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Sannox architectural gem may be converted into affordable homes

# Church demise could be a blessing for housing

One of Arran's architectural gems with a unique cultural heritage is facing an uncertain future.

Sannox Congregational Church was built by devoted Arran people in 1822 but its days may be numbered.

According to archivist Dr William McNaughton: 'Its surroundings are the loveliest of any congregational church in Scotland and probably of any in the world'.

When it was built, at a cost of just £400, it was the only place of worship between Lamlash and Pirmill. Now the National Synod of Scotland has written an open letter to the north Arran community and to many island groups seeking an urgent resolution to the dilemma facing the church.

The Sannox congregation diminished to the extent that it ceased to meet in 1976 and the building has lain empty since then. The attached manse was occupied by Peggy and Reg Bulley until Peggy's death three years ago. Now both are deserted.

For 16 years before the church was built, the congregation met in the open air until the Duke of Hamilton granted a lease for an acre of ground in 1821. Then the manse and the chapel capable of holding 200 people were built. Soon after, the church experienced considerable losses of parishioners as the Duke encouraged the Sannox inhabitants to emigrate to make way for sheep as

Report by HOWARD DRIVER

part of the Highland Clearances.

Dr McNaughton said: 'What a poignant scene arises as the minister Alexander McKay delivered his farewell sermon to the departing brethren from the mound of raised earth on the shore at Lamlash with the brig Caledonia anchored in the bay on Saturday April 25, 1829.'

At least 28 families were transported to Inverness in Megantic County near Quebec and they were followed by more families to Prince Edward Island.

Itinerant preacher Donald Hendry of Pirmill followed the settlers out to Canada to minister to the Arran emigrants.

### Struggled

This blow to the Sannox congregation had a lasting effect but the church struggled on and over the years has been visited by many Canadian descendants of the Clearance families.

Now the Synod is exploring a number of options for the building.

Patrick Smyth, convenor of the United Reformed Church (URC) Sannox planning group, said: 'A number of options were looked at and with the publication of the Craigforth Report the strongest and most worthwhile appeared to be affordable housing.'

'Four or five dwellings can be formed on the existing footprints by altering and refurbishing the present structures. URC is committed to selling the site to an agency committed to developing affordable housing.'

'But the Synod also undertakes to give the opportunity to people on Arran to retain the former Church building.'

Problems over access to the site could be overcome by the indication of neighbour Bill Logie that he would allow access through his land. The Synod is asking for proposals from individuals or groups who would like to develop the site or save the Church.

And they want an answer by next month.



Rory Hunter and the Ali Bodie trophy, with his father Iain.

## Open water success for Rory

Rory Hunter won the champions race at the primary schools swimming gala in May and on Saturday he won an award for swimming from Holy Isle to Lamlash.

Twelve-year-old Rory was taking part in the eighth annual Lamlash Splash to raise funds for the junior sailing club.

He was awarded the Ali Bodie Memorial trophy for the person showing most character, and it takes a lot of character for a young man to swim the 1.3 miles of open water across the bay. Twenty-five others, all adults, also completed the challenge. See page 20.



Sannox Congregational Church in its picturesque setting. 02\_b39cor01



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Petty Officer Marcus 'Wiggy' Wigfull given a bravery award for rescue at sea. b38hms01no

## Theft from farm

A Lamlash sheep farmer has been robbed.

Willie McConnell has not lost his sheep, but he has lost his hurdles.

Four metal hurdles used to pen his sheep in a field near Glenscorrodale on the Ross Road have gone missing.

Willie told the Banner: 'The pen has been there for years. The hurdles were hardly worth the stealing. I would be much obliged if the person who took them could return them.'

'I'll be looking carefully at all the holes in Southend fences.'

# Bravery award for air-sea rescue pilot

Wiggy Wigfull has received a bravery award for his part in rescuing three yachtsmen when their vessel grounded on Horse Island last November.

Petty Officer Marcus Wigfull, known as Wiggy, was pilot of the Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter scrambled from HMS Gannet at Prestwick to come to the aid of the stricken yachtsmen.

Wiggy, originally from Sheffield but now living in Troon

with his wife and children, was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air (QCBA).

A Royal Navy spokesman said: 'In the grip of a gale, in darkness and in mountainous seas Wiggy went above and beyond to reach the 36 foot yacht and its terrified occupants. Injuring his hand in the process, he managed to get on board the yacht. It was in danger of breaking up at any moment and he

fought through four metre seas with total disregard for his own safety to save the lives of the yachtsmen.'

The incident happened on the tiny island passed by the Arran ferry five times a day as she approaches Ardrossan breakwater and the stranded yacht was seen by many ferry passengers.

The yacht remained on the rocks for several days before being salvaged by lifeboat crew.

## Police files

### Culpable and reckless conduct

Two youths were reported for culpable and reckless conduct and theft from Stagecoach buses in the vicinity of Brodick Bowling Club on Sunday night.

The 13-year-old Brodick youth and 14-year-old Lamlash youth had allegedly taken emergency hammers from buses to break into the bowling club.

### Bitten by dog

Police are looking for witnesses after a Brodick woman reported being bitten by a dog in Glen Place at 3.30pm on Saturday.

### Assault

A man was assaulted and sustained minor injuries near the Ormisdale Hotel, Brodick in the early hours of Sunday morning. Police are pursuing a positive line of enquiry.

### Breach of the peace

A 17-year-old Brodick youth was issued with an ASBO for breach of the peace in Main Road, Brodick at 10pm last Saturday. On the same night a 16-year-old Lamlash youth received an ASBO for drinking alcohol in a public place in Brodick.

## Praise for new seafront walkway

Ian Small, chairman of Brodick Improvements Committee, is delighted with the progress of the new seawall and seafront walkway in the village.

He said this week: 'It's absolutely fabulous.'

Plans for the ambitious project have had to be amended as reported in the Banner two weeks ago. The retaining seawall has had to be positioned two metres further out due to the presence of a sewer main laid by Scottish Water six years ago. This has increased the costs to North Ayrshire Council, Brodick Improvements and contractor John Thomson Construction.

### Great asset

Ian Small said: 'It will cost us more because of the extra infill behind the wall. The committee has had to commit all its funds to this project. But it will be a great asset once it is finished.'

The 236-metre walkway will lead from a widened footbridge over the Strathwillan Burn and along to the slipway in front of Bilslands. The car parking bays along the front will be a metre deeper, taking vehicles further away from the road, and they will back on to a wide grassy area.

Ian said: 'We are gaining a huge grassed space with raised flower beds and picnic benches. Disabled drivers will be able to park right next to paved areas.'

The changes to the plans were agreed at a meeting on Tuesday between Jack McConnachie and Malcolm Milne of NAC, local councillor Margie Currie, Ian Small and Murray Boal. Margie Currie said: 'The only delay to the project could be in presenting amended plans.'

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## Lawnmower takes to the green

Arran's new council lawnmower is green.

Apart from being painted green, the new mower operated by Arran parks department is now for the first time run on environmentally-friendly liquid petroleum gas (LPG).

North Ayrshire Council grounds maintenance supervisor Stevie Bunyan said: 'This three-gang Hayter mower ticks all the right environmental boxes and will save the council money.'

Mike Turnbull of Hayter Scotland said: 'NAC is ahead of the game. They are the first local authority in Scotland to latch on to these LPG mowers.'

'Running costs are less and they reduce the carbon footprint. Many councils in England have already changed to LPG mowers.'

Stevie added: 'We have had two diesel Hayters but this one is even better. It has a six foot cut and the cylinders give an attractive stripe effect. It will work full-bore for seven-and-a-half hours a day in summer. I can cut Sandbraes Park in about 45 minutes.'

NAC has installed an LPG storage tank in the Lamlash council yard and Stevie said that other fleet vehicles could soon be switching to LPG.



NAC grounds maintenance supervisor Stevie Bunyan with Mike Turnbull of Hayter Scotland and the new LPG mower. 02\_b39nac01

## MSP angry at latest toxic leak from nuclear power station

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson expressed his disappointment and alarm at yet another leak from Hunterston B, brought to light only this week.

On May 15, it has only now been revealed, 2,600 litres of toxic low-level nuclear waste was accidentally released into the Clyde.

Since 2001 there have been 24 fires and leaks at Hunterston, as well as numerous breakdowns, including a 10-month shutdown over 2006 and 2007 due to cracks in boiler tubes.

### Concerned

Mr Gibson said: 'Communities in the vicinity of Hunterston, including Arran, need to know that operations there are carried out safely and to the highest possible standards. However, one can only be concerned at so many incidents of leaks, fires and breakdowns having

taken place over the last eight years and the reluctance of either British Energy or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to keep local people and their elected representatives informed.

'I will be raising this matter directly with SEPA, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the Scottish government.

'Regardless of one's views on nuclear power, I am sure everyone will agree that human safety and protection of the environment are paramount. British Energy must redouble its efforts to ensure the most stringent safety standards are applied at Hunterston.

'The fact that SEPA have issued a final warning letter to British Energy, threatening prosecution, shows how seriously this matter is being taken.'

## New pavement for village

A new pavement is being constructed along the seaward side of the road in Whiting Bay.

It will run for the short stretch in front of the village shops which is the only retail frontage in Arran left without a pavement.

### Safety

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson said: 'The local school had expressed concern about the lack of a safe pavement in front of the shops.'

'We accepted the safety issue and pro-

posed to start work on August 10. After consultation with local shopkeepers we were asked to delay until the season was quieter and agreed on a start date of September 22.

'The work is expected to take about three weeks, weather permitting.'

Former community councillor Barbara I'Anson was involved in the long-running campaign for a pavement from the Village Shop to Montrose Terrace and said: 'This one has been a long time coming.'

## Fisherman towed by seal!

A Lamlash man out fishing in his canoe was hijacked by a seal last week.

Dave Freeman said: 'I've fished in Lamlash bay from a canoe for 15 years, but today I found myself towed along by a seal that had taken a mackerel that I was landing.'

### Moorings

'I was just out past the moorings and had landed some mackerel; I cut the heads off and toss them back and seals very often come around and dive for them, but this one got hold of a fish on the line. I set the drag carefully and we went off like a rocket.'

The common seal soon let go of its catch and David returned to paddle-power. He said: 'This one was a bit bold; I'll be looking out for him in future.'



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## Open door day at Crosshouse Hospital

Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock opens its doors to the public during their annual open day tomorrow (Saturday) from noon to 3pm.

This popular event gives people the opportunity to see behind the scenes and find out about the services provided, and includes demonstrations, information stands and tours of various departments.

Andrew Moore, assistant director of nursing, explained: 'This event gives people an opportunity to find out more about what goes on in the hospital, pick up some useful health tips, and hopefully set their minds at ease if they are due to come in for a procedure.'

Visitors will be able to take part in a range of activities as well as find out about the roles the staff plays in providing healthcare services to the people of Ayrshire and Arran.

# New bridge reopens Fisherman's Walk

The footbridge over the Cnocan Burn was almost washed away by floods two months ago. This effectively closed Fisherman's Walk, but following much hard work behind the scenes, this popular pathway is now re-opened.

Councillor Margie Currie explained: 'Arran Access Trust (AAT) is pleased to inform that the Cnocan Bridge near Cladach has now been re-instated and is open for use.'

'Fisherman's Walk, a long established route between Brodick old and new, forms part of the Arran Coastal Way.

### Delay

'The bridge was put up in 2002 and the delay in its reinstatement which is regretted was partly caused by establishing who should take the responsibility and bear the cost of the repair. AAT is very grateful to Louise Kirk, NA Access Officer, officers of NA roads department and Thomson Construction for their prompt response and assistance once this had been established. The interest of Brodick Improvements Committee is also acknowledged.

'As stated in a previous Arran Banner, AAT will be pleased to encompass the work of the Arran Coastal Way Group once



The Cnocan Bridge, re-instated this week. 02\_b39fis02

the formalities have been completed. Huge credit is due to the Coastal Way volunteers who pioneered the route on Arran of what, in fact, is a national

Scottish concept.

'Volunteers to maintain and enhance pathwork were getting older and fewer and through the AAT the work will be carried

on as funding and work parties permit. The Arran Coastal Way is a priority for AAT. The involvement and help in kind from community groups in the

villages along the way is indispensable while AAT continue to seek funding for this and the other established and important walks and hill paths.'

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## Sponsored walk raises £1,430 for Leukemia Research

Karen Stirland and Hazel Mackenzie organised a four-mile sponsored walk from the Ormidale pavilion two weeks ago which raised funds for Leukaemia Research.

They said: 'We are grateful to all who took part and donated to our sponsored walk. A fantastic total of £1,430 was raised. Due to the hugely successful coffee morning a few weeks ago in aid of Clic Sargent, Stuart and

Ann Reid have requested that all the money raised be donated to Leukaemia Research.

'Special thanks also go to Alastair Dobson of Arran Dairies, Arran Pipe Band, Arran Sports Association, D S Bannatyne, Hospital Supporters League and Ian Small, Angus Lambie and Sergeant Bob McKay and WPC Audrey who all helped make the day a success.'

## Royal British Legion AGM

Arran Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding its annual general meeting at the McLaren Hotel, Brodick at 2pm on Thursday October 1. All are welcome.

## Help needed

Lamlash Parish Church is re-launching its Sunday school on October 25 and needs helpers to staff a rota. Anyone interested should please contact Ian Watt on 600382 or Rev G Maclean on 600318.

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# Youth cabin opens its doors

The new Youth Cabin behind Arran High School was officially opened last Thursday.

Officials from North Ayrshire Council, local residents and police sergeant Bob MacKay were on hand to mark the ceremony. Also present were a large number of youngsters who were delighted that this facility was now up and running.

Alec Pettigrew of NAC youth services learning and education directorate said: 'I am pleased to see a good number of young people and local residents here for this opening.'

### Lot of Effort

Local councillor Margie Currie added: 'This has taken a long time and a lot of effort on the part of many people. It started years ago when Peter McNamara was chair of the education committee.'

'Youth worker Nikki Harris has kept this on track from day one and worked hard to bring it about. We had difficulties with the High School

contractors who didn't seem to understand the space we needed.

'Margaret Wright has been very supportive and I would like to mention Bob MacKay who gives a great support for everything young people do on the island.'

The new cabin has a fully fitted music room, lounge area, pool table and kitchen. Sessional workers Heather Black, Dave Patterson, Robert Halliday and Gavin Bell take turns to help out.

A delighted Nikki Harris said: 'For two years we have been homeless. We have met in Auchrannie sports hall and the High School theatre and made good use of the Kilmory Community bus. Now we have a purpose-made home. It is managed by the Arran Youth Forum and the young folk decide what goes on.' Among the regular activities offered are a drama club, sex education, band practice, youth club, youth forum and lunchtime drop-in every school day.



The official opening of the Youth Cabin, with Alec Pettigrew, Margie Currie, Nikki Harris, Bob MacKay, Margaret McDougall and Liz O'Sullivan.



The lounge area of the Youth Cabin.

# Back to Church Sunday

On Sunday September 27, 2009 Brodick Church along with all the other Churches in the North Arran Linkage including Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine are holding a special 'Back to Church Sunday' service.

This is part of a national campaign co-ordinated in Scotland by Action of Churches Together, which has seen thousands of people responding to an invitation to come back to church and to re-engage with God.

This particular Sunday also

happens to be the Annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service. This is an all age service, no long sermon, just a simple short address with plenty of familiar harvest hymns.

### Congregation

Gifts of fruit, vegetables and other garden produce, many carried by the children of the congregation, are placed on the table at the beginning of the service.

After the Blessing of the Harvest the gifts are then distributed mainly to elderly folk in the community whether

members of the congregation or not. Sadly so many people are removed from regular Church-going by several generations. For them Church has become merely a place for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

It is sincerely hoped that this occasion will afford an opportunity for people to reconnect with their Parish Church to let them know we are still here and that God is part of their lives.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could fill our Churches to capacity on 'Back to Church Sunday!'

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## Rock and Blues weekend

Two top rock and blues bands are coming to Arran this weekend.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sons are fronted by vocalist and harmonica player Chris Luther and other members of the band are Ross Kerr on bass and vocals, Danny Parkinson lead guitar and Tam Clark drums. The Spitfires are the resident band at the Eagle Tavern in Prestwick.

Both bands will be appearing at the Bar Eden on Friday night and the Drift Inn on Saturday and Sunday.

## Scottish Country Dancing

Time to bring out the dancing shoes again, join in the fun on Tuesday nights at Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm.

You will not only feel fitter, make new friends and learn new skills, but you will be keeping alive Scotland's rich heritage of music and dance.

See you there! September 29

## Kilmory WRI

The first meeting of the new session will be on Monday October 5 at 7.30pm in Kilmory hall.

The speaker will be David Napier who will give a talk on Ailsa Craig. The competitions are for a pretty pebble and rock cakes. New members will be most welcome.



Bill Barr powdering a clay at Balnacool.

Arran Gun Club members enjoying the sunshine at their Balnacool shoot.

## Shooting in the sunshine

The members of Arran Gun Club enjoyed a rare day of sunshine at their latest shoot at Balnacool two weeks ago.

Judy Draycott said: 'The shoot took place a week later than usual due to the rain on the first Sunday of the month.'

'The newcomers are improving and giving the

more experienced guns a bit of competition, especially from the younger generation.

'The location is outstanding and the sky was so clear you could see over to Jura.'

'It was a beautiful day for outside pursuits. The overall best shot of the day was from one of our lady members, Jill Hollick.'

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## Cathie and Isabella were the cornerstones of Shiskine

As pupils past and present gather at Shiskine Primary School this weekend for the Homecoming event, it seems a fitting time to note the recent passing of two of Shiskine's oldest residents, Cathie and Isabella Sillars.

Cathie passed away in June, having achieved the milestone of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in January of this year, her celebrations at Montrose House being featured in The Banner.

Isabella, the younger sister, who died in August, had celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May of this year, also a resident at Montrose House by this time.

Both Cathie and Isabella were

born at Daisybank. Their father, the local tailor, built the family home, with the back house serving as his workplace.

There were four brothers, Angus, Duncan, Robert and John. Their father died when Isabella was only two years old and much of her childhood was spent at Cairnfield in Machrie, which her mother, assisted by Cathie, ran as a boarding house for summer visitors. Isabella would recall having to walk or cycle to school every day in all weathers and insisted it was a myth that her older brothers gave her a lift sometimes, as suggested by Cathie.

Isabella went on to Rothesay Academy, before gaining a

place at Glasgow University to study languages; no mean achievement for a woman at that time. She then followed a career as a primary school teacher, mostly in the Alloa area.

Cathie also spent time away from Arran, housekeeping for Dr Wilson, the vice chancellor at Glasgow University, whose daughter Libby later came to Arran as Dr Grassie.

Cathie was also a founder committee member of Shiskine Hall as well as a keen bridge player and 'rural lady'.

Both returned to Daisybank on retirement where many enjoyed their hospitality and conversation. Both were astute

observers of life and Cathie's easygoing equanimity perfectly balanced Isabella's forthright views that never let you forget she had been a teacher!

Increasing frailty meant a move into Montrose House in 2006 for Cathie, Isabella following at the end of 2008. Both continued to appreciate visits from friends and family, especially their nephews Robert and Iain, the family proudly gathering for Cathie's birthday celebrations at the start of the year.

Cathie and Isabella's passing marks the end of an era and the Shiskine Valley has lost two special and much respected members of the community.

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Helen and David Macfarlane in their Lamlash home. 02\_b39ff01

## Fifty years of wedded bliss for Helen and David

A Lamlash couple celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss this week.

Helen and David Macfarlane were married in Stonelaw Church, Burnside on September 25, 1959. Helen is originally from Burnside, but David was born in Epsom, Surrey. The Macfarlane family moved north when his father came to work at ICI Ardeer.

David said: 'A branch of the family already lived in Ayrshire; the Macfarlanes were butchers in New Cumnock. Helen and I met as teenagers when our two families both happened to be in Scarborough on holiday.'

Helen said: 'We got engaged when I was 19 but father wanted us to wait until I was 21 before getting married. David did the right thing and came to ask my father for my hand.'

David followed his own father and went to work at Ardeer and the couple lived in Saltcoats.

In 1979 they saw an advert for Westfield in Lamlash up for sale and took a big step.

Helen said: 'The children didn't want to go. Eilidh had just left school. Dougie was still at school and Fiona was doing her O levels. But we did the right thing in coming to Arran.'

'We had no experience, but managed to run Westfield as a successful guesthouse.'

### Travelled

For the first five years David continued to work at Ardeer and travelled back to Arran each weekend. Then in 1984 he left ICI and took a job at Kiscadale Forge.

Helen said: 'Fifty years together sounds a long time, but we had known each other for five years before that. There's no secret for success; you just need to keep talking to each other. Family is very important. You know you can always depend upon family.'

## Schooner anchors in Lamlash Bay

The splendid sail training ship the Stavros S Niarchos was at anchor in Lamlash Bay over Sunday night.

The two-mast schooner is owned and operated by the Tall Ships Youth Trust and was built in Appledore Shipyards, Devon in 2000 as a replacement for the ageing training ship the Malcolm Miller.

She normally sails with a crew of up to 67 including six permanent crew and up to 48 young people.

## Brodick Bridge Club restarts

Brodick Bridge Club starts its winter activities on Thursday October 1 at 7.15pm in the Ormidale Pavilion.

A very warm welcome is extended to all existing and any new members. If you fancy playing bridge regularly on Thursday evenings, please come along and join in. As usual, two trophies are at stake; the Duncan Bowl for the most consistent pairing on aggregate scoring evenings and the Helen Boyd Trophy for the couple with the best score on match point evenings.

This year the club will meet every Thursday evening, normally in the Ormidale Pavilion except on the second Thursday of the month when the venue will be Brodick Golf Club. As usual, tea, coffee and biscuits and the opportunity for a wee blether will be available.

The only difference this year is that members are asked to bring along their own cups to minimise washing up.

For further information please contact club president David Scobie on 302820. Otherwise, see you on Thursday.

## Hospital is hosting diabetes day

NHS Ayrshire & Arran and Ayrshire Diabetes UK's voluntary group are hosting another Ayrshire Diabetes day.

Local people who have diabetes, or know someone who is affected by the disease, are being invited to the event in the Ayr Hospital Education Centre tomorrow (Saturday) from 9.30am until 2.45pm.

People will have the opportunity to speak to professionals and will be able to learn more about diabetes from lectures and workshops.

Alison Anderson, managed clinical network manager for diabetes, said: 'We hope people will be able to come along and find out more about the support that is available from both NHS Ayrshire & Arran and Diabetes UK. They will also be able to share their experiences about living with diabetes with other people.' Places must be booked in advance. Spaces are limited so please book early.

## Arran livestock sales at Stirling

United Auctions had forward 1,213 store cattle and 8,263 store lambs and feeding sheep at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday.

Charolais cross bullocks; £755, 175p Craighdu, Charolais cross heifers £740, 170p

Craighdu. Texel cross lambs; £48 Cosyden, £47.50 High-parks, £42 Bloomfield. Suffolk cross lambs; £63.50 Lenamhor, £52.20 Sheddock, £47.50 Balnacool, £44.50 Swallowbrae. Cross lambs; £44 Ceitheir Gaoithe

Cheviot lambs; £49 Cosyden; £46 Balnacool. Mule lambs; £45 Balgowan. Blackface lambs; £33.50 Altgolath, £33 Ballarie, £29 Balgowan. Blackface feeders; Craigview £37.50.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Let's pray for a happy outcome for Sannox Congregational Church

Sannox Congregational Church sits in a most picturesque location a couple of hundred yards off the main road, opposite Corrie Golf Club.

Many Arran residents will never have seen it, yet its setting has been described as 'the loveliest of any congregational church in Scotland and probably of any in the world'.

When it was built in 1822 there were probably well over 100 folk living off the land in north Sannox. Ironically, the very people that the church was built for were sent packing to the New World within seven years as part of the Highland Clearances.

It has struggled on but has finally come to the end of the road unless a buyer can be found.

The people who left Sannox for Megantic County were devout churchgoers and they subsequently built a replica of their old Arran church in Inverness, Canada.

Over the years many of them and their descendants have made pilgrimages back to the leafy hollow in Sannox to see where their forebears worshipped and lived. It would be equally ironic if some of these families who have made their fortunes in the New World were now able to rescue the old building.

Bananas are the favourite food of athletes who are looking for an almost instant surge of energy.

They are quickly digested and give a boost to those engaged in outdoor pursuits.

But if you are going up Goat Fell, do not take a banana with you. This humble fruit that was unknown in war years and an exotic luxury for youngsters post-war is now public enemy number one on Britain's hills.

Scottish conservationists declared last week that banana skins are spoiling the country's highest peak Ben Nevis. And the story is the same for the Lake District and North Wales. It appears that more than half the rubbish collected from Ben Nevis is banana skins. Walkers take the tropical fruit along for an energy snack and then discard the skins, in the mistaken belief that they will quickly rot away. However, in colder temperatures they can take up to two years to degrade.

So if you are considering climbing Arran's highest peak either leave the bananas at home or take the skins back down with you.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Look to the Lord and be strong; at all times seek His presence.' (Psalm 105:4)

### press policy

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

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

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

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

### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Save Arran's squirrels

Sir,  
When we were on holiday on Arran last week we were saddened and shocked to learn of the slaughter of red squirrels on Arran's roads reported in your paper. There are so few places in Britain where there are red squirrels that it is tragic that they are being killed so unnecessarily. There is no warning to visitors on the ferry to Arran or on the roads of Arran.

Colin Stubbs is working hard to raise awareness but we cannot believe that despite purchasing official warning signs the council will not allow them to be displayed. I hope that the people of Arran and the visitors who read your paper will get behind this campaign.

Surely there should be immediate action to construct squirrel friendly ropes across the roads? We have visited Arran regularly since our first visit in 2006. We love the island and will continue to visit in the future. We are however, very disappointed with the lack of action to protect one of Arran's greatest wild creatures.

Yours,  
**Julia Pilling**  
30 Carr Field  
Bamber Bridge  
Near Preston

### Webcam compulsive

Sir,  
My annual holiday on Arran is always something to look forward to. Sadly we could not go to Arran this year but have booked our place for next July. Next year will be our sixth visit to Arran. We always stay at the wonderful Belvedere Guesthouse with Chris and Jan Atkins. Earlier this year Chris Atkins happened to mention the new Arran Banner webcam, but it is only recently that I have logged on to the webcam. Now I find the webcam is compulsive viewing. I have noted the arrival times of the Arran car ferry and make sure I log on 15 minutes before arrival time. I can now sit back with some good coffee and watch the arrival and departure of the ferry each morning.

This experience sets me up for the rest of the day. Next holiday for 2010 will not come soon enough.

Yours,  
**Gerry Woodgate**  
Shipley  
North Yorkshire

### Forest crofts the future

Sir,  
I would like to make a few points in response to last week's front page article: The headline states Mr Ferguson's belief that plans to develop low-impact housing on forestry land is 'out of touch with people's needs'.

He is considering the needs of people on low incomes and the transport costs involved living in a relatively remote place but there are many ways I think this is very short term thinking. Forest crofts address the needs of people in the future when the sustainability of the environment will be of paramount importance. This housing will largely be made from local, sustainable sources such as timber whereas 'New Brodick' would be made with vast quantities of imported material, mostly cement. Cement manufacture and its transportation create a huge proportion of all carbon emissions. The costs of building will be considerably less and therefore the price of these houses would be much more affordable than the proposed houses in Brodick.

Heating these houses would also be cheaper and more sustainable. Both these factors would help to offset any daily running costs such as transport. I also agree with Margie Currie that there would not be enough need to develop road networks. I think a precedent of environmentally friendly, low-impact building developments would actually be of great interest to Arran's tourists rather than something off-putting. For centuries people lived in a sustainable way in the countryside of Scotland it only became a desert after the Clearances.

This would be an attempt at heritage restoration more than anything whereas Mr Ferguson's proposal would be a reinforcement of the old

urban model of cramming people into compact areas. I agree it would not suit everyone but he must surely take notice of the high demand from Arran's young people who have expressed an interest in Hifar's proposals and who have considered both urban and rural options.

Yours,  
**Sam Thornely**  
via email

### Walker rescued

Sir,  
I have just enjoyed my second visit to the Arran Outdoor Festival, and was duly impressed by the range of activities now on offer, and the general air of efficiency which characterised the management and organisation.

I went on three of the more strenuous walks, which were well led, and only marred by the accident which occurred during the Saturday walk, on the rough section of the Coastal Walk approaching the Cock of Arran.

The guide had the misfortune to slip on the wet rock, tumble, and break his leg. The location was particularly awkward, in a mass of rough rocks and some distance up from the waterline.

I was much impressed by the speed with which the emergency procedures swung into operation, with calls to the police and coastguard services, coordinated by Arran Adventure back in Brodick.

The casualty was made comfortable and, within half-an-

hour, the Coastguards were on the scene, and the RN SAR helicopter flew in, lowered the paramedic and his equipment, and stood off. In a few minutes, the casualty was strapped into the stretcher, winched aboard, and on his way to hospital on the mainland.

Accidents will occasionally happen, but it is good to see that the organisation is in place to cope, and does so with exemplary efficiency.

I will confidently return.

Yours,  
**John Dean**  
43 Selsdon Close  
Surbiton

### Kilmory breakdown

Sir,  
We recently had the misfortune to break down whilst on holiday on Arran.

May I thank John and Thelma from Kilmory for their kindness in inviting us into their home to use their telephone to call the AA and who kept us informed about what was happening.

Chris Stirland came out with the breakdown lorry and I hope the charity day at the hospital went well in his absence. Angus Lambie was good enough to sort out a hire car for us.

It's not a pleasant experience to break down, particularly on holiday, but things were made so much easier by the people mentioned. We had a great holiday and thank you everybody.

Yours,  
**Margaret Anderson**  
Cheshire



**Calum Weir of Bailemargaidh, Blackwaterfoot graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow with a BA first class honours in Digital Film and Television. Calum now works for Visual Impact UK.**

b38gra01

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## Shark at close quarters



A basking shark just feet away from Tim Hodkinson's boat.

A basking shark was seen at very close quarters last week by Tim Hodkinson of Whiting Bay.

He was out in his boat just off Whiting Bay beach on Wednesday September 16 when the huge creature surfaced just feet away. Tim was sharp enough to pull out his camera and record the remarkable close encounter.

The basking shark is one of the largest known

sharks, second only to the whale shark. They can grow up to 40 feet long and 19tonnes. Belying its threatening appearance, the basking shark is a passive plankton feeder, filtering minute plankton and small fish, and posing no real danger to humans.

They tend to be seen around Arran waters in late summer.

## Arran Natural History Society

The first Arran Natural History Society meeting of the winter season was held in the Ranger Centre at Brodick Country Park on September 3, when Chris Rollie spoke on Burns and Birds.

As an area manager for Dumfries and Galloway RSPB and a past president of New Cumnock Burns Club, Chris brought together his two passions for the poetry and songs of Robert Burns and the birds of the Scottish countryside.

Chris said that very little attention is paid to the wildlife references in Burns' writing, even though nature is central to his poetry. However, in 1996, John Young in Robert Burns – a Man for All Seasons brought together every reference to the natural world in his poetry. There are 468 references to birds, more than any other major poet except Shakespeare. Forty-one species are mentioned including the skylark or laverock (over 20 times using both the Scots and English name), red grouse, linnet, kites or gleds, buzzard and howletts (owls).

Robert Burns uses his descriptions of birds to set the mood in his best poems and songs, and Chris clearly demonstrated this with his wonderful slides and marvellous recitations of Burns poems which entertained and

informed the audience. This was an excellent start to the new season.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Thursday October 1 at the Rangers Centre in Brodick Country Park at 8pm. Jim Cassels and Lucy

Wallace will talk about the 2009 Arran Wildlife Festival and the work of the nationwide Bird Atlas.

Come along and find out more about the wildlife event and how to participate in the Bird Atlas project.



Natural History Society speaker Chris Rollie.  
b39his01no

## SSPCA collection

On Saturday September 12 the Arran branch of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals held a collection at the Cooperative supermarket in Brodick, which raised a wonderful £414.44.

Thanks are due to the customers and their generosity towards stopping the suffering of animals in Scotland. Thank you also to the Cooperative for allowing the collection and of course to the volunteer collectors.



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# Arran homes & interiors

Autumn is the perfect time to ensure your home is cosy and comfortable for the approaching dark winter nights. Many of us will be having a good look around our own surroundings with a view to updating our look in time for Christmas.

There are many ways to do this from major building projects to eventually getting around to adding those finishing touches. Here on Arran we are lucky to have many local professional and experienced businesses and individuals who specialise in home improvements.

Personal recommendations from other residents on the island, who are happy with work they have had done provides peace

of mind and means that renovations should run smoothly.

Now is the time to book your appointment to discuss that new kitchen, conservatory or extension that you have been dreaming of or perhaps it is time to renew your dining room or lounge furniture.

Why not invest in a comfortable new sofa and stylish flooring or decorate the bedrooms and choose co-ordinating curtains and cushions. You can create a unique look to your home by choosing unusual mirrors, pictures and clocks. If you are on a tight budget, simply add a few beautifully scented candles as this will give your home an inviting and pleasant atmosphere.



Pic courtesy of John Thomson Construction Ltd - Showhouse at the Millhill Development



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Pic courtesy of John Thomson Construction Ltd



## Stevie's Decor

Stevie, who has 31 years experience in the painting and decorating trade, and his friendly team consisting of Peter, Gordon & Lee welcome both private and builder's contracts and specialise in interior & exterior work. Stevie says that the key to success is to know your trade and word of mouth is an excellent way to build your reputation.

# Painting & Decorating

Pic courtesy of John Thomson Construction Ltd



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## Stevie's Decor

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**John Milesi**

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**Baroque Woodwork**

The Royal Arran Hotel, noted for its style and excellence, commissioned this oak and hand-painted kitchen with granite worktops. Andy Surrudge worked closely with Adele & Peter, from the design stage through to the final details ensuring the end result exceeded their expectations.



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**Jolly Molly**

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*John Milesi*

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Jason Watts and Heather Gough with, centre, McLellan Poetry Award winner Gary MacKenzie 02\_b39fes01

# 2009 McLellan

Last week saw the welcome return of the McLellan Festival with its rich array of events across the arts.

From 2004 to 2007 the McLellan Festival sought to raise awareness of the importance of Robert McLellan, an Arran resident for most of his life, in the annals of Scottish literature and theatre in preparation for the celebration of his centenary in 2007. Since then, the aims of the festival have been to honour McLellan's memory by providing the means of creating new work in Scottish (and Arran) poetry and play writing, helping to develop the creative skills of young people and forging cultural links with other rural and island communities. All of these aims were apparent in this year's programme.

## Visual Arts

The visual arts were well represented and, for the first time, photography was included in an extremely innovative way with the *Shutter and Mutter* exhibition at The Burnside. This involved writers and poets working collaboratively in order to stretch the expectations of what either a photograph or a poem can do, with the result creating a piece of art which is greater than the sum of the parts. This was a most interesting and successful experiment that produced illuminating and interesting work.

## Made On Arran

This year the McLellan Festival's open mike showcase for musicians, poets and performers was held in Eilean Mhor in Brodick. Dapper in his trademark flamboyant red silk shirt MC Eric Dunn was in fine form, introducing the acts and keeping the wheels oiled with a stream of quips and witty one-liners. Diners and spectators were treated to a diverse nights entertainment. Lucy Cartledge, Mandy Hunter and Al Paul opened with the world premier of an original composition by Lucy. The evening progressed with poetry readings, fiddle music, a gaelic song, and an impromptu set by Bob Raftery from Glasgow who hap-

pened to be in for his tea that night. He borrowed a guitar and entertained the crowd with a range of songs from the poignant to the hilarious. Notable, too, were the readings of Colin Guthrie - he got chuckles with his Chaucer and murmurs of recognition with his self-penned and touching environmental poems. Made On Arran is just one more example of the wealth of home-grown talent that this island has to offer.

## Arran and Beyond

This event has become a key component in the McLellan Festival.

Held in the Ormidale Glass-

tainment, by turns moving, hard-hitting and funny. The six-strong Wild Myrtles opened, relying only on their beautiful voices and stunning arrangements to wow the audience.

Their range is broad and there were songs to suit every taste. Songs from Norway and Andalusia, Show tunes and folk tunes, performed with subtlety, simplicity and consummate skill. Host Jason Watts then introduced poet David Underdown. David's keenly observed, and often wistful and moving poems met with an appreciative audience. He made a point of drawing people in with short introductions that put each piece in context. His account



An image of Arran's John Sillars at the Shutter and Mutter exhibition.

house on Friday evening, it brought together a talented Arran resident with musicians and poets from mainland Scotland. This year, all-girl a cappella singing group The Wild Myrtles shared the line-up with poets David Underdown from Corrie, and Gerry Loose from Bowling.

Gerry had saved the day by stepping in at the eleventh hour to replace judge Robert Crawford, who had to cancel due to illness. A crowd of over 60 was treated to a wonderful evening's en-

of lascivious frogs procreating in his garden deftly balanced humour and an intense engagement with the natural world. He said: 'It's about sex, but not as we know it!'

An extract from his sequence A Small Holding was a moving evocation of how everyday life is filled with magic if we simply pay it the right kind of attention. Gerry Loose has long had connections with Arran and he was delighted to be invited back. Gerry is a passionate advocate of nuclear disarmament, and a section of his reading was

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**Aint Misbehavin'**  
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Vivace  
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8pm (doors open 7.30pm)  
Tickets £5 at the door  
Refreshments

**Netball**  
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8pm  
Please come along  
15 years upwards  
Mature ladies most  
welcome

**Kildonan SWRI**  
Soup & Sandwiches  
and  
Display of Institute  
Crafts  
**Kildonan Village Hall**  
Sunday 27th. September  
12pm - 2 p.m.  
Admission £3 Children £2  
Raffle

# Festival hailed a big success

devoted to work arising from time he spent in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

He did not pull his punches, and the work was hard-hitting and deeply affecting. After The Myrtles second set finished with a beautiful version of Wild Mountain Thyme, that had the audience singing along in appreciation, the night concluded with the presentation of the McLellan Poetry Award.

The runner up was A C Clarke with a graphic poem called *The Anatomists*. Winner was Garry MacKenzie of Glasgow with *Humphrey Spender: Newcastle United Football Club Changing Rooms, Tyneside, 1938*. Both were there to read their poems and receive their prizes.

## Just a Hoodie

A talented group of High School pupils put on an astonishing and moving collection of short episodes on Wednesday, written and produced entirely by themselves as a contribution to the McLellan Festival.

It was a shrewd and sometimes funny reflection on exactly how a young person feels when he or she is dismissed as 'just a hoodie.' The players came in, faces hidden under the hoods that cause so much mis-giving, but were revealed one at a time as people with freshness and a need for friendship.

The young actors went into a slick dance number choreographed by Ealana Swinton-Boyle, to music composed by John Tilbury, who produced a musical backing for the entire



The Wild Myrtles a capella group in the Ormidale Glasshouse. 02\_b39fes02

show, using multi-tracked guitar, drums, keyboard and xylophone. The music was perfectly timed to fit with the action, and its composer even made a lightning three-second appearance in a black-and-white frock, gave a flourish on snare and high-hat and vanished again.

Lisa Duncan created a touching short film about the experience of moving from childhood into the teenage years, shot on Arran and reflecting the theme of 'growing up on Arran'. Eilidh Blair's *Faces* had a chilling moment when a girl uncovered hooded people to find that one of them had an inner hood, as crude as a potato

sack, that continued to hide his or her identity. Josh Macdonald put in excellent performances and also wrote an enchanting piece called *The Real Me*.

Chris Jenks, with the aplomb of an experienced actor, inspected the audience coolly before announcing the next act through the clever device of graffiti that revealed the new title.

There were outstanding contributions by Gavin Davidson, Katharine O'Donnelly and Mairi McIleer, and Zoe Tomalin revealed her startling talents as a stand-up comedian in a sketch featuring herself and the multi-talented Lisa Duncan.

Its title, *Susie and the Clumsy Arm Metaphor* opened the way to a throwing around of a multitude of words, done with tremendous aplomb and great comic timing.

The company showed extraordinarily skilled stagecraft, taking command of their space well and moving with expert fluency.

Their physical expressiveness was remarkable, and in this short piece they demonstrated real ability to communicate with an audience and work it as they wished.

**Children's Art Exhibition**  
Over 100 Arran youngsters,

representing every primary school on the island, had entries in the Children's Art Exhibition in Corrie Hall. Their theme was their own impressions of life on Arran and illustrated something that had happened to them over the summer.

Overall winner was Anna O'Donnelly from Pirnmill with her picture of her dad's yacht at sea off the Pirnmill shore. Josephine Pomeroy of Lamdash did workshops with all the children and framed all the paintings herself. First in the P3/P4 class was Sophie Andrew of Shiskine and first in the P1/P2 category was John McNeish of Kilmory.



David Underdown presents overall winner Anna O'Donnelly with her painting award. 02\_b39fes03

## Rock & Blues Double Bill

### The 7th Sons & The Spitfires

Bar Eden, Whiting Bay  
Friday 25th September from 9.30pm  
The Drift Inn, Lamdash  
Saturday 26th September from 9.30pm  
Sunday 27th September from 2.30pm  
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Tuesday - Pop Quiz (suits all ages) - 10pm  
Wednesday - Country/ Blues Session - 9.30pm  
Thursday - General Knowledge quiz - 10pm  
Friday 25th - Johnny and the Jetpatchers  
Saturday - Over 21s Disco - 10pm

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# Photo competition - the ones that nearly made it

This week we print a further selection of your photographs, which were entered into the 2009 *Arran Banner* Photographic Competition but did not quite make the final cut.

The last minute entries came pouring in as the deadline approached last week, which made the decision even more difficult for our panel of judges.

This week's selection demonstrates that people are obviously incorporating photography more and more into their everyday lives as they capture interesting scenes they see each day.



Morning sunrise. Ian Pyott, Brodick.



'Are you sure it's not a no take zone?' Annabel Richmond, Stroud, Gloucestershire.



Feeding squirrel. Jena McLelland, Machrie.



Above Whiting Bay. Mr MG Greenaway, Faringdon, Oxfordshire.



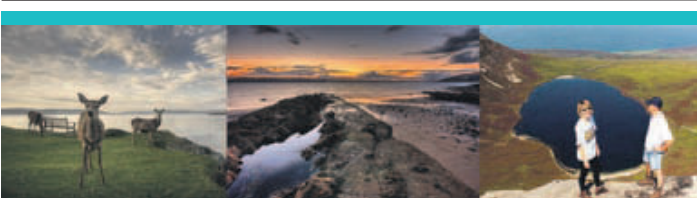
William the Donkey. Hazel Wyer, Carnforth, Lancashire.



Wing in motion. Maurice Crisp, Lamlash.



Summer Day. Elaine Miller, Dundee.



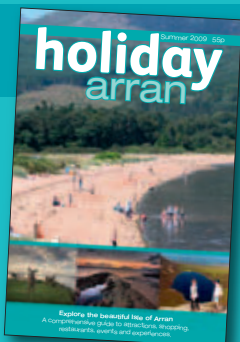
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Summer 2009

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# Where's Archie?

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Or email us at:

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Last week Archie was waiting for a  
quote, sitting on the steps at John  
Thomson Construction. Jennifer of  
Lamlash was first correct, but others  
thought he might be on the steps at  
Belford Mill. This week he is in the rain  
and looking out to sea. Do you know  
where he is?

02\_b39arc01



**BANNER****WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

Brodick Castle, Gardens & Country Park  
Trout fishing  
Hawk Walks  
Fitness Assessments, Gym Induction, Personal Training  
Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick

11am - 4pm  
Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank  
Lamlash  
Auchrannie Spa & Gym  
10.30am - 4.30pm

**SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER**

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football  
Karate  
Family Games Kids & Adults  
Fun in the Spa Pool  
Over 21s Disco  
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Lamlash Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)  
Red Cross Coffee Morning  
Shiskine Homecoming Quiz  
Shiskine Homecoming Weekend  
Shiskine Homecoming Weekend Quiz  
Naked Sunday Live  
7th Sons & The Spitfires Live  
Kilmory Hall Fete  
Aint Misbehavin' with Arran Brass  
Coffee Morning  
Homecoming Dance  
Soundweavers Concert  
WEEmad music, dance and yoga workshops

Coaching, 10.30am - noon  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
2pm  
2pm  
2.30pm  
Arran High School, 10am  
Brodick Hall, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
St Molios Church 11am - 2pm  
Shiskine Primary 11am - 1pm  
Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, 8pm - 1am  
Drift Inn, 9.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, 2pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm  
Loch & Cat Hall, 7.30pm  
Corrie Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Corrie Hall, 10am - 5pm

**SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER**

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Family Games Kids & Adults  
Fun in the Spa Pool  
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes  
Kildonan SWRI Crafts Display  
WEEmad art, healing and yoga workshops  
Sacred Sound Journey  
Pool League AGM  
Folk Session

St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
Library Annexe, 1.45pm  
Kildonan Hall, 12pm - 2pm  
Corrie Hall, 10am - 5pm  
Corrie Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
PHT, 2pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

**MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER**

Senior Fitness  
Over 50's Badminton  
Badminton  
Cardiac Rehab  
Circuit Training  
Citizens Advice  
AB Attack  
Aerobics Class  
Weight Wise  
Ladies Netball  
Folk Session  
Summer Bridge  
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Quiz Night  
Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games  
Kickboxing

Auchrannie 10am & 11am (Gym)  
Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm  
Auchrannie Spa, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)  
Open 10am - 2pm  
KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm  
KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm  
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm  
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 8pm - 9pm  
Kildonan Hotel, 9pm  
High School, 6.45pm  
Eden Lodge Hotel Whiting Bay, 9.30pm  
Ormidale Park, 6pm  
KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8.30pm

**TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER**

Lochranza Swimming Club  
Arran Civic Trust  
Legs Bums & Tums  
Army Cadets  
Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous

Kinloch 11am - 12pm  
Ormidale Pavilion 7.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 7pm (Studio)  
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Brodick Church Hall - 2pm

Citizens Advice  
Pulmonary Rehab  
Open Music Session  
Indoor Bowling  
Junior Hockey Club  
Brodick Toddler Group  
Body Conditioning Class  
Youth Club  
Senior Fitness  
Step Aerobics  
Rotary Club  
Motocross Practice  
Scottish Country Dancing

Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)  
Auchrannie Gym 12pm - 1pm (Gym)  
Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm  
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm  
Church Hall, 10am - 12pm  
KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm  
Kildonan Hall - 6pm  
Auchrannie, 10am - 11am  
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 8pm  
Glenclay Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm  
Southbank Farm track, 6pm - 7.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

**WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER**

Hockey  
Core Strength  
Jnr Rugby Training  
Aquafizz  
Circuit Training  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy  
Kickboxing  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Selt Making Class  
Brodick Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Lamlash Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Rink Game  
Beavers  
Yogalates  
Pre school Music & Drama Classes  
Healing Rooms

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm (Games Hall)  
Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm  
P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am (Hotel Pool)  
Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)  
10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm  
KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm  
Ormidale Park, 7.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm  
2pm  
6.30pm  
6.30pm  
High School, Lamlash 6.15pm - 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 10am - 11am  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, Various Time  
High School, 7.30pm - 9pm

**THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER**

Senior Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Citizens Advice  
Lochranza Craft Club  
Coffee Morning  
Cardiac Rehab  
Table Tennis  
Legs, Bums & Tums Class  
Indoor Bowling  
Cricket Practice  
Smoking Cessation Group  
Brodick Embroidery Group  
Youth Club  
Cubs  
The Wee Blether  
Garden Club  
Brodick Bridge Club  
Royal British Legion Arran Branch AGM  
Junior Scottish Country Dancing (P3 - P7)  
Scouts

Auchrannie 10am - 11am  
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Open 10am - 2pm  
Hall, 2pm  
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm  
Auchrannie Gym 2pm - 3pm  
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm  
KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Hall 7pm  
Sannox Oval, 6pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 12pm  
Brodick Library 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm  
Shiskine Hall 6.30-8pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30am - 1.30pm  
Ranger Centre, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion at 7.15pm  
McLaren Hotel, 2pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Shiskine Hall 8-9.30pm

**FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER**

Arran Pipe Band Practice  
Aquafizz  
Citizens Advice  
Quiz  
Adult Tennis  
Over 21's Disco  
Foundations at the Cabin  
Yogalates  
Street Dance

Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am  
Open 10am - 2pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 4.00pm - 6.30pm  
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Brodick, 7pm - 9pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 10am - 11am  
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 8pm

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- Organising meetings with your team to stimulate ideas for artwork, layout and features
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## Exciting New Opportunity

Catering Lease for Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club We are seeking applications from interested parties to take on the catering lease for our New Clubhouse from Spring 2010.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the entire catering facilities on a self-employed basis.

Please contact Club Secretary in the first instance for more information on 01770 860226 or 01770 860548

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### CHURCH NOTICES

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 (Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)  
 Shiskine 11am  
 Sunday School meets in the Church Hall  
 Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)  
 Rev Kenneth Cameron  
 All welcome

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

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 Worship for Harvest  
 Thanksgiving will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am. All welcome.  
 After the service and there will be a harvest lunch and all proceeds will go to the charity WaterAid (Charity SC039479)  
 All most welcome.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 (in full communion with the Church of England)  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 27 September**  
**Harvest Festival**  
 Holy Communion, 11am.  
 Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar  
 Parish lunch after service  
**Wednesday 30 September**  
 Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.  
 All Welcome.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 Rev. Gillean Maclean  
 Kilmory 10am  
 Lamlash 11.30am  
 Harvest Thanksgiving  
 Retiring Collection for Christian Aid in both churches:  
 All welcome, including families; children's area

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 11am  
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service, 7pm  
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick  
 Mr.G.Furzer  
 All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
 Ormidale Pavilion Brodick.  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 10.45am Communion  
 Tea and coffee from 11.20am  
 11.30am Special Service  
 Back to church Sunday  
 Speaker: Rev Willie Wright  
 Everyone very welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pimmill and Shiskine.  
*Independent but*

*working together.*  
**Minister**  
 Rev Angus Adamson.  
**Parish Asst**  
 Mrs Jean Hunter.  
 Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 Brodick Church, 10.30am  
 Corrie Church, 12pm  
 Lochranza, 9.30am  
 Pimmill, 10.45am  
 Shiskine Church, 12pm & 7pm  
 Service for Health & Healing  
 All other services celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving and Back to Church Sunday  
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FREINDS (QUAKERS)**  
**Sunday 27 September**  
 11 am  
 2 The Lodge  
 North Newton, Lochranza  
 Enquiries to Steph 830210.  
 All very welcome.

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
**Thursday 1 October**  
**TAIZÉ** worship  
 8pm  
 St Margaret's Episcopal Church-Whiting Bay  
 All welcome

### DEATHS

**DALY - JOHN**  
 Taken from us suddenly at home on the 15th September 2009, John (Jack) much loved husband of the late Merle and dearest father, papa, great grandpa, brother and uncle to all his family. A funeral service will be held on Friday 25th September in Jack's home at 11.15am, thereafter to Brodick cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Arran Citizens Advice Bureau

Will be closed for the October holiday  
**From Monday 5th October – Friday 9th October.**  
 Any urgent enquiries should be made to  
 Saltcoats Citizens Advice Bureau  
 on 01294 467848

### 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 submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below by 16th October 2009. Any representations received will be open to public view.  
 \*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of application to be published under regulation 20(1)  
 Application No: 09/00631/PP Address: Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8LY Proposed Development: Alterations and extension to form dormer to hotel

### PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2008/2009

The Local Government Act 1992 requires councils to publish each year performance information for selected services. The figures for the year ended 31 March 2009 will be available from the 29 September 2009 via our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk and at Local Offices, Libraries, Montgomerie House, Perceton House and Cunninghame House.

Elma Murray  
 Chief Executive  
 Cunninghame House  
 IRVINE  
 KA12 8EE



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### PERSONALS

**Happy 21st JAMES**  
**On 28th September**



Love from all the family. x

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25th September 1959  
**David and Helen Macfarlane**  
 Congratulations on your Golden Wedding Anniversary  
 With love from Eilidh, Fiona, Douglas and all the family xx

**HAPPY RETIREMENT KENNY**  
**LOADS OF LOVE FROM ALL AT "THE CHEESE SHOP"**  
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### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 17 September, Ladies 12 hole Medal. Silver, 1 Jenni Turnbull 53-10 43, 2 Alice Anderson 59-11 48, 3 Pat Adamson 59-9 50. Bronze, 1 Fiona Scott 59-15 44, 2 Piet Johnston - 64 15 49, 3 Sally Brookes - 64 - 13 51. Best scratch Jenni Turnbull - 53.

Saturday 20 September - 18 hole Medal, 1 Brian Sherwood - 75-10 65, 2 David Price - 78-11 67, 3 Duncan Markham - 76-8 68. Best scratch Brian Sherwood - 75.

### Lamlash Golf Club

**Ladies:** On Wednesday 16 September 11 ladies enjoyed a glorious afternoon of golf. **Stroke 6** CSS 67, 1 Gay Mackay 96-28-68, 2 Jennifer McArthur 93-22-71. Scratch won by Elizabeth Sinclair, well done all.

**Gents:** Thursday 17 September Seniors medal from box tees, 6 played. 1 H.McArthur 78-18-60bih, 2 P MacKay 82-22-60. One magic 2 by E I Cannon.

Summer Cup 17 played. Scratch S Campbell 71, 1 Todd Jameson 77-15-62, 2 Paul Jameson 76-13-63, 3 Scott Campbell 71-8-63. Three magic 2s D Macfarlane, N Young & A Smith.

Sunday 20 September final of the Scratch Cup. Only seven played. Scratch I Murchie with a 72. 1 Todd Jameson 76-15-61, 2 Iain Murchie 72-3-69, 3 Drew Wales 77-7-70. One magic 2 by Todd Jameson. Winner of the Scratch Cup Euan Evans 64 + 68 = 132, runner up Drew Wales 75 + 70 = 145.

**Fixtures:** Saturday 26 September Weekend Texas Scramble from noon making up own four balls with at least one lady and arranging times with starter. Thursday 1 October first

of nine hole competition (front nine). Junior nine-hole medal 20 September. Four played. 1 Michael Macfarlane 40-14.5=25.5, 2 Euan Bone 45-15=30. Euan had a hole in one at the 270 yard 9<sup>th</sup> hole. Congratulations on this achievement.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 16 September, 24 played in the final round of this year's Summer Trophy - just as Summer appeared to be arriving. Going into the final round there were five players with five decent scores in, waiting for a good final score to add to them. The winner of the final round was Jamie MacPherson (4)63 (bih), 2 John Pennycott (11)63 (bih), 3 Peter Smith (19)63 and 4 Nicol Auld (1)64. Jamie MacPherson had the only magic 2 and Nicol Auld won scratch with 65. The final positions for the Summer Trophy with their best six scores were; 1 John Pennycott at 7 under par, 2 Gus MacLeod 3 under par, 3 Eddie Hope 3 under par, and 4 Bob Hastings 2 under par.

Sunday 20 September, 18 played in the Arran Grouse Foursomes Qualifier. The winners were Eddie Hope and John Simmons with a net 62, and second were Ian Davidson and Keith Kelsall with 64. Both pairs will go forward to the finals played at Machrie on Saturday 24 October.

**Fixtures:** Saturday and Sunday 26/27, Kilbride Challenge against Lamlash. Players have been selected for the two days play, Saturday at Whiting Bay and Sunday at Lamlash.

**Ladies:** A lovely day on Sunday had seven ladies out for a Stableford competition. The winner was Tricia Tait with 33 points and in second place was Pat McDonald with 28. **Fixtures:** Greensome on Sunday 27 September and a mixed four ball on Saturday 3 October - see ladies notice board in clubhouse for details.

### Arran Ladies Golf Union

Nineteen ladies played over Corrie on Saturday September 19 in the first competition of our season, the Cir Mhor. Early on Saturday the weather was perfect but by the time the first ladies teed

off at 10.30am the rain had begun and it continued until we had completed the first nine holes. Thereafter it dried up and we saw Corrie at its best.

There were a large number of no returns but also some very good scores with the runaway winner being Betty Buchanan of Machrie. Betty was last out and returned an excellent 84 - 24 = 60 to win the trophy by four strokes from Susan Kidston who scored 80 - 16 = 64 her 80 also being the best scratch score.

As always at Corrie, Lindsay provided delicious tea and sandwiches and the ALGU would like to extend our thanks, not only for the catering, but to Corrie Golf Club for the courtesy of the course.

Our next fixture is the Texas Scramble due to be played over Brodick at 10.30am on October 3. This is a fun event and a good opportunity for new members to join the regulars and enjoy some social golf followed by Trish and Rosie's excellent soup and sandwiches. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Arran Golfers Association

Saturday 19 September Seniors Handicap at Shiskine. On a sunny day with light winds conditions were excellent for playing golf. Thanks go to the golf club for the use of the course and to Stuart and the staff for the excellent condition of the course. Results: 1 Drew Crawford 39, 2 Chris Pattenden 40 BIH, 3 Dougie Robertson 40 BIH. Scratch Willie Kelso 44 BIH. Twos, David Price, Ian McClery and Alan Napier. Prize for the oldest player went to Colin Bannatyne 87. Next AGA event will be the Arran Grouse on 24 October at Machrie.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 15 September. Sweep, yellow tees, 1 David Price 66, 2 Brian Sherwood 67 BIH, 3 David Wilkinson 67. Scratch David Price & Brian Sherwood 77. **Fixtures:** Tuesday 29 September, Sweep 12.30pm tee off. Saturday 3 October, start of Lochranza Hotel Cup tee off 12.30pm. Tuesday 6 October, start of Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 16 September, Flag competition, winner Lindsay Keir. The competition was followed by a buffet supper and the prizegiving. A good evening enjoyed by all those that attended. Sunday 20 September, Sweep and Hirsle Trophy, 25 played, CSS 64.



All the prizewinners in Brodick Golf Clubhouse.

Photo Len Hartley, jinglyjangleimages

Sweep results: 1 A Hume 38 pts bih, 2 K McMillan 38 pts, 3 A Robertson 37 pts.

Hirsle Trophy winner Alistair Hume. There were six twos, Peter McCalla got 2, Iain MacDonald, Iain Macmillan, Kenny McMillan and Chris Pattenden got one each.

**Fixtures:** Saturday 26 September, Open Texas Scramble, followed by supper and quiz night in the clubhouse. Get a team together and book a tee time with Peter McCalla. Members and their guests, members of all island golf clubs and visitors welcome to take part (handicap cert required for visitors). If you can't manage the golf, come along and enjoy a good sociable evening in the clubhouse.

Sunday 27 September, Brandon Final, tee off times from 12noon. Draw at 12noon Saturday 26 September. Any qualifiers who cannot play, please notify the match secretary before the draw is made on Saturday. There will be open sweeps as usual on Sunday 27 September, at 8.30am and 1pm for Brandon non-qualifiers.



Ewan McKinnon being presented with the Brodick club championship by captain Brian Smith.

Photo Len Hartley, jinglyjangleimages



Carole Stewart and Jenni Turnbull representing Arran at the Hirsle Golf Club in Coldstream.

## Carole and Jenni represent the Rural

After winning the SWRI Greensome competition at Shiskine on July 13, Jenni Turnbull and Carole set off to play in the National Final at the Hirsle Golf Club in Coldstream on Monday September 14.

Afterwards, Carole said: 'The day was well organised, we really enjoyed the course and we both won a raffle prize.' She didn't mention how they got on in the competition.

## Gordon and Mike are first Arran men home

As part of the Arran Outdoor Festival, Arran Runners organised a 10K trail race which attracted a mix of local and visiting runners.

The race started outside the Glenartney Hotel in Brodick and finished at the Auchranne Hotel gate, the catch being that the route is via Cnoc Na



Mike Mellor was second Arran man home behind Gordon Allsop, and third overall.

Dail and the forestry road to Glen Cloy.

Michael Jenks from Slidery, the only junior taking part, set himself the target of being first to the top, and led from the off. There is no gentle acclimatisation for this route; straight into the hill running at the start, and this continues up to the forestry road, which this year gave competitors superb views over Brodick Bay to Goatfell.

Once down to the head of Glen Cloy, a lovely run through the woods leads into the fields before the final path section along the burnside to the finish.

Jim White of Irvine Athletic Club, a regular competitor in Arran races, showed the youngsters how it should be done, finishing first ahead of Arran Runners' Gordon Allsop and Mike Mellor. Another regular visitor, Ellie Homewood from Westerlands, led the ladies home finishing in fourth place overall.

Arran's Kirstie Barton repeated her 2008 second place



Husband and wife team Garry and Anne Tulloch of Whiting Bay took part in the Outdoor Festival 10K trail race last Saturday.

b39out01

finish. Garry and Anne Tulloch from Whiting Bay both had good runs, Anne particularly please to break the one hour barrier.

### City of Stirling 10K race

This is a busy time of the year for races, and on Sunday 20 September, six Arran Runners took part in the City of Stirling 10K road race. Nick Emsley, now at Stirling University, lead the group home in 36m 35s with Cameron Paul just

six seconds behind in a new personal best.

Jennifer Emsley finished in 39:12. In only his second race, Fraser Shand had a good battle with veteran Paul Emsley, but just lost out to experience, taking seven seconds longer than Paul's time of 43:09, but cutting his Personal Best by well over a minute. Derek Shand completed the race in 58:42 before the group, plus supporters, adjourned for a celebration lunch.

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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## Phoenix fail to rise from the ashes

Arran 11

Jordanhill Phoenix 3

Arran's young rugby stars stepped up to the mark on Saturday to defeat a strong Jordanhill Phoenix team who came over with a heavy pack and mature players.

Youth won the day as the home team struggled to assemble 15 players for their match at Ormidale Park. Enforced absences and holidays left Arran shorn of a few key players but the new boys did not let them down.

The match started brightly enough with plenty of home possession but Jordanhill went in 3-0 up at half time with a single penalty score.

A second half dazzling run from Frazer Barr took the ball



Sandy Kerr and David McAlister are quick to stifle a Jordanhill break.

02\_b39rug02

to the 10-metre line where he popped it to Jamie Picken who forced over for a try. The conversion didn't go over, but two penalties from Frazer's boot settled the match at 11-3.

George Mendonca turned out for his first game at centre, but work called, and he had to leave at half time for ferry pier duty as the boat was due. Sam Casey came on as replacement.

Danny Currie played his first game at scrum half and Addie put in a stalwart performance as stand-in prop until forced off by injury. Sandy Kerr and Jamie Picken formed a solid new partnership in the second row in the absence of Niall McMaster.

Notable debuts were made by Danny Head at number 8 and

Rory Robertson on the wing. Another first-timer was a lad from Creelers called Christian who came on as a substitute centre and then moved to full back.

**Proud**

Coach Chris Marriott said: 'I was really proud of the boys. Their better fitness told as the match wore on. It was especially pleasing to see some of the junior players turning up to watch the match. We are struggling to put a team out some weeks, but as long as we can get 15 guys on the park each week, they won't let us down.'

Arran's next game is at home this Saturday to Cowal, starting at 2pm. Supporters will be most welcome.



Centre George Mendonca starts another mass Arran attack.

02\_b39rug01



The assembled group of swimmers on Lamlash pier.

## Lamlash Splash for hard swimmers

Twenty-six hardy souls took to the water for the eighth annual Lamlash Splash last Saturday.

The 1.3 mile open water crossing from Holy Isle to Lamlash attracted swimmers from as far afield as Yorkshire this year. First person home was tri-athlete Fergus Sim from Glasgow.

Event organiser Sally Hunter said: 'We like to encourage the Corinthian spirit and not make it too competitive, but he did it in a blistering time.'

A special mention should go to mother-of-three Dawn Ulivi who did the swim and raised over £700 for a diabetes

charity. Her friend's daughter, three-year-old Daisy Slatter,



Dawn Ulivi, who swam from Holy Isle and raised money for diabetes research.

was one of the youngest children ever diagnosed with diabetes in Scotland last year.

Sally said: 'All entry money from the event will go to the junior sailing club. I must thank the lifeboat crew and kayaking club for safely marshalling all the swimmers.'

Twelve-year-old Rory Hunter completed the crossing and won the Ali Bodie Memorial trophy for the person showing the most character.

The trophy was donated by the family of Alison Bodie, a remarkably brave woman who swam the race twice despite having terminal cancer.

## Auchrannie winter bowling

Winter indoor bowling at Auchrannie sports hall resumes on Tuesday October 6 and Thursday October 8 at 7pm.

It will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of next March.

If agreed at the first night, there will be a change in the method of scoring. Cost per game will be the same as last year.

All experienced bowlers and non-bowlers are most welcome. Auchrannie has a few sets of bowls for hire.

It is not guaranteed that there will be a lot of heat in the hall, but there will definitely not be any midges.



## Pool season first meeting

The first meeting of the 2009/2010 Arran pool season will be held at 2pm in the PHT this Sunday. All teams should be represented or telephone the PHT on 600418 to register for the season.

Teams need a minimum of six players to register and will be supplied with rules and fixtures before the start of the season.

## Footballers take on Tarbert

Arran Junior Football Club under-12 boys and girls will be playing games against Tarbert teams at the Ormidale Park from 12.30pm on Sunday September 27.

## Summer bridge results

September 21 results: N/S 1 H Boyd and E Paul, 2 E Sillars and M MacGill, 3 E McKellar and J Murchie. E/W 1 J McArthur and L Robertson, 2 S Lawson and J Wales, 3 B Livingstone and M Gardner.

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