

THE ARRAN BANNER



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See page 9

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Explosive Drama

A controlled explosion took place at 3.45pm but the metal box was found to be empty

REPORT
by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran was in the grip of an explosive drama this week.

A mysterious container had been found in forestry land on Brodick Hill and it was suspected that it might contain dynamite.

On Tuesday police announced that the road between Brodick and Lamlash would be closed the following day from 11am 'for anything from 15 minutes to five hours'.

Road closure signs went up at Corriegills road junction and Lamlash Golf Club on Tuesday, and then rumours became fact when relief police sergeant Alan Gow came in to the Banner office that afternoon with the full details.

He explained that a box had been found in forestry land above the road on Brodick Hill.

The container, a heavy metal safe, was left after the new road was built 40 years ago and may have contained explosives used for blasting rock.

Sergeant Gow requested that we did not release this information until 11am on Wednesday because of fears

that curious residents may try and take a look for the container.

At that point we posted on the Banner facebook site that all would be revealed the following day at 11 o'clock.

Officers from the Explosives Ordnance Disposal squad were alerted and arrived on the island on Wednesday morning. They mustered at Brodick pier at 10.40am for a briefing with local police and firefighters.

Assembled
Police vehicles, fire appliances and bomb squad vehicles assembled at the site in the dip in the road on Brodick Hill, about 200 metres beyond the graveyard by 11.45am.

And at noon the road was closed with officers on duty at both roadblocks. After almost four hours, it was reported that there had been a controlled explosion at 3.45pm and the box was empty.

Retired head forester Lindsay Proudfoot telephoned the Banner on Wednesday night to reveal what had actually happened to the explosives.

He said: 'There were four sticks of dynamite in the box. When I came to the island in April 1970 my predecessor Neil Morrison had removed them on the council's instruc-



Police, fire and bomb squad officers at the scene of the discovery as the last two cars were turned back when the road was closed at noon on Wednesday. 02_b37bom02

tions and they sat on a lintel above the door in the Forestry Office at 1 Hamilton Terrace for long enough. Then former council officer Tom Graham

took them over to Bogarie Quarry on the Ross Road for blasting.'

Sergeant Gow explained: 'The box was empty but there

were no council papers to detail when the dynamite had been removed, so we had to take it seriously.

'Most people took the road

closure in good spirit, but one chap abused the officer at one end then drove 40 miles round the detour to abuse the officer at the other end!'

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Police files

Road traffic crash

On Monday 5 September a 49-year-old Shiskine woman was involved in a road traffic crash near Brodick Primary School. No other vehicles were involved and police inquiries are continuing.

Dangerous driving

A 26-year-old Corrie man was reported under Section 2 of the Road Traffic Act (Scotland) 1988 for dangerous driving in Brodick on Friday 7 September.

Jailed for housebreaking

A 24-year-old Dalry man was charged with housebreaking at the McLaren Hotel in Brodick on Sunday 9 September. He appeared at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court and was sentenced to four months in jail.

Meals on wheels volunteers needed

Volunteers are desperately being sought to help with the meals on wheels service in Lamalsh.

The times that need to be covered are Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

If you think you could be of help please contact Carol Mitchell on 600808.



Sandra Brown at the wheel of a Stagecoach bus. b37bus01

Local health services changing mobile phone provider

Following last week's front page Banner story about poor mobile phone coverage in Lamalsh affecting emergency medical services, NHS Ayrshire and Arran have revealed that they are changing network provider.

John Wright, director of information and clinical support services said: 'NHS Ayrshire and Arran recently completed a survey of mobile

phone network coverage on Arran. Our findings showed that coverage in Lamalsh is 'poor', with coverage on the rest of the island ranging from 'poor' to 'fair'.

'Where mobile coverage is poor, our staff can use alternative means of communication, such as landline services and secure email.

'Mobile communications services for NHS Boards across Scotland are provided through a national contract

procured by National Services Scotland.

Until recently the supplier has been Vodafone. However, from September the contract has been awarded to Everything Everywhere, a consortium involving Orange and T-Mobile.

'We are working with the new provider to see how this new contract might provide us with opportunities to improve mobile coverage in NHS premises.'

ASDA shopping comes to Arran

Arran has a new shopping experience.

A delivery service of ASDA shopping has now been running here for five weeks, and it looks as though it is here to stay.

When the large ASDA store opened in Ardrossan five years ago, Arran shoppers seemed to take to it as a better choice than available at that time on the island.

Since then there have been regular rumours that the company may start a delivery service to Arran.

That hasn't exactly happened, but residents can now order online from the supermarket and collect their shopping from Home Farm, Brodick.

Sandra Brown and her husband came to the island two years ago and she quickly trained as a bus driver. Now she has initiated this new service for Arran shoppers.

She said: 'If there hadn't been a need I wouldn't have created it. As a bus driver I get to hear from a lot of people and many felt there was a need for this. I rang the

Ardrossan store and they put me on to Ayr.

'They said it would have to be from a 24/7 store, and told me that their Govan store was already operating a delivery service through a haulier to the island of Barra!

'I knew that Arran Haulage has refrigerated trucks so rang proprietor Donald Bannatyne. He and I went over to ASDA at Govan to look at the logistics and he knew the haulier already delivering to Barra.

'I created an email list and it has grown every week.

'I co-ordinated it to begin with, and now it runs itself.

'Shoppers order online, an Arran Haulage truck goes into the Govan store, then they collect from Home Farm on a Wednesday evening. It's all about price savings and bigger choice.'

Sandra does not make anything out of this enterprise and just says that it is her contribution to the Arran community.

For more information contact the email address on this page.

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Southend First Responders up and running

Southend First Responders are up and running.

After a long haul over the past 11 months, this valuable asset will certainly make life in the Southend of the island seem a little safer. The 13 volunteers met at Lamlash Ambulance Station on Monday night for their final briefing before going 'live' on Tuesday.

They will be potentially the first on scene at any medical emergency and able to provide professional assistance to a casualty before the ambulance service or doctors arrive. Joint co-ordinators for the group are Morven Buckby and Kirsten Millar.

The group also comprises Samantha Payn, Laura Glister, Carol Furze, Jamie Picken, Davie McKinnon, Jen McNeish, Phyllis Picken, Isobel Mulholland, Jean Clark, Brian Clark and Judy Worthington who could not make Monday's meeting.

Kirsten said: 'It has been a real group effort with volunteers offering what skills or

time they have to get us to this stage. We have already received a few donations, one of which was a very generous amount from the Kilmory Kidz Club.

'We started getting the ball rolling back in October last year; it has taken some time to get the paperwork and training done. We've had a lot of fun during our training sessions - thanks to the Ambulance Service for that.'

Morven added: 'If an ambulance is called then so are we. We attend with our Responder's equipment bag to offer support from holding a hand to CPR.'

The group trains every second Monday of the month at 7pm in Kilmory Hall. They are keen to welcome new members so if you'd like to find out more, call Morven on 870576 or Kirsten on 870312.

Kirsten added: 'We would like to say a big thank you to Fiona from the Northend First Responders for her support and advice.'

'Finding our way has not always been easy, but we have had lots of support from Fiona and the Ambulance Service.'

North Arran First Responders was established in June 2003.



The Southend First Responders at Lamlash Ambulance Station on Monday night. 02_b37resp01

Second ferry approved for Brodick route

Monday night's Arran Ferry Committee at Brodick Castle saw a full turnout of members plus guests Martin Dorchester, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne, operations director Brian Fulton, and Doug Ellis of Transport Scotland.

Matters under discussion were the delayed timescale for new infrastructure at Brodick pier, now expected to start in autumn 2014.

Committee Chairman Ken Thorburn said: 'We were assured that RET would be implemented in 2014 whether or not there was a new pier. We were also told that a second vessel has been agreed for the Brodick route.'

'There will be a review of the CalMac fleet with one of the existing vessels being relocated to Arran.'

'There was talk of a ferry strike threat, which depends on the outcome of the TUC Congress this week, but we are hopeful that nothing will happen.'

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Shiskine Surgery merges with Arran Medical Group

Arran Medical Group is to merge with Shiskine Surgery at the end of this month.

In November last year, Brodick Health Centre and Lamlash Medical Centre merged to become Arran Medical Group.

Cost efficiencies

With ever increasing workloads - both in the practices and at Arran War Memorial where the GPs provide inpatient, acute, and accident and emergency care - and cost efficiencies to be made, the island GP practices decided to pool resources in order to maintain the high quality

service that patients have enjoyed for so long.

On Thursday 20 September, the final part of the merger process will begin with the merger of Shiskine Surgery's patient data with Arran Medical Group to form one island practice.

Practice manager Joyce Beasley said: 'Patients will have a greater choice of clinicians and services across more locations and will be able to phone either Brodick Health Centre, Lamlash Medical Centre or Shiskine Surgery for an appointment at any of the surgeries.'

'We hope that the new practice will be fully integrated within a short time and we will endeavour to make the process as seamless as possible for our patients.'

Branch surgeries

Arran Medical Group will operate from Brodick Health Centre, Lamlash Medical Centre, Shiskine Surgery and its branch surgeries in Whiting Bay, Corrie, Kilmory and Lochranza.

North Ayrshire Council Business Development-Business Brief

Thursday 20th of September from 11.30am till 1.30pm at the Douglas Hotel Brodick. Tea Coffee and a light lunch will be served.

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Arran's Ferry Services – setting the record straight

'Neither of these assertions are true'

Kenneth Gibson MSP responds to a letter in The Banner of 1 September from Colin Turbett of the Scottish Socialist Party.

Mr Gibson said: "Mr Turbett claims that 'SNP politicians... have allowed the unbundling of CalMac routes to make them more attractive to bidders' and that RMT members are balloting for industrial action 'in the absence of guarantees that a future employer will honour their terms and conditions.'

Assertions

Neither of these assertions is true. Ferry services are going out to tender under an EU Directive, not because of a decision made by the Scottish or UK governments. On 6 September in the Scottish Parliament the First Minister Alex Salmond MSP made the SNP's position clear and said: 'We have no plans to unbundle the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services. In our estimation, the case for un-

bundling has not been made. 'We have no choice but to tender for the services. The tendering of the Clyde and Hebrides lifeline ferry services is required to protect these vital services.' He added: 'The CalMac staff are excellent and we should recognise the vital importance of those jobs to rural communities.'

'Even if there were to be a new provider following a tender process, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations would, of course, apply. I urge all concerned to look at the protection of pensions, terms and conditions that we have managed to ensure has taken place with regard to the NorthLink contract.'

Mr Gibson added: 'I hope that Arran Banner readers, amongst the CalMac staff as well as customers, will be reassured by Mr Salmond's clear commitment on this issue.'

Lamlash Summer Bridge

Results for Lamlash Summer Bridge for Monday 10 September:

N/S 1 John and Mary Dick 2,633, 2 Janie McLure and Anne McKelvie 2,015, 3 Eendy McNiven and Roddie Thompson 1,775.

E/W 1 Liz Paul and Helen Boyd -680, 2 Morag Gardner and Brenda Livingstone -1,020, 3 Liz Robertson and Jenny McArthur -2,300.

Kildonan WRI

The first meeting of the 2012/13 session will be held in Kildonan Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19 September.

It is hoped for a good turn out of former members and there will be a warm welcome for anyone who would care to come along and join us.



Paul Rankin and Nick Nairn sampling some Arran Blue with Bellevue Cheese Company manager Calum Chaplin.

b37cheese01

Arran Blue on the menu for Nick and Paul

The two celebrity chefs, Nick Nairn and Paul Rankin, featured in last week's Banner, visited the Bellevue Cheese Company in Blackwaterfoot on Sunday 2 September.

This was part of their journey around the island for Nick and Paul's Big Trip television

show, due to be screened next march on STV.

Assisting

The chefs spent a couple of hours at Bellevue, assisting manager Calum Chaplin with the production of Arran Blue Cheese, the same cheese that won the Gold Award in the

World Cheese Awards last year.

They were involved in pouring the curd into moulds, turning the cheese and piercing it by spiking 20 holes per blue cheese to let the air in.

Nick and Paul then sampled a cheeseboard in the gardens

of Bellevue Holiday Cottages.

After tasting the Arran Blue and Arran Crowdie they decided to use them in the dessert the chefs made at Auchrannie on the Monday night for members of Arran Mountain Rescue team.



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Lochranza play opens in Edinburgh

A number of Lochranza residents had the honour of attending the world premier of 'The Barkin House' in Edinburgh last Thursday.

The Northenders travelled to the Netherbow Theatre's Story Telling Centre in the Royal Mile for the first performance of Wilma Stark's play set in the iconic Lochranza barkin house.

Arran based playwright Wilma had been working for three years with Edinburgh based director and producer Morna Burdon and actor Margaret Fraser to develop this play. A performed reading took place in September 2010 in Lochranza to a

packed audience.

Kate said: 'I felt the emotion so strongly portrayed in the play, by the sole actress Margaret Fraser.'

'The feeling of desperation, passion and heartbreak shone through her moving performance of the script and along with the music of Duncan Chisholm's Door of Saints, she poetically portrayed the torturous journey of Flora Mary Macinnes.'

'It was so strange to listen to Flora referring to the Castle Green, the Barkin House, and other local geographical landmarks.'

'All part of the great history and heritage of the fishing in-

dustry that was Lochranza's past, and still relevant to its present, and hopefully its future.'

Following the short play, Wilma Stark was joined on the stage by the director Morna Burdon and the actress Margaret Fraser to answer any questions.

One of the questions raised by Richard Wright of Lochranza was if there was a chance that the exposure of her play may lead to an interest in renovation of the Barkin House which is becoming more run down and dangerous every day.

Wilma said: 'I have two parallel passions here - to bring

the play back to Arran, in full production: and to instigate the restoration of the place.'

'The people of Arran - including myself - can help both to happen.'

Morna Burdon said: 'I wanted to test the play out in Edinburgh. In the event people had come from Glasgow, Dundee, Fife, Ayrshire, even as far afield as Denmark, as well as Arran to see it and the written feedback was excellent.'

'My interest is taking people's stories back to them through theatre - not only Arran people - but folk from similar communities whose stories need to be told.'



Lochranza residents were invited to the first performance in Edinburgh of Wilma Stark's play set in the iconic Lochranza barkin house.

Open water swimmers set to make the biggest splash yet in Lamlash

The 11th annual Lamlash Splash this Saturday 15 September promises to be the biggest yet.

The event has been organised by Sally Hunter and Neil Gillies for the last 10 years, but they have now handed over the reins to a group of five local swimmers.

One of the group, Ann Hart, said: 'This year, due to demand, we have increased the entrance numbers to 50.'

'This is only due to the consent of the volunteer safety services and the use of the Holy Isle Ferry to transport the additional swimmers.'

'The entry list is now closed and no entries will be accepted on the day of the Splash.'

'There should be 11 local swimmers taking part on the day, an increase on last year's five.'

There will be large contingent of swimmers from Glasgow Tri-Am Club, including last year's winner, Raymond Olsen, so we can expect some very fast times.

However, as usual, the Lamlash Splash is not just about speed, but is there as a challenge to people who are new to open water swimming or enjoy taking part. All swimmers must wear a wet suit and have undertaken proper open water training.

The 50 swimmers will leave Holy Isle at 11am, bound for Lamlash pier.

Arran High School prefects step forward

The new prefects for the 2012/2013 session assembled at Arran High School last Friday for a photocall.

They are: girl's captain Iona Flewitt, vice-captain Mollie Hodgkinson, boy's captain Robbie Bayne, vice-captain Christopher Jenks, Scott Barbour, Neil Hunter, Moir McCallum, Ross Paul, Gillian Anderson, Lois Crawford, Sarah Jenkins, Lauren MacAlister, Kirsty

McAllister, Catherine McEachern, Liusaidh McMaster, Rachael Mulholland, Linzi Nicol, Katharine O'Donnolly, Georgie Wood. Fredi Baumgartner was missing from the photograph.

Also pictured are head teacher Douglas Auld, depute head teacher David Fyfe and depute head of Arran High School and Lamlash Primary School Sharon Gregg. 02_b37pref01



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Kilmory Church Quiz 2012

The winner of the 2012 Kilmory Church Quiz was Irene Dickson of Glasgow.

Answers were as follows: 1 Most southerly point on mainland Scotland, 2 Heart-shaped, 3 The adder, 4 The Romans, 5 The Scots Mile, 6 Eleven, 7 The Atholl Highlanders, 8 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, 9 Waterfall, 10 Lumphanan, 11 Edinburgh, 12 Ben Macdhui, 13 Logarithms, 14 The Heart of Midlothian, 15 Sir Walter Scott, 16 King Edward, 17 Roy Williamson, 18 Scotland forever, 19 Orkney Islands, 20 Jute, jam and journalism, 21 Chlorine, 22 The Wind in the Willows, 23 Calton Hill, 24 David Livingstone, 25 1932, 26 Iceland, 27 Potatoes, 28 Local Hero, 29 Auld Lang Syne, 30 Aberdeen.

Thanks go to all who took part and those who sold quizzes.

Friends of Brodick Castle

Jonathan Bryant, newly-appointed leader of the Brodick Estate Signature Project for the National Trust for Scotland, will be speaking at the inaugural winter meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle in the castle tearoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 September.

MSP drops in for an early breakfast

Residents seem to appreciate having a personal chat

Kenneth Gibson MSP made visits to Lamlash and Brodick Sheltered Housing developments last Tuesday.

He met Neil Wilkinson, Isle of Arran Homes Housing and Property manager, and took a tour of the buildings.

At 8.30am he joined residents in the lounge at McKelvie Road for a tea and toast breakfast, provided by Sheltered Housing Co-ordinator Mary Adams, and faced an array of interesting questions.

He was asked to look into the provision of more 'low rise' buses that would be particularly helpful for older people. A request was also made for a sign outside the police station that would make it safer to cross the road after getting off a bus.

One resident asked why the SNP government wanted to scrap nuclear bases. Kenneth replied: 'We believe there are better things to spend money

on, such as schools and hospitals. Nuclear weapons don't stop wars and are an expensive obscenity.'

Other questions related to the allocation policy for the new £7.4million Benlister development of 46 houses, right behind the sheltered housing.

The MSP explained: 'The allocation policy is still to be fixed. It costs twice as much to build houses here than on the mainland, so houses would only go to mainland people with strong island connections.'

'Thirty of the houses will be for rent and the other 16 for shared equity.'

Neil Wilkinson added: 'We favour allocating to people in work, though not many folk out there seem to believe that.'

All in all, the residents seemed to appreciate having a personal chat with their elected representative.



Kenneth Gibson MSP chats with residents at McKelvie Road Sheltered Housing.

02_b37kirk01

Brewery director questions chancellor



Gerald Michaluk of Arran Brewery, left, had an opportunity to question the chancellor George Osborne about minimum pricing of alcohol.

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Arran COAST - Marine Conservation Society's Big Beachwatch



Meet at Claulands Car Park (beyond Outdoor Centre) at 10am on Saturday 15th September; also at Blackwaterfoot Car Park at 2pm on Sunday 16th September. If you can't get to either, why not have a tidy of the shore nearest you and send us a photo of your "haul"?

September Fete

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Gerald Michaluk the managing director of the Arran Brewery met with the Chancellor George Osborne in Glasgow last week.

In their brief discussion Mr Michaluk outlined the problems faced by the drinks industry over the duty escalator introduced by his predecessor and outlined his views on minimum pricing.

Tough decisions

Mr Michaluk said: 'The chancellor made it clear that he had to make many tough decisions because of the state the country had been left in after the Labour Government's mismanagement of the economy but this was one he did not have to take as it had already been taken.'

Endanger

'I took from this that he is not about to alter the duty escalator and the industry needs to redouble its efforts to convince him that he is in danger of killing the golden goose if he goes on taxing pubs out of business, as there will be no one left to pay tax if he is not careful.'

Kinloch nominated for family award

One of Arran's oldest family run businesses has been nominated for an important Ayrshire Business Award.

The Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot is one of three up for the Family Business award and owner Robbie Crawford is delighted.

He said: 'I'm really pleased and very proud to be short listed for this award.'

'With the hotel celebrating its 60th birthday next year, the nomination has given us a chance to reflect on all we have achieved, all we have shared, as a both a business and a family.'

'It recognises all the hard work and enterprise initiated by my father and uncle, and the long suffering and patience exhibited by their wives and mine!'

It's not always easy getting the balance right, but there is no better business than a family one in terms of support, loyalty and enjoyment.'

The awards are organised by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Valerie Russell, their chief executive said: 'Once again we have had a great response to the business awards and the quality of applications was exceptional, the judges did not have an easy task! The awards dinner has become a firm fixture in the chambers event calendar and is an excellent opportunity to showcase the fantastic business community within Ayrshire.'

The winners will be announced by Kaye Adams at the Gala Dinner on Thursday 11 October at the Gailles Hotel, Irvine.

Scottish Country Dancing in Brodick

There is a welcome for everyone at the Scottish Country Dancing in Brodick Church Hall every Tuesday at 7.30pm from 25 September.

It is a great way to exercise, enjoy good company and hear superb music from the best of bands.

Make this winter's challenge to keep fit, make friends and have fun, all in one night.

Lost

A watch with a black leather strap was lost on the 324 bus to Lochranza last Tuesday.

It is of great sentimental value and the owner is offering a £20 reward for its return.

Please call 01384 395479 if you have found it.



Diane Lewis with her beloved snowy owl Merlin.
01_b37owl01

Rare snowy owl nursed back to health

A Whiting Bay woman is slowly nursing a beautiful snowy owl that had been badly mistreated back to health.

Diane Lewis who owns and runs Kirkend Nursery with husband Colin Stobbs was given the owl in May this year after it was found badly neglected in Somerset.

She told The Banner: 'The poor thing had been rescued and was being looked after by West Hatch Animal Rescue Centre.'

'Their vet's mother lives on the island and David knows that I have a passion for owls so he called and asked if I would I take him.'

'Of course I jumped at the chance.'

Saddened

Diane named the beautiful bird Merlin and when he arrived she was saddened to see he had no feathers on his wings and his tail had disappeared.

Now after five months of constant care and attention

and proper feeding, Merlin has grown new feathers and is in much better condition.

'He's been a real challenge,' said Diane who has three other rescued owls. 'He didn't understand at all at first that I was there to help him. But gradually he's become calmer and he is doing really well.'

Sadly all of Diane's owls are captive bred which means they will never be released into the wild but she works hard to give them a happy healthy life in captivity.

New volleyball club going strong

Arran's first Volleyball Club has been going from strength to strength since it started a few weeks ago.

While players were initially uncertain about rules and how to play the game, confidence and ability has grown week by week.

Assistance from members of The Scottish Volleyball Association has proved invaluable in the setup of the club.

Valued advice and support has been forthcoming from Martyn Johnstone whilst John Orr (a man with strong links to Arran) arrived on Monday

night with a very welcome gift of volleyballs and ran a coaching session with the players.

The session encouraged movement and player co-operation whilst also focusing on the skills of the game.

Appreciated

John's help, support and ideas for further development were very much appreciated and the club hope to see him again soon for additional sessions.

Tentative plans were also made for Arran Volleyball to host a recreational team from

Prestwick who have indicated interest in coming over for a match in the near future.

With volleyball now also being taught in some of the island's primary schools, AVBC encourage high school and senior players of all abilities to come along to the weekly sessions.

Total beginners are welcome; everyone is encouraged to come along and get involved.

Sessions are £3 and run from 7-8pm in the Auchranie Games Hall each Monday

Arran livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 1,232 store cattle and cast cows, 27,916 prime and store lambs and cast ewes at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last week.

Store cattle

Charolais cross bullocks £920 (202p) Auchenhew, Charolais cross heifers £930 (195p) Auchenhew.

Prime lambs

Texel cross lambs £82 Kilpatrick, Cheviot cross lambs £70.50 Whin.

Store lambs

Suffolk cross £74 Balgowan; £63.50 Sheddock; £60.00 Balnacoole, Texel cross £75 Balgowan; £63.50 Kilpatrick; £60.00 Balnacoole; £56.50 Whin, Mule £58.50 Balnacoole, Blackface £37 Altgolach.

Cast ewes and tups

Mule ewes £61.50 Auchenhew, Blackface ewes £40.00 Craigview, Texel rams £114.50 Woodside.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Explosive rumours make us laugh

What a stooshie there was on the island this week all over the road closure between Brodick and Lamlash!

On Tuesday we discovered that police were planning to close the main road at 11am on Wednesday morning due to an incident – and they couldn't tell us how long it would remain shut.

In our experiences incidents usually occur in the past tense so we were very impressed that Arran's police could suddenly predict future events; a very useful skill to have.

After digging around for some more information, the sergeant told us that a box had been found in the forestry that could contain explosives.

It was believed to have been left behind after the building of the new Lamlash road in the 1960s and they couldn't be sure if there was gelignite inside.

But the Police didn't want to alert people to the existence of a possibly explosive container before the road was closed off and so asked us to keep this to ourselves.

So we dutifully informed our dear readers of the road closure but we were unable to say anymore until the road closed the next morning.

And boy oh boy, on Tuesday afternoon the Arran rumour mill then went in to overdrive! One of the first theories to appear on our facebook page was that it was 'something to do with Eric Gregory and his unfeasibly large parsnips'.

Others suggested 'streaking monks from Holy Isle' and that Vin Diesel was coming to the island to film Fast and Furious 6 while some believed Royalty were visiting the island in secret and needed to be shielded from prying eyes.

By Wednesday morning we had been asked if it was true the road was being closed so that police speed cameras could be installed.

And someone else actually told us the police were waiting on keepers from Edinburgh Zoo arriving to round up a big black cat that had been seen amongst the trees.

All of these theories were fantastic to read and made us realise that one thing about living in a small community is that everyone usually knows why something is happening.

So when we don't it is very frustrating.

But most of all this incident proves to us just how important The Arran Banner is to all of you.

Our facebook page has never seen so much activity because in occasions like this we're the first place you think of when you want to know more!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.' (Matthew 5:9)

press policy

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

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

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Poor mobile phone coverage

Sir,
I wanted to write to thank you for the great, front page coverage you gave to Andrew Inglis and his drive to improve the mobile phone coverage on Arran and specifically in Lamlash.

I'm sure that locals and visitors alike are annoyed by the bad coverage but it wasn't until I spoke to Dr Inglis that I realised that there was a far more serious aspect to the lack of coverage. Dr Inglis approached Lamlash Improvements Group and we immediately took up the cause.

We have set up a Facebook campaign which people can follow and/or join at <http://www.facebook.com/campaignforlamlashmobileaccess>.

It would seem that government only has so much control over the mobile phone industry and that the real power lies with the subscribers.

If each of us made it clear to our mobile phone providers that we will switch provider when our contract is up unless they provide Lamlash with adequate cover the message would begin to be heard. Yours,

**Geoffrey Dallamore
Glenisle Hotel
Lamlash**

Seals driven away

Sir,
I wish to contribute in the Letters Page to the missing seals issue and add to the observations of Janette Hinchcliffe's letter in the Banner of 8 September.

I have been a resident of Lochranza for 40 years and in my opinion, since the developments such as the pontoon, encouraging yachts and increasing sea traffic, more housing development along Newton Shore plus the opening of the coastal way route for walkers, Lochranza has lost its seal population.

Yours,
**Reg Morgan
The Whins
Lochranza**

Missing children on Arran

Sir,
Over the past weeks the Banner has reported the views of a group who became exercised regarding a planning request for a commercial woodburning stove.

Last week a local trade unionist voiced concerns about a rumour that our ferry may soon become privatized. These topics and others such as boy racers, roads and dog fouling frequently appear in these pages as subjects of great import.

However, for the second year running, the Banner has highlighted what is probably the most important crisis facing Arran. And yet there is no record of any apparent public concern.

This year the Banner depicted 24 children starting at our seven Primary Schools. The following week, The Buteman showed 54 children starting at Bute's three Primary Schools. The causes of such island disparities should at least be acknowledged and discussed, and solutions proposed or considered.

Our failure to acknowledge and respond will ultimately result in school closures and/or amalgamations. Falling primary school rolls will eventually threaten Arran's ability to maintain a viable secondary school.

The next question is whether or not the present level of ferry operation is adequate to provide pupils with a daily service to a mainland school.

Now must be the time to reconsider the possibility of a commuter ferry timetable that can enhance our population prospects. To suggest that an arrival in Ardrossan at 9.15am is acceptable, let alone call it 'the best service we've ever had', defies comment.

Transport in the rest of the UK starts at 5.30am and finishes at 1am; why are we so different?

For example, Dunoon boasts a 12.45am ferry at the weekend, provided by a subsidiary of CalMac, yet our last sailing is 6pm.

This issue is beyond the remit of an unelected and unrepresentative Ferry Committee and should be examined by our elected Community Council in full consultation with the community at large.

Yours,
**Ian McCallum
Whiting Bay**

Clean power alternatives

Sir,
The article on the biomass plant proposal (Banner 8 September) by Nick Quick illustrates the need to seriously scrutinise all aspects of this project by NEDL.

Twenty-three percent net efficiency indicates the five tonnes of timber to be burned per hour will contain 55 percent water; 2.75 tonnes of water equates to 66,000 litres of contaminated water in the emissions per day.

Compare the stated performance parameters against other NEDL proposals in Argyll. The Arran plant schedules two tonnes burned per MWh of power produced, two other NEDL projects detail much lower 1.36 tonnes per MWh and alternative biomass combustion plants illustrate 0.75 tonnes burned per MWh of power created.

The Arran biomass proposal will deliberately waste thousands of tonnes of a valuable resource. Where is the logic in deliberately diverting timber from superior use in manufacturing paper which can be recycled again and again? We know all available timber in Scotland is spoken for from 2012 into the future.

The proposal claims a substantial carbon saving but GHG impact at 1511kg per MWh will be many times higher than equivalent fossil fuel and the hazardous pollution burden per unit of power out likely to be the highest for a power plant in Scotland.

Arran must be vigilant in order to protect a very precious environment. We know there are clean alternatives such as hydro, wind, marine etc.

Yours,
**Brian Wilson
Woodhall Spa
Lincs**

Gremlin at work

Sir,
So you've not sacked the Banner's gremlin – his work is on view in the heading of your editorial of 1 September.

A firman is an Oriental sovereign's edict; (Oxford English Dictionary). A tic is a habitual spasmodic contraction of muscles, especially of the face, with convulsive twitchings, such as in those of St Vitus's Dance. What you mean is a tick (article on Lyme's disease).

Kilwinning was kilvinin in 1160 (the 'v' was pronounced as a 'w' in Latin then). Vinin = Wynnin, was the old Welsh form of Finnan, the founder of Clonard, a great monastic college in Ireland of which he was abbot. He died in 549.

Latin was the language of the Church and of scholars for centuries; old Welsh was what they spoke in Kilwinning in the 12th century.

The de Morville family included Hugh, one of the four Norman knights who murdered Archbishop Thomas Becket in his cathedral in Canterbury in 1170. It was said that he could never live in his castle of Pendragon (about 25 miles south-east of Penrith) because the shape of the local mountains reminded him of Becket sprawled on the floor, dead.

Yours,
**Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers lane
Penrith**

Phone mast on Holy Isle

Sirs,
Whilst reading your headline article on the lack of mobile phone reception in Lamlash, it struck me that the most obvious site for a mast would be right on the top of Holy Isle, which would give line of sight coverage from Sannox to nearly Dippin.

Problem solved!

What is that I hear? A committee being called up? What, here on Arran, surely not?

Yours,
**Nigel Walker
completely out of sight
of Holy Isle.**

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Glamorous grannies head for Albania

Two Whiting Bay women left Arran last Saturday as they began a great adventure that will take them to one of Europe's poorest countries.

Sue Davidson and Pat Ferguson are driving the Valdete Trust minibus and trailer all the way to Albania, a distance of 1,700 miles.

Boarding the overnight ferry from Hull to Rotterdam their route was scheduled to take them through Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and over the border into Albania by Wednesday.

The minibus is packed

with orthopaedic equipment and supplies needed for the Trust's work with disabled people in Albania.

The Trust has secured excellent premises for its first clinic and day-centre, in the village of Gerdec, 12 miles from Tirana, as well as residential flat in a nearby village for Sue and her husband, Julian, who will be joining her soon.

Trust chairman David Christison said: 'All this has been made possible by the continuing generosity of the people of Arran, and on behalf of disabled people in Al-

bania may I thank everyone who has contributed to this amazing effort.

'Special thanks for their kindness in preparing the minibus for the journey despite last minute hitches are due to DG Weir, Angus Lambie and John at Starwash.'

He added: 'This of course is not the end, but just the start of the Valdete Trust's real work for the disabled.'

'We will keep readers of The Banner updated regularly and more details can be seen at our website www.thevaldetrust.org'



Members of the Valdete Trust gathered to wave Sue and Pat off on their epic journey.

Feis Arainn boost from Co-op Community Fund

Gaelic arts group Fèis Arainn has been given a £1,000 grant from The Co-operative's Community Fund, to help provide tutors for summer workshops.

The Community Fund, first established 15 years ago, is created by members of The Co-operative Group who elect to donate all, or part, of their twice-yearly dividend payments directly to the scheme.

The funds are then shared with local community projects and groups across the country.

Aileen McLaughlin, of Fèis Arainn, said: 'We are thrilled with the generous grant we have received from The Co-opera-

tive, which helped us run our summer workshops.'

Co-operative members receive a payment twice a year based on the points they earn when they trade at any of the Group's businesses, including The Co-operative Food, Travel, Pharmacy and Funeralcare, as well as The Co-operative Bank, Smile and The Co-operative Insurance.

Liz Armstrong, The Co-operative's Membership Officer for South West Scotland, said: 'Because our members own the business, they get a share in any of the profits we make. It's a scheme we're very proud of, not only because it gives us the chance to thank members for shopping with us, but because

so many people choose to give something back to local communities.'

'There is over £300,000 available in Scotland each year from the Community Fund, and we welcome applications from local groups and projects for £100 to £2,000.'

Community Fund application forms are available online at www.co-operative.coop/communityfund or by phoning 0844 262 4001.

Awards are allocated by local Co-operative members' committees, based on a set of values and principles such as social responsibility and caring for others



Through Arran's Keyhole

by Jenny Lyon

BIRCHVALE, BRODICK

As owners George and Jane Pettigrew point out to me as I enter Birchvale "This is one of those life-changing properties so many of us long for".

With its spectacular sandstone frontage, original Victorian features inside and fabulous conservatory, Birchvale really is a dream property.

It was a life long dream to make Arran – George's 'favourite place on earth' - their home and in 2001 it came true when he and Jane finally moved into the villa in the centre of Brodick.

Jane explained: "We fell in love with Birchvale as soon as we walked in.

It had been extensively refurbished by the previous owners who, with their artistic talents and knowledge of period homes, restored many of the original features."

The couple have continued to maintain the house to a high standard, making further improvements and have recently redecorated throughout.

Tucked away above Brodick, Birchvale has spectacular views of Goatfell and even with such a central location

I was amazed at how peaceful the garden is.

'It is a house for every season,' said Jane. 'In summer we enjoy being outside in the garden and we often eat on the sheltered patio by the rear door.

'When winter comes we light the wood burning stove in the sitting room and really cosy down and the conservatory captures the stunning views and is a wonderful place to sit 'in between seasons' when it is not quite warm enough to be outside.'

The property is commodious with reception hallway, formal dining room, lounge and conservatory as well as a dining kitchen with Rayburn, utility room and toilet.

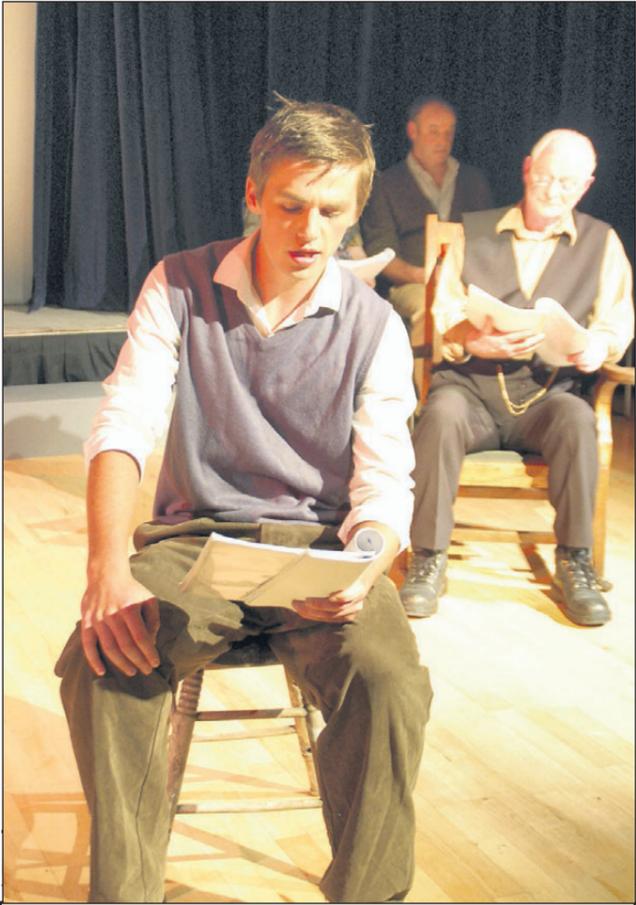
A beautiful pine staircase leads up to the rest of the house with three good sized bedrooms, a main bathroom and en suite, whilst a small staircase at the back of the house leads to the 'maid's room'.

Birchvale is being marketed by Arran Estate Agents at guide price of £415,000.



New regular feature from Arran Estate Agents





The performance reading of *Sweet Largie Bay* was one of the highlights of this year's festival. 01_b36mcl01

The Rowan Singers - come and join us

John Cruikshank encourages new members to join the Rowan Singers

You may have forgotten the name Gareth Malone but most of you will have heard of the Military Wives choir which has been in the charts in the past year.

Gareth Malone is the inspirational chap who took a group of military wives and turned them into that choir.

We don't have Gareth Malone on Arran but we do have that amazing duo Diana and Douglas Hamilton who direct and accompany the Rowan Singers.

I am certain that there are quite a number of folk on Arran who could get a real kick out of joining with others to make music, but because of shyness or lack of confidence in their own ability are afraid to take the first step. Maybe if they think of the Military Wives, they will be encouraged to join us.

We are a mixed choir of about 35 male and female singers and have a wide repertoire. We meet in an informal and happy atmosphere, but enjoy the little bit of discipline needed for choral singing.

On Tuesday 18 September we have our first meeting of the new session. Under the expert guidance of Diana and if you can put up with Douglas's jokes, you will soon be experiencing the joy of singing and will wonder why you have not tried it before.

Come along to Lamlash Church Hall at 7.30pm and you will be made very welcome.

McLellan's plays form pinnacle of festival

Audience treated to rare performances

One of the most highly anticipated events at this year's McLellan Festival was the rare opportunity to see a performance of two of the Arran playwright's most famous plays.

Both *Sweet Largie Bay* and *Jeddart Justice* are written in Robert McLellan's customary lowland Scots and are considered by many to be his greatest works.

The evening began with *Sweet Largie Bay*, a lyrical narrative poem, sometimes humorous, yet deeply moving.

Through the eyes of a fictional Corrie family it por-

trays changing life and values on Arran in the 1950s from a predominantly crofting and farming community to one based on tourism.

Award
First performed on BBC radio in 1956, *Sweet Largie Bay* won the Saltire Society Award for Poetry that year.

It was wonderful to see experienced thespians John Sil-lars and Ailsa McNicol take to the stage alongside some of the island's newest new talent Katharine O'Donnelly, Donald and Catherine McEachern, Campbell Seaton and Debbie Robertson.

Each actor portrayed Arran's



Youngsters Donald McEachern and his sister Catherine were superb in the highly comic *Jeddart Justice*. 01_b36mcl03

changing social landscape extremely poignantly leaving the audience to reflect on what kind of island we now find ourselves living on.

Following this was the much shorter *Jeddart Justice*, which in complete contrast shows the range and versatility of Robert McLellan.

It is a lively romp originally written for the island's drama festival.

Set in the feuding, sheep stealing Borders country of the 17th century it is an hilarious take on the story of the

'lass wi' the muckle mou'.

Will Scott of Harden, the young laird (superbly played by Donald McEachern) is facing the ultimate penalty for stealing Sir Gideon's Murray sheep.

Campbell Seaton's Gideon had the audience in stitches when he tells young Will the only way to save his life is to marry his ugly daughter.

Meg Murray, the 'lass wi' the muckle mou' was expertly played by Catherine McEachern much to the delight of the audience.

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ALL WELCOME

Exceptional young talent at Lamlash Opera Gala Concert

'They were energetic and enthusiastic and richly deserved the resounding reception from the audience'



The students of the Royal Northern College of Music in Lamlash Community Theatre on Friday night, with Peter Wilson centre front. 02_b370pe01

One of the highlights of this year's McLellan Arts Festival was once again the Opera Gala Concert in the Community Theatre in Lamlash.

Students from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) performed to a packed house on Friday night with a varied programme from the worlds of opera and musical theatre.

The first half was technical and the second half was more lyrical as these immensely talented young performers served up a musical feast.

Superb singing

The first act was Don Giovanni, Act One, Scene One; Mozart at its best, with the superb singing of Jessica Gillingwater, Pablo Strong, Amandus Kamran and Stefan Berkiet, ably accompanied on the piano by Patricia Garcia.

The emotional depth was conveyed most effectively. The minimal staging did not

detract from the performances as the audience was swept away into the moving scenes.

From Figaro to The Magic Flute and many more, Mi Boheme's and Mi Chiamano Mini by Jessica Gillingwater was outstanding.

Resounding

The first half finished with a resounding Wunderbar and this time the accompanist was James Henry. Both the accompanists were magnificent and deserving of superlatives.

The second half started with a swing; Sullivan's 'Bold Gendarmes' performed with great panache, followed by an excerpt from The Gondoliers, 'A Regular Royal Queen', a beautiful blend of voices from a quartet.

The Flower Duet by Delibes was sung by two rising stars, Sofie Haig Smith and Rose Setton. Sofie also sang and acted well in the amusing 'The Telephone: Hello Mar-

garet' by Menotti.

Special mention should also be made of Cole Porter's 'The Physician' by another ascending star, Amy Nebber with a great voice and excellent comic timing.

The show drew to a close with Jerome Kern's Showboat and the fabulous Cole Porter.

With a surprise by the whole company, the youngsters sat on the edge of the stage for The King and I, a glorious finish with a kaleidoscope of colour provided by the girls' dresses.

Energetic

They were energetic and enthusiastic and richly deserved the resounding reception from the audience.

All praise must go to Peter Alexander Wilson for the high standard of his students, plus a huge thank you to Ian Johnston and the Auchrannie fro sponsoring this marvellous gala concert. MM.

Jackie Kay - what A Performer!

Celebrated poet and writer Jackie Kay read to a packed audience in Brodick Hall last Friday as part of the McLellan Festival – and just about brought the house down. Jackie cemented her reputation with 'The Adoption Papers', a selection of poems based on experiences from her own childhood where she was brought up by adoptive parents in a Glasgow still unused to children of mixed race.

In Jackie's hands what could so easily have been a 'misery-lit' story of hardship and deprivation becomes one of humour and triumph over adversity – and love.

Her adoptive parents were there in Friday's audience and featured in much good-natured banter.

Jackie has the true performer's knack of being able to carry her audience with her yet suddenly switch moods.

Roller Coaster

At times it felt we were on an emotional roller coaster, helpless laughter brought up short by moments of real intensity.

As the evening progressed laughter began to predominate. Some of her (very un-PC) monologues featuring The Broons were a highlight. Who said poetry has to be boring and difficult?

Jackie is a poet at the top of her game who can (and did) have her audience stamping the floor to demand an encore.

Earlier in the evening Jackie had presented the £1,000 McLellan Poetry Prize to this year's winner Davnet Heery who had travelled at short notice from Connemara to attend.

Her winning poem, 'Diagnosis', was a short but quietly powerful piece that resonated with many in the audience.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Arran's 'Ain't Misbehavin'" who topped and tailed a truly memorable evening.



Musical accompaniment was provided by Arran's 'Ain't Misbehavin'" who topped and tailed a truly memorable evening.

This was Jackie's first ever visit to Arran. Will she be back? The answer: 'Definitely!'



Jackie Kay, right, presented the £1,000 McLellan Poetry Prize to this year's winner Davnet Heery who had travelled at short notice from Connemara to attend.



arran
comedy
fest
2012

PHILIP DIFFER – Script writer for Naked Radio & Not The 9 o'clock News, Producer of Naked Video & Scotch & Wry, and Creator of Only An Excuse.

MICHAEL REDMOND – Appeared on Comedy Nation, Friday Night Live, Clive Anderson, Just for Laughs and Father Ted!

SCOTT GIBSON – A regular on the Scottish Comedy Circuit. Finalist of Scottish Comedian of the Year 2011.

SUSIE MCCABE – Glasgow's Freshest Female Comedian - a supercharged pocket rocket.

Whiting Bay Hall. Sat. 22 Sept

doors open 7pm (show starts at 8pm prompt)

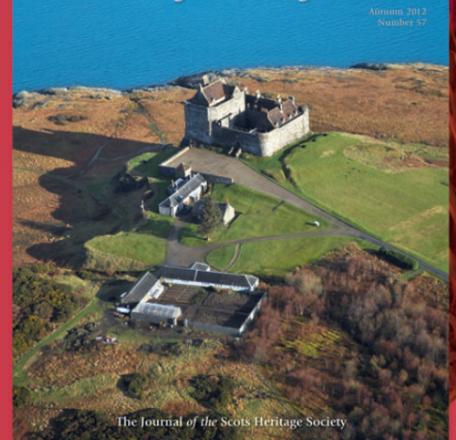
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THE ARRAN BANNER **READER COMPETITION**



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How the competition works

Calling all pet lovers! From cute cats and darling dogs to creepy crawlies, The Arran Banner has been searching high and low for our readers' most adorable pets. Now it is up to

you to vote every week for who you think should win the title of The Arran Banner Pet Idol 2012, £100 cash plus a goody bag for the winning pet. We have published a selection of

your furry loved ones every week of the competition. At the end, the pets with the most votes from each week will qualify for our grand finale. This week is the last round. All finalists

will then feature in The Arran Banner for one last time, again for the public vote. The pet with the most votes will then be crowned The Arran Banner Pet Idol 2012! For rules and terms

and conditions, visit www.arranbanner.co.uk/petidol. You can vote for a pet on this page via text and coupon. Votes must be registered by Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon.

All votes must be registered by Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon. See foot of page for details.

<p>106 Izzy and Molly Dogs Northumberland</p>	<p>107 Murphy Parsons Terrier Balmichael</p>	<p>108 Sid Hamster Lamlash</p>	<p>109 Tasmin Tabby Cat Lamlash</p>	<p>110 Cassie Irish Water Spaniel Sliderry</p>	<p>111 Tyne Chocolate Labrador Kilmarnock</p>	<p>112 Cleo Springer Spaniel Shiskine</p>
<p>113 Baxter Mongrel Lamlash</p>	<p>114 Flower Border Collie Brodick</p>	<p>115 Hamish Lhasa Apso East Kilbride</p>	<p>116 Tinker Crossbreed Cat Lochranza</p>	<p>117 Fern Labrador Brodick</p>	<p>118 Ben Bengal Cat Shiskine</p>	<p>119 Jet Working Cocker Spaniel West Lothian</p>
<p>120 Ranza Golden Retriever Catacol</p>	<p>121 Tsuki Norwegian Forest Lamlash</p>	<p>122 Rinky Tonkinese Lamlash</p>	<p>123 Clover Basset Hound Lamlash</p>	<p>124 Fred Bearded Dragon Brodick</p>	<p>125 Poppy Japanese Akita Lamlash</p>	<p>126 Belle Bunnykins French Lop Lamlash</p>
<p>127 Cocoa New Forest Mare Lamlash</p>	<p>128 Cheerio Appaloosa/Gelding Cross Lamlash</p>	<p>129 Tilly and Toby Cocker Spaniels Blackwaterfoot</p>				

Vote for this week's finalist!

How to vote

Readers can vote for their favourite pet in this week's round by text or by post, using the coupon provided on this page. You can also still vote for a pet from a previous weekly round until Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the pet's photograph when voting.

By text:

To vote by text, text the word **ABPET** followed by a space then the three digit number stated on the top left hand side of the pet's photograph to **88010**.

Text messages cost **£1** plus one message at standard network rate. The voting deadline is Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon.

By coupon:

Complete the voting form provided on this page and send it to Wyvex Media, AB Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The voting deadline is Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon.



Example text.
DON'T FORGET TO
PUT IN A SPACE.

THE ARRAN BANNER

VOTING COUPON

THE ARRAN BANNER

I would like to vote for:

Pet number*:.....

Pet's name:

Please post to Wyvex Media, AB Pet Idol VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

*Pet number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each pet's photograph.

Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.

You may send in multiple coupons in one envelope

Terms & conditions: Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. Only voting coupons from printed editions of the paper can be accepted. Text messages cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate. The deadline to receive votes is Monday, September 24, 2012 at 12 noon. One text counts as one vote. One coupon counts as one vote. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. Full terms and conditions at www.arranbanner.co.uk/petidol or call 01631 568000.

Volunteers find a roundabout way to Scotland's Bronze Age

As reported in the Banner on Saturday 28 July, volunteers from Arran and the mainland came together to help build a replica Bronze Age roundhouse in Brodick Country Park.

In just six days the volunteers achieved an incredible amount and were able to assemble the wooden skeleton of a roundhouse, which was once a common type of

dwelling across the country over 4,000 years ago.

The roundhouse, located on the park's Wilma's Walk, is part of the Arran Archaeology Project, a two-year joint venture between Arran Arts Resource and the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service. The project gives local school children the opportunity to explore some of the island's archaeological sites.

To create a lasting legacy for the project, and to engage in some experimental archaeology to rediscover lost building techniques, Rangers decided to construct the replica roundhouse and invite people of all ages and backgrounds to join them.

The roundhouse is designed to be as authentic as possible, despite having to conform to modern building regulations. It is based on an Early Bronze Age hut circle excavated at Tor Righ on the west coast of Arran.

The structure consists of two rings of timber posts, each of which is joined by lintels. Wooden rafters were pegged and tied to the lintels to form a conical roof. Most of the timbers were gathered locally over the winter and wood was also donated by the Forestry Commission.

The next stage of construction will be to thatch the roof with reeds and a master thatcher will in mid-September teach this dying art to another



Working on the roof of the roundhouse. b37nts01



A volunteer weaving wattle panels. b37nts02

group of volunteers. The final stage will be to erect wattle panels covered in daub and surrounded by an earth and stone mound as suggested by archaeological evidence.

The completed roundhouse will be used by Country Park Rangers for educational pur-

poses. In thanking all the volunteers who helped, Corinna Goeckeritz, NTS Ranger and Naturalist said: 'Building the roundhouse has been quite an eye opener for us as to what an enormous effort it must have been back in the Bronze Age.'

'We have been using modern tools, including diggers and chainsaws, and it was still quite an undertaking. It must have been a real community effort and would have taken our ancestors a lot of time and forward planning to gather all of the necessary materials.'

World Class Bluegrass in Lamlash Parish Church

Lamlash Parish Church is set to host a visit from one of Tennessee's finest bluegrass and old-time groups, 'The Ballinger Family Band'.

Their concert takes place on Sunday 14 October at 7.30 p.m.

Kris, Dale and Ethan Ballinger live in middle Tennessee on the Cumberland Plateau.

The Ballingers play music that ranges from old-time fiddle tunes to gypsy swing to contemporary ballads. Along with their tight-knit vocals, Kris's guitar work and Dale's upright bass provide a solid foundation for Ethan to soar on mandolin and guitar.

The Ballingers have a long and distinguished pedigree, having taken the stage with such luminaries as The Everly Brothers, Bill Monroe, Alison Krauss, Emmy Lou Harris and Johnny Cash.

Meanwhile, Kris and Dale's son, Ethan, is one of the world's finest mandolin players.

Still only in his 20s, he has performed with many of today's most famous musicians in Nashville and is in high demand for his awe-inspiring musicianship. Kris and Dale

say of son Ethan that he 'was jamming with Chet Atkins, John Hartford and Roy Acuff before the age of two.'

Good friend

Joining the family for their Scottish tour will be their good friend Mike Whitehead, former US National Flat-picking Guitar Champion, who also makes beautiful

music on mandolin, fiddle and banjo.

Lamlash's minister, the Rev Gillean Maclean is excited by the band's visit to Scotland.

She said: 'If the Ballinger Family Band is even half as entertaining as Craig Duncan & Friends were in 2010, you're in for an absolute treat.'

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For more information or to book, please call:

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Quote ARR

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday 12 September, 1992



The final performance of Whiting Bay's summer play 'Winter Glory'. b37twe04



Some of the guns at last Sunday Open Clay Shoot at Balnacoolie. b37twe01

Ferry diverted to Gourock

Winter came early this week with several Gourock sailings on Monday and Tuesday. The ferry was diverted to Gourock again on Thursday as the bad weather continued.

Alex is new Holy Isle warden

Alex Duncan has been appointed as warden for Holy Isle. He has been a Bhuddist for 16 years and is one of three people living permanently on the island at the moment. They are keeping an eye on the wildlife until building of a retreat centre starts.

Merkland buildings

New permanent structures are to be built at the travellers' site at Merkland Point north of Brodick to replace the cabins that were built 11 years ago. They will provide services to each traveller's caravan.

Bob and Murray are top guns

Arran Gun Club's first Open Clay Shoot was a huge success judging by the large number of competitors who braved the appalling weather on Sunday. The overall winner of the Arran Haulage Trophy was Bob Scott, and the Ferry Fry Trophy was won by Murray Boal. New members are welcome and enquiries should go to Chris Fieldhouse in Whiting Bay.

Parachute jump for charity

Ian Barbour, Chris Stanger and Alan McNicol all leapt from a plane last week to do a parachute jump for Leukaemia Research and raised £1,200.

Community Councillors

The 11 Community Councillors automatically elected for the next two years are John Simcock, Arthur Poole, Stewart Walls, Marella Flockhart, Allan Nicol, John Sillars, Alan Blair, June Brand, Colin Mills, John Hollingworth and Alex Maule.

Brodick Lands Tribunal

A Lands Tribunal will be held in Brodick Hall on 8 October to consider an application to build a doctors' surgery in front of Brodick Bowling Green. A meeting in the vil-



Bhuddist Alex Duncan is the new warden of Holy Isle. b37twe03

lage hall last Thursday night was attended by 80 objectors.



Two of the top lady shots, Clair Hendry and Nina Bridge at the Open Shoot. b37twe02

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Last week a very mucky Archie was taking a rest on the path in North Glen Sannox after having a lovely splash in a peat bog. This week he is sitting in front of a strange looking structure. But where would you find that shiny tower?

If you think you know then post your answer on the website www.arranbanner.co.uk
Or email us at: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Whats On

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF ARRAN BREWERY

Everyday

Arran Brewery
Arran Brewery Tour
Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Garden Open Daily
Arran Heritage Museum

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12.30pm-4.30pm
2pm
Loch Garbad, Bank and Boat fishing
9am-Dusk
Rosaburn, Brodict 10.30am-4.30pm

Saturday 15th September

Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Teddy Bears Picnic
Kids Family Quiz
Open rinks
Rink Game
Rink Game
Rink Games
Junior Badminton Club
Lamlash Splash
Arran Vs Clydesdale RFC
Farmers Market
Country Music Night
Beach Clean

Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm-3pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm-6pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Brodict Bowling Club, 2pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club 2pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16
Lamlash Pier, 11am
Ormidale Park, 2pm
Kilmory Hall, 10.30-2pm
Kinloch hotel, 8pm
Clauchlands car park, Lamlash, 10am

Sunday 16th September

Alcoholics Anonymous
New Al-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Fun in the pool
Teddy Bears Picnic
Live Music
Open Mic Session
Sunday folk Session
Raft Race
Beach Clean

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30 - 6 p.m.
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm-3pm
Ormidale, 8.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
Ormidale, 9pm
Blackwaterfoot beach, 2pm
Blackwaterfoot beach, 2pm

Monday 17th September

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Citizens Advice
Breathe Walk class
Table Tennis
Come Dance with me - LeRoc modern Jive
Arran junior Football
Quiz
Badminton
Summer Bridge
Rink Games
Rink Game
Rink Games
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Coffee morning
Volleyball Club
Arran junior football Club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm -5.30pm
High School sports hall - seniors, 7.30-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm-7pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Arran High School, 6.30 for 6.45pm
Brodict Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Lamlash Bowling Club 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Whiting Bay church, 10.30-12noon
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm -7.30pm

Tuesday 18th September

Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Melody Movement, Ballet Class 2 ½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class 2 ½ yrs up
Youth Club
Zumba Fitness Class
Weight Watchers
Rink Games
Junior Hockey Club 8yrs up
Guided Garden Walk
Country Dancing
Rowan Singers Rehearsals

Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm-9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
St Molios, Church Hall, 7pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7pm
Brodict Castle, 2.00pm
Brodict Hall 7.30pm
Lamlash Church 7.30pm

Wednesday 19th September

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Senior Badminton
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & little ones
Kids Games
AYF Film Making Club
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy Services
Arran Absolute Beginners Runners
Arran Advance Beginners Runners
Junior Tennis
Rink Games
Bridge Drive
Rink Game
Rink Games
Northend Football Training
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Dog Agility Class
Elderly Forum AGM
Friends of Brodict Castle
Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School - kids, 6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
Arran High School, 8-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio 10.45am
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5-6pm
Brodict church Hall, 4.30-6.30pm
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
5.30pm, Auchrannie Spa Car Park.
6pm Auchrannie Spa Car Park
Shiskine Tennis Club, 4.30-6pm
Brodict Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
Lamlash Bowling Club 7pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club 6.30pm
Lochranza, 7pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
W/Bay Park, Beginners/Kids 1-2pm. Been before 2.30-3.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion 11am
Tearoom, 7.30pm
St Brides Church 10.30am - 12noon

Thursday 20th September

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
General knowledge Quiz
Zumba Fitness Club
Live Country/Folk music
Cricket Practice
Senior Tennis
Garden Walk
Bridge Drive
Arran Music and Drama AGM

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Kinloch Bar, 9pm
Arran high School, 6.30-7.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Sannox Oval, 6pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, 6pm
Brodict Castle 2pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30

Friday 21st September

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Weight Watchers
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Outside Boot Camp
Quiz

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 10am-11am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm



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MICHAEL PATTERSON
Deceased

Notice is hereby given pursuant to s. 27 of the Trustee Act 1925, that any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Annfield, Pirrmill, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HP, who died on 31 March 2011, is required to send particulars in writing to the under mentioned on or before 16 November 2012, after which date the executors will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Andrew Middleton, 23 Fairlawnes, Maldon Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 8BG

ARRAN FIDDLE CLUB

AGM

Brodick Library Annexe,
Monday 24th September 2012,
7.30pm

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine*, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 05.10.12. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)

Format : Application No; Address; Proposed Development
12/00490/PP; Plot 2, Site To The West Of The Riggs, Grieves Road, Whiting Bay; Erection of single detached garage to front of detached dwelling house.
12/00486/PP; Marine House Hotel, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use and alterations to hotel to form dwelling house including formation of 3 dormers to front and 1 dormer to rear elevation.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

AHS Parent Council

AGM

Tuesday 25th Sept. 7.30 p.m.
at Arran High School

Staff have been invited to meet
with parents after the AGM
Cheese and wine at 8.00 p.m. All invited.

Arran Medical Group

Practice Merger

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SHISKINE SURGERY & ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP

will be closed

on Friday 21st September

&

Monday 24th September

The surgeries will reopen at 9 am on

Tuesday 25th September

The closure is to allow the computer systems to be merged. We would ask patients to check that they have enough medication to see them through this period. Please order any medication by Wednesday 19th September at the latest.

If you need to contact a doctor urgently, please phone Arran War Memorial Hospital on 01770 600777

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 16th September
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 19th September:
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Parishes of North Arran:
Broddick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirmill and Shiskine
Independent but working
together.
Minister: Rev. Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in
the above churches at the
following times, to which all
are invited - Families,
Young People and Children
Welcome
Sunday 16th September:
Broddick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Lochranza Church, 9.30am,
Pirmill Church, 10.45am
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
A Service of Worship will also
be held in Montrose House at
1.30pm

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 16th September
Rev. Gillean Maclean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In both churches:
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Masses
9.30 and 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 16th September
Worship will be conducted by
Rev Elizabeth Watson
at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in
the transept immediately after
the service and there will be a
sale of Tradecraft goods and
other items.
Please stay and enjoy more
fellowship.
Everyone most welcome.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 16th September
Ormidale Sports Pavilion,
Broddick
11am Morning worship
Tea/Coffee after the service
Home Fellowship Group meets
on Wednesday at 7.30pm
For details telephone 860 232
Everyone very welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Services as follows
Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)
Broddick 7pm (Church behind
Post Office)
All Welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)
Sunday 16th September
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Broddick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Broddick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 19th September
at 7pm
5Glen Road.
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS
Sunday 16th Sept in Broddick
Library at 11, enquiries to Jeny
302779. All are welcome

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Broddick Golf Club
Wednesday 5 September,
Summer Cup 50 played,
CSS 67. 1 A Hume (9)63, 2
J McKean (10)64, 3 J Kerr
(23)65. Scratch A Hume 72.
There were five twos. Sun-
day 9 September, Brandon
Cup Final. 1 R McGunnigle
(11)61, 2 I McDermid
(13)66, 3 J McKean (10)67.
Scratch R McGunnigle 61.
There were four twos.

Fixtures: Wednesday 12
September, Summer Cup fi-
nal round. Saturday 15 Sep-
tember, AGA Senior Handi-
cap, Shiskine 1pm. Sunday
16 September, Sweep. The
Last of the Summer Wine,
Wednesday Winter Cup. Yes
it's that time again, put a
knot in your handkerchief,
a cross on your hand, come
on chaps, try REALLY hard
to remember - same time,
same place, but a brand new
show! Wednesday 26 Sep-
tember at 12noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club
Wednesday 5 September, 34
played in the Ballantyne Cup,
CSS 63. 1 John Penny-
cott (12) 60, 2 Kevin Jack-
son (9) 62, 3 Gus Mac-
Leod (10)63, 4 Nicol Auld
(2) 64 bih.

There were magic twos by
John Pennycott, Wolfi Kroner
and two by Nicol Auld.
Scratch was wo by Nicol Auld
with 66.
Sunday 9 September, 22
played in the Cooper Angus
Par 3 Competition. All
18 holes had 'new' tee posi-
tions making them into par
three holes - in theory! Many
thanks go to Jim Meehan and
Cooper Angus Caravan Park

for supplying the generous
prizes and the refreshments in
the bar afterwards. This year
the crisp £100 note for a hole
in one went unclaimed - a
rollover next year Jim? Eight
lucky people won £10 for a
Magic two - Neil McKechnie,
Jamie MacPherson, Kevin
Jackson, Malcolm Pennycott,
Ronnie Mann, Eddie Hope,
Adam Kelso and Sid Allen.
1 Kevin Jackson 57, 2 Dav-
id Brookens 58 bih, 3 Ronnie
Mann 58, 4 Wolfi Kroner 59.
Malcolm Pennycott won
scratch with 60.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 Sep-
tember, Kilbride Challenge
with Lamlash at Whiting Bay.
First game at 9.30am. Team
of 12 selected - see notice-
board for times and partners.
Wednesday 19th, final round
of the Summer Trophy.

Arran Golfers Association
The final of the Arran Grouse
Foursomes were played at
Whiting Bay on Saturday 8
September. The course was in
excellent condition although
scoring was not easy, and
there were a few no-returns!
The winners were Brian Sher-
wood and Willie Kelso from
Machrie with 66.5, second
were Alan Napier and Harold
'Spud' Taylor from Lochranza
with 69.5 bih, third were
Eddie Hope and Sid Allen of
Whiting Bay with 69.5. Brian
and Willie also won scratch
with 75.

Fixtures: Saturday 15 Sep-
tember, Seniors Handicap at
Shiskine Golf Club from 1pm,
12 holes from yellow tees,
qualifying age 55.

Machrie Bay Golf Club
Sunday 9 September, Lo-
chranza Studio Gallery Cup.
Despite a strong wind that
thankfully kept the rain off
until the last hole, the scoring
was good and the game was
played in a very competitive
spirit. Thanks to Brian for the
very welcome tea and cakes
afterwards. 1 Denise Sher-
wood and Brian Sherwood 45
pts, 2 Elizabeth Kelso and Wil-
lie Kelso 42 pts, 3 Elizabeth
Ross and David Price 39 pts.



Willie Kelso and Brian Sherwood won the AGA Grouse Foursomes.



Denise and Brian Sherwood are presented with the Lochranza Studio Gallery Cup by captain Willie Kelso, left.

Fixtures: Tuesday 18 Sep-
tember, sweep. Tuesday 25
September, sweep and SLGU
medal.

Lamlash Golf Club
Thursday 6 September, Sum-
mer Cup CSS 66. 1 Euan
Evans 68-3=65, 2 Crawford
Duncan 80-13=67, 3 Dou-
glas Macfarlane 68-1=67.
Twos from Graeme Andrew,
Mark Wren and Euan Evans.
Seniors Medal CSS 62. 1
Ian Reid 77-15=62, 2 Ian
Heron 83-19=64. Twos Jim
Gibson and Edward I Can-
non. Sunday 9 September,
Sunday Medal CSS 64. 1
Lee Girbow 61-4=57, 2 Ian
Bremner 69-6=63, 3 Raymond
Burke 78-13=65. Best Scratch
Lee Girbow 61. Twos Stuart
Black, Graeme Andrew, Ray-
mond Burke and Lee Girbow.
Fixtures: Sunday 16 Sep-
tember, Kilbride Challenge,
Captain's Prize and Summer
Cup.

Corrie Golf Club
Results: Wednesday Medal
5 September, 17 played CSS
61. 1 J Innes 67-9=58, 2 P
Bremner 66-6=60, 3 A Na-
pier 67-5=62. Best scratch J
Innes 67, magic twos A Mc-
Donald, J Innes, J McCon-
nachie. Saturday 8 September
Medal sweep, nine played. 1
P Bremner 64, 2 J Adams 65,
3 M Elliott 67. Best scratch P
Bremner 64. One magic two,
P Bremner. Fixtures: Saturday
15 September Medal sweep
8.30am and 1pm. Saturday
and Sunday 22 and 23 Sep-
tember Corrie Open. Morning
and afternoon draws, names
on sheets at island clubs.

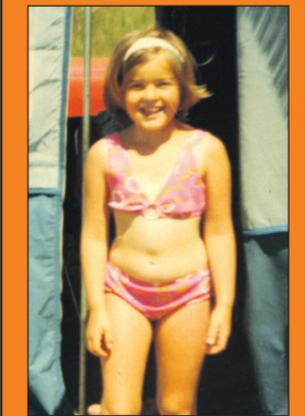
WEDDING



Finally a photo!

Robert Primrose married Monique Fernandes on a beautiful
sunny day at the end of April in the grounds of Auchrannie
Country House Hotel.
The latest Mr & Mrs Primrose live in Musselburgh and work
in and around Edinburgh.

BIRTHDAY



Anne Tulloch
looking good at 50
love all the family
XXX

THANKS

Dr. Krystyna

I would like to thank all my patients, friends
and colleagues for their kind support at this
stressful time.
Due to my only sister's serious illness I have had
to rush off to stay in London and support her.
As this is for an indefinite period of time I felt I
had to resign my GP post.
I miss you all. Thank you for looking after David
and Anna in my absence.

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The trophy winners with fun day organiser Taylor Smith. 01_b37rid02

Taylor's pony fun day is a winner

A spontaneous pony fun day at Ashlar, Machrie proved to be very popular with Arran's riding fraternity last Saturday.

The idea came from 15-

year-old Taylor Smith whose parents had bought her some nice new jumps a few weeks ago.

Taylor organised it all in less than three weeks, with

encouragement from Tracy Warwick, Rachel Armitage and Janis Murchie.

On the day, 13 horses turned up and the weather just managed to stay fine to make jumping safe.

Events throughout the afternoon were clear/speed rounds, mini challenge, pancake race, Chase-me-Charlie and fancy dress.

Lauren MacAlister on Joe won an exciting senior Chase-me-Charlie while Lois

Ashley was the junior winner. At the end of the day, trophy winners were Emily Armitage, Danielle Mutch, Hannah Bone and Ellie Miller.

Thanks go to Armitage Groundworks for sponsoring the rosettes, Janis Murchie for sponsoring the fancy dress competition, Filtec for prizes and Smudger for operating the points board.

Taylor was able to send the proceeds of £200 to the animal charity SSPCA.



Lauren MacAlister clearing the jump to win the senior Chase-me Charlie. 01_b37rid03



Lizanne Dixon on a stripey Bolt. 02_b37rid01

Good win for Arran rugby boys on Mull

Mull 15 Arran 22
Arran's senior rugby team began their new season with an easy victory on Saturday against Isle of Mull RFC.

The island's team was promoted to division three last year and their 2012/13 campaign started with a win in Mull which was easier than the score line suggests.

Mull scored first to take a 5-0 lead and despite noting Sean Higgins' diminutive frame Mull failed to recognise his scorching pace and persistently kicked in his direction.

Sean replied with what may still prove to be the try of the season converted by Lachie Jones, 7-5 to Arran.

Captain Niall McMaster then scored one of his trademark tries but Mull replied in kind, making the half time score 12-10 to us.

The Mull front row was having serious trouble dealing with their opposite numbers and, having gone through a series of replacements had no props left so the ref ordered uncontested scrums.

In the second half Lachie

Jones scored a drop goal 15-10 and this was followed by a Sam Tattersfield try, converted by Lachie to give Arran a 22-10 lead.

As Arran tired, unsurprisingly after the long journey, Mull scored a try in the last two minutes to make the final score 22-15 to Arran.

Man of the match was Robbie Bayne who had been moved into the centre and whose partnership with Gregor Adamson in the centre overcame many of our misgivings at the departure of Jack Barbour.

Tackling

Robbie was not only decisive in attack but his tackling throughout brought down anything that moved in a Mull shirt.

This was the first game Mull had lost at home for a year, having been undefeated in all last year's campaign in division three.

Well done lads and please show us more of that great team rugby at home to Clydesdale on Saturday!

Kick off is 2pm at the Ormisdale Park in Brodick.

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