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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2013 No 1926 60p

# Former schoolhouse sold for knock-down price

Prospect House was sold for £120,000 nearly half the £235,000 the property was being advertised at on the open market

**REPORT**  
by HUGH BOAG  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A former schoolhouse on Arran is being sold at a knock-down price by North Ayrshire Council.

The council has accepted an offer of just £120,000 for the detached villa Prospect House in Whiting Bay.

That is nearly half what the property was being advertised for on the open market at offers over £235,000.

The property is described as a traditional detached period villa occupies an elevated site overlooking the seafront in Whiting Bay.

It has three public rooms, two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and detached garage at the rear.

The property was declared surplus by the Education Executive in November 2009

and council officials say the property has been 'actively marketed' by estate agents Arran Property for three years with very little interest.

A report to the council cabinet by Laura Friel corporate director (financial and corporate support) states: 'During that time, the fabric of the property, particularly internally, has deteriorated significantly, further reducing marketability.'

'Over the last six months, the estate agents have only had two serious expressions of interest, one of which has resulted in a formal offer to purchase the property.'

'Following dialogue with the estate agent in May 2013 indications were that the best the Council could expect would be in the range of £100,000 to £150,000 bearing in mind the condition of the property and challenging

times in the current property market.'

The recommendation was to accept the £120,000.

It is one of five former school properties which have been lying empty on Arran for nearly four years, despite a shortage of homes on for teachers on the island.

Along with Prospect House another is for sale and the other three are said to be 'under review' in terms of their condition and suitability for the provision of short term accommodation.

Arran councillor John Bruce said he accepted the council could not expect more for Prospect House due to the considerable work now needing done to it, but said he was pleased it was being sold to an islander.

On the other former schoolhouses he said: 'These are not tied to the schools any longer but perhaps consideration could be given to leasing them for the benefit of the communities to be used for workshops, theatre groups or other activities, which would see them being used and generate some income.'



Neil and Rory Hunter are aiming for the Olympics.  
**Funding secures sailing future**

The future sailing career of two brothers from Arran has been secured for another year thanks to funding from North Ayrshire Council's Nurturing Excellence programme for sport.

Neil and Rory Hunter from Lamlash have received the gold award from this scheme for the second year running, and it means they can continue with plans to compete at the Olympics.

**Very grateful**

Rory said: 'We are very grateful to North Ayrshire Council for their continued support, it really helps and makes us feel that all our hard work is worth it.'

The gold awards provides financial support which is used to pay travel costs for Neil and Rory - the costs of which are very high as they have to put the boat on the ferry to travel to events.

Neil and Rory are continuing a successful season in their 49er Olympic Class Dinghy that they are now sailing.

They won the Loch Lomond regatta last weekend and were placed seventh at the Nationals in Southampton two weeks ago.

The brothers are now looking forward to taking part in the National Ranking events which take place over three weekends in October and November in Weymouth.

They will also be attending some training weekends over the winter alongside the Olympic squad, which they aspire to be part of in the next couple of years, offering them a great opportunity to improve their racing skills.

**"Over the last six months, the estate agents have only had two serious expressions of interest, one of which has resulted in a formal offer to purchase the property"**

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# Hospital clean up ordered after dirty toilets found

'The HEI inspection of our hospital was highly valuable'

Health inspectors are demanding cleaning improvements at Arran's only hospital after they found dirty toilets and commodes during an unannounced visit.

Hospital staff have been told to pay 'sufficient attention to detail in cleaning tasks' and bosses at Arran War Memorial Hospital have been told to ensure that equipment is cleaned effectively between patient use.

Inspectors visited Arran War Memorial Hospital on 17 July as part of a series of routine inspections made all over the country.

### Majority

The Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) report states: 'The majority of equipment was stored appropriately and was clean and ready for use.'

'However, we inspected four commodes and saw that two of these were visibly contaminated with body fluid, despite being marked as clean and ready for use.'

'We also inspected one raised toilet seat and found that it was visibly contaminated with faecal matter. We raised these issues with the ward staff to ensure that im-

mediate action could be taken to rectify them.'

They also found two toilet roll holders, a hand rail, paper towel holders and soap dispensers visibly contaminated as well as dust on the undercarriages of some beds, in the wall extractor fan in the physiotherapy room and in the radiator grills in ward areas.

Professor Fiona McQueen, nurse director at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'The HEI inspection of our hospital was highly valuable in helping us identify areas where we need to improve and our ward staff found the visit to be informative and useful.'

'It also highlighted that Arran War Memorial Hospital has very low rates of hospital acquired infections, and that the last acquisition of C diff infection was 46 months ago and the last acquisition of MRSA was 31 months ago.'

'We have an action plan in place to ensure that the recommendations and requirements highlighted by the HEI team are implemented and we will ensure that we continue to provide high standards of care and hygiene throughout our healthcare settings.'



Stuart Wallace, Mike Mellor, Ann Hart and Ade and Deena Dean all in training for the swim last Saturday.

## Locals prepare for Lamlash Splash

Locals training for the Lamlash Splash have stepped it up a gear this week after large numbers of jellyfish hindered their swims during the summer.

The annual open water swim between Holy Isle and Lamlash will take place next Saturday (September 21) and all 40 places have been taken so the entry list is now closed.

Local swimmer Ann Hart who takes part each year and is raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support said: 'Local training has been a bit spasmodic this summer due to a number of factors including the large number of jellyfish in Brodick and Lamlash bays.'

'We thought they had moved away but when we

were swimming on Saturday morning there were loads of them again which did not make for a pleasant swim.'

There are ten Arran swimmers taking part this year - Tim Allan, Ade and Deena Dean, Ann Hart, Mike Mellor, Eric Milton, Glen Sloss, Jo Totty, Stuart Wallace and Cathy Welch.

### Interesting mix

Ann added: 'There is an interesting mix of entrants this year with some who have swum in the English Channel Relay (without wetsuits!) and also a blind swimmer, Dean Dunbar, who will have Eddie Riach as his guide.'

'We are again looking for volunteer kayakers to help out on the day and hope to have enough volunteers that one can be designated to Dean.'

## Lamlash man on drug charges

A Lamlash man is due in court in Kilmarnock next week charged with alleged drug dealing on the island.

John MacHale of Monamore Place, Lamlash faces six charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

It is alleged that on December 30 last year at Shore Road, Lamlash, MacHale had in his possession the controlled Class A drugs ecstasy and cocaine, with intent to supply it to another or others.

A further charge alleges that the 28-year-old was in possession of the controlled Class B drugs cannabis resin and cannabis with intent to supply it to another or others.

It is also alleged that on various dates between December 1 and 30 at Shore Road and Monamore Place MacHale was contacted in the supply of the controlled drugs ecstasy and cocaine, both Class A drugs.

A previous hearing at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court was adjourned without plea until September 19 and MacHale had his bail continued.

## Trial for car spin accused

A trial date has been fixed for a Lamlash man charged with dangerous driving after it is alleged he performed 'doughnuts' in a car.

Daniel Brobson, 20, denies that on 8 May in Market Road, near the Stagecoach bus garage at Brodick Pier, he drove a car dangerously in that he spun the rear wheels and caused the vehicle to spin in a circular motion several times.

A second charge alleges that the accused drove a Mercedes 190E without insurance to protect against third party risks.

Brobson pled not guilty to the charges at Kilmarnock Sheriff Council and a trial date was fixed for 7 January 2014, with an intermediate diet on 11 December.

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# Ageing population timebomb fears hit Arran

## High proportion of over 45s puts 'additional pressure' on resources

Arran is facing an ageing population timebomb, a new study has found.

The island will experience a rapidly ageing demographic over the next 10 years, unless there is a significant intervention to reverse trends and attract younger residents, according to the findings of the report.

It was drawn up by independent consultants to identify future housing needs on the island.

And its conclusion is that there is an affordable housing shortfall on the island and a problem with low paid workers being able to afford expensive private rents.

The report, commissioned by North Ayrshire Council, found there are 2,969 residential properties on Arran with around 87% of them in private ownership, with social renting accounting for 12.5%.

Second or holiday homes account for 29% of the Arran stock.

But it is the findings on age that make the most worrying reading.

The report by the Craigforth Consultancy says there is a risk that the population of Arran will continue to decline slowly due to the high proportion of those aged 45 and over.

And more worryingly 24% of Arran households already include at least one person with a long-term illness and disability that affects their daily activities and around one in 20 residents have a - albeit self-assessed - unmet need for adaptations and support services.

And that, the report adds, will put 'additional pressures' on resources.

However, despite the risk of a declining population, it is anticipated that the numbers of households on Arran will continue to increase over the next 10 years. This is due to the trend towards smaller, older households.

### Uncertain

The pace and scale of future household growth remains very uncertain and much will depend on further economic changes and whether new employment opportunities will increase in-migration and reduce out-migration.

Evidence suggests that there is a small housing shortfall on Arran, which, if left unchecked, will increase to a more significant shortfall over time. However, the 'severe' affordable housing shortfall a previous study found has been downgraded to a 'small element' due to a £5.6 million investment in 110 new houses on the island.

The issue of second homes remains a matter of some controversy and a balanced approach and well thought out strategy will be required to help resolve this issue.

The increase in vacancy rates suggest there may be some potential to make better use of unoccupied properties to address affordable housing needs. However much would depend on the willingness of property owners to sell or lease property, the location of such properties, and the economic viability of bringing empty units back into use.

The report concludes: 'On Arran, continued investment in tourism will play a part, but the growing number of older people may present new opportunities for rural businesses and community based services.'

Arran Councillor John Bruce said the findings made some stark reading. 'We have an ageing population and unless we get some young blood on to the island we are going to have a real issue with who is going to look after the old folk and social services funding.'

'The only way we are going to attract younger people is to have a ferry service which allows people to live on the island but commute to the mainland to work.'



## 'Hillbillies' gather for annual

The sun shone on Butterhill in Kilmory for the annual Hillbilly Golf Tournament on Saturday despite the rest of the island being washed out by torrential rain. The winner with the best round on the day was C Hunter who finished with an impressive 32. 20\_b37hil01

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# £500,000 boost for new Arran Brewery bottling plant

The bid by the Arran Brewery to open a new bottling facility on the mainland has received a £500,000 boost.

Historic Scotland has agreed on the funding to help with the preservation of the former Rosebank Distillery Site in Falkirk.

### Bottling facility

The brewery intends to open a bottling facility and a new Brewery and Micro Distillery. The Brewery to be called the Forth and Clyde Brewery Falkirk and the Micro Distillery will be called the Camelion Distillery.

The beers the brewery will

produce have been market tested on Arran under a code name 'Zodiac'.

'The beers branded during market testing as Aries, Gemini, Cancer and Taurus will become tribute brands to the great Aitken's Brewery of Falkirk who took its brewing water from the site of the distillery and was founded in 1740.

Arran Brewery working with Scottish Canals and Falkirk Council will strive to redevelop the site but keep the unique history and preserve one of Scotland's top distilleries.

However, managing director Gerald Michaluk warned there were still a number of obstacles to overcome. He said: 'This has been a long struggle to get support for this site from the Scottish Government and this reflects the dilemma with the site.'

### Historic character

'While we want to maintain the historic character of the site and open it to the public, at the same time we need to secure its on-going economic success by running a profitable business there. These two elements are proving difficulty to reconcile.'



Five-year-old Madison at the top of Goatfell.

## Goatfell challenge for Madison

A five-year-old girl from Irvine has completed the tough hike to the top of Arran's highest peak to raise money for charity.

Madison Faith McCluskey travelled from Irvine to complete the challenging walk up Goatfell last Saturday with mum Alison McCluskey and dad Patrick Mclean.

Despite the adverse weather conditions the five-year-old reached the top in just three hours.

The Banner asked Madison what was her motivation to reach the top, and she said that she didn't want to give up because she was helping the 'poor little boys and girls'.

So far she has managed to raise £430 through her online

sponsor page for the Rainbow Child Foundation.

Mum Alison said: 'Madison showed true determination throughout the six hour walk and I am extremely proud of

her. 'We are overwhelmed by the support from friends, family and locals over the past couple of months and we would like to say thank you.'

### Drama club help sought

If you enjoyed the Arran Music and Drama Club's production of 'The Steamie' earlier this year then now is your chance to say which musical they should choose next year.

The club are inviting people to come along to their open social meeting in the Ormidale Pavilion on Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm.

All suggestions will be considered for their next musical - and new members will be made very welcome.

No audition is needed, no need to be able to read music, and you don't even have to appear on stage as help is always sought for the backstage.

There's scenery, props, costumes, even make-up and front of house help with selling and booking tickets and arranging programmes so there's plenty to do.



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### Arran livestock sales

UnitedAuctions in Stirling had forward 1,626 store cattle and cast cows; 29,039 breeding sheep, prime and store lambs and cast ewes. Bullocks: Auchenhew (Charloais cross) £1,250, 259p, Hawthorn (Charloais) £1,005, 245p, Birchburn (Aberdeen Angus) £1,210, 240p.

Heifers: Auchenhew (Charloais) £1,170, 248p, Hawthorn (Charloais) £840, 225p, Hawthorn (Aberdeen Angus) £770, 207p.

Prime Lambs: Kilpatrick (Texel) £86, Balgowan (Texel) £71. Store Lambs: Kilpatrick (Texel) £66, Balgowan (Texel) £62.50, Sheddock (Suffolk) £58.50, Sheddock (Mule) £55, Ceithier Gaoithe (cross) £54, Ballarie (cross) £48, Ballarie (Black Face) £39.

Ewe Lambs: Balgowan (Texel) £68.

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# Arran restaurant nominated for top award

Eighteen69 at Auchrannie is one of 12 businesses from Scotland's islands to make the grade and be nominated for the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards.

The judges were faced with the difficult task of distilling down a quality selection of entries for the 12 awards up for grabs this year.

**Shortlist**

However, eventually 41 businesses made the shortlist grade, including 12 businesses from seven of Scotland's islands – Arran, Easdale, Gigha, Lewis, Mull, Shetland and Skye.

The awards, organised by the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Forum, and

supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), are the region's most prestigious food and drink awards, celebrating excellence and achievement in the industry and recognising industry players at the top of their game.

The winners of the awards will be announced at an awards ceremony and dinner on 25 October.

Iain Sutherland, senior development manager for food and drink at HIE said: 'Once again, the judging for the Highlands and Islands Food and Drink Awards was a challenge - but an enjoyable one - due to the volume of extremely high quality entries.'

## Marine fancy dress party

A special birthday party is to be held to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the No Take Zone in Lamlash.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is to hold the marine-themed fancy dress party in the Drift Inn on Saturday 21 September from 7pm.

All are welcome and there

will be prizes for the best costumes.

**Motion**

Meanwhile, Cunninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson has tabled a motion at the Scottish parliament to celebrate what he described as five 'very successful years' of Scotland's first No Take Zone.

## On the move from COAST

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has said a huge thank you to Katie Thomson who has finished her university placement year and to Trisha Murphy who volunteered as their summer visitor editor.

Meanwhile, new administration officer Andy Telford visited Corrie Primary School with current volunteer Hannah Thompson when pupils learned just how big a whale actually is.

COAST also send good wishes to Stephanie Dickens who is moving to Aberdeen.



MP Katy Clark receives her Ambassador certificate from COAST chairman Howard Wood.

# Ambassador role for Katy

Local MP Katy Clark has been made an ambassador for the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST)

She met with representatives from the Trust last week to express her support for the south of Arran seabed being granted Marine Protected Area (MPA) status and push for early progress, while visiting the consultation open day in Brodick.

She will use the ambassador role to urge constituents to visit COAST's website and submit responses to the Scottish government's consultation which closes on 13 November.

The MP for North Ayrshire and Arran said:

'Urgent steps have to be taken to address the problems that generations of over-fishing have caused. Trawling of the seabed has resulted in the delicate eco-system being disrupted, and species of animals and plants simply disappearing from our waters.'

She added: 'The planning and consultation process by the Scottish government has already taken some time, but COAST has a clear position: all trawling of the south Arran seabed should be stopped. The more constituents who submit a response and request an urgent decision for progress on this matter the better chance we have of protecting our local environment.'

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# Online safety in the hills

A form that climbers and hill-walkers are encouraged to fill out before heading into hills is now available online.

Previously it had to be picked up in person, but can now be accessed on the internet and then printed out.

The Going to the Hills contact form has details that would be useful to police and mountain rescue teams in the event of an emergency.

Once filled out, the form is to be left with a friend or family member.

Details asked for include vehicle registrations, mobile numbers and information on the route of a planned walk or climb.

Supt Gus MacPherson, of Police Scotland, said: 'The contact form is not a new idea but as we approach the autumn and winter months it is the ideal time to encourage its use by all those who enjoy the outdoors.'

'This information can pro-

vide an early alert if you or your party fall into difficulty and early notification can make all the difference to your safety especially during poor weather and low temperatures.'

Scottish Mountain Rescue said information provided could help rescuers locate people who had become lost or were injured.

#### Encourage

Heather Morning, of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), added: 'I would encourage anyone, but particularly those who head out into the hills alone, to print off a few of these forms and complete one each time they head out.'

'No-one thinks that they will have problems in the hills, but sometimes the unexpected happens. Taking a few minutes to complete a Going to the Hills form could prove to be the most important thing you have ever done.'

**THE ARRAN BANNER**

*on holiday in Arran*



We've had many interesting pictures of The Banner being read in some of the world's most exotic places but this is definitely a first. Tony Curtis of Whiting Bay has sent us this picture of 'Sunny Jim' enjoying Arran's local newspaper from his raised bed. Now we've seen it all!

## TSI North Ayrshire

Arran Community and Voluntary Services and The Ayrshire Community Trust form the Third Sector Interface North Ayrshire

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Requests for information packs should be made before 20 Sep 2013

### Fabulous harpist comes to Arran

On Saturday 21 September the Rachel Hair Trio will be playing in Brodick Hall and it is a treat not to be missed.

Rachel Hair started studying the Scottish harp at the age of ten, and her new album No More Wings, featuring double bassist Brodie Jarvie and guitar and vocals from Jenn Butterworth, is selling fast.

The three musicians play Scottish tunes and have a great range of music from Brittany, Wales, Devon and further afield from Galicia, Sweden and America.

Rachel studied the clarsach in Ullapool, but the trio's music is colourful and often jazzy, full of drive, enthusiasm and energy.

Rachel said: 'With gigs coming up later in the UK, Europe and North America it looks like a busy year for us.'

So Arran is lucky to grab these fantastic players before they disappear on their star-spangled tour.

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### Summer bridge

The results of the Charity Summer Bridge tournament on Monday 9 September were as follows: N/S 1 John and Mary Dick, 2 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 3 John Baraclough and Janette McBride.

E/W 1 Morag Gardner and David Campbell, 2 Margaret Macgill and Elizabeth McConnell, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

### Kildonan WRI

The first meeting of the new session will be held in Kildonan Hall on Tuesday 17 September at 7.30pm.

It will be a 'Welcome Night' for old and new members and there will also be a display of the entries from the Annual Show in August.

There will be a very special welcome for any new members who would care to join us.

### Club draw

The results of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club August draw were: 1 Alan Mitchell, 2 Pamela Owens.

Newsdesk

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# Hospital manager cast in new role

As part of staff training at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Alan Stout, clinical nurse manager, has been getting plastered.

Staff in the hospital's accident and emergency department were practising how to apply plaster casts to broken bones, and needed a willing patient to show off their skills.

Alan, who had both legs and one arm plastered, said: 'It is vital that staff on Arran develop and practise their skills, so that the people on Arran get the best possible service from staff who are appropriately trained.'

'In this case, I rolled up my sleeves – and trouser legs – to ensure our staff had the appropriate skills.'

Mary McGinn, associate nurse director, added: 'Alan was a great sport, and the staff had fun getting him plastered.'

'However, it was an important aspect of staff training – both in terms of improving or developing the skills of our staff, and in improving the patient experience.'



Alan Stout shows off the results of staff training.

## Arran's film history explored at McLellan Festival

As part of the McLellan Festival there was a treat for those interested in recent local history with two showings of the 'Arran on Film' archive.

Collected and pieced together by Ed O'Donnolly of Lochranza who has a real passion for old films, the fascinating film footage featured home movies as well as clips from the Imperial War Museum and other historical archives.

'The clips we have today span from just before the First World War until 1964 - although the bulk of it is from 1927 onwards,' explained Ed.

### Nearby

'Nearly all of the films feature Arran but there are some from places nearby such as Rothesay and the Winton Pier in Ardrossan.'

The films from 1927 until 1949 were all in black and white and focused mainly on happy family holidays spent in the island's main villages. But there was also some

fascinating glimpses into life on the island after the Second World War with a long feature on the 1951 Arran Farmers' Show.

The films from the 1950s and 1960s were mainly in colour and there were a few recognisable faces for some of the older people in the audience.

### Rare glimpse

For The Arran Banner's chief reporter Jenny Lyon, the footage offered a rare glimpse into the Arran of the past spoken about so fondly by her grandparents.

'Part of the film showed the beautiful old steamer the Duchess of Hamilton arriving at Lochranza Pier,' said Jenny. 'I have heard my grandparents talk so often about the excitement they felt on arriving there every summer on board that very ship. It was just wonderful to see it for myself.'

Both showings of 'Arran on Film' at Corrie Hall last Thursday were a sell-out.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## The joy of bramble picking

The joys of picking brambles are so manifold, I find it hard to believe reports this week that the practice is in decline.

I'm seeing a bit of a pattern emerging here - we discussed foraging for food in last week's Banner too - but when I read that bramble picking is yet another pastime increasingly relegated to the history books and tales from indulgent grandmothers, it was deeply upsetting and I felt the need to comment on this sore topic.

Foraging for brambles is self-evidently a good thing.

But for those needing the reasons spelled out, the UK's experiencing an economic downturn, and we're talking here about free food.

The Co-op is apparently charging £1.99 for 150g of blackberries. But they're there for the taking at a hedgerow near you.

Another point, not unrelated to the credit crunch, is that blackberry-picking is itself a pleasurable, healthy, yet zero-cost activity.

The only downside as far as I can see is that you might end up with purple stains on your fingers and clothes.

Arran hedgerows are dripping with fruit this year due, apparently, to our long hot summer.

So why this alleged decline in bramble-picking? Many cite urban sprawl. Maybe people haven't time to go foraging. Or perhaps they just don't know where to look.

Arran's residents are being urged to get out and pick wild berries after this year's warm summer 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.

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

Even if you put aside all the arguments in favour of free food in this struggling economy, bramble picking is first and foremost just really fun.

It's a great way of getting kids out into the fresh air and away from the television for an hour or two.

There no better feeling than that of picking your own fruit and eating the pies and jams that you make with it.

I don't want to mention my local foraging spot up the northend since I'm hoping to have the pick of the juiciest berries to myself in a few weeks time.

But really, there's enough for everyone. So go on, get picking!

### 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.

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### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor



### Properly protected

Sir,  
COAST would like to thank Jim Cassels for his support for the proposed South Arran Marine Protected Area reported in last week's article, 'What about the birds?'

The point he raises is a good one since the list of marine priority features for which MPAs may be designated does seem arbitrary not only in relation to bird life but also to sea life!

In fact the black guillemot is the only bird included in the list of 'features' set out by Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland.

With data supplied by Jim Cassels COAST argued strongly but unsuccessfully for its inclusion in the MPA.

Black guillemot breed successfully within the proposed MPA, but according to SNH not in sufficient numbers to be included as a feature of the Arran MPA.

COAST's vision is for a holistically managed MPA encompassing sea birds, sea life and the related geological features and substrates on which this life depends.

However, as proposed by Marine Scotland only some features will be designated and management measures will only apply to these features.

This means that existing features such as maerl may be protected but boats will be able to dredge up to its edge, preventing adjacent seabed recovery and causing potential silting over the maerl.

It's crucial, therefore, that we continue to argue in our responses to the public consultation for the complete exclusion of scallop dredgers and bottom trawlers from the entire MPA, not just from a few selected patches.

This is the only way that we can ensure the area is properly protected from these damaging activities, allowing the area to recover as a fish spawning, nursery and feeding ground.

This will benefit not only marine life but also the sea birds which rely on these waters. After five years the small

community marine reserve in Lamlash Bay is already showing what progressive management measures can achieve in terms of scallop and lobster sizes and sea bed recovery.

The MPA will not be a No Take Zone but will encourage more sustainable fishing methods such as creeling and sea angling.

To show your support for the MPA and have your say please complete the consultation form on our website ([www.arrancoast.com](http://www.arrancoast.com)) or drop into the COAST office. We will be very happy to assist you to complete your response.

Yours,  
**Andrew Binnie**  
Manager  
Community of Arran  
Seabed Trust

### Can we cope?

Sir,  
It's been a good summer, drawing more people to enjoy the beauty of Arran. Interestingly we've noticed many more camper vans of ever increasing size.

Are the council going to supply widespread facilities to let the camper van owners service their needs?

Recently driving by Rhubha Salach, the picnic area just south of Corrie, I had noticed one or two camper vans hold up for a night's break.

However at the weekend we went to have flask of tea and watch the wildlife, particularly a basking shark that was active in the nearby waters.

It was with utter horror and disgust that I found in the grass, just at the edge of the picnic area, a black bag full of untreated human faeces!

I fear that this sort of activity may increase especially when there are more camper vans visiting the island after the 'road equivalent tariff' ferry changes come in.

This type of utter vile behaviour can only be stopped by adequate council facilities. Is the local council going to be able to cope?

Yours,  
**Michael Grant**  
Brodick

### Bring back common sense

Sir,  
It is difficult to determine whether Colin Gunn is being serious or not in his letter in *The Banner* 'Path work needed'. I suspect not.

Path work has been carried out to prevent erosion and unsightly scarring, not to assist hillwalkers.

Ladders, handrails, fences and direction indicators would spoil the natural environment - the very reason why so many people take to the hills in the first place. Health and Safety rules are taking over. I was taught from a very young age that mountains are dangerous places with little room at the top. (I was also taught that hot water comes out of hot taps and don't need silly wee signs to tell me.)

Save us from Health and Safety and bring back common sense.

Yours,  
**Fran Hadden**  
Barassie

### Path solutions

Sir,  
With reference to Colin Gunn's letter 'Path work needed' (*Arran Banner* 31/8/2013) two solutions have come to mind as to the safety problem in our Arran hills.

Firstly, we could follow the example of Fujaira in the Arabian Peninsula.

This country is flattening its mountains by blowing them up, bulldozing the surplus rock and exporting it to Dubai and Abu Dhabi where it is used to build new islands.

We could make our mountains safe by flattening them, chucking the rocks in to the Kilbrannan Sound and making a causeway to the mainland.

This would then encourage more tourists to come across without having to wait until RET reduces the cost of travel.

My other solution might be to build a funicular railway system to the top of Goatfell, with branch lines to other peaks.

This being the only access to the hills, there would be no

more slips or falls. Perhaps Visit Arran could organise the funding for such a venture, rather than pouring money into building steps and installing fixed ladders and railings on our beautiful mountains as suggested by Mr Gunn.

I remain yours faithfully - very much tongue in cheek!

**Hugh Thomson,**  
Whiting Bay

### Brief encounter

Sir,  
Motoring from Brodick to Lamlash the other day I caught up with a lone woman walking, burdened with a heavy rucksack.

She was just at the steep incline after the pier and the poor woman was making heavy weather of it, I decided to offer her a lift to Lamlash.

Aboard, I asked her where she was from, 'Leyden in Holland', she said.

This gave me something to talk to her about since I have some knowledge of European history and I rambled on about the siege of Leyden by the Spaniards in 1574.

At that time the King of the Netherlands was William the Silent. His response to the siege was to have the Dykes breached enabling the sea to inundate the environs of Leyden, allowing small boats to enter the beleaguered town.

At this point we arrived in Lamlash and my passenger alighted with her rucksack.

The lady thanked me for the lift and the little history story.

She added: 'We celebrate the relief of Leyden every year.'

Yours,  
**Bill Wood**  
Brodick



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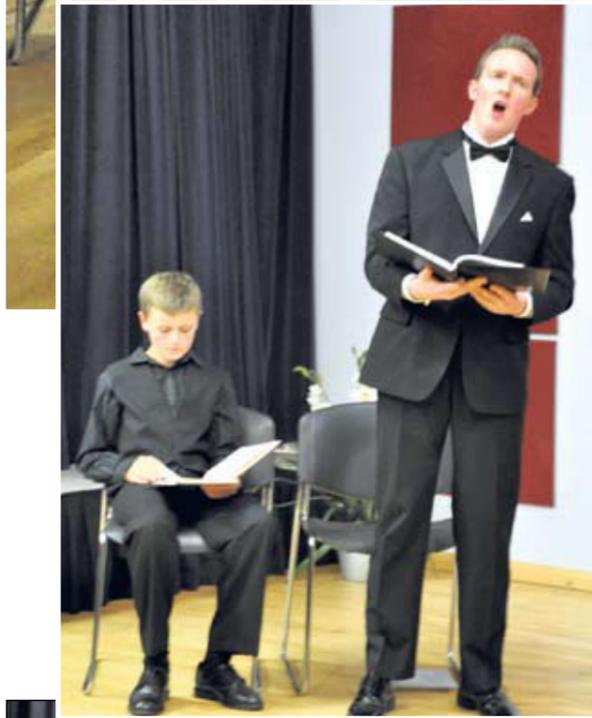
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# 'McLellan Chorus' shine as Mendelssohn's oratorio 'El

'One of the greatest and most enduring items in choral literature'



Mendelssohn's oratorio 'Elijah' has long remained one of the greatest and most enduring items in choral literature.

It is generally considered to be one of the three greatest of all time, ranking with Handel's 'Messiah' and Bach's 'B Minor Mass'.

And on Sunday night, as part of the McLellan Festival, an audience at the Community Theatre in Lamlash

were privileged to hear students from the Royal Northern College, Manchester perform this incredible piece of music.

Conducted by the vastly experienced Alex Crowe, they were joined by the 'McLellan Festival Chorus' which was made up of Arran residents and the resulting sound was spectacular.

The main role of Elijah, a

stern and unyielding prophet of God, was performed by Irish baritone Gavan Ring who has been making a name for himself in national operatic circles.

The oratorio opens with three chords that introduce the curse of drought that Elijah hurls at the heads of idolatrous Israelites - a bold and unprecedented device of dramatic effectiveness that filled the

Community Theatre in Lamlash with sound.

This leads directly into the turbulent and ominous overture.

The chorus 'Help, Lord' is the plaintive supplication of the sorely afflicted Israelites, and then the charming lyrical duet 'Lord bow Thine ear' which choral accompaniment followed.

One of the best known items



# they perform Elijah'

By Jennifer Lyon



of the oratorio 'If with all your hearts' is the tenor aria that comes next and the following scene finds Elijah at the brook, Cherith, under the protection of a host angels.

By contrast this is followed by the moving and inspired 'For He shall give his angels'.

The scene continues with an exchange between a persistently querulous widow, whose small son is ill, and Elijah with

whom she pleads to save him. Elijah intercedes with God three times before producing a cure. The scene ends with a beautiful chorus, 'Blessed are the men who fear Him'.

As the third scene begins, the three years of drought have ended with the pronouncement, 'As God the Lord of Sabbath Liveth'.

Elijah becomes again the thundering Old Testament

prophet pouring imprecations on Ahab, the errant Israelite king.

The singing of the pupils from the Royal Northern College, Manchester was truly breathtaking and it was wonderful to see young Oisean Gold of Brodick performing alongside Gavan Ring.

This was a real treat for all of Arran's music and opera fans.



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## Leisler's bat found on Arran

The first indoor meeting of the season of the Arran Natural History Society took place on Thursday 5 September in the Rangers Centre, Brodick Country Park.

The speaker was John Haddow. John is currently chair of Central Scotland Bat Group (Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils) and has his own company specialising in bat surveys and consultancy. He was a biology teacher in secondary schools until early retirement in 2005 and since then has made bats a full time occupation.

In 2010 he and Stuart Spray started the Scottish Leisler's Bat Project in order to find out more about this apparently rare species in Scotland, known for 25 years to occur in the Cree Valley and Glentworth area of Dumfries and Galloway. After successfully catching and radiotracking four of these bats in that area in July and August 2010, with the help of a number of volunteers, John examined many recordings of bats made throughout the

southern half of Scotland. The conclusion was that in fact the species can be found over an area of the west and southwest of Scotland, and it had been previously assumed that these recordings were the Leisler's bat's larger cousin, the Noctule.

In 2011 Culzean Country Park in Ayrshire was targeted by the volunteer team and the first breeding roost of the species in Scotland was discovered, using trees in the park. A second July at Culzean added to the information about that colony of Leisler's bats.

### Investigation

This year the investigation was pushed westwards to Arran, where the grounds of Brodick Castle was another likely area, known in the past for 'Noctules'. John's presentation brought the story of Leisler's bat in Scotland up to date with some remarkable finds at the foot of Goatfell.

The next meeting is on 3 October at 8pm in the Rangers Centre when John Gurnell, Professor of Ecology at the University of London, will be talking about 'the riddle of body size variation in insular small mammals'. All welcome.

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# Arran is inspiration for first novel

A new author has used Arran as the inspiration for her first novel.

Katherine Pathak has just written and self-published the novel 'Aoife's Chariot', the first of what she hopes will be a series of The Imogen and Hugh Croft Mysteries.

Although the book is set on the fictional island called 'Garansay' Katherine freely admits that the inspiration for the book's stunning imaginary location is the Isle of Arran, which is her father, Robin Currie's childhood home.

The 38-year-old mum of two says that she has exercised some literary licence when creating 'Garansay' and has added certain landmarks that are entirely made-up, most notably the mountain range referred to as 'Aoife's Chariot', which provides the title for the book.

Nonetheless, all of the main geographical features of Arran are easily recognisable within the pages of the tale, which moves backwards and forwards in time as the main protagonist researches her family's history from an old farmhouse on the island and uncovers some dangerous secrets in the process.

The book has already re-



Katherine and her dad Robin with the novel.

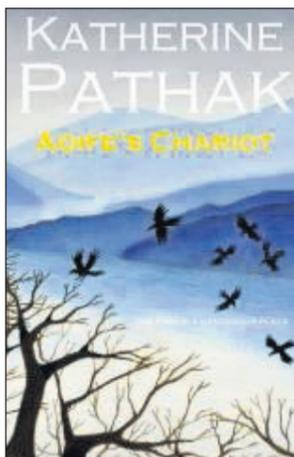
ceived a number of glowing reviews in a short space of time and much of the positive feedback has praised the atmospheric descriptions of the island.

Katherine and her dad both live in Essex where she is already hard at work on her second novel.

She said: 'My inspiration for writing a set of books based on Arran has been my father's experiences and childhood on the island. My dad grew up in Brodick and still has many relatives spread across Arran. We spent many wonderful childhood holidays on the island and I take my own children over to visit whenever possible.'

The production of the novel has been very much a family project as Robin helped his daughter to edit and proof read the book as well as providing essential advice on the historical details. In addition to this, the atmospheric front-cover of the novel is taken from a painting by her older sister Anne Currie.

Dad Robin said: 'I am extremely proud of Katherine for having written her first novel, and also for taking her inspiration from Arran. We spent many family holidays on the Island when the children were younger and I am very glad that the place has made such a lasting impression on them. It is also fantastic to have both of my daughters working on a project together. My wife, Sue and I are absolutely delighted.'



The front cover of 'Aoife's Chariot'.

## Agility classes prove a big summer hit

The dog agility classes at Sandbraes Park in Whiting Bay have had another busy summer.

As they draw to a close organiser Margaret Kays said the classes had been 'very busy' with both regulars and holidaymakers putting themselves and their dogs through their paces. Two new bits of equipment came into play this year - a long jump, which some of the dogs treat like steps and walk up and over, and a tyre jump.

'We need to finish at that though as it is like putting a jig saw together getting everything into the trailer at the end of the class,' Margaret said.

'We also had a successful day at the Arran Farmer's Annual Show and were able to make a donation to the Farmer's Society and plan to make a donation to Whiting Bay Hall for the use of the field,' she added.

For the winter the agility classes are moving back into Whiting Bay Hall and the usual obedience classes will start on Wednesday 18 September - beginners at 1.00pm - and will run for 12 weeks.

Anyone looking for further information should contact Margaret on 600725.

  
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**Obituary**

# Fiona Mary McGovern (Mutch) 1959-2013

She has had a mountain to climb and is now at rest, may her God be with her forever

Born in Leicester in 1959 to Gwen and Sandy Mutch, Fiona started her primary education at Glenfield School.

On January 5, 1970 her parents and their five children moved to the Auchrannie Hotel in Brodick.

After attending Brodick Primary School then Arran High School, she went on to Stirling University and graduated in 1981 with a BA Honours.

She then attended a college in York where she trained to be a remedial teacher before moving to a post at Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

After two years she went to the Yoga Centre at Ickwell Bury in Bedfordshire to study the ancient art of yoga and during her stay attended the Royal Masonic Hospital where she trained as an aromatherapist.

Fiona then returned to Arran in September 1995 and bought Stronby in Whiting Bay where she set up an aromatherapy practice.

One of her earliest clients was a joiner complaining of a bad back. Could she help?

This was John McGovern, and a year later they were engaged and married in New Abbey near Dumfries in 1997.

In 1999 they moved to St Brides, Lamlash, to carry on her practice and start the first of many yoga classes that included mother and baby classes which were a great success.

In early 2005 Fiona had to stop her aromatherapy because of damage to her hands.

At this time she went to Crosshouse Hospital to discuss a lump on her breast and decided to treat herself with alternative medicine.

There followed a trip to a health centre in Mexico in December 2006 where she ended up in hospital in January 2007 before returning to the UK in February that same year to be admitted to Crosshouse Hospital.

She returned to Arran in a wheelchair with no hope and no future, but started an incredible fightback which

lasted six and a half years.

During this time she kept smiling and accepted all medical treatments. Frequently she appeared to perk up, walking every day after nurses had attended in the morning, always with a smile.

In the last two months the walks sadly became slower, and she needed the help of walking sticks.

Fiona put up a great fight to try and rid herself of the cancer and was a great inspiration to others in a similar position.

She has had a mountain to climb and is now at rest, may her God be with her forever.

SM



Fiona McGovern.



Betty Lennox, far right, with staff and residents at Montrose House around 1975.

## Memories of Montrose House

With work starting on the new Montrose House in Brodick former employees have been casting their minds back to when the original Montrose House first opened.

One of them was Betty Lennox, who helped to cut the first sod at the start of work on the Glen Rosa site last week.

She has unearthed a photograph of staff and residents in Montrose House around 1975 - just months after it opened in December 1974.

Betty, far right, worked at the home and now uses Stronach Day Services.

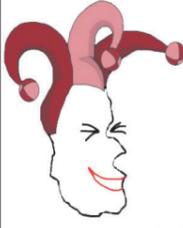
Do you recognise anyone else in the photograph?

Margaret MacKenzie of Kilmory also contacted The Banner this week to say that her brother Ian Gibson dug the first turf when the present Montrose House was built.

Ian, the son of the late Andrew and Susan Gibson of Lagg, now lives in Busby, Glasgow but he cut the first sod when he was working

for Lawrence Plant Transport back in 1974.

The new £5.7 million Montrose House will take a year to build as it due to open next September.



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**CHRIS CONROY** ('a funny, funny guy' - Chortle)  
**PHILIP DIFFER** ('Comedy Genius' - Daily Record)

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# The approach of autumn

August 2013 was much drier than the previous year and the warm, generally dry summer continued.

Towards the end of the month, with lower temperatures some nights, there was more than a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including family groups of the following: Willow Warbler at Narachan on the 4th,



An incredible 1,000 Manx Shearwater were seen off Cleats Shore. Photo: Jim MacKenzie

Whitethroat in Shiskine on the 5th and Spotted Flycatcher in Brodick Castle Gardens on the 6th.

In addition, there were 60 Swallow at Kilpatrick Farm on the 18th, 20 House Martin in Shiskine on the 24th and six Sand Martin at Shiskine Golf Course on the 26th.

Please, let me know when you last see a Swallow this summer.

Other signs of successful breeding this month included: a crèche of six Eider at Sandbraes on the 1st, a family of five Song Thrush in Brodick on the 5th, the pair of Mute Swan in Blackwaterfoot with six large young on 13th and groups of up to 40 House Sparrow in both Alma Park and Kilpatrick on the 20th.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration.

These included: 160 Linnet on Torrylinn shore on the 18th, 62 Golden Plover and 84 Red-breasted Merganser at Machriewaterfoot on the 25th, 18 Teal and 32 Curlew at Kilpatrick Point on the

26th and 48 Lesser Black-backed Gull in Whiting Bay on the 30th.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including two Sandwich Tern in Brodick Bay on the 2nd, a Whimbrel in Auchenhew Bay on the 3rd, a White Wagtail at Kildonan on the 10th, around 1,000 Manx Shearwater off Cleats Shore on the 25th, a Wheatear at Clauchlands also on the 25th and seven Dunlin at Drumadoon Point, two Sanderling on Torrylinn shore and 20 Turnstone on Pladda all on the 26th.

Other birding highlights this month included: nine Black-headed Gull in Whiting Bay on the 4th, 20 Gannets in Catcol Bay on the 17th, 12 Canada Geese on Cleats Shore on the 19th, two Kingfisher in Lochranza on the 21st and two Dipper on the Machriewater on the 23rd.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. It is the time to expect the unexpected. I look forward to hearing from you. Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

AUGUST



Swallow feeding.

Photo: Angela Cassels

with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the "Arran Bird Report 2012" and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



At this time of year the Black Gull lose their distinctive head colour. Photo: Dennis Morrison



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**TWENTY YEARS AGO**

**Saturday 18 September, 1993**

**Funds rejected**

Whiting Bay residents have rejected £70,000 of environmental improvements for the village, partly paid for by the EC.

They were rejected on two counts at the Cunninghame District Council planning meeting. Firstly two objections had been received, which would have necessitated a public inquiry. Secondly Councillor Tom Knox went into the meeting armed with a petition full of Whiting Bay signatures and, on the strength of this, he asked them to withdraw the plan.

Councillor Knox said he hoped the money would be transferred for a continuation of the work in Lamlash but the EC element of the cash would probably be forfeited.

**Ferry concerns**

Long before the new ferry arrived there was speculation about how she would handle in windy weather. Many said badly because of the height of MV Caledonian Isles.

Cal Mac consistently said the extra power at her bow and stern would make her easier to handle, but this week's sailing disruptions have severely dented the confidence people may have in their travel plans.

Ted Sangster of Cal Mac said: 'The new ferry has had a number of problems which, in isolation, are small but they all add up to give not quite the impression we would wish.'

**Work experience**

An 18-year-old from Norway has been enjoying work experience on Arran. Solveig Nykrem from Heroy near Alesund is here for two weeks and has spent time in the High School, Lamlash

Primary and several days at Corrie Primary. Assistant rector Anne Bruce met Solveig's mother 20 years ago and the visit was as a result of a reunion this year.

**Boat raid**

Three men were arrested in Saltcoats this week charged with an attempted theft on Arran during the summer. The men, it is alleged, crossed to Whiting Bay on their own boat and were on the point of forcing an entry to Bay News newsagents when they set off the intruder alarm. Minutes later owner Steve Girbow arrived at the shop to see the men back in the boat and making out to sea.

**Dizzy heights**

When a new member joins the Lamlash Girl Guides they can choose an odd location at which to be enrolled.

On Wednesday guides Shiona Murchie and Kearn Frew asked to be enrolled at the top of the new 50ft Lamlash fire practice tower.

Guider Eilidh Campbell conducted the short enrolment, helped by assistant Alison Kelly. One guide commented: 'You can feel it shaking when you are up there.'

**Awareness Day**

Around 140 third and fourth year pupils at Arran High School took part in an Industrial Awareness Day. They were split into 12 groups and each group had a local businessman or woman to advise them.

Over the day three tasks were set and each was followed by a reporting back session and assessment.



Lamlash guides with firefighters at the Lamlash fire practice tower. b37twe01



Above: Keith Brewwood of Arran Tea Selectors advises his group. b37twe02



The new ferry approaches Brodick Pier from an odd angle as she attempts to berth. b37twe04



Right: Norwegian visitor Solveig Nykrem with Anne Bruce. b37twe03

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

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://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

## Saturday 14th 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 - 1pm.  
 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

## Sunday 15th September

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm

## Monday 16th 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  
 Brodick Primary Parent Council AGM  
 Wee Blether cafe

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  
 Lamlash Sheltered Housing, 12noon  
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm  
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Brodick Primary School, 7pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30-1.30pm

## Tuesday 17th 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  
 Youth Club  
 Weight Watchers  
 Junior Hockey Club  
 Healthy Outdoors

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  
 Brodick Hall, 6.30 - 8pm  
 St Molios Church Hall, 7pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre

Lawn Bowls  
 Quiz  
 Food and craft market  
 Metafit  
 Garden Walk  
 Pirnmill Parent Council AGM

## Wednesday 18th September

Hockey  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Senior Badminton  
 Yogalates  
 Aquafizz  
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Shiskine Tennis Club  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Rink Games  
 Lamlash Bowling Rink Games  
 JogScotland beginners group  
 Mixed ability running group  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Art & Craft Exhibition  
 Friends of Brodick Castle

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Arran High School, 8-9pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Brodick, 6.30pm  
 Juniors 4.30-5.15 P1-P3, 5.15-6 P4-P7  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club 7pm  
 Lamlash Bowling Club 2.30pm  
 Auchrannie Spa car park, 5.15pm  
 Auchrannie Spa car park, 6pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 11.30-8.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, 7.30pm

## Thursday 19th September

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  
 Quilt Arran  
 Lunchbox  
 Metafit  
 Art & Craft Exhibition

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 2pm  
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm  
 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  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 12.30-2.30pm  
 Auchrannie sports Hall, 6pm  
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 10-6pm

## Friday 20th September

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

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

## Isle of Arran Drama Association's AGM

which will be held on  
Wednesday 25 September 2013  
in Arran High School  
starting at 7.30 pm.

All Welcome.

### 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 Development Planning 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, Lamash. Written representations may be made to the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 04.10.13. Any representations received will be open to public view.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development  
13/00513/PP; Lochranza Whisky Distillery, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle of Arran;  
Erection of steel framed warehouse.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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# Silver Wedding



Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary  
To Janet and Bert Ramage  
From all the family

# Graduation



Congratulations - Julie Hutchison 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.

# Recruitment

## Trainee

Wanted by Wooleys of Arran  
To Learn all aspects of the business.

The job will be varied from Baking, oatcake manufacture, retail and administration.

Driving Licence Essential

**Send you CV or phone 302280 to arrange an interview**

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## 18TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 18th Birthday Abz!



Love Mum, Dad, Rory, Katy, Paddy and Leah xx

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday, 15th September**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mr John Roberts.  
Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday 18th September**  
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran:  
Brodict, 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 15th September**  
Brodict Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship, including ordination of new elder 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.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 15th September**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
In both Churches:  
Mrs Mairi Duff  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 15th 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.  
There will be a sale of Traidcraft goods and other items.  
Everyone most welcome.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 15th September**  
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodict  
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 15th September**  
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodict 7pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Malcolm Peters

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 15th September**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge  
Glen Estate, Brodict  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Estate, Brodict  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring 830622, 820223 or 302779.

**SALVATION ARMY**

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



**Brodict Golf Club**

Ladies: Tuesday 3 September, September Medal and LGU Pendant, 11 played, CSS 70. Silver 1 and winner of LGU Pendant: Brenda Livingstone, 82 (13) 69, 2 Isobel Macdonald 89 (16) 73. Bronze 1 Pat McDonald: 94 (22 ) 72, 2 Heather Raeside 104 (25) 79.  
Gents: Wednesday 4 September Summer Cup 48 played CSS 64. 1 J Green (20)60, 2 G Hendry (5)64 acb, 3 G McCrae (6)64 acb, Scratch G Hendry 69. There were 14 Twos. Derek Roxburgh got 3 and Jim Green, Bruce Jenkins and Kenny McMillan got two each. Sunday 8 September Brandon Cup Final 21 played CSS 66. Winner T Raeside (8)64, Runner up E McKinnon (+1)65.  
Fixtures: Sunday 15 September John Gemmell Shield 3 Club Competition, draw at 12noon on Saturday 14 September. Wednesday 18 September, Flag Competition followed by Annual presentation of prizes. Sunday 22 September Start of Winter Cup.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Ladies 18 Hole Medal 5 September, 13 played, CSS 67. Silver 1 & Scratch J Turnbull 83-15=68 BIH, 2 C Stewart 84-16=68. Bronze 1 E Henderson 97-31=66, 2 L Murray 97-24=73. Congratulations Esther on winning the medal.  
Fixtures: Sunday 15 September 18 Hole Medal (Gents), Thursday 19 September 18 Hole medal (Ladies). Monday 30 September Ladies Arran Challenge starts.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Ten ladies played in the

Fleet Cup 6 competition on Wednesday 4 September again in lovely sunshine, although there was a strong breeze to contend with. Sheena Murchie was once again the winner returning an excellent 66 and also taking the twos money. CSS 66. 1 Sheena Murchie 79-13=66, 2 Yvonne Brothers 87-17=70, 3 Kate McAdam 91-20=71, Scratch Sheena Murchie 79.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday 8 September. Six ladies took part for the first time in the Cooper Angus Par 3 competition. Despite some heavy downpours we all had a great game and playing the holes from different angles really made a difference to the look and feel of the course. This is a competition we will certainly continue to play in years to come as its good fun but challenging. With our handicaps adjusted accordingly. 1 Lesley Wood with a 66 (15.75), 2 Lynn Walker with a 69 (13). Many thanks to Jim Meehan for the much needed refreshments upon our return and for his generous prizes!

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday 3 September, SGLU medal. 1 Hugh McClelland 64 BIH, 2 Brian Sherwood 64, 3 Denise Sherwood 65. Scratch Brian Sherwood 73. Twos Denise Sherwood got an eagle two at the sixth hole. Fixtures: Tuesday 17 September, SGLU medal tee off 12.30pm. Tuesday 24 September, Sweep tee off 12.30pm.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday 7 September, sweep only, 6 played - two returns and four no returns. 1 D Price 77-12=65, 2 H Taylor 97-25=72. No twos recorded.  
Fixtures: Saturday 14 September, sweep at 8.30am and 1pm. Saturday 21 September and Sunday 22 September, Corrie Open. Saturday 28 September, Captain's Prize 1pm. Monday Cup and Jerry Pot will restart on Monday 7 October.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Saturday 7 September, Arran Grouse Foursomes, Brodict Golf Club. A full turnout of 14 teams played at Brodict



**Ladies champion Fiona Crawford and runner-up Susan Butchard with their trophies.**

**Hat-trick Fiona is the new island golf champion**

You could feel the tension in the air as Susan Butchard and Fiona Crawford prepared to play in the final scratch competition to determine who would be the 2013 Ladies Island Champion.

This year it was held at Brodict Golf Club. The final two players were whittled down after a serious of autumn competitions and knockout rounds. Always a great match to watch it was no exception as both Susan and Fiona tee'd off with perhaps just a few early nerves.

Well done to both players, thank you to Brodict Golf Club for allowing the competition and thank you to the green staff for the superb condition of the course and greens. Thank you also to all the spectators who came along to support Susan and Fiona.

**New season**

ALGU new season begins with our first fixture on Saturday 21 September, Cir Mhor at 12.30pm, Whiting Bay Golf Club. Sign up sheets in your clubhouse.

with a very mixed bag of conditions. Following a morning of heavy showers, there was a bit of respite before the afternoon when the showers began again, sometimes extremely heavy making play difficult, which is reflected in the scoring. The Brodict greens were slick but some were affected by the rain with players having to take relief for the putting. Thanks to Brodict for hosting the competition and for the lovely condition of the course.

1 Rab Logan and Peter McKinnon 83-15=68, 2 Ian Bremner and Graham Andrew 76-7.5=68.5, 3 Nicol Hume and Jimmy Armit 79-10=69. Congratulations to Rab and Peter, especially to Peter on his first of hopefully many more victories to come.

Fixtures: Saturday 14 September, Seniors Handicap at

Machrie Golf Club at 1pm. Qualifying age 55.

Lamlash Golf Club  
Thursday 5 September, Summer Cup and Commando Cup, CSS 66. 1 Graeme Andrew 72-10=62 BIH, 2 Ian Bremner 69-7=62, 3 Jim Young 78-12=66, 4 Norrie MacIntyre 75-8=67. Best Scratch Dougie Macfarlane 69 BIH over Ian Bremner. Twos from G Andrew at the 13th and 14th, Ian Bremner at the 4th, Jim Young at the 17th. Sunday 8 September, Captain's Prize, CSS 64, 36 points. 1 Ian Bremner 35pts BIH, 2 Graeme Andrew 35pts, 3 Matt Harvey 34pts, Best Scratch Ian Bremner 29pts. Fixtures: Thursday 12 September, Summer Cup - make up own groups. Sunday 15 September, Greensome Competition, draw at 12.30pm.

**DEATHS**

**MCCALLUM** - Ian. The family wish to express thanks for the overwhelming kindness shown at this difficult time. We are grateful to Clair & David Hendry for their guidance and advice and would especially like to thank our local police for all their help. There will be an informal gathering at the house this Saturday afternoon (September 14th). Anyone who knew Ian is welcome to attend.

**MCDONALD** - Janet. Peacefully at Corriedoon Nursing Home on Sunday 8th September 2013. Netta, aged 85years, beloved wife of the late Iain, loving Mum of Jemima, John and Fiona and dear Grandmother and Great Grandmother of the Family. Funeral service took place on Thursday 12th September.

**MILLS** - Eileen Patricia. It is with the greatest sadness and shock to her family that Eileen died suddenly on Thursday 5th September. The most wonderful,

darling wife of Colin and mother of Chris, Kate, Ros and Clare. She will long be remembered by her loving family, friends and neighbours. A celebration of Eileen's life will be held at 11.30am on 28th September at St. Molios Church, Shiskine. All those who knew Eileen will be most welcome. Please no mourning clothes or flowers. Donations to ArCaS.

**IAN CONNERY**

Passed away 1st September 2013.  
Come join family and friends at the PHT on Saturday 14 September from 6pm onwards for a true Ian style send off.

**Corrie Open**  
**21st & 22nd September**  
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# Fans left perplexed by final score

Arran 18 Mull 18

There was controversy at Ormidale Park last Saturday when Arran RFC drew 18-18 with the Isle of Mull in the first home game of the season.

It was controversial because the home fans - encamped on the sidelines despite torrential downpours of rain - cheered as the final whistle was blown after believing the score to be a 21-18 win for Arran.

But the referee disputed this and the score has been recorded by the SRU as a draw, giving Arran just one point instead of the much-needed three.

After looking scrappy in the opening stages, Arran managed to score the first try of the game which was converted by Lachlan Jones and his trusty boot to give the home side a 7-6 lead at half time.

The two sides went to the break pretty level in terms of attack and early second-half pressure saw Mull charge over the line, and add the extra two points.

Lachie Jones missed a drop goal in an attempt to push Arran further clear, while Todd Jameson was sin binned for a bad tackle reducing the home side to 14 men.

Arran's captain Niall McMaster powered his way down field and almost scored his fourth try of the season - an amazing feat for a second row player - but a last minute pass to Kyle Barbour secured a further five points.

The game ended with the fans believing Arran had won 21-18, but the final result has been recorded as an 18-18 draw.



Arran drew with Mull in the first home game of the season. 20\_b37rug02

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