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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2014 No 1979 60p

It's Tesco time

Supermarket giant plans to open Tesco Express on Brodick's Bilslands store site

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Tesco is coming to Brodick. After months of speculation the supermarket giant has confirmed to the Banner that it is planning to open an Express store on the Bilslands site.

And while licensing and planning permission are still being sought Tesco says it hopes to have the store open early next year.

It has now applied for full planning permission for the enlargement of the car park to take 27 cars with two disabled spaces.

Doubling the car park, by taking land on both sides, will see at least three holes lost from the crazy golf, which has been a Brodick institution for many years, but it is hoped the remainder will stay.

A planning application for the work has been lodged this week with North Ayrshire Council and 11 neighbour notifications have been sent out asking for any representations.

The application even describes the premises as the

'former' Bilslands store on Shore Road, although the shop is continuing to trade.

The popular store and cafe were put up for sale by Alastair and Alison Bilsland late last year and in June Mr Bilsland confirmed he had accepted a conditional offer from a developer, which hoped to lease the property to Tesco. This has since led to intense speculation after the supermarket giant refused to confirm the move.

A licensing application which is out to consultation is expected to be considered by the council's licensing committee before the end of the month.

Part of the application asks for an increase in off-sales display capacity to 41 square metres and an increase in off-sales hours from 10am-10pm Monday to Sunday, the standard Scottish supermarket licensing hours.

The company has five different store formats with the Express stores the smallest. The company says its Express stores offer customers great value, quality and fresh food close to where they live and work. They sell a range



The familiar face of Bilslands will go, along with part of the crazy golf, to make way for the new Tesco Express car park. 20_b38shop01

of products including fresh produce, wines and spirits, and they have an in-store bakery.

Confirmation came in a statement to the Banner this week from the corporate af-

fairs manager for Tesco in Scotland Richard Holligan. He said: 'We're looking forward to bringing the Tesco Express to Brodick and to making a positive contribution to the community. Local

people and visitors alike will be able to rely on the store for high quality goods from fresh fruit and vegetables to essential ingredients for cooking and special treats.

'If everything goes to plan

we hope to open in the first few months of 2015. We'll make sure we keep everyone in the village updated on progress.'

Mr Bilsland declined to comment.



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All that glistens is not gold

Arran Brewery is renowned for its best-selling Arran Blonde, a 'golden ale', but for a moment it thought it really had struck gold.

While excavating a tank farm behind the company's new brewery at Loch Earn in Perthshire, managing director Gerald Michaluk noticed a piece of rock glistening in the sun.

On inspection it was golden in colour and with the site being quite close to Scotland's gold mine at Tyndrum for a moment he thought he had struck gold. But, realising the rock had a high amount of iron it was going to most likely be not real gold but fools gold - iron pyrites. He decided to play a joke on the team and let them see the find.

The result was a mass exodus to look over the site for more 'gold'. In the meantime Gerald checked the sample by scraping, as iron pyrites, unlike gold, is brittle and shatters. So alas it was only 'fools gold'.

Coffee morning

Arran will be taking part in the world's biggest coffee morning for the third time this year.

A coffee morning in support of the event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support will be held by Rosemary Roberts in Lamlash Church Hall on Friday 26 September from 11am to 1pm. Everyone welcome.

Lack of low-floor backup on buses

'I can't understand why they can't have two Optare buses on Arran'

A disabled man has slammed bus operators over their lack of backup when the island's only wheelchair accessible bus is off the road.

Bernard Mitchell-Luker of Lamlash says he has been repeatedly left stranded when the island's only low-floor midibus is cancelled.

When it is not operating, one of the five Mercedes midibuses operates the routes, but it has no wheelchair access.

Mr Mitchell-Luker, who uses a mobility scooter as he has breathing problems, says he is so fed up with the situation he intends to alert the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport every time the low-floored bus fails to appear.

No complaint

He says he has no complaint with the Stagecoach staff on Arran, whom he says, go out of their way to assist him whenever they can, even lifting his scooter on to the bus.

However, he says complaints to the Stagecoach West Scotland in Ayr have fallen on deaf ears.

The latest incident came last weekend when the Optare bus was out of service for the entire weekend after it suffered a broken window.

He said: 'The times of the disabled buses are clearly printed in the bus timetable. It is a complete inconvenience if you are heading for the ferry or to an urgent appointment when the wrong bus turns up.'

Mainland depots

'I can't understand why they can't have two Optare buses on Arran so there is one always available. Stagecoach must have plenty of them at their mainland depots.'

'These services are under contract to SPT and I intend to inform them of every single infringement of these until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.'

'I have tried to be reasonable and had a lot of communication with the Ayr office but without getting anywhere.'

'If they think they can act like a bunch of ill-mannered barrowboys, then they have another think coming. I will



An angry Bernard Mitchell-Luker with the Arran bus timetable.

now go straight to the SPT,' A spokeswoman for Stagecoach West Scotland said: 'Due to a broken window and its required repair, our wheelchair accessible vehicle was off the road. Processes have now been put in place to provide an alternative vehicle on the route in future.'

'Our services in Arran are tendered services and are operated under contract to SPT. As part of a renewed contract, SPT will be providing a new

Disability Discrimination Act compliant fleet on the island.' As reported in the *Banner* last month, Stagecoach has won the £3.5 million SPT contract to run the buses on the island for the next five years. Eleven new, low level buses are being bought to Arran, at a cost of £1.6 million, to comply with the new legislation.

No timetable for the arrival of the buses has yet been announced.

Arran shortlisted for two awards

Arran is bidding to win two top awards.

VisitArran and Taste of Arran have both been shortlisted in the Ayrshire Business Awards 2014.

VisitArran, which has been shortlisted for the tourism category, will face opposition from Nardini's in Largs and the Seamill Hydro Hotel.

Taste of Arran, which is shortlisted for the local food hero prize, is up against Ayrshire Glen - Woody's Ice Cream and Brownings the Bakers.

Organisers say the quality of the entrants was extremely high and the shortlisted nominees reflect the sheer breadth of business success throughout Ayrshire, from small start-ups and individual entrepreneurs to long-established businesses.

Chief executive of Ayrshire Chamber Val Russell 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 chamber's event calendar and is an excellent opportunity to showcase the fantastic business community within Ayrshire. I would also like to extend my thanks to the award sponsors as without them the awards would not be possible.'

The winners will be announced at the gala dinner hosted by Hazel Irvine on Thursday 9 October at the Seamill Hydro.

The awards, now in their fifth year, are open to all members of Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and businesses operating in Ayrshire.

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Flu jabs for all children

Every child on Arran aged 2 to 11 will be offered the flu vaccine from this autumn as part of a new immunisation programme.

With children two to three times more likely to be ill with flu than adults, the programme will help protect children this winter, and reduce the risk of flu being spread to others.

In Ayrshire and Arran, 10,101 pre-school children and 27,321 primary school children are eligible for the vaccination in 2014/2015.

The announcement marks the next step in the phased introduction of the childhood flu programme, which once fully rolled out will see all children aged 2 to 17 covered. This is estimated to prevent an additional 200 deaths a year and up to 1,100 hospitalisations.

A new campaign has been unveiled to ensure parents know how the vaccine will be offered, and how they can make sure their child is covered.

This autumn term, parents of primary school children should look out for and return the consent form sent home in school bags so that their child can be vaccinated at school.

Parents of children aged 2 to 5 who are not at school should make an appointment with their GP practice from October onwards to get their child vaccinated.

The vaccine will be given as a nasal spray, following last year's successful pilot where the same vaccine was safely administered to around 130,000 children in Scotland. Dr Nicola Steedman, the Scottish Government's Senior Medical Officer, launched the campaign by urging parents to make sure their child is protected.

Dr Steedman said: 'Flu can be very unpleasant for children, and in some cases it can develop into more serious health complications such as bronchitis, pneumonia and middle ear infection.'

'Parents can help safeguard their child against flu by taking up the offer of this free vaccine. It's safe, quick and painless, and offers protection against the types of virus that are most likely to be circulating this winter.'

Find out more about the flu vaccine for children at immunisationscotland.org.uk/childflu or call the NHS inform helpline on 0800 22 44 88.



A curious carrot contest

Entries came in all shapes and sizes for the inaugural Ormidale carrot growing competition.

All summer regulars have been trying all manner of means to get their carrots in prime condition for the show. One entrant even grew his carrot in a whisky bottle.

A healthy 26 entries were received for the not too serious contest held at the Brodick hotel on Sunday where judge Liz Lambie picked Cameron Ribbeck's entry as the overall champion.

Organiser Trevor Helliwell also handed out the prizes to the other winners who were:

Longest, Toni Goodstien; biggest girth, Susannah Clark; scariest, Adrian Cannon; sexiest, Christopher Macaulay; best presented Nigel Walker.

Judge Liz Lambie holds the winning entry with the other trophy winners.

20_b38carrot02



Trevor Helliwell of the Ormidale presented overall champion Cameron Ribbeck with his trophy.

20_b38carrot03

Winter session starts for QuiltArran

The new winter session of QuiltArran starts on Thursday 25 September in Lamlash Fire Station.

They say they are a friendly group of patchworkers, quilters and embroiderers from beginners to more experienced members who are happy to share their skills with new members.

The group meets weekly from 2pm to 4.30pm. Anyone seeking further information can contact Alison on 600764.

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The ferry finally comes into dock nearly an hour late last Thursday. 20_b38tide01

Low tides cause ferry disruption

The exceptionally low tides at the end of last week caused some disruption to ferry services with the boat unable to dock at Brodick.

They were the result of the Autumn Equinox which has also seen in some spectacular 'super' moons in recent days.

Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the low tide was predicted in the morning coinciding with the early boat. The exceptionally low tide of minus 0.2 of a

metre warned Caledonian MacBrayne that the water was too low at Brodick pier for the ferry to safely dock.

However, since it happens every year at this time one Brodick resident asked: 'Since this happens frequently don't you think that Cal-Mac should know about it. In other words, it could dredge the seabed at its pier. Perhaps it thinks it is getting a new ferry terminal and pier by 2016 and it doesn't want to

go to the expense.

'For the price of £2, a booklet from Johnson's Marine Stores at Lamlash gives the tide tables for the year at Lamlash, with the time being 15 minutes later at Brodick. So it is very predictable.'

When there is a south-easterly or easterly wind and it coincides with the high tide, Brodick gets flooding along the seafront as there is a build up of water surging up the Clyde estuary.

Castle hydro schemes hit by two year delay

Two hydro schemes planned by Brodick Castle are facing a two-year delay.

The £2.7 million projects will allow the castle and country park to generate its own electricity and sell the surplus to serve the national grid.

But the proposals have hit a stumbling block after the National Trust for Scotland was told it could not connect to the Arran electricity supply system operated by SSE until 2018 at the earliest.

As reported in The Banner in June the trust have already earmarked two sites for the proposed micro-hydro schemes at Corrie Burn and Garbh Allt to harness the water running off Goatfell.

Each would have a generating capacity of 500kW and it was hoped they could be built and operational by November 2016, but that has now been revised until mid-2018.

Preliminary reports into the schemes, which have been compiled by chartered surveyors Graham and Sibbald, and submitted to the planning department of North Ayrshire Council have now been withdrawn to allow a full environmental assessment to be carried out.

A trust spokesman confirmed they were aware of the grid issue and were looking at an alternative 'self-supply' option.

But he said the trust remained 'very positive' about the project and was working

hard to get the processes right in the early stages.

He said: 'Plans are progressing, but a cautious approach is being taken to ensure there is minimal ecological impact, as would be expected by an organisation like the trust, with its particular conservation responsibilities.'

'We also want to ensure there is consultation with statutory and partner organisations on the potential schemes.'

'Assessment of possible sites is currently being undertaken and there will be further news about this later this year, or in early 2015.'

'The initial application was withdrawn to enable us to conduct a full environmental assessment.'

'This is a time-consuming process and as an organisation with particular responsibilities to care for the environment, we want to make

sure that we get this right.

'Once we have the environmental assessment we'll be pulling together a full plan for the consultation programme.'

A spokeswoman for Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution said: 'We have received an initial enquiry regarding the development of hydro-electric schemes on Arran and we are currently assessing the information to help provide the most appropriate advice which will allow the NTS to apply for connections to the network.'

'We encourage developers to contact us as early as possible when they are considering new developments so that we can provide them with the information that they need about connecting their schemes to the network and we have a dedicated team on hand to answer questions and provide advice.'

Man denies chasing young girl at school sports ground

A man has been charged with frightening a young girl at a school sports ground in Arran.

Peter Holmes, 55, is accused of following and chasing the 10-year-old, trying to talk to her then moving close and trying to block her path.

Holmes denies threatening or abusive behaviour and placing the child in fear and alarm at Arran High School playing fields in Lamlash, on 10 September.

He also denies shouting, swearing and breach of the peace in Lamlash Main Street on the same day.

Holmes, of Main Street, Fairlie, was bailed at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court for trial in November.

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Massive pieces of equipment are used to move the timber onto the barge. 20_b37tim01

First timber barge leaves Sannox

Entire forest will be cleared and shipped off the island

The first load of timber to be harvested from North Sannox Forest has left the island.

Over the next 18 months the Forestry Commission is to remove and replant the entire forest, completely transforming the shoreline landscape.

A timber transfer station has been created on the Fallen Rocks path with a landing jetty built for the barge which will take all the felled timber across the Firth of Clyde to the mainland.

In total 40,000 tonnes of timber will be shipped off the

island in the barge The Red Princess, which is twice the size of those normally used to transfer timber off Arran.

Test load

The barge is operated by the Troon Tug Company and last week owner Robin Taylor and Arran head forester Andy Walker watched as a test load of 400 tonnes of wood was loaded on to the ship.

In the coming months the barge will visit the site once a week and remove around 700 tonnes of wood each time.

'It's great to see the first

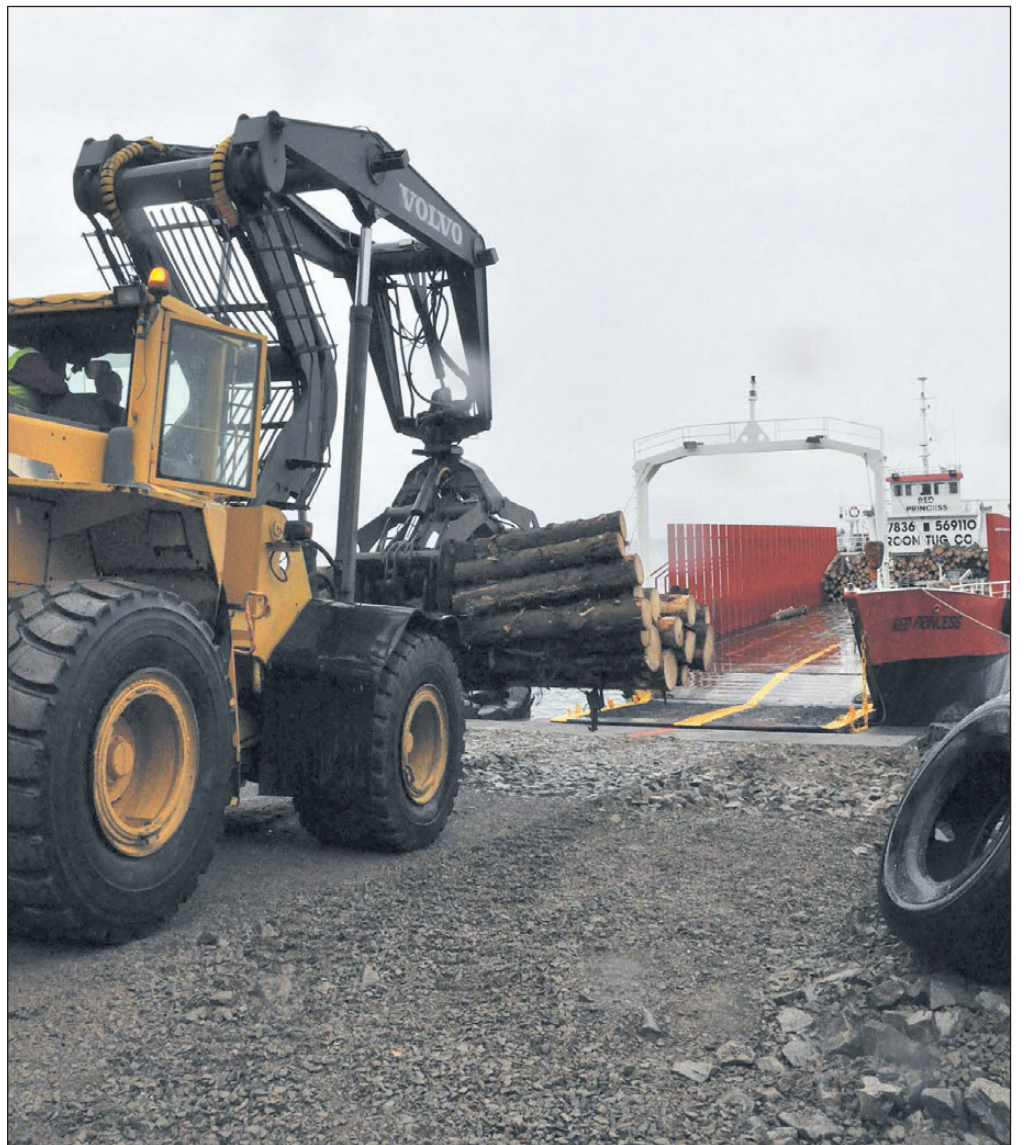
load being moved,' said Mr Walker.

'There's been a lot of hard work and planning that has gone into removing this wood so it's great to see it finally going off the island.'

The forest is mainly sitka spruce and most of the trees are around 50 years old with some almost 100 metres tall.

They will be replanted with broadleaf species, as is the plan for most of the island.

All the wood will be taken to Troon where it will be sent to sawmills and papermills.



The first load of timber leaves Sannox. 20_b37tim02



The Red Princess will carry around 700 tonnes of wood from Sannox each week.

20_b37tim03

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The young performers back row (from left): Innis Thorborn, Finlay Murchie, Ellie Ewing, Megan Hamill, Iain Clarke. Front row (from left): Lois Ashley, Daisy Urquhart-Dixon, James Smith, Finlay Elliott, Rory Currie, Donald Currie.

Youngsters serve up a musical treat

An audience of more than 100 enjoyed a music treat last Thursday as a concert in Shiskine performed by the young musicians in the

valley. As part of the 125th anniversary events of St Molios Church, the concert was a celebration of the musical talent of the under-18s.

All of the performers have individual tuition in their instrument. Some have been playing for many years while others have only just begun to learn.

The audience was treated to a wide variety of music from tunes from films to jazz to classical piano. The instruments included the piano, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet and voice.

The young folk were a pleasure to watch and to listen to, the home baking was greatly enjoyed and there was a smile on the faces of the audience as they went home.

Probe after fish are found dead in Corrie rock pools

'There was no sign of any pollution along the shoreline'

An investigation has been carried out after hundreds of small dead fish were found on the shore near Corrie.

A group of friends out walking on the shore from Brodick Castle to Corrie came across the fish which were lying dead in rock pools and at the edge of the water.

The fish were between three and five inches long and there was also a dead cormorant beside them.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency was informed but it says it is not aware of any pollution incident around the island that could have resulted in the

fish kill or dead seabird.

Environment protection officer Simon Kirk said: 'We have investigated similar incidents along the Ayrshire coast over the years where fish have become stranded in rock pools by high tides.

'The mortalities occur most frequently when they become stranded during the summer period as water temperatures often rise beyond those normally tolerated by the fish and there is a more rapid natural depletion of oxygen in the water. Depending on the temperature and size of the rock pool the fish mortalities can occur fairly quickly.

'The cormorant may not be connected to the dead fish, again at this time of year we see natural rises in the num-

bers of seabird mortalities as old birds die of starvation when they cannot successfully compete for scarce resources with younger stronger birds. This can also be the case for young birds if they are a bit smaller/weaker than average.'

Mr Kirk said he had inspected the shore from Corrie towards the castle.

He added: 'There was no sign of any pollution along the shoreline. I was unable to locate the rock pool containing the dead fish but there were a large number of rock pools in which seaweed was decaying, this is another natural process that releases sulphides into the water further increasing the stress on any fish in the rock pool.'

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Forestry Commission Scotland

FOREST DRIVE

The forest track from Dyemill to Kilmory will be **OPEN FOR PUBLIC VEHICLE ACCESS** on Saturday and Sunday, 27th & 28th September from 11am until 4pm

The Main track will be one-way only, starting at the Dyemill. Please drive carefully and heed any signs. The speed limit is 15mph. Forestry staff will be on hand to give advice and help. There will be a charge of £2 per car

Hope you enjoy the drive!

FOUR STAR "MUST SEE" ATTRACTION

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

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

Learn about the island's Social History, Archaeology, The Arran Clearances, Farming, Geology and Lots More. Visit the 19th Century Cottage, 1940's Schoolroom, and Blacksmith's Forge.

This year's special displays are on the theme of World War One and Arran at War.

Children's Quiz and Playhouse, Riverside Picnic Area. Gift Shop and Lovely Snacks and Meals at Café Rosburn.

Archives and Genealogy Researchers Welcome (Wednesdays only 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. or by appointment)

Sue to raise money for COAST

A Kildonan woman undertaking an Atlantic Ocean challenge is raising money for the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

As reported in the Banner last week Sue Weaver will join the all-women eXXpedition voyage from Lanzarote to Martiniq-ue next month and would like to make an appeal for sponsorship. She said: 'As we are going to cover 3,175 miles - more or less - it would be fantastic to raise £1 per mile. But any amount will be helpful for COAST which is doing such good work here on Arran.'

COAST has a page on the eXXpedition on its website under 'get involved', and a donate button on that page <http://www.arrancoast.com/get-involved/exxpedition-atlantic-2014>. This means funds will go directly to COAST.

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Ice Bucket Challenge with a difference!
Directors & Staff of Kilmory Hall, money raised goes towards De-fib for Kilmory

Braveheart themed dance 8pm - 1am
Over 18's only

Welcome to a night of fun at Whiting Bay

Great line-up for comedy event

A night of fun and laughter is on the bill at the fourth annual comedy evening to be held later this month.

Organised by Arran Events in association with top Scots comedian and writer Philip Differ it will be held in Whiting Bay Hall on Saturday 27 September.

The event last September saw a packed hall and a very entertaining evening with some great up-and-coming acts and Phil has once again pulled out all the stops and got a great line-up organised for Saturday evening.

Alongside Phil it will feature Vladimir McTavish, Gareth Waugh and Susie McCabe.

Organiser John Hollingworth said: 'We thought that everyone would need a great night out following the referendum shenanigans so come along and bury the hatchet.'

The man who came up with the great idea of staging the event, Phil, started out in 1980 as a writer for Naked Radio and was soon asked to contribute to such shows as A Kick Up the Eighties, Spitting Image, Three of a Kind and Not the Nine O'Clock News, whilst writing stand up material for Robbie Coltraine and Craig Ferguson.

He joined BBC Scotland in 1983 where - amongst other things - script edited Laugh?? I Nearly Paid My Licence Fee, wrote extensively for Naked Video, produced Scotch and Wry, Bing Hitler Live, 2000 Not Out, The Ferguson Theory and Pulp Video, the show that brought together Greg Hemphill and Ford Kiernan and helped sow the seeds for

Chewin' The Fat.

But he is mostly associated with the creation of the longest running football comedy show in the country Only an Excuse? now in it's 25th year.

After leaving the BBC, joined The Comedy Unit, Scotland's leading independent production company - Chewin' the Fat, Still Game, Rab C Nesbitt, Watson's Wind Up - before making the move from behind the scenes

lightful feast of social observation and topical satire, seasoned with his caustic wit and presented via a platter of breakneck-pace patter. In addition to his appearances throughout the UK, he has performed in Ireland, Holland and at the Norwegian Comedy Festival at Stavanger.

He has appeared on a number of TV and radio shows and is a regular star of the annual 'Best of Scottish' come-

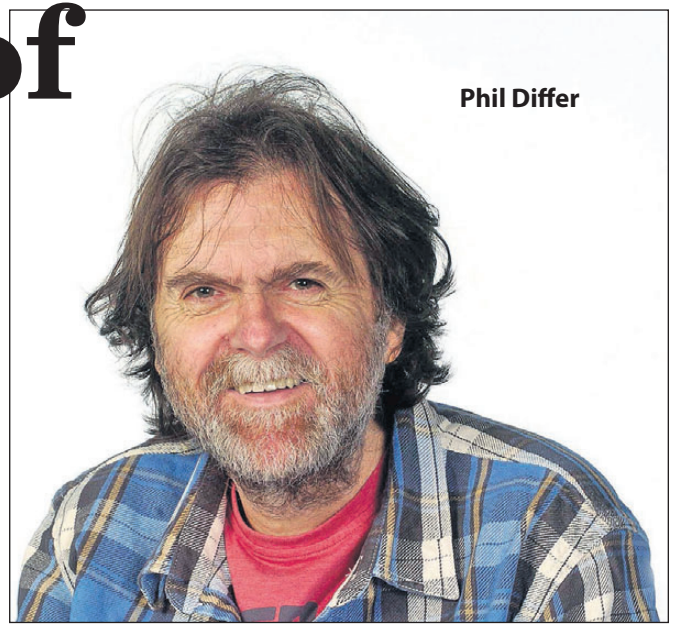
dy circuit. He has performed three shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has been described as: 'Potential to be a major player in Scottish if not world comedy in the near future,' while another said he was, 'soon to be a big name'.

In a short time, Susie McCabe has established herself as one of the rising stars of the comedy world. She may be small and look like Jimmy Krankie's stunt double but she is hard to ignore as this is one little lady with a big mouth.

Her tales of everyday life growing up in deepest, darkest Lanarkshire as a 5ft lesbian is a common one anyone can all relate to, she claims.

A story of a wasted youth spent smoking cigarettes, playing Xbox, watching Glasgow football and being terrified by Crimewatch UK.

Tickets costing £10 are on sale now.



Phil Differ



Vladimir McTavish



Gareth Waugh

into the full glare of stand up comedy.

He will be joined on the night by one of the most popular - and certainly most successful - of modern-day Scottish comedians, Vladimir McTavish, who is a stunning professional in every sense of the word. Whether using his renowned skills as a top class compere or closing a multi-act bill as a first-rate headline act, Vladimir can adapt to any situation and let his quality shine through.

Vladimir serves up a de-

dy showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe,

Equally at home discussing the celebrity status of the Beckhams or the political intricacies of the Scottish elections, Vladimir's broad range of targets is matched by his equally broad appeal to all sections of the audience.

Gareth Waugh is an up-and-coming Scottish comedian often performing in Edinburgh. He began performing comedy in July 2010 and has since begun focusing on a full-time career in the come-



Susie McCabe



Eco Savvy

invites you to drop in to our

Skills Sharing Open Day

Sunday 21st September.

Whiting Bay Hall 10am - 4pm

Everyone Welcome- Fun for all ages

- How to use your sewing machine (bring your own) Beginner AM - PM
- Jewellery making AM -PM
- Card Making PM
- Sewing skills - hand and machine AM -PM
- Sewing Machine make your own lavender bag with applique PM
- Knitting for beginners AM
- Crochet for beginners AM - PM
- Introduction to Bobbin Lace making PM
- Decoupage PM
- Basic DIY advice use of power tools in the home AM- PM
- Replacing a tap washer AM
- Safety Skills, Electrical problems. Power Savings in the home AM -PM
- Bike Maintenance AM -PM
- Rag rug making AM - PM
- Digital photography (bring your own camera) help for beginners AM
- Decorating wooden shapes AM -PM
- Gift Bag making from the Banner AM
- Floristry AM
- Ten minute peace plan AM
- Nail Art AM
- Paper Art PM
- Model Making from plans AM- PM
- Weaving & Braiding AM-PM
- Giant Eco Savvy Art Attack



THE ARRAN BANNER

Store wars loom on Arran

The big 'will they or won't they come to Arran' has finally been answered this week.

After months of speculation it seems all the talk of Tesco coming to Arran is true.

They have spent months under the radar quietly drawing up plans for their island foray.

But is there really anything to worry about?

That rather depends on your point of view. Competition is always healthy so surely a rival to the Co-operative, which has served the island well and for so many years, can only be a good thing to help keep prices down.

And the proposed Tesco Express is the smallest shop in the company range.

But the flip side of that is the question, does Arran need a second major supermarket?

Twenty years ago the new expanded Co-op was accused of driving small businesses into the ground. The arrival of Tesco will surely put the future of the few who struggle on in serious doubt.

And what about over provision? Tesco want more than 40 square meters of space to sell booze and, like the Co-op, to sell it 12 hours a day, seven days a week. With just a hotel between the drink aisles - that's double the amount of alcohol for sale on the island. And that's just the start.

Two bakeries, two newspaper outlets, two sandwich stations - two in fact of everything and only a hop, skip and a jump apart.

And will the Co-op keep two shops in Brodick? The smart money is on the smaller store eventually being squeezed out, but we will have to wait and see.

But will it end there? Tesco has a reputation in bigger towns and cities of trying to saturate the market and turn places into so called 'Tesco towns' and not that far away. At one time Kilmarnock had three Tesco stores. Would they eventually try to enforce a similar monopoly on Arran?

On the more positive side though, it is good that the Bilslands store is to be taken over and Tesco will bring jobs and give the island economy a boost.

With Road Equivalent Tariff coming in next month, maybe the expected increase in visitor numbers will make the addition of another supermarket work.

Maybe we may even come to believe a certain slogan that: 'Every little helps'.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.' (Matthew 5:7)

press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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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



Castle art show cancelled

Sir,
It is with great regret we have come to the decision to cancel this year's winter art exhibition at the castle.

I understand this will come as a great disappointment to many; both local artists, for whom the exhibition has become such a focal point of their year, and the many visitors who greatly enjoy the event. Unfortunately, due to the considerable amount of work scheduled to be carried out both inside and outside the castle over the winter months, with the commensurate degree of disruption this will entail, we have had to bow to the inevitable and cancel the show.

It is our intention the exhibition will be re-launched in the future so that we can build on the past successes of the show and again showcase the vast talent the island has to offer.

Yours,
Chris Mills
Administration Manager
Brodick Castle

Best shop ever

Sir,
I am writing to express the dismay felt by myself and my two sons aged 5 and 11 and my mum to learn that Bilslands may be closing.

We have spent many, many holidays on Arran and one of our highlights is our visits to Bilslands.

The children absolutely love this shop, they talk about it even before we leave for our holiday. They have both visited the shop since they were very small children eager to spend their holiday money, play crazy golf and buy an ice cream.

There is something for everyone in Bilslands and the staff are so friendly and helpful.

We often make several trips to the shop during our stay, so it is something of an institution to us.

We are very sad to hear about the possible closure and hope that will not be the case. As my son, aged 5, said

on hearing the news. 'Why are they closing the best shop ever?'

Yours
The McKenzie family
Grangemouth
Grave sticker

backing

Sir,
It's funny how, when we live on a beautiful island free of war and famine unlike much of the world, people have to niggle away and complain about things that would be of no matter to those with real problems.

Nearly always this concerns the workings of the local authority in some way or another.

I'm referring to the 'stooshie' about little notices on headstones.

Health and safety make the rules and local authorities have to perform inspections on the state of individual memorials. Thereafter the responsibility rests with the lair owner. Families are not always clear on who should accept the responsibility. Neither are the records in North Ayrshire Council foolproof.

Some were lost possibly at a time when there were local authority changes.

I can see no harm therefore, in marking stones like 'to whom it may apply'. An advantage would be in saving repair costs by co-ordinating repairs when a number of stones are involved and this can be considerable. It would be harder to find out how many were involved if private notification was the only way of identification. Although it is a sensitive area to deal with practicalities still need to be met.

Our local paper has championed many causes, some worthier than others. To say that our very well kept cemeteries will be 'littered with little white notices; isn't their cleverest comment.

Yours,
Margie Currie
Eastland
Shiskine

Hospital support
Sir,
Since March of this year, Isle

of Arran hospital supporters' league has bought more than £16,000 worth of equipment for our hospital and medical centres.

We have received a letter from the nursing staff thanking us for our efforts and comparing the hospital supporters' league very favourably with support given to other community hospitals on the mainland.

We have been able to do this because of the generous support of the Arran community; families appreciating the care they have had at Lamlash and at home; regular donations from individuals and institutions; Alison Bilsland with her wheelchairs; and shopkeepers, hoteliers and their customers who keep and fill donation boxes.

We are able to buy all this equipment solely due to the generosity of the Arran community. Thank you.

Yours,
Sheila MacLeod, secretary
Jim Arnold, treasurer

Joining up journeys

Sir,
I read with some degree of irony, your leader of 23 August about new bus services for Arran. I was at the time waiting for the 323 bus that doesn't meet the 4.40pm sailing from Ardrrossan.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a grown-up integrated transport system where bus times are co-ordinated with all ferry sailings - not just some of them. Where trains are scheduled to link with ferry sailings, rather than run for the most part independently of them.

There is a lot of local money being spent to enable these services. As we move to an era where twin ferries will be the norm, we need to do better than at present. An electronic display telling me that there is no bus to meet the ferry - not much of an improvement

Yours,
Douglas Graham
Pier View
Whiting Bay

Great golfing

Sir,
Please thank the good people

of Whiting Bay Golf Club for two great days of golf on their course. It's the best on Arran.

Also thanks to the great staff at the underrated hotel on Arran, The McLaren - great food, clean and friendly, and the best three-course dinner on the island.

My party have been going to these two places for years and will be going back for years to come.

Yours,
T Bryan Erskine

Musical success

Sir,
Last month you kindly published my letter asking for any information about Mike and Steph and their music.

I am delighted to tell you that Mike Bailey has been in touch with me.

He has been most obliging and charming and I now have CDs of their fantastic music which I can share with my family.

Many thanks to both Mike and *The Banner*.

Yours,
Fiona Boyle
Troon

Tribute to the profession

Sir,
I would like to thank the nurses from Brodick surgery, Deborah and Jill, who have been caring for my mother who has a badly injured leg.

I travelled up to the island to help my parents and was very impressed with their professionalism, knowledge of wound care and, above all, their caring, cheerful approach towards my mother, which instilled confidence and calmed her concern.

They are a tribute to the profession that they work in and, as a senior lecturer in nursing and health care, I believe this should be shouted about.

Yours,
David Blesovsky
Aberystwyth

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Dust off those dancing shoes

It's time to dust off those dancing shoes and head on down to Brodick Church Hall on Tuesday nights.

The new session of the Brodick Country Dance group starts next week.

Organiser Marion Devine from Dippen said: 'A TV documentary exploring the question of 'what makes people happy?' concluded that the activity generating the greatest degree of happiness in its participants was Scottish country dancing.

'Our group dances for pleasure and enjoyment. It's a sociable activity as dancers change partners after each dance. We provide a range of dances every evening varying from straightforward dances, which beginners can enjoy, to the occasional more challenging dances providing dancers with a real sense of achievement when we all finish at the same time as the music!

'Of course, there's no dancing without music and we have an excellent collection of CDs from very talented dance bands. Music which gives you a lift from the first chord to the last – roistering reels, jolly jigs and smooth strathspeys.'

Marion added: 'Scottish country dancing is enjoyed everywhere and dancers can pack their dance shoes and be welcomed by a local group in almost any part of the world. So, if you have never tried it before or if you remember it only from school, come and join us. No matter what your age everyone will be very welcome.'

The winter session starts on Tuesday 30 September at 7.30pm in the Brodick Church Hall.



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Tech addicts get a digital detox

The first ever 'tech detox' weekend held on Arran has proved such a success that the Scottish Youth Hostel Association is planning to expand the venture.

Earlier this month five self confessed tech addicts spent two-days at the Lochranza Youth Hostel after winning a competition.

All five of them had to agree to give up their smart-phones, iPads and any other devices linked to the internet – to show them what they were missing in the real world.

The idea for a digital detox was, ironically, partly inspired by a recent YouTube video called Look Up, mocking people walking around with eyes glued to their mobiles.

It is estimated that on average people check their mobile a whopping 150 times every 24 hours.

The first tech rehab centre in the UK opened in London in 2010 and last year researchers estimated that up to 38 per cent of people were hooked on the internet.

The group spent the weekend walking, abseiling, kayaking and spending time teambuilding.

Aberdeen business development manager Elaine Robertson, 40, said: 'I started weaning myself off Facebook two weeks ago,' but emailed after the event saying: 'I have felt little urge to resume my Facebook addiction!' She also didn't turn her phone back on until Monday morning, extending her detox for another 12-18 hours.

Danny Huff, 46, a sales manager, was amazed when he saw stags outside the youth hostel and asked for his phone back to take pictures, even though he was



Danny Huff and Elaine Robertson at the end of a waterfall walk.



Dave Windsor goes sea kayaking for the first time.



Teambuilding at Lochranza Youth Hostel.

allowed to bring a normal camera – so instead SYHA staff gave him the SLR. He was the first to crack and turned his mobile back on the ferry to text.

IT support analyst Dave Windsor, 35, said: 'I think we use technology for a reason and as long as you have a healthy balance with being outside, I see no problem.'

Recommend

A spokeswoman for the SYHA said: 'The group missed having music with some missing the camera on their mobile phones too. Nobody mentioned miss-

ing Facebook specifically and all of them loved trying new activities. They all said they would recommend a Tech Detox to someone else.'

Keith Legge, CEO, SYHA Hostelling Scotland, said: 'The success of the tech detox weekend shows there is a real appetite for people being given the opportunity to ditch their technology and reconnect with nature and each other. SYHA is proud to have given some self-confessed digital addicts the chance to switch off and appreciate Scotland at its best.'

Exploring Arran's geology

The Arran Natural History Society began its winter programme of talks on Thursday 4 September with a fascinating exploration of the geology of the island presented by Mike Daniels from Lochranza Field Centre.

Entitled 'The 600 million year journey of Arran's rocks', Mike's talk began with a look at some examples of pebbles from Arran's beaches, which then led members to considering how Arran has moved from near Australia, via the equatorial regions, to where it is now, all the while picking up different types of rocks and fossils. This is the evidence that geologists use to map this amazing journey.

Mike showed some examples, including Arran sandstones containing desert sand, and brachiopod fossils from Corrie via the equator.

Mike ended by reminding everyone that each time they picked up an interesting beach pebble and look closely at it, they were being geologists.

The next meeting is on Thursday 2 October at 8pm at the Rangers Centre, Brodick Country Park, when Zul Bhatia will present what promises to be an exciting illustrated talk on the wild-life of Tanzania. Everyone is welcome.



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WHAT'S ON AT THE CASTLE

SAT 20TH 1 – 3:30PM FUNGI FORAY

Join 'fun guy' Graeme Walker on a toadstool trek, a chance for tasting wild mushroom delights!

Entry to Brodick Country Park + Adult £6, child £3

No booking, meet at Brodick Castle reception centre

TUE 23RD 2 – 3:30PM GARDEN WALK

Find out what's special about Brodick Castle Gardens

Entry to Country Park, donations welcomed. No need to book, meet at Brodick Castle reception centre

WED 24TH 2 – 4PM BRONZE AGE ROUND HOUSE TOUR

Travel back to the Bronze Age. Enjoy sitting round the fire to find out what it was like 4,000 years ago

Entry to Brodick Country Park + £8/adult, £4/child

Booking essential

THURS 25TH 2 – 3:30PM PAINTINGS TOUR

Specialist tour of Brodick Castle's painting collection

Entry to Brodick Castle + £5/adult

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FRI 26TH 11:30 AM – 1 PM CASTLE SECRETS

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Free with Brodick Country Park tickets – no booking required

Workshops and torchlight parade require booking

www.northlight-heritage.co.uk/events.html

SAT 27TH 7PM BURNING THE CIRCLE EVENT

As daylight falls join us on an operatic journey from the sea to our experimental cremation pyres. £5/person

Booking essential (see above)

At 8pm we light the fires and you can join us for free – park at Reception

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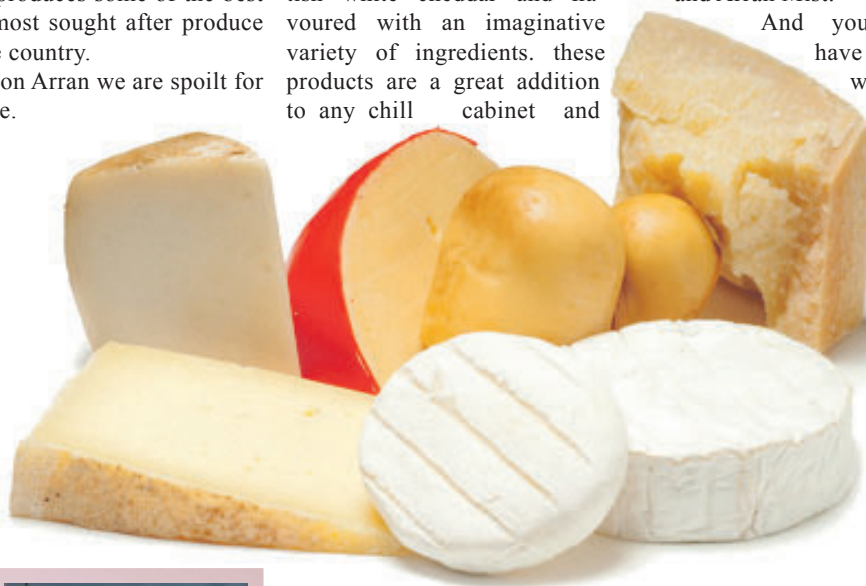
Whether you are eating out or staying at home you can't beat Arran produced food and drink. And now the secret is out with island products not only selling the length and breadth of the UK but in markets across the world. There is no doubt that Arran now produces some of the best and most sought after produce in the country. Here on Arran we are spoilt for choice.

If it is cheese you crave then the Island Cheese Co at Home Farm is just the place for you. Initially established to supply delicious flavoured cheddars to a local and tourist market on the island, it has since grown to be one of the most popular cheese producers in Britain. Made with slow matured Scottish white cheddar and flavoured with an imaginative variety of ingredients, these products are a great addition to any chill cabinet and

are also well suited to gift boxes and hampers. The traditional truckles come in nine flavours and deluxe range adds another four taste sensations. In addition the company now incorporates the Bellevue Cheese Company in Blackwaterfoot who produced Arran Blue, Arran Camembert and Arran Mist.

and oatcake and on Arran there is only one name in traditional baking - Wooley's. Although today they produce a whole range of products, it is perhaps their oatcakes, still handmade to a closely guarded family recipe, which are known throughout the world. One of Taste of Arran's best selling products these rough oatcakes have a wonderful nutty flavour and crumbly texture and work well with either a sweet or savoury topping and are available full size or the canape sized version - the Arran Oatie. Fibre rich bran oatcakes and oaties are also available along with cheese oaties. And Wooley's oatcakes are just one of the many local products available in the Co-operative Food stores in Brodick and Lamlash. The largest of the stores now stocks an incredible range of Arran food and drink that includes butcher meat, pies and cold meats from the Arran Butcher, Creelers smoked sea-

And you can't have cheese without



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food, Kirkend jams and Arran Dairies milk and ice cream. Not to mention beers from the Arran Brewery and a large selection of whiskies from the Isle of Arran Distillery.

And why carry it yourself. The Co-op now offers free home delivery on all orders over £25. So if you are ordering coal, kindling or logs this winter it makes sense to have them delivered to your door.

But you can't eat at home all the time and with so many fantastic ingredients on our very doorstep it is little wonder that the island is home to some of the most innovative and talented chefs, serving only the very best in locally sourced produce. One of the latest dining venues on the map is the splendid Altachorvie Island Retreat in Lamlash.

Now open to non-residents the licensed bar and restaurant offers an exciting and unique dining experience. Whether it's for lunch or dinner the menu features a whole range of local and Scottish produce and there are some great vegetarian options. The venue is also planning a series of party nights in the run up to the festive season and bookings are now being taken. While at The Douglas Hotel in Brodick things have turned distinctly autumnal with the latest delicious seasonal menu.

Whether its a meal, a sharing platter, snacks, or just and coffee or a drink the popular bar is open every day from 10.30am and serves meals all the way through until 9.30pm.

If you are looking for something a little more upmarket you will find an extensive menu groaning with local produce to tempt your tastebuds in the Bistro which is open from 6pm until 9.30pm.

Across the island at The Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot you can also sample some of Arran's finest produce in their mouth-watering and inventive menus. Their dishes only use the best Arran lamb, Kilbrannan Sound seafood, Wooley's oatcakes, Island cheese, Arran Dairies ice cream and Kirkend strawberries to create a meal you'll never forget.



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Autumn has arrived

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Gyrfalcons sight was certainly unexpected

The August Bird Notes in the Arran Banner finished with the words: '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.'

I did not expect to get an email about a gyrfalcon on Arran but on 8 September that is what I received.

Largest

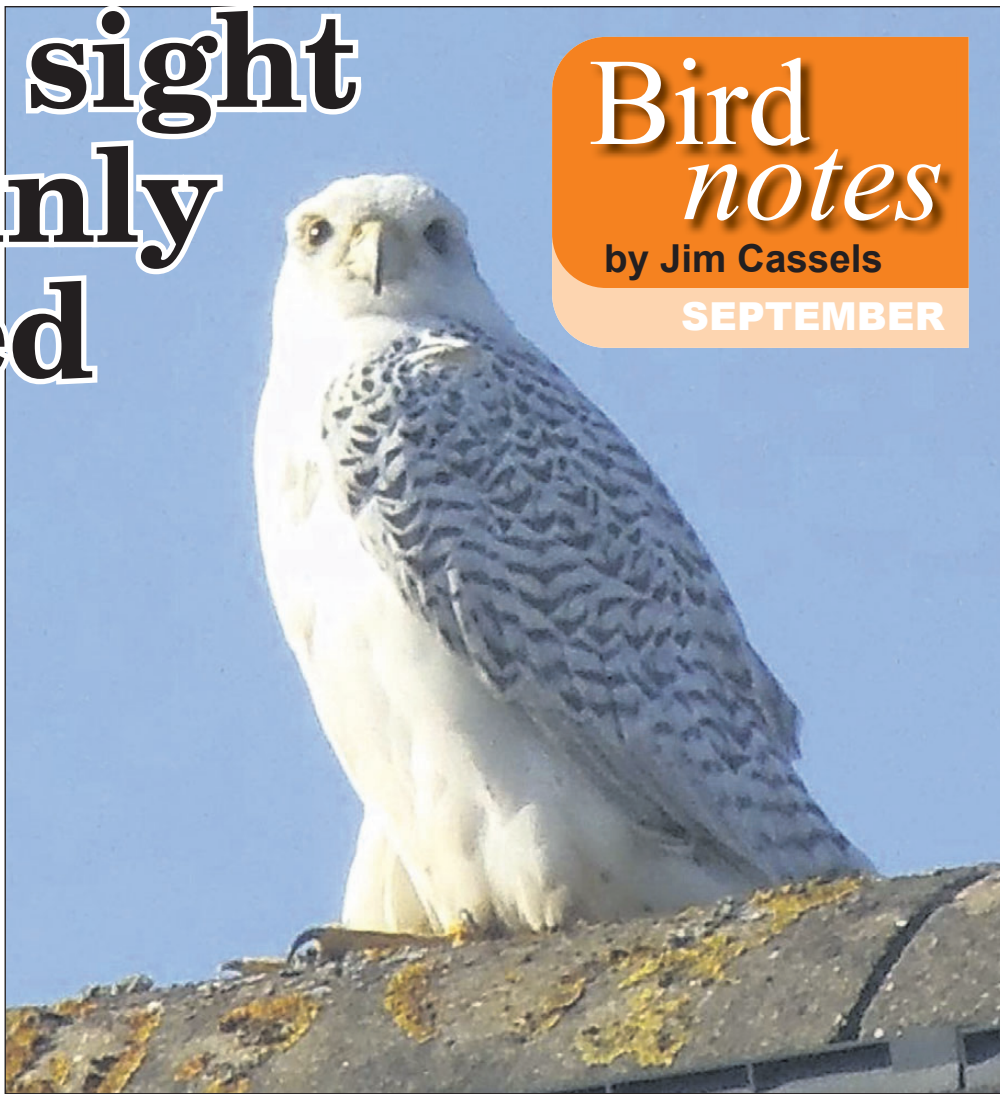
Gyrfalcon breed on Arctic coasts and the islands of North America, Europe, and Asia. It is the largest of the falcon species with a wingspan of over 130cm compared to about 100cm for a large female peregrine.

Female gyrfalcons are bigger than the males and can weigh in at over 4.5lbs. These birds are longer and

have a bigger wingspan than buzzards. In the wild they are formidable hunters.

This bird was a falconer's bird that had escaped. On the evening of 9 September there was a phone call to me reporting a gyrfalcon in Sliddery. The photograph, right, of this stunning bird was taken there. The falconer was phoned but did not manage to make contact with the bird.

On the morning of 12 September there was a second phone call to me. This time the bird was in Dougarie by the bridge and boat house. This time the falconer was able to make contact with the bird. When he appeared, the bird went and sat on a post and when the falconer produced food, the bird came and took it from his hand. It was probably hungry after



The Gyrfalcon on a roof in Sliddery. Photo Lynn McNeish

five days on the loose, but the island birding contacts

and the skill of the falconer ensured the safe return of the bird.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at

james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Friends enjoy trip to Yorkshire

A group of Friends of Brodick Castle recently enjoyed a short holiday in Yorkshire, staying in the flower bedecked town of Wetherby.

This is very close to Harewood House where they spent the first full day admiring the beautiful interiors and strolling in the rolling parkland. The penguins in the aviary were much admired, as were the Terrace Gardens, seen from the perfectly-sited tea rooms.

The next day took them to Fountains Abbey, a magnificent ruin situated in a narrow, wooded valley so that the first sight of it is a spectacular surprise. The atmospheric ruins of the medieval monastery show how busy and rich it was, based on the wool trade and employing hundreds of lay brothers and outside staff as well as the 100 choir monks, keeping continuous worship alive in the huge church. The energetic few walked the full length of the Georgian era Studley Water Gardens to a delightful tea room overlooking the final lake with its serene swans and other waterfowl.

The coach then took them to Harrogate with sufficient time to enjoy the Valley Gardens, admire the Victorian architecture or take afternoon tea at Betty's. The journey home was broken by a visit to an excellent garden centre near Carlisle and some folk bought exotic plants to bring home.

Thanks go to Ann Hollingworth for organising the trip and shepherding the group gently and efficiently.

ER

Contest winner

The winner of last month's competition to win a three night bed and breakfast break at Wallace's Arthouse in Edinburgh was Hazel White of Ross Place, Upper Achintore, Fort William.

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Summoning the spirit of the shaman at prehistoric event

For a few days this month, the Bronze Age roundhouse at Brodick Country Park will come alive with the sounds, smells and tastes of the island's rich prehistoric past.

Archaeologists from Glasgow-based charity Northlight Heritage and Glasgow University have teamed up with the National Trust for Scotland ranger service to provide a unique insight into prehistoric life during the weekend of 27 and 28 September.

The Burning the Circle 2014 event builds on a similar successful collaboration last summer and will once again explore ancient technologies and crafts.

Visitors will be able to see demonstrations, undertake hands-on activities, and talk to archaeologists, crafts people and trust rangers about Arran's amazing prehistoric past.

Ranger Corinna Goeckeritz

said: 'We are thrilled to be hosting this innovative event packed full of experimental archaeology and hands-on activities. The festival will give people the unique chance not just to get a glimpse into prehistoric life, but also to see how incredibly skilled our ancestors were.



Prehistoric pots created by Graham Taylor.

'Ancient crafts on show will include Bronze Age casting of tools and weapons, boat building and prehistoric pottery production as well as rope making, spinning and weaving. Visitors will be able

to try various crafts, such as making stone pendants with a Bronze Age hand drill. Another highlight should be the Arran Brewery's experimental Bronze Age beer.'

New for this year, participants will be able to book on exclusive sessions with bronze caster Neil Burridge and experimental archaeologist and master potter Graham Taylor.

While, in the week running up to the event, a group of NTS Thistle Camp volunteers will be undertaking the experimental construction of a prehistoric log boat and a coracle. Visitors to Brodick Castle will be able to witness the progress of this interesting project from Monday 22 September onwards.

Spectacle

In addition to the festival's daytime events, the main spectacle promises to be the lighting of experimental prehistoric funeral pyres as darkness falls on the evening of Saturday 27 September. The pyres will be constructed by archaeologists from the University of Glasgow within a prehistoric timber circle. A legacy from last year's event, this replica monument stands in a very atmospheric setting with views to Brodick Castle and out across Brodick Bay and with the summit of Arran's highest peak, Goatfell, looming behind.

Whilst everyone is invited to witness the pyres burning, which will be free to attend, a limited number of visitors can book to 'journey with the Shaman', a walk to the site scripted by a team of Glasgow University Public Humanities PhD students exclusively for the event.

More information on <http://www.northlight-heritage.co.uk/events.html> and www.facebook.com/ArranRangerService



The Bronze Age roundhouse where the festival will be held.



Bronze casting will be one of the ancient crafts displayed.



The burning circle from last year.

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Arran can learn from heritage and conservation planning in Orkney

A leading planner is visiting Arran next week to discuss how conservation and heritage measures are implemented in the Orkney isles.

Arran Civic Trust has invited Stuart West to present the talk as Arran faces similar problems over development issues.

Stuart is the manager of the development and marine planning function at Orkney Islands Council, where he has lived for the past eight years.

Orkney has 19 inhabited isles, a population of 21,500 in 11,400 households; 622 listed buildings, 347 scheduled monuments and six existing conservation areas plus one World Heritage site. There is a huge legacy including WWI and WWII

sites at Scapa Flow. Orkney has strong parish settlement communities.

There is a settlement pattern and crofting pattern with traditional rural housing. In 2010 the local development plan was updated with the production of the 2010 proposed plan and the policies regarding the housing in the countryside were revised.

Local lists of significant structures are currently being produced.

The current policy means that buildings of historic merit are no longer eligible for 1:1 replacement. Supplementary guidance has been introduced which defines historic merit in Orkney and includes the following types of buildings and structures:



A building on Orkney lies derelict and unloved.

1. Vernacular;
2. Traditional construction – natural materials: stone, earth, clay, slate and timber. In 1830 steamers started to come bringing Caithness stone and Welsh slate;
3. Non traditional buildings and structures - mainly wartime;
4. Other buildings and structures on Historic Scotland's

own statutory lists. A core principle in the supplementary guidance is that the retention and preservation of buildings, which feature on Orkney local list, will be encouraged. An example is illustrated above of before and after renovation, a project which was also a recipient of a Council Heritage Grant. Prior to the 2010 review 1:1



The same building restored to its former glory.

replacement was allowed, so many local buildings had been replaced by kit houses etc, destroying the local character.

Stuart will focus on how development planning has effectively preserved cultural heritage sites in Orkney, and will examine Orkney's rich cultural heritage, from the World Heritage Site down to

the buildings and structures on the local list, and will demonstrate how planning policies and guidance have been utilised to ensure that these important assets are effectively protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

Stuart's talk is on Monday 22 September at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall.

First Jewish gathering on Arran

Members of the Jewish community on Arran have got together for the first time.

They met on Tuesday 2 September for a kosher meal, with guest of honour Lev Atlas.

Classical musician

Lev has had an outstanding career as a classical musician in his native Russia, and is now the principal viola player at the Scottish

Opera Orchestra and lectures in strings at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

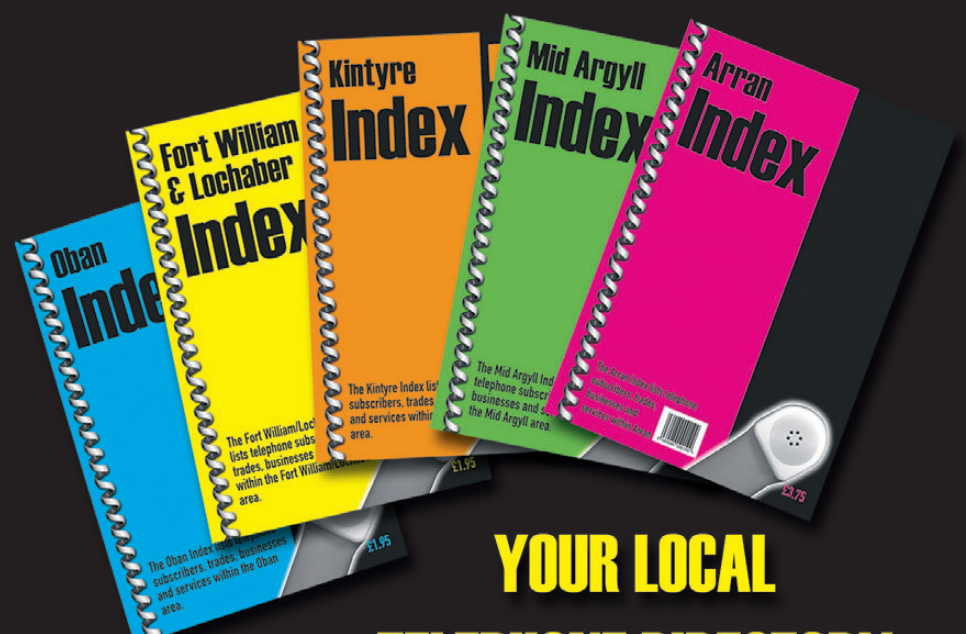
He joined the Jewish gathering after performing the night before at Whiting Bay Hall as part of the McLellan Festival.

Also present was Fiona Frank, the projects and outreach manager at the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities.



Lev Atlas with his viola in discussion at the Jewish gathering.

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TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 17 September, 1994

Export success

An Arran businessman who sells periwinkles all over Europe has won a top export award.

Shiskine-based Sandy MacAlister Shellfish is the only Scottish award winner in the Department of Trade and Industry Export Awards for Smaller Businesses.

It was in the early '80s that Sandy began exporting Scottish winkles to France and by 1987 he had a bigger lorry and was taking loads of winkles down to south west France.

Now he employs six people and collects winkles, and other shellfish, from all over Scotland which go to his depot in Saltcoats where they are collected in refrigerated transport and delivered all over France and Spain.

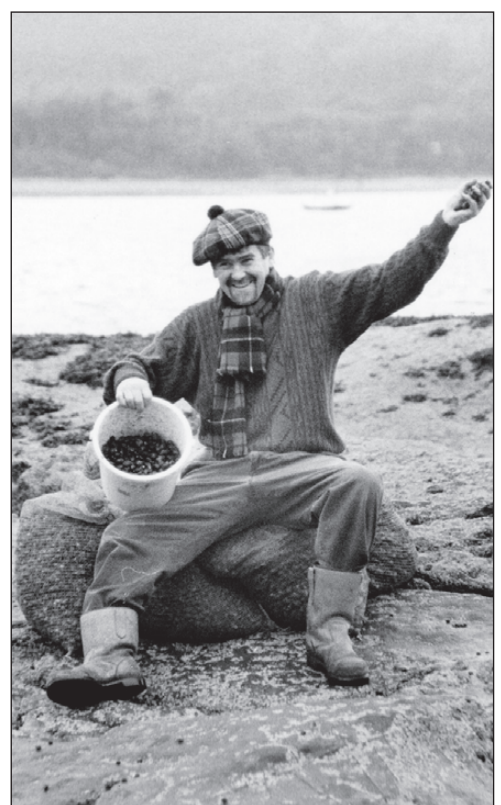
Career opportunities

From accountancy to zoology, through such diverse careers as orthoptics and pig production - these careers and many hundreds more were on show as no less than 32 universities, colleges and career representatives came to Lamlash Community Centre for the 1994 Arran Careers Convention.

The convention was held in two sessions, in the afternoon and evening, and although it was aimed mainly at high school pupils, parents were encouraged to come along. Indeed 50 percent of parents took up the invitation ensuring that both sessions were very well attended.

No early ferry

There will be no 7am ferry from Brodick on a



Sandy MacAlister celebrates his export success with a bucket of winkles on Brodick beach. b38twe01



Arran Rugby Club pose for a team photo at the start of the 1994/95 season which got off to a winning 12-6 victory over Cowal.

b38twe02

Monday when the winter timetable starts next month.

Caledonian MacBrayne was asked by the ferry committee to consider the move but after research it has been ruled out.

Operations manager Ted Sangster said: 'We found that the majority would find some advantage, but others were not bothered.' He said the haulage section was against it as it would increase their costs.

Evesdropping

A lady caller to the Banner office last week said she had been listening to her radio when it had suddenly changed to a conversation between two people on Arran. She was only half listening until she heard the name Blackwaterfoot. They then discussed finance and one told the other he had concealed some money. 'You wouldn't want other people to listen to that,' the lady said.

This is not the first time such indiscretions of the airwaves have been reported although we do understand it is likely to happen only when people are using mobile telephones.

Tent thefts

A tent was stolen from beside the Brodick tennis courts last Sunday together with camping equipment and diabetic medicine to the value of £370. Police recovered some of the equipment later but are still looking for a blue Vango tent.

Another was stolen from Cordon on Tuesday when two visitors from Hamilton had left it for just half an hour.

Two boys seek advice from CPO Graham Watson of the Royal Navy at the careers convention. b38twe04



Arran players leap highest for the ball at a line-out. b38twe03



What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Arran Heritage Museum
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, boat & bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 12.30-4pm
 2pm
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
 Open all day

Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 Metafit
 Garden walk
 RunArran Beginners
 Live Music
 Garden Walk
 Bridge for beginners
 Kilbride Benevolent fund AGM
 Isle of Arran Drama AGM

Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6pm
 Brodick Castle 2pm-3.30pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Lamlash church hall, 7pm
 Arran High School, 7.30pm

Saturday 20th September

Army Cadets
 Lamlash Splash
 Arran RFC vs Cummnock
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Fun in the pool
 RNLI Shop
 Live music
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Fungi foray
 Live Music with Scott Macdonald

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm.
 Lamlash Pier, 11.30am
 Ormidale Park, Brodick, 2pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Green, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Green, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Brodick Castle, 1-3.30pm
 Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Wednesday 24th September

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game
 Mixed Hockey
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Bronze Age Round House Tour

Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Brodick Bowling Green, 6pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 21st September

Family Games
 Memory Walk
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 Live music
 Open music session
 Skills Sharing Open Day

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Douglas Hotel, 2pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 10am - 4pm

Thursday 25th September

Quiz
 Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folky, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Boy
 Pilates
 Paintings tour
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Garden Club
 QuiltArran

Eden Lodge, 9pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Rangers Centre, 7.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm

Monday 22nd September

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Summer Bridge
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game
 Circuit Training
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Live Music

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 9pm
 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
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Arran High School, 6.30pm
 Lamlash Bowling Green, 7pm
 Brodick Bowling Green, 6pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Lamlash, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm

Friday 26th September

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Castle Secrets Tour
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 Coffee Morning

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
 Brodick Castle, 11.30 - 1pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-5pm
 Corrie & Sannox Village hall, 10.15am

Tuesday 23rd September

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre

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Personal Notices



Family and friends were delighted when Claire Johnston from Shiskine and Thomas Fleming from Chicago were married at Blackwaterfoot beach on 16th August 2014, followed by a reception at the Ormidale Hotel. A second celebration was held in Chicago on 30th August. Claire and Tom have set up home in Glasgow with their wee dog, Rosa!



JESSICA PAYNE
graduated from Gray's Art School at Robert Gordon University on 18th July with a BSC(Hons) 2:1 in Surface Design and Textiles. Congratulations from all the family.



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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 21st September
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 24th 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 21st September
Lochranza Church. 9.30am
Morning Worship.
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am,
Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
Morning Worship.
Brodict Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer
Meeting.
11.50am Tea and Coffee and
Fellowship, 12noon
Morning Worship.
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 21st September
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
Both Churches:
Mrs Sharon Macleod
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 21st September
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen
Estate, Brodict
Evening Service 6-30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 24th September
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

SALVATION ARMY

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005).
Sunday 21st 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.
There will be a sale of Traidcraft
goods and other items.
Please stay and enjoy more
fellowship

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 21st September
11am Morning worship
in the Ormidale Sports
Pavilion, Brodict
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for
Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 21st September
Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)
Brodict 7pm (Church behind
post office)
Rev Richard Muir

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridge results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club competition held on Monday 15 September were: N/S 1 Jan Beattie and Margaret McGill, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Jennifer Wales and Douglas Chase. E/W 1 Ellie Jones and Jennifer McArthur, 2 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.



Arran Golfers Association

On a glorious sunny day a full complement of seven teams from the whole island turned up at Corrie Golf Club for the annual Famous Grouse foursomes competition on Saturday 13 September. There was a slight change to the running order when Alan Smith of Lamlash turned up without his three wood and his most important club his driver. A return journey solved the problem however.

The winners with a stunning 54.5 were Jimmy Armit and Chris Pattenden from Brodict. They also recorded the best scratch 65.

A close run for second place, saw the local tandem of Rab Logan and Jim Mc Connachie edge out Dan Bremner and Mark Wren (Lamlash) on a BIH both scoring an excellent 60.5.

Magic twos were scored by Jimmy and Chris, Dan and Mark and the Whiting Bay youngsters Danny Head and Ryan Armstrong.

An excellent day enjoyed by all who played over the stunning Corrie course which was once again in great condition.

Compliments to Pablo Moran and Stephen Beardsley for all their hard work.

Fixture: Seniors Handicap at Brodict Golf Club on Saturday 20 September 1pm, yellow tees, qualifying age 55.

Brodict Golf Club

Tuesday 9 September, 2 September ladies medal, 13 played, CSS 70. Division 1: 1 Pat Adamson, 88(18)70, 2 and Scratch Susan Butchard 82(12)70. Division 2: 1 Kay Kitson, 99(23)76, 2 Lesley Murray 109(25)84.

Fixtures: The Winter Cup will commence on Wednesday 24 September, first tee-off at 12noon.

Wednesday 10 September, 10th Summer Cup, 28 played, CSS 64. 1 Alastair Dobson (7)60, 2 Iain MacDonald (7)61, 3 Brian Smith (12)62. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 62. There were eight magic twos, Alastair Hume (2), Iain MacDonald, Peter McCalla, Ewan McKinnon, Charles O'Neill, Robbie Duncan and Kenny McMillan.

Sunday 14 September, 14th Brandon, 20 played, CSS 66. 1 Iain MacDonald (7)63, 2 James Armit (9)64, John McKean (12)67(acb). Scratch Iain MacDonald 70(acb). First class Brandon Iain MacDonald. Second class Bran-



Club members relaxing after the winners were announced.

Reuben is crowned bowls champion

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club held their end of season tournament early this year before several members went on holiday.

On Saturday 13 September members enjoyed beautiful weather as they played a not too serious round robin match to find the club champion for the year.

After adding up the scores Reuben Betley was declared the winner with Keith Thompson and Marian Brambles coming

second and third respectively.

Members and friends then had their end of season party at John and Christine Robinson's house.

The club continues to meet on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons at 1.45pm throughout the autumn and winter playing on its all-season carpet. Anybody interested in joining in whether they have played before or not, are welcome to come along.

don Lindsay Keir There were eight magic twos, Iain MacDonald, Terry Raeside, Ewan McKinnon, Nicol Hume, Bryce Walker, Bruce Jenkins, John McKean, Chris Pattenden

Fixtures: Sunday 21 September, am and pm times, draw Saturday 20 September at 12noon. Sunday 28 September, start of Winter Cup.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 10 September, 27 played in the Bannatyne Cup, which was a non-counter as the greens had just been heavily sanded. 1 Bob Hastings (13)58, 2 Sandy Pringle (13)60, 3 John Simmons (12)62 acb, 4 Kevin McAleney (12)62. Malcolm Pennycott won scratch with 63 and there were magic twos by Malcolm Pennycott (2), John Simmons, Jamie Stewart and Stan Rainey.

Fixtures: Saturday 20 September, AGA Seniors Handicap at Brodict at 1pm. Sunday 21 September, Gents Medal. Wednesday 24 September, Gents Medal.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 11 September, 12 hole medal winners medal, CSS 43. Silver: 1 Elizabeth Kelso 53-11=42, 2 Kema Genda 50-7=43. Bronze: 1 Esther Henderson 58-16=42(BIH), 2 Piet Johnston 61-14=47 (BIH). Scratch Kema Genda 50.
Sunday 14 September,

18 hole medal. 1 Jack McNally 80-19=61(BIH), 2 Tom Mitchell 67-6=61best scratch. Magic twos J McNally and C Allison.
Fixtures: Sunday 21 September, 12 hole medal(gents). Thursday 25 September, pink day(ladies).

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 9 September, SGLU medal and sweep. 1 John Pennycott 62, 2 Alastair MacDonald 70, 3 Campbell Laing 71. Scratch John Pennycott 75, magic twos Alastair MacDonald.
Fixtures: Tuesday 23 September, SGLU medal and sweep tee off 12.30pm. Tuesday 30 September, sweep tee off 12.30pm. Saturday 4 October, Lochranza Hotel Cup tee off 12noon. Will all members please note that as from 1 October tee off will be at 12noon only.

Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies Section: Wednesday 10 September, Medal 9 and LGU Brooch, 10 played CSS 66. 1 Kate McAdam 65(19), 2 Jenny Pattenden 68(31). Scratch:Sheena Murchie 82. Magic two June Richardson @16. Friday 12 September, away day at Largs Kelburn, stableford. 1 Susan Butchard 32, 2 Jenny Pattenden 28(BIH), 3 Jo Hastings 28.

Thursday 11 September, Summer Cup, 24 played, CSS 64. 1 Neil Young 67-4=63(BIH), 2 John O'Sullivan 86-23=63(BIH), 3 Stuart Campbell 69-6=63, 4

Scott Macfarlane 81-17=64. Best Scratch Neil Young 67. Magic twos Scott Macfarlane @ 13th, Norrie MacIntyre @ 4th, Iain Murchie @ 5th, Mark Wren @ 16th. Yellow Medal, par 61, James Stewart 79-14=65.

Sunday 14 September, Captain's Prize gents, CSS 36pts to Stableford. 1 Colin Richardson 38pts, 2 Alan Smith 36pts, 3 Paul Jameson 35pts. Captains Prize ladies. 1 Sheena Murchie 38, 2 Jenny Pattenden 37, 3 Jo Hastings 35.

Captain's Prize overall team. Winners 'Near Mrs' - Iain Murchie, Colin Richardson and Liz Sinclair 133pts. Runners-up 'The Hangover Cure' Jenni Pattenden, Sheena Murchie, Norrie MacIntyre and Scott Campbell - 131.

Fixtures: Thursday 18 September, Summer Cup, make up own groups. Sunday 21 September, Greensome, ballot @ 12noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 10 September. final medal of summer, 20 played, CSS 61. 1 Donald Logan 65-9=56(BIH), 2 Rob Logan 62-6=56, 3 David Jeffrey 66-9=57. Magic twos pot won by David Jeffrey.

Fixtures: Saturday 20 September, sweep only at 8.30am and 1pm. Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 September Corrie Open. Sponsored holes both days. Entry for 36holes £20. Sheets at local clubs.

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Springing into new season



The squad jump to it during the tough training session. 20_b38rugby02

Five try Arran get off to a flying start

Mull 5 Arran 25

Arran RFC made the long journey to take on Mull away in their first league match of the season last Saturday.

Travelling with only 14 players plus club president Angus Adamson and coach Chris Marriot, it was down to the latter of the two to blow the cobwebs off the boots and take to the field. The match started at a pace with the Arran pack dominating both scrum and lineouts.

After a spell of pressure in the hosts 22 the ball was spun out to outside centre

Jack Barbour who took the outside route past the last two defenders and crossed over the line. Shortly after the restart debutant Euan Bone went over after some good driving play by the forwards.

Due to the heatwave on Mull the referee allowed water stops throughout the match.

Arran went in at half time 10-0 to the good. The second half started much as the first with the visitors dominating in all areas. No 10 Ben Tattersfield went over after a mazy run, with the

Arran pack now turning over scrum after scrum, and from a good platform skipper Niall McMaster barrelled over the line making it 20-0 to the visitors.

Mull eventually looked like they were getting back into the game after their centre crashed over after a long spell of possession, but with 10 minutes remaining Arran sealed the victory after a great break from no 6 Charlie Boal off loading to fellow back row Kyle Barbour to waltz around and through the last three

defenders and making the final score Mull 5 -25 Arran.

Coach Marriot said: 'The score could have been a lot more had we capitalised on the conversions and penalty attempts, but this was a determined gritty display with everyone playing a part and Arran's pre season training is certainly paying dividends. Taking bonus points with the five tries was the icing on the cake.'

Arran are home (today) Saturday against Cumnock RFC with a 2pm kick off.

The boys at Arran Rugby Club certainly have a spring in their step at pre-season training. And they have a secret weapon in their bid to perform at their best in their up and coming fixtures - Metafit.

It proved an instant success when the team travelled to Mull at the weekend where they ran out easy winners.

The squad have been put through their paces by RunArran leaders Laura Aitcheson and Marion McNicol during their weekly training for the past four weeks.

The mixed routines have included Metafit, the tough bodyweight training which has been a big hit with women since Marion brought it to the island a year ago.

Laura said: 'The rugby club asked us to provide four sessions to help kick start their fitness for the season. Using outdoor fitness we incorporated body weight exercises, running coaching and Metafit. We hope this snap shot gives them a solid base to build from.'

RunArran leaders are qualified to work with groups, clubs and can also provide one to one tuition.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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