 6.15pm	

Streetly Dancing

Since moving to the island five years ago, Dawn Ulivi has become a household name with many of Arran's young dancing stars. Miss Dawn - as she is affectionately known - started dancing at the age of three at the Prestwick Dance School and at 17 years old she successfully auditioned for the three year teacher training diploma course at The Royal Academy of Dance College in London. In her third year she won the 'Generosity of Spirit' prize in recognition of her passion and love of dance teaching and even today her love of dancing is clear to see.

The qualified dancing instructor from Brodick is so excited to be getting back to work after a break for the summer holidays that she's even giving away free tuition for all new starts. The pre-school (Teenies) dancing takes place between 1.45pm and 2.30pm. For Primary 1 to 3 pupils (Minis) the grooving starts at 4pm until 4.45pm, and primary 4 to 7 Pupils (Juniors) can have a boogie from 4.45pm until 5.30pm. And not forgetting the secondary school pupils (Seniors) who can rock it from 5.30pm until 6.15pm. Why not come along and give it a go.



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The Harbour Shop

Gillian Ingham took over the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot six years ago, and in that time the store has continued to be one of the island's busiest. Not just a newsagents, the Harbour Shop has beautiful gifts and souvenirs for tourists as well as all the essentials for a day on the beach. Along with Aileen - who has worked in the shop for more than 20 years - and Gina, Gillian is one of the most well-known faces for locals and visitors.

The store has beautiful handmade cards, unique gifts and jewellery as well as a great selection of local products including Arran Aromatics toiletries. There is also a great selection of toys and games to keep any youngster happy. But more importantly Gillian also stocks a great selection of household goods for those days when just don't have what you need. One of the friendliest stores on the island - The Harbour Shop is well worth a visit.



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Homes on Arran

With her vast experience buying, renovating and selling houses, Judy Draycott is great at giving sound advice on all aspects of the property market. When it comes to buying a home on Arran it can be a daunting experience but she will guide you through all aspects of the process to help you find that dream home. With around 30 properties on her books ranging from co-ownership weeks at Auchrannie, idyllic cottages, large family homes and plots with planning there is something for everyone to view. However, you need to be quick as

many are in the under offer stages. At the moment Judy is keen to get more properties to sell under the £200,000 mark so pop in and see her today if you are thinking of moving home. Helping the seller to navigate the entire process whilst also ensuring all buyers get what they want, Judy really is an expert at both buying and selling. With rental properties also occasionally available, Judy is perfect for anyone looking to find somewhere to live on the island and will make sure your property is well looked after by carefully chosen tenants.



Farmers expect winners and losers from weather payouts

Farmers on Arran are still waiting for payments for stock lost in the worst snows in living memory earlier this year.

But they were given assurances that their claims were being processed as quickly as possible by Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead when he visited Arran last week to meet farmers and local food producers.

Mr Lochhead used his visit to Kilpatrick Farm in Blackwaterfoot to find out how farmers were recovering from the storms and preparing for the winter to come. And he heard the concerns of a number of local farmers during a round-the-table discussion.

After the meeting, The Banner asked island farmer Richard McMaster if they were satisfied with the government's response to the storms and he said: 'It was a good meeting at least they are listening.'

Farmer John Murchie add-

ed: 'We are still awaiting final distribution of the payments so there will be winners and losers, there always are in situations like this.'

However, all agreed there was little additional preparation they could do to prevent a repeat of last year's catastrophe coming as it did at the very start of the lambing season.

Arran has 52 commercial farms, three of them dairy farms, but it was mostly those on the west of the island which were badly hit by the snow.

Commend

Mr Lochhead said: 'The island suffered some of the worst snow in living memory this winter and I would like to commend the farmers here for all of their hard work trying to help clear roads and get the power back on.'

I know that the severe weather caused a significant number of livestock deaths and financial losses and it is important that I am able



Island farmers David Henderson, Niall McMaster, Charlie McAllister, Colin Currie, John Murchie, Richard McMaster and Liz Robertson with Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead and MSP Kenny Gibson. 20_b36farm01

to find out at first-hand how farmers are now recovering and what preparations are being made for the coming cold months.

'Weather Aid applications are still being processed, with payments expected to begin within weeks. There are still some final checks to carry out, though, before individuals can receive confirmation of whether a payment will be made. This process is expected to be completed shortly.'

Until this process is completed, the Scottish government cannot confirm whether individual applications have been successful.

During his visit to the island, Mr Lochhead also confirmed that most of the Scottish government's £750,000 Fallen Stock Fund had now been paid out.

He continued: 'The Scottish government has made a total of £6.5 million compensation available, and I am

pleased to confirm that more than £730,000 in fallen stock payments should have now reached the bank accounts of 4,082 farmers across Scotland.

'This will go some way to helping meet the additional costs involved in disposing of carcasses.'

'More than half of these funds have gone to farmers in South West Scotland which was particularly badly affected by the snow.'

Taste of Arran gets minister's support

More work needs to be done to turn Arran into a real food destination. That was the message Taste of Arran boss Alastair Dobson took to Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead when he met local food producers on a visit to the island.

Mr Dobson said: 'We need to learn to do more to sell Arran as a real food destination so we are not so reliant on the summer sunshine but can attract visitors all year round.'

Mr Lochhead visited Arran Dairies where he met Mr Dobson along with Lindsay Keir the managing director of Wooley's, Gordon Kinloch, managing director of the Island Cheese and Bellevue Cheese Co and James McTaggart, the chief distiller of Arran Distillery.

Afterwards Mr Lochhead said: 'Arran is blessed with a bountiful natural larder and is home to a wealth of award-winning artisan food and drink producers.'

'The Taste of Arran co-operative is of great interest to me and there is much the rest of Scotland can learn from this successful business model in which local producers work together to maximise commercial opportunities - especially overseas.'

Mr Dobson is heading to Ireland next week as part of a Scottish delegation to promote island produce.

He will be hosting two workshops at the West Cork Food Festival, a hugely popular annual event held in Ireland's most southerly town Skibbereen.

He will be joined by the Kilmarnock-based Braehead Foods boss Craig Stevenson, the biggest Scottish wholesaler of Taste of Arran products, and Cook School Scotland executive chef Joe Queen.

Mr Dobson said: 'I have had contact with West Cork since about 2000 and while they are keen to learn from us, there is a lot we can take away from the collaboration which can benefit Arran.'



Arran farmers hold a round the table discussion with Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead. 20_b36farm02

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Sunflower success for Shona



Best in Show was awarded to Shona Hume.

Nervous crowds waited with baited breath

The competition was fierce.

Competitors had been building up to this day for months.

Nervous crowds awaited with baited breath to find out who had won.

Oh yes, it was that night of the year again. It was the annual sunflower competition at Brodick Golf Club.

Towering high above the terrace last Friday night were around 10 impressive specimens of the sunflower flower.

The judge was once again Horticultural Society chairman John Sillars who took the task most seriously.

The winner of the tallest plant went to Jim Green for an impressive 9ft 11inches.

In second place was Gordon Hendry whose sunflower was 9ft 2inches in height and third place went to Alan Hart's 8ft 6inches plant.

But the prize for the best in show was awarded to Shona Hume - the sister-in-law of the club captain - but The Banner has been heartily assured that this had no bearing whatsoever on the final result.

The runner-up to best in show was David Hendry and the Booby Prize went to the club's head greenkeeper Keith Aitken for his rather paltry specimen.



Club captain Nicol Hume takes the final measurements.



Keith Aitken sadly won the booby prize for his rather miserable entry.



Jim Green, left, is presented with the trophy for the tallest sunflower.



Neil Frost's flower might not have won but it certainly enjoyed the evening.

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Prizewinners, left to right, Jim Carruth, Em Strang (highly commended), Hubert Moore, Marcia Menter and Ron Scowcroft. 20_b36fest06



The talented singers of The Royal Northern College after the church service in Corrie. 20_b36fest03



Poetry prizewinners with Peter and Ann Sansom and readers Cicely Gill and David Underdown. 20_b36fest01

Four poets celebrated in McLellan Festival



Haunting 'Island'

More than 900 entries were received for this year's McLellan Poetry Competition.

This gave judges Peter and Ann Sansom such a difficult task that they decided on four joint winners instead of one.

It meant there was no £1,000 overall prize winner but four joint winners who each received £400.

The five highly commended poems each got £25.

At Brodick Hall last Friday night a small but enthusiastic crowd heard each of the winning poems read first by David Underdown and Cicely Gill before being performed by the poets themselves.

One of the winners Marcia Menter came all the way from New York, visiting Arran for the first time and Jim Curruth dedicated his poem 'Homecoming' to his uncle Willie McConnell, who farmed at Glenscorrodale on Arran and

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Poetry judges Peter and Ann Sansom. 20_b36fest01



OWN. 20_b36fest02



John Sillars reads the work of Robert McLellan. 20_b36fest04



The singers in full voice at the church service. 20_b36fest05

Celebrate success festival contest

' Isle of Arran' performed at church service

is a cousin of Lord McConnell.

One of the highly commended poems 'Oars' was also performed by Em Strang from Lockerbie.

Judge Peter Sansom said: 'It's traditional for judges to say it was difficult to make a decision. But we've taken that idea several steps further by opting for a four-way tie for first place. We hope you'll agree all of these poems are worthy winners - and that the runners-up are outstanding poems in their own right too.'

'What we have is top quality work, all with interesting subjects and often unusual treatments. And all of them are poems which engage the reader immediately.'

'However removed in time or place, the poems are themselves ultimately very much engaged with the world we live in now.'

'Still, having said all that, what actually is most striking for us about these poems is how very different they are from each other - hence the injustice, we felt, in prizing one over another. Instead, let's simply celebrate and enjoy them all.'

Presented

The Sansoms' presented the prizes before performing their own readings titled 'Arran and Beyond'.

Joint First Prizewinners: Jim Carruth with Homecoming; Marcia Menter, Two Rhapsodies for Piano; Hubert Moore, Hosing Down and Ron Scowcroft, Dog in a Minefield.

Highly Commended: Sharon Black, Scorpion; James Fairfoot, Woodfall; Jane Routh, Franklin the Evidence; Em Strang, Oars and Anne Welsh, Sounds Reborn.

The festival continued with a

very successful McLellan Ceilidh in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Saturday night.

On Sunday the church service in Corrie Church had a McLellan theme. Young opera singers from The Royal Northern College in Manchester performed under their conductor Alec Crowe.

The highlight of their performance was a special arrangement of the haunting 'Isle of Arran' which received its premiere on the day and moved many of the congregation close to tears.

The singers, attending the fourth Arran Summer School, came from as far afield as Australia, Portugal, Germany and America, as well as Scotland, England and Ireland, and most had never been to Arran before.

John Sillars also gave readings from Robert McLellan's work.

Arran Banner Photo Competition 2013

**The closing date is
FRIDAY 13 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 posting them to:

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Two Categories: People/Animals
Views/Places

Please include caption for each entry
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Bobby's grand day out

For Bobby Kingtree of Brodick, last Wednesday was a grand day out. He was off on the PS Waverley for her final Arran sailing of the season. The day before Bobby remarked that he 'hasn't had his picture in The Banner for a long time! So we decided to take one of him in his glad rags and put it in this week's paper for everyone to see. 20_b36bob01

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Magical music and voices as festival ends

The McLellan Festival draws to a close this weekend but what a finale it promises to be.

The Community Theatre at Arran High School will be filled with glorious music delivered by wonderful, talented young voices tonight (Friday 6 September) as the finale begins with the Opera Gala at 7.30pm.

With musical gems from The Magic Flute, The Marriage of Figaro, La Boheme, Turandot, Carmen, The Tales of Hoffman, Don Pasquale, Orpheus and Euridice, Gershwin, Bernstein, Britten, Lehár and Gilbert and Sullivan, this promises to be a feast for music lovers.

Mendelssohn's beautiful oratorio the Elijah, being

performed at the Community Theatre on Sunday, is the pinnacle of this year's festival.

Performed

Solo parts will be played by the students of The Royal Northern College, Manchester with the part of Elijah being sung by Gavan Ring – an international singer who has performed at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, with Opera

North and Scottish Opera. The chorus is provided by The McLellan Festival Chorus composed of Arran singers.

This magnificent work can be heard on Sunday at 7.30pm in The Community Theatre, at Arran High School.

Please try not to miss these events – they are rare treats on the island.

Charity Summer Bridge

The results of the charity Summer Bridge tournament on Monday 2 September were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Alec Gee and Maggie Gee, 3 Jan Beattie and Jean Barclay.

E/W 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Douglas Bruce and Margaret Bruce, 3 John Dick and Mary Dick.

Got a story for The Banner? Call 01770 302142

Bowled over by new carpet celebrations

A newly laid carpet was the reason for a celebration held at the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club.

Fifty members and friends from the Shiskine valley area and other Arran bowling clubs spent an enjoyable afternoon last Sunday playing bowls, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Several founder members joined in the celebrations and they were amazed that more than 30 years had passed since they generously started the funding of the club.

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club opened in July 1981 and members have been bowling there for 32 years.

Launch

Fifty founding members contributed £100 each to launch the original fund raising and £29,000 was collected to start the club.

A new carpet was needed in 1998 and the latest one was installed in July this year. A spokesman for the club said: 'Many thanks are due to the



Members and friends of the bowling club gathered to celebrate the laying of the new carpet.

people and organisations who contributed £27,000 required to buy the new carpet this time.

'Unfortunately we now have to start raising funds again for the next carpet as they only

have a 15-year life!'

New members are always welcome at the club, which is behind the Shiskine Golf Clubhouse.

Members play rinks games at 1.45pm on Tuesdays and

Saturdays and also at 6.45pm on Thursday evenings.

Free equipment, including bowls for children, is available. Members will always give help and advice to beginners.

ADVERTORIAL

Knotweed solution for affected Arran properties

Arran has a widespread invasive weeds problem with Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam spread widely around the island, but help is at hand. Wise Knotweed Solutions from Ayr are currently working on a Japanese Knotweed issue at a church on the island.

Invasive weed

There was Japanese Knotweed growing on a patch of

land where the church wanted to commence some building work so the expert team have removed the invasive weed and sifted the soil to make sure no knotweed remnants were left over.

So who can Japanese Knotweed Solutions help on Arran?

Andy Ferguson of Wise Knotweed Solutions explains: 'Anyone. We can offer Japa-

nese knotweed solutions for home owners, businesses and local authorities on the island and indeed we have already helped people all over Scotland.'

Problems

What are the biggest problems associated with Japanese knotweed?

Andy said: 'A lot of people are finding it difficult to sell properties affected by Japanese knotweed and banks are becoming increasingly reluctant to lend against affected properties.'

How can Wise Knotweed Solutions help?

'We are Property Care Association (PCA) approved and offer a five-year Japanese knotweed warranty and a 25-year Guarantee Protection Insurance-backed structural insurance warranty,' said Andy. 'These warranties will allow a homeowner to sell their home and achieve a mortgage in the vast majority of Japanese knotweed cases.'



Japanese knotweed

Dinner to die for at Brodick Castle

There is going to be a murder at Brodick Castle later this month.

On Friday 21 September the staff at the National Trust for Scotland property are hosting an evening of fine dining and homicidal skulduggery.

The Castle Murder Mystery event will involve a sumptuous dinner interspersed with lots of laughable scenarios leading to Victorian crime and bloodshed.

Guests will be welcomed with a complimentary drink before being taken on a tour of the castle by the lady of the house. There will then be

a delicious three-course dinner before, most importantly, guests will help to solve the heinous crime.

Guarantee

Interactions with the colourful characters, including the myopic Lady Sumpbucket, the dim-witted Captain Horatio Lockjaw, Mrs Moane the house-keeper and the castle's very own Sherlock Holmes will guarantee an evening of lively (and deadly!) entertainment.

For more information, or to book a ticket please call 0844 4932152 and ask for Sue Mills.

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Scything of roadside verges destroys Arran wildflowers

Claims that miles of damage have been done along the sides of the road

Wild flowers have been destroyed by the indiscriminate scything of roadside verges on the island, it has been claimed.

Verges along The String road have been scalped by contractors carrying out roadside cutting.

But it has led to complaints that miles of damage has been done along the sides of the road all the way to Shiskine and beyond.

Susie Thompson from Shiskine said: 'They have completely scalped the verges in parts destroying the roots of any wild flowers which were growing there.'

Unsightly

'The work was carried out at the end of last week and has left the roadsides completely unsightly.'

'I like to see wildflowers like the harebell and the wild poppies beside the road but a

lot of them must have been cleared by the root.'

'If there are no wild flowers it will affect the number of caterpillars and butterflies with the knock on effects for the bird population.'

'If I was to pull wild flowers out by the roots I could risk arrest, yet North Ayrshire Council appear to be able to destroy them at will.'

'I fully appreciate that clearing is needed at junctions and other locations where safety is paramount, but these are road verges which do not need to be scalped to the bare earth.'

Species

Arran is home to more than 900 species of flowering plant, 45 ferns, 21 species of butterfly have been recorded and more than 250 species of bird.

The Banner has been along The String and photographed some of the damage caused by the verge cutting.

The Arran Natural History Society has raised the issue of verge cutting with the council in the past.

Chairman Fiona Laing said:



Close up of a badly scalped grass verge. 20_b34verge03



A badly scalped verge at Milestone No 5 on The String. 20_b34verge01



The straight stretch of The String with verge damage visible on both sides. 20_b34verge04



Another badly stripped verge on The String. 20_b34verge05



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Brodick Castle, Gardens and Ranger Events

Fri Sept 6th & 13th: Castle Secrets Tour
11:30am – 1pm, £5 plus entry, book

Sun 8th Sept: Fungi Foray
1 – 3:30pm, £5 plus entrance, no booking required

Mon 9th Sept: Paintings Tour
2 – 3:30pm, £5 plus entry, book

Tues 10th Sept: Garden Walk
2 – 3:30pm, donation plus garden entry, no booking required

Thurs 12th Sept: Bronze Age Roundhouse Experience
2 – 3:30pm, £5 plus entry, book

Sat 21st Sept: Murder Mystery Diner
6:30pm onwards, £30, book
Don't miss out, book your place now!

Phone 0844 493 2152

For more information pick up our events leaflet (ferry or TIC or on the Property) www.nts.org.uk



A series of badly stripped verges. 20_b34verge02



The Oratorio 'Elijah'

By Master class students and McLellan Festival Chorus

Sunday 8th September 7.30pm £5
Community theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash

Tickets at Book and Card shop, Brodick and on line:
www.mclellanartsfestival.co.uk



Gala Concert

With students from the Royal Northern College of Music

Friday 6th September 7.30pm £10
Community theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash

Tickets at Book and Card shop, Brodick and on line:
www.mclellanartsfestival.co.uk

THE ARRAN BANNER

*on
holiday*

Since 'The Banner on Holiday' feature started almost five years ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers

that have come through the doors.

Arran residents and holiday-makers are still making sure that they pack their copy of The Banner to keep up with

local issues when they go on holiday.

This week we have three very different photographs from various places near to home and far from home.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Dumfries or Delhi, 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.



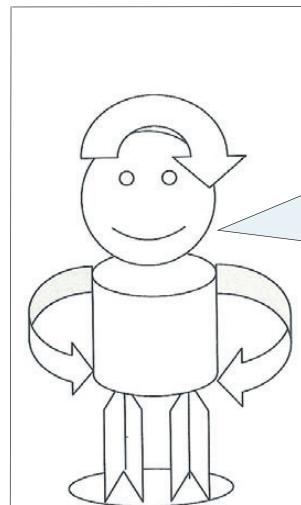
Aleena and Andrew Rojan from Lamlash are pictured with their Arran Banner in front of Big Ben in Westminster after a recent trip to London.



Jean Kinloch of Lochranza took a moment to catch up with all the news from home with her son Colin after a family wedding at the Palac Szczepowice near Poznan, Poland.



The Arran Banner on 'holiday' at Crosshouse hospital! Well at least it kept Stewart Dunsmuir cheery after his recent op.



'Hello let me introduce myself. I am the new boy Eco Savvy; you will be seeing a lot of me in the future. I am here to share with you some handy tips to save you money. I am also your cute mascot for an exciting Arran Community project, but first I have a mission and with your help together we are going to work our way towards achieving Zero Waste for Arran. So you can expect me to talk a lot of rubbish!'

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SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

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

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Isle of Arran

"and when the seed was sown, the hairst was gethert"
Robert McLellan (Arran Burn)

FRIDAY 6th September : Gala concert with students from the Royal Northern College of Music : Community theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash : 7.30pm : £10

SUNDAY 8th September : The Oratorio 'Elijah' by Master clas Students and McLellan Festival Chorus : Community theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash : 7.30pm : £5

Tickets at Book and Card Shop, Brodick and on line: www.mclellanartsfestival.co.uk

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BANNER**TWENTY
YEARS AGO**

Saturday 11 September, 1993



Officiating at the opening of the new Tourist Information Centre extension are, from left, board chairman Ronnie Mann, LEC chairman Norman Walker, tourism manager Charlie Currie and architect Ian Ferguson. b36twe01



The Park housing development in Lamlash is completed six months ahead of schedule. b36twe02



Back to some Corrie Capers from a couple of weeks ago. The Great Arran Bed Race takes place in the rain. b36twe03

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

Centre extension

The tourist board's information centre extension at Brodick Pier, which has been in use for several weeks, was formally opened by Mr Norman Walker chairman of Argyll and Islands Enterprise, the LEC which includes Arran.

Tourist board chairman Ronnie Mann introduced Mr Walker to a crowd of some 50 invited guests.

Mr Mann said the new extension had been criticised, he'd heard it described as a Madonna, but it offered much needed additional space for the increasing number of visitors seeking information.

Find the Lady

The Whiting Bay play is over, so summer must truly be past. 'Find the Lady' was performed to its 10th audience meaning that more than 1,900 have been to see it this summer.

Bob Fisher, Julie Nelson and Sheila Nicol all the stalwarts, were there. Two characters were exceptional; Jan Fieldhouse and Alan Nicol.

The hall was full for the final performance and the play was jolly good entertainment, the only criticism was that there was little food for thought - but then, one doesn't always want that.

Lamlash homes

The Park, Lamlash, was formally completed and handed over to KirkCare this week.

Built by John Thomson Construction it has been built towards solving the housing problem on Arran at the lower end of the market.

Purchasers are able to buy by a means of an innovative mortgage/rental scheme.

Built in three phases of 10 houses, five for rent and five for sale, the third phase has been completed six months ahead of schedule.

Two-car crash

An accident occurred soon after midnight last Saturday when a vehicle shot out from beside the Bank of Scotland in Brodick and hit a car which was travelling along the road.

Three people in the first vehicle made off and it was later alleged that it had been stolen. One local man, the driver of the car which came out, was arrested and charged with various road traffic offences.

Co-op denial

Suggestions this week that the Co-op is to build a large, new extension to its Brodick supermarket appear to be without foundation. A spokesman for the Co-op headquarters in Manchester said: 'As far as Scottish Co-op is concerned there are no plans for a new store on the island.'

Weather worries

The change in the weather has created interest in how the new ferry will perform and in stormy winds the MV Caledonian Isles appeared to have difficulty berthing in Brodick. Coming alongside soon after 7pm she was buffered three times against the pier and a steel hawser, once made fast, just snapped like a piece of string, its lethal ends flying back in both directions.

Fortunately it did not hit anybody and the crew soon had the situation in hand.



Danny Craig and Jim Donaldson decide on a drier pursuit having all their hair shorn to raise £93 for the Hospital Supporters League. b36twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery
www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Heritage Museum
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour

Loch Garbad, Boat and Bank fishing
 Daily 9am-Dusk
 10.30am – 4.30pm
 Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12.30pm-4.30pm
 2pm

Youth Club
 Weight Watchers
 Junior Hockey Club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Lawn Bowls
 Quiz
 Food and craft market
 Metafit
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Garden Walk

Brodick Hall, 6.30 – 8pm
 St Molios Church Hall, 7pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm
 6pm - 6.30pm & 6.30pm - 7pm
 Brodick church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm

Saturday 7th September

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

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Arran High School, 10am
 Brodick, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club 7pm
 Lamlash Bowling Club 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm

Hockey
 Tae Kwon Do
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Senior Badminton
 Ygalates
 Aquafizz
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm

Sunday 8th September

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Open Mic Session
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)
 PHT Quiz
 The Oratorio
 Fungi Foray

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm
 Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm – 3.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Community Theatre, Lamlash 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 1pm-3.30pm

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall,7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6.30pm for 6.45pm
 Brodick, 6.30pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club 7pm
 Lamlash Bowling Club 6.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12noon
 Brodick Hall, 2pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash,3-4.30pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm

Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Brodick, 6.30pm

Monday 9th September

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Senior Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Summer Bridge Tournament
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game
 Whiting Bay Bowling Rink Games
 Lamlash Bowling Rink Games
 Yoga
 Arran Antiquarians
 Lunch club
 Paintings Tour
 Yoga - Arran
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class

Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall,7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6.30pm for 6.45pm
 Brodick, 6.30pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club 7pm
 Lamlash Bowling Club 6.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12noon
 Brodick Hall, 2pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash,3-4.30pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm

Senior Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Lochranza Craft Club
 Live music
 Weight Watchers
 Lawn Bowls
 Shiskine Tennis Club
 Yoga
 Bronza Age Roundhouse Experience
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Charity Lunch

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 2pm

Tuesday 10th September

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Streetly Dance pre school
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7
 Streetly Dancing Seniors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm

Aqua Fizz
 Ygalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Disco
 Brodick Farmers Market
 Active Buggies
 Castle Secrets Tour

Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Adults 6pm onwards
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10.30-12 & 2.00-3.30pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm
 Whiting Bay Village Hall, 12.30pm for 1pm

Friday 13th September

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm

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



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Public Notices

Brodick Primary School Parent Council AGM

Mon 16 Sept 7pm
At the School
Cheese & Wine
All Welcome

Arran Community Council AGM

will be held on
Tuesday 8th October 2013
At Ormidale Pavilion at 7.30pm
All members of the public are
welcome to attend

Pirnmill Parent Council

AGM

September 17th
7pm at the school

 Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimsean na Coilltearachd Alba

NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following Woodland property:

Property:	Area (approx):	Grid Ref:	Location:
Glenloig	350 ha.	NR960346	Isle of Arran

Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at -
ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non Government Organisations.

www.forestry.gov.uk

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GRADUATION



Congratulations - Julie Hutchinson graduated on 1st July 2013 from the University of Aberdeen, with an MA Honours (2:1) in Accountancy & Finance. She is now working for Subsea7 in Aberdeen as a Trainee Project Accountant. Well done Julie - We are all extremely proud of you! Good luck in all you do in the future, Mum, dad & all of the family.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 8th September
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday 11th September
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran:
Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working
together.

Minister: Rev Angus Adamson,
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in
the above churches at the
following times, to which
all are invited.

Sunday 8th September
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also
be held in Montrose House
at 1.30pm
Lochranza Church, 9.30am,
Morning Worship
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am,
Morning Worship
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
Morning Worship including
dedication of the Guild.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 8th September

Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In both Churches:
Mrs Liz Clarke
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 8th September
Worship will be conducted by
Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader
of the Church of Scotland,
at 10.30am.

Everyone most welcome.
Tea and coffee will be served
in the transept immediately
after the service; please stay and
enjoy more fellowship.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass Saturdays 7.30pm
Sunday morning masses
9.30 and 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 8th September

11 a.m. Morning Worship
in The Ormidale Sports
Pavilion, Brodick

Tea & coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

Home Fellowship Group
for Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no. 600222.

Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Services as follows

Sunday 8th September
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind
post office)

Rev Malcolm Peters

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 8th September

Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Estate, Brodick

All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday
at 11am.

For meeting venue ring
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SALVATION ARMY

House Group/Bible Study.
Mondays 2.30pm.

If you are interested in joining
us please ring 810251 for more
information.

DEATH

MCGOVERN - Loving and
happy memories of Fiona
Mary McGovern (née Mutch)
who passed away peacefully
at home on Monday 2nd
September. Fiona requested
a private funeral and no
flowers.



Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 29 August, Ladies three club competition, 16 played. Silver: 1 Alice Anderson 55-9=46 BIH, 2 and Scratch Jenni Turnbull 54-8=46. Bronze: 1 Piet Johnston 57-15=42, 2 Lesley Murray 63-14=49. Very well done Piet on a super score - who needs 14 clubs in the bag anyway!

Fixtures: Thursday 12 September, 12 Hole Medal (Ladies). Sunday 15 September, 18 Hole Medal (Gents). Thursday 19 September, 18 Hole Medal (Ladies).

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 28 August, Summer Cup, 48 played, CSS 64. 1 E McKinnon (+1)60, 2 T Raeside (8)63 acb, 3 A Hume (10)63. Scratch E McKinnon 59. There were 13 Twos. Terry Rae-side got two. Saturday 31 August, Belhaven Mixed Texas Scramble. 1



The ladies of the SWRI 12-hole competition: from left, Fiona Crawford, Alice Anderson, Anne Pringle, Rion Culpan, Elizabeth Kelso and Elma Stevenson.

ENGAGEMENT



Both families are delighted to announce
the engagement of
David Waterlow to Faye Black

WEDDINGS



Kirsten Millar originally of Prestwick and Jamie Picken of Lenamhor Farm, Kilmory married in the snow at Auchrannie House Hotel on Saturday 23 March. Thank you to all our family and friends for your help on the day but most especially for the last minute wedding dance held in true Southend style in Kilmory Hall. The happy couple will honeymoon in the Caribbean during October.



Arran's greenkeepers and apprentices took part in the annual cup game at Lamlash Golf Club last Friday. 02_b36green01

Lesley Murray, Rion Culpan, Brian Smith and Bryce Walker 54.8, 2 Isobel Macdonald, Gordon Hendry, I Macdonald and I Sillars 55.7, 3 Janette McBride, R McCrae, J Armit and L Hartley 56.6 BIH. Sunday 1 September, no competition at Brodick.

Fixtures: Sunday 8 September, Brandon Final from 12noon. Draw at 12noon on Saturday 7 September. Normal Sweeps at 8.30am and 12.30pm. Sunday 15 September, John Gemmell Shield three club competition. Draw at 12noon on Saturday 14 September.

Thistle Brooch CSS 67 R/O. 1 Ann McVicar 85-16=69, 2 Sheena Murchie 86-13=73, 3 Kate McAdam 93-20=73. Scratch Ann McVicar 85.

Gents: Thursday 29 August, Summer Cup and Medal Shield Final Round, CSS 65.

1 Jim Young 75-13=62, 2 Willie Currie 75-12=63, 3 Graeme Andrew 74-10=64, 4 Iain Murchie 70-5=65. Best Scratch Dougie Macfarlane 69. Winner of Medal Shield Iain Murchie with a total of 136. Twos from Jim Young, Willie Currie, Dougie Macfarlane, Neil Young, Scott Campbell all at 16th, Jim Lane at 13th. Seniors Medal, CSS 63. Winner Drew Crawford 82-16=66.

Fixtures: Thursday 5 September, Summer Cup - make own groups. Saturday 7 September, AGA Grouse Final at Brodick, 1pm. Sunday 8 September, Captain's Prize, tee-off 12.30pm.

Lochranza Golf Course

Cabrac competition: The final qualifying round was played on Sunday 25 August. The scores were Alastair Innes 35, Ross Traill 39, Ian Buchanan 41, Betty Buchanan 44, Ben Innes NR. Over the summer months 11 rounds were played. Thirteen players took part, including one female. Seven returned the required six scores necessary to qualify. The top four of those were Ross Traill 214, Bryan Lewis 226, Tony Baboolal 229 and Ben Innes 230. The semi-finals of the competition will be played on Wednesday 11 September at 5pm when Ross Traill will play Ben Innes and Bryan Lewis will play

Continued on Page 23

WEDDINGS



The wedding took place recently on the Isle of Harris between Denise Blain, formerly of Sannox, and Giles Weait of Bristol. The couple are pictured at the beautiful Scarista beach where they enjoyed a very happy week's holiday along with their daughter Evie and all of the Blain family before returning to Bristol.



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Arran Select sweep aside Brodick to lift Miller Cup

Arran Select 8 Brodick 4

Saturday saw the football season come to a close with an Arran Select team beating the 2012 league champions Brodick to lift the Ann Miller Cup.

The Miller family donated the cup more than 20 years ago in memory of Ann who died suddenly of meningitis. At the game raffle tickets were sold which raised £170 to be donated to Meningitis Research.

There was a good turnout from both sides and the match was played in fine spirits.

It was goals galore with the final result of 8-4 to the select. Jamie Sillars of Lamlash scored a hat trick with one of his goals coming from a cracking strike from outside the box straight into the top corner beating Finlay Sillars

in goal.

Other goal scorers for the select included Grant Adamson and John Murchie. The Brodick goals came from Ar-



Players' Player of the Year

Danny Head. 20_b36foot06

down in the box, and when a penalty was awarded she stepped up.

The ball was inch perfect and clipped the under side of the bar and crossed the line much to the delight of the crowd. Ann's brother Alan also played for the Brodick side during the game.

Special thanks went to mum Sheena and the family for all the raffle prizes and for making the day a success.

Sheena in return thanked Danny Head for all his hard work and effort in making this year's game a huge success and to Alan Johnston for organising the raffle.

Shortly after the game the prizes were presented for the league.

Archie McNicol won the golden boot this year with 16 goals for Brodick and Grant



Arran select receive the Ann Miller Trophy from Sheena Miller. 20_b36foot04

Adamson of Lamlash coming a close second with 15 goals. The other two awards were voted for by all the players in the league. Young player of the year was awarded to 16-year-old Johnny Sloss of Lamlash with Southend's winger Donald Park receiving the runners-up trophy.

The players' player of the year, was awarded to Southend centre back Danny Head who just pipped fellow centre back Kyle Barbour of Brodick to the award.

With a score of eleven tries, attempting to describe the flow of the game would be futile but some interesting statistics arose.

The first was that captain Niall McMaster, in scoring the first two tries, in addition to his touchdown at Mull last week, has now scored the first three tries of the season for the club.

Lachie Jones scored a total of 31 points with two tries, nine conversions and a drop goal of great beauty.

Top try scorer was Gregor Adamson with three excellent scores.

Fraser Thomson scored his first ever try for the club and

they look forward to his adding many more.

Other scorers were Stuart McMaster and Sean Higgins, who crossed at the corner and then lit the after burners to touch down under the posts.

Finally, Todd Jameson completed the list with a fine effort.

Unfussy

The referee was Jim Stevenson, ex President of the SRU who gave an unfussy performance which allowed things to flow and Arran to play an expansive game.

This Saturday sees the return game with Mull in the absence of Liam Boal and Stuart McMaster with broken hands and Jack Barbour missing his second of three games with a head knock sustained at Mull.

Come along on Saturday to the Ormidale Park at 2pm and support the team!



Arran's football award winners and trophies. 20_b36foot05



Arran select on the attack. 20_b36foot01

nycott, John Pennycoff, Gus MacLeod and Jamie MacPherson.

Fixtures: Sunday 8 September, Cooper Angus Competition, rolling start from 10am and Ladies - come along for 11am draw for a fun par three competition! Wednesday 11 September, Summer Trophy.

SWRI Golf

Twelve ladies played in the SWRI 12-hole competition at Corrie Golf Club on Monday 26 August. Unfazed by the swarms of midges, Alice Anderson had an amazing round with several 'lucky shots'. She hit a dreadful bunker shot at the first which luckily hit the flag and dropped close to the pin and later sent the ball out of bounds twice into the woods and both times the ball hit a tree and rebounded onto the fairway perfectly placed for her next shot. Some found the midges and the course a bit testing! Congratulations to Alice, Rion, Elizabeth and Fiona.

Results: 1 Alice Anderson, 2 Rion Culpan, 3 Elizabeth Kelso. Scratch Fiona Crawford. Thanks go to Corrie Golf Club for courtesy of the course, to Corrie Institute for their hospitality and for organising the raffle and to Claire for the wonderful sandwiches and chocolate cake. There are now 16 SWRI members who play golf

and they look forward to more competitions next year.

Arran Greenkeepers Cup

This annual competition was played at Lamlash Golf Club on Friday 30 August between the island's greenkeepers and apprentices. Seventeen played in the nine-hole stableford competition.

1 Pablo Moran 20pts, 2 Ryan Armstrong 17pts, 3 Scott Thomson 16pts. Longest drive at the 11th from Stephen Judge. Nearest pin at the 16th Jim McKenzie and 13th David Jeffrey. Lucky draw: David Jeffrey and Keith Aitken. Winner of the trophy was Pablo Moran. Runner up was Ryan Armstrong.

Arran Golfers Association

Sunday 1 September, Autumn Handicap/Drumadoon Cup at Shiskine Golf Club.

This year's competition commenced on a very windy but dry day, the rain threatened but never materialised. Forty-one players took part and the course was in great shape although the greens were a little bumpy because of work on getting them ready for the Arran Challenge later in the year. Thanks to Shiskine for hosting and to Dougie and Hamish in the shop for starting the guys off and

doing the scores, also to the catering and hospitality in the clubhouse after, shame a few more people were not present to see the prize giving.

First class: 1 Dougie Macfarlane 62-0=62, 2 David Jeffrey 73-10=63, 3 Willie Kelso 70-7=63. Second class: 1 Lyndsey Keir 78-14=64, 2 Len Hartley 85-16=69 BIH, 3 Willie Robertson 96-27=69 BIH over Dougie Robertson.

JC Reid award for over 55s Willie Kelso net 63. Best Scratch Dougie Macfarlane 62.

There were eight magic twos with Dougie getting two. Overall winner of this year's Drumadoon Cup was Dougie Macfarlane with a 62. Thanks go to the Currie family for their continued support of their family competition.

Fixtures: Arran Grouse at Brodick Golf Club on Saturday 7 September from 1pm.

Draw: Brodick B v Machrie A at 1pm, Lamlash A v Brodick A at 1.10pm, Whiting Bay A v Machrie B at 1.20pm, Lamlash B v Whiting Bay B at 1.30pm, Corrie A v Shiskine B at 1.40pm, Lochranza B v Corrie B at 1.50pm, Shiskine A v Lochranza A at 2pm. Seniors Handicap at Machrie Golf Club on Saturday 14 September at 1pm.

Qualifying Age 55.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 20 August, Final day of the Peter Sutton/Lady Mary.

1 William Kelso 68, 2 Sally Brooks 69, 3 Jenni Turnbull 71 BIH. Scratch Willie Kelso 75. Winner of the Lady Mary was Denise Sherwood with a 53. Runner up Mary Wilkinson 54 BIH. Winner of the Peter Sutton was Campbell Laing with 393. Runner-up Willie Kelso with 406. Tuesday 27 August, Sweep played from

yellow tees. 1 Elizabeth Ross 64, 2 David Scott 66 BIH, 3 Alastair MacDonald 66. Scratch Alastair MacDonald 74. Final of the Lawson-Cameron was played between Brian Sherwood and Campbell Laing. With Brian giving Campbell nine strokes Brian was two up after nine holes before going three up with three to play. Campbell fought back and won 16 and 17 before Brian won on the last hole to win two up.



AGA President Donald Logan, centre, presented the prizes to Dougie Macfarlane who won the Drumadoon Trophy and Willie Kelso who won the JC Reid award.

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Paragliding champions take to Arran's skies



Soaring high above Arran last weekend were 25 hopeful pilots competing to win the island's annual paragliding competition.

The final round of this year's Scottish Paragliding Nationals Series was hosted by Flying Fever paragliding school in Brodick.

The winner was Paolo Bellezzee of Argentina who has spent the summer working on the island and flies in his spare time.

Zabdi Keen of Flying Fever said: 'Twenty-five pilots from four different countries

as well as our four paragliding students who are nearly qualified pilots took part.

'It is a friendly competition designed to get pilots to fly together and share skills. Paragliding is a weather dependent sport and you need the wind to be less than 18mph and no rain.'

'Because of this you never know how many pilots will show up as it depends on the weather forecast which makes organisation difficult!'

The Arran Open is regarded as a unique and unmissable

event in the Scottish paragliding calendar.

As with all Scottish National rounds it is purely for fun, but the rivalry can be intense.

The competition began on Saturday 24 August when competitors flew from Derneanach above Shiskine.

On Sunday clear blue skies made flying conditions slightly trickier with light winds but as the day warmed up the thermals began to rise.

Zabdi said: 'The competition is all about scoring the

highest points.'

'Each day there were optional turnpoints in the valleys and a spot landing in the fields. There are 100 points for each turnpoint and a spot landing or an extra 1,000 points for the first person into goal with 50 points less for each pilot who comes in next.'

The winning pilot, Paolo Bellezzee, actually made it to Brodick on the Sunday flying over the hills using the thermals and ridge lift to find a route over the mountains.

He then flew to Glenshant hill on the side of Glen Rosa

and flew over to take a closer look at Brodick Castle, then glided over the bay to land beside the golf course hut. Some golfers had just finished their golf tournament and invited him in for a pint which he gratefully accepted.

Main pic: The final round of this year's Scottish Paragliding Nationals Series took place on Arran.

Above: Six year-old Kieran Geraghty presents Paolo Bellezzee with the new Roy and Evelyn Westland Paragliding Championship cup.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.