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Creamery shop could be ripe for community takeover

By Jennifer Lyon
First Milk, owners of the failing Torrylinn Creamery in Kilmory, are keen to support a community takeover of the factory shop.
Paul Flanagan, First Milk's commercial director, told Kenneth Gibson MSP on Wednesday afternoon that 'no date has yet been set for closure' of the shop.
'They will consider any plans brought to them if the local community or indeed anyone else who might wish to bring forward a proposal to take over the shop and even want to combine it with a tea-room, for example,' explained Mr Gibson.

Location
'Mr Flanagan agreed that this could be done from the

current location and that First Milk would consider providing support to help such an enterprise establish itself.' Mr Flanagan also made it clear that Arran cheese will continue to be sold on the island.
Concerns for the future of the creamery were revealed two weeks ago after three members of staff were made redundant.
Cost considerations have forced them to now manage Torrylinn from Campbeltown and they will not reconsider the three redundancies notified.
Mr Flanagan said that the plant is currently losing a sum each year 'in the region of six figures'. The changes proposed are designed to cut that by a third

- losses will continue but First Milk hope to turn things around by increasing branded sales into niche markets.
'At present, Torrylinn produces around 200 tonnes of cheese a year,' said Mr Gibson. 'Other creameries are making up to 25,000 tonnes!'
High Value
'Around a quarter of Torrylinn's output is high value branded cheese and sales of this declined last year. It is through increasing this that First Milk plan to turn things round and they are willing to commit themselves for up to three years to achieve this.' First Milk have made it clear that they do not want a management buy out of the factory as they want to continue producing cheese on Arran.



Who will face up to the 'Queen of Mean'?

The makers of the BBC quiz show 'The Weakest Link' are looking for proud islanders from Arran to take part in a special edition of the show.
The show is hosted by Ann Robinson who has quite a reputation for her sharp wit and habit of poking fun at the contestants.
They are keen to get in touch with people who love living on Arran and would like to represent the island on national television.

The Weakest Link team are casting the net far and wide to the islands around the UK, looking for enthusiastic potential contestants for a special 'islanders' themed show.
Contact
So, if this is you and you think you have what it takes to face the 'Queen of Mean' contact highshow@bbc.co.uk for more information on how to apply.
All applicants must be aged 18 or over.

Arran Woodlands Project

Pupils Emily Gillson, Tom Beatan and David Stefanuti with tutors Josephine Broekhuizen, Ed O'Donnolly and Sarah Cook taking part in the Arran Woodlands Project in Brodick Castle woodland garden last week.
See page 9 for full story. 02_b41ran01



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Wildlife Festival cancelled

The current funding package has ended

The committee of the Arran Wildlife Festival has decided not to hold the event next May after the organisation reached the end of its current funding package.

Every year since 2006 visitors have flocked to the island in May to enjoy a feast of wildlife walks and fun packed activities.

Over the years the Isle of Arran Wildlife Festival has evolved from a dream of a small core of committed individuals, to what was a vast programme spanning eight days and supported by dozens of volunteers, local wildlife enthusiasts and visiting specialists.

Continue

In August this year, The Banner reported that the organising committee was keen to continue and build upon the success of the festival, despite failing to secure further funding.

Festival chairman Jim Casels said: 'The decision has

been taken that the partnership will not be organising an Arran Wildlife Festival in 2011.

'However, we do intend to expand and improve the information and facilities for wildlife related activities throughout the year.

Partnership

'Over the last two months, the Arran Natural History Society, in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Natural Heritage, National Trust for Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland has made a start on this and considered various options for the future.

'This partnership has tried to determine what is both manageable and sustainable within available resources and has come to the decision that throughout this year its efforts will be put into developing a variety of activities based around the aims and principles of the festival and the Arran Natural History Society.'



Sales assistant Lorna Crawford is pictured with the new perfume Eydis which was launched by Arran Aromatics last week. 01_b41eau01

Nationwide events celebrate new Aromatics fragrance

Arran Aromatics, the island based toiletries company, launched its new fragrance at a series of special events last Thursday afternoon.

Named Eydis, which means the 'Goddess of the Island', the feminine fragrance is described as light and floral with a sparkling finish.

Guests who attended the launch party at Home Farm

just outside Brodick were treated to a glass of sparkling wine and some canapés while they browsed the factory's collections.

Launch events were also held at the Arran Aromatics stores in Princess Square, Glasgow; George Street, Edinburgh and at the Gretna Gateway retail park.

The company's retail man-

ager, Irene Currie, said: 'As a company we are definitely beginning to focus much more on our own retail sales by opening new stores all over Scotland.'

'This new, vibrant fresh scent, with accents of sparkling citrus and bergamot around a heart of clover and honeysuckle, is an ideal representation of the direction the company is moving in.'

'We are trying to appeal to a younger market with Eydis because it's very youthful and fresh and the simple round bottles with chrome caps create a spa like feeling to the range which will enhance every bathroom.'

'The clean flowing lines of the label design, printed silver and green on white, suggest soft rolling hills and are very appealing on the shelf.'

Exercise Joint Warrior begins on the Clyde

A large number of international warships have been spotted sailing in Arran waters this week.

They are part of Exercise Joint Warrior 102, the second of two annual multinational air/maritime simulation warfare exercises in Scottish waters.

It began on Monday and will continue until Thursday 14 October.

The NATO led multinational military exercise saw ships starting to come into the British submarine base at Faslane in Argyll on Sunday.

Participating in the exercise are units of sea, air and land forces from participating nations - Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States - together for one of the biggest war games seen.

Maritime aircraft from France, Italy, New Zealand, the United States and Canada together with Falcon and Hawk aircraft are arriving at and will be flying from RAF Kinloss.

These joint training exercises take place twice each year - in the spring and in the autumn.

They rarely pass without incident.

In 2008 a registered 'earthquake', felt as far inland as Drumadrochit on Loch Ness, was later admitted to have been the Royal Navy playing with mines in The Minch.

A few years before that, residents living on the shores of Loch Erribol in Sutherland found themselves shelled from ships at sea whose range finding was flawed, but no one was killed.

This time the war game scenario sees the participating ships divided into units representing regions engaged in territorial disputes.

This will involve the ships in small boat attacks, boarding operations, air defence, anti-submarine warfare and ship manoeuvrability challenges.

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Brodick beach work set to begin

Work is scheduled to begin on Brodick Beach within the next two weeks to repair coastal erosion that exposed the edge of the old landfill site.

Unusually high tides and strong easterly winds in March were blamed for a huge amount of old rubbish that was found covering the beach.

The rubbish – which included thousands of glass bottles, broken crockery, old shoes and pots and pans – had escaped from the old Brodick coup which was sited at Invercloy, an area which is now green grass for children to play on.

North Ayrshire Council were forced to close the beach

throughout the summer and specialist engineers were drafted in to deal with the erosion and prevent it from happening again.

Reopened

Now more than seven months later, the council are finally preparing to begin the work which will see the beach re-

opened to the public sometime in the new year.

Last week planning permission was granted for the work that will cover a stretch of around 250 to 300 metres of the beach from a point adjacent to the public car park to the footbridge that crosses the Glencloy Burn.

Geotextile containers, filled with sand from the north of the beach, will be used to contain the landfill material.

This method was just one of many considered but it will allow the existing beach material from above the high water mark to be used to fill the containers.

Sand will be deposited on top of the geotextile containers to form a new beach and Marram grass will be planted across the area to provide a more natural appearance and stabilise any loose sand.

The containers are designed to prevent any further erosion for at least 100 years and the containers themselves have a lifespan of 50 years.

If necessary, they can be replaced on an individual basis.



Brodick Beach has been closed to both locals and visitors since the end of March.

02_b28san02

Vulnerable people urged to get seasonal flu jab

Older and vulnerable people on Arran are being encouraged to protect themselves and their loved ones by getting the seasonal flu jab.

One sneeze from someone with the flu can project between 2,000 and 5,000 particles of virus-filled droplets at a speed of 100mph.

Anyone within 30 feet of that sneeze is unlikely to avoid those droplets and therefore could become infected.

GP practices on Arran will now begin to contact patients to invite them for vaccination.

Eligible

Only 66 per cent of the 60,056 residents over 65, who were eligible for the seasonal

flu jab in Ayrshire and Arran in 2009/10, took up the offer and got protected against the virus.

Meanwhile, only 46 per cent of the 35,222 under 65s, with an underlying health condition in Ayrshire and Arran, received the seasonal flu jab in 2009/10.

H1N1 is expected to be the predominant circulating strain this flu season, and this year's vaccine will protect against three strains of influenza, including H1N1.

The following groups will be eligible for this season's vaccine: Those aged 65 years of age and over, Under 65s with heart or lung problems including asthma, cystic fibrosis,

NHS healthcare staff, Unpaid carers and pregnant women.

This year's campaign will target pregnant women for the first time, and there will be a drive to highlight the fact that unpaid carers are also eligible for vaccination.

Complications

The Scottish government's Health Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'For those at risk, the complications of seasonal flu can be deadly. The best way to protect yourself is to get the jab.'

'If you know someone who is at risk please encourage them to come forward for vaccination to protect themselves and those they care about.'

'This year's campaign will

highlight the fact that unpaid carers in Scotland are eligible for seasonal flu vaccination. There are over 650,000 unpaid carers in Scotland and many don't realise that they are eligible for the vaccine. It is vitally important that they come forward to protect themselves and the people they care for.'

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Tracy Warwick receives her hamper from Kenny McMillan of Isle of Arran Cheese Company.

Hamper of goodies for top snapper Tracy

From an entry of almost 500, Tracy Warwick of Kings Cross was the winner of the 'People Section' of the 2010 Banner photo competition.

For her success, she received a hamper of Arran goodies, courtesy of the Isle of Arran Cheese Company of Home Farm, Brodick.

Gordon Cochrane of Largs won the 'Views Section' and will be receiving his hamper from Isle of Arran Cheese Company via Parcelforce.

Don't forget that it is never too early to get snapping in time for next year's 31st annual Banner photo competition.

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Campaign appeal to help develop Sannox church site

The campaign to save the site of Sannox Congregation Church for affordable housing has taken a step forward.

Now the committee of HIFAR (Housing Initiative for Arran Residents) is seeking help to make further ground to achieve their objectives.

The old church just north of Sannox is considered to be one of Arran's architectural gems, but has lain empty since 1976. It was built in 1822, and at the time was the only place of worship between Lamalsh and Pirmill.

HIFAR Chairman John Inglis said: 'There are two parts to our proposals. The first is a grant application to Historic Scotland to renovate Sannox church for community use, with a result expected soon.'

This would be in the form of a 'working building' that could function as an art gallery, museum or church.

John continued: 'The second part of our proposal is a mortgage from Triodos bank which specialises in community centered borrowing to cover the cost of, firstly the purchase of the whole site including the church, and secondly the renovation of the manse as an af-

fordable, rented family home. Our mortgage application, of course, carried a professional valuation which cost £50 but Triodos now want a quantity surveyor's valuation which will cost £400 - a pity but perhaps a sign of us being taken seriously. The mortgage is essential since grant aid for the manse is not available and the future of the church is also dependant on it ie the purchase of the whole site from United Reformed Church.

'We intend to service the mortgage with proceeds of the holiday rental of Dundarroch plus rent from manse.

'We do need £450 to progress the whole project but that is, of course, no guarantee of eventual success but we do believe the bodies we are dealing with are well disposed toward us.'

A recent public meeting held at Corrie, mainly on the future of the church, was very supportive and promised support in the future when and if needed.

All donations should be sent to John Inglis at Red House, Corrie or Margo Wheeler at Springwell. Cheques should be made out to HIFAR.



The derelict Sannox Congregational Church and manse, ripe for improvement.

02_b39cor02

Arran livestock sales

Messrs Craig Wilson Ltd had 456 store cattle and 1,227 store and feeding sheep at their sale in Ayr last Thursday September 30.

Arran livestock prices:
Simmental bullocks: £805 and £660 Hillhead (Sannox).

Texel lambs: £60 Hillhead (Sannox).

Continental cross lambs: £55 Hillhead (Sannox).

Mule lambs: £57.50 Springfield.

Continental lambs: £55.20 Bridge.

Cross lambs: £54 Springfield.

Blackface feeder lambs: £36 High Feorline.

Blackface cross lambs: £33 Bridge.

United Auctions had forward 12,623 prime and store lambs and ewes and also 1,562 store cattle and cast cows at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday September 29.

Arran livestock prices:
Simmental cross bull £855 Birchburn.

Limousin cross cow £905 Craighdu.

Texel cross lambs £70.50 Moor, £68 Bridge, £65 Cnoc, £58 Auchenhew and Whin, £55.50 Cosyden.

Suffolk cross lambs £57.50 Drumnaghina, £57 Sheddock, £56.50 Whin, £55 Balnacool.

Mule lambs £54.50 Drumnaghina, £54 Cosyden.

Blackface lambs £43.50 Drumnaghina, £43 Bridge.

Mule ewes £58 Auchenhew.

Blackface ewes £46.50 Craigview.

Cross tups £89.50 Craigview.

Crocuses in springtime from Arran Rotary



Local Rotarians take a breather after planting several hundred crocus bulbs round the wishing well last Tuesday. They are, from left, George Drennan, Ted Godfrey, Jim Lees, David Christison, David Gray and Johnnie Corbett.

Hundreds of bulbs planted

Members of the Isle of Arran Rotary Club planted hundreds of crocus bulbs around the wishing well at Brodick pier last Tuesday.

The wishing well was funded and built by local Rotarians and officially opened by the Lady Jean Fforde in 2002.

Money thrown into the well by holidaymakers and residents is contributed to Rotary charities.

Now it should be surrounded by a carpet of crocuses next spring.

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Red Cross Hallowe'en lunch

The annual Red Cross Hallowe'en lunch at the Kinloch Hotel will be on Thursday 28 October.

There will be a raffle, tombola and entertainment and of course a few witches around.

This is a very popular event so in order to be sure of a ticket you will find these at the Book & Card Centre, Brodick, or just ring 850230.

Escort service

The lunch is in aid of the Transport and Escort Service which the Red Cross runs on the island.

It is an invaluable service for many who otherwise would find it difficult to meet their hospital or surgery appointments, or who need help and assistance on the ferry.

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Members at the last meeting of Lamlash Improvements Group at Lamlash Fire Station. They are, Jim Stewart, Emma Ingham, chairman Dave Ingham, minute secretary Elaine Higgins, Anne Tattersfield, Brenda Stewart, vice chairman Gavin Lowe, Joan Prescott, Geoffrey Delamere and Timothy Billings. 02_b41lam02

Lamlash volunteers say 'Your village needs you'

Lamlash Improvements Group needs you.

The group of enthusiastic volunteers is looking for other villagers to assist with ongoing community events in the future.

In the past they have produced a regular newsletter, and on a monthly basis provide an updated summary at the monthly meetings. These informal get-togethers are held on the last Wednesday of the month in Lamlash Fire Station at 7pm.

Improve

Help is needed with forthcoming events, and also ideas for future ways in which to improve the village.

Forthcoming events include a beach clean on Saturday

October 30 at noon on the front green with soup and sandwiches in Lamlash Bay Hotel. Brenda Stewart will be getting litter pickers from the Council. It is hoped to have Halloween themed face painting and dooking for apples.

The village bonfire will take place on Saturday November 6.

A Christmas extravaganza in conjunction with the Glenisle Hotel is being held on Sunday December 5 with hot food and drinks on sale. Arran Brass will be playing and the Christmas tree lights will be lit.

Another plan is to set up a village website and improve signs within the village showing the various facilities available. Disabled access to

the beach should also be improved. Suggestion boxes will be placed in the Old Pier Café and another location.

Assistance

If anyone is prepared to give a little time and help their village, it is not necessary to attend all meetings, and ideas can be given to any of the committee members. Assistance at any of the forthcoming events would be appreciated.

Minute secretary Elaine Higgins said: 'We are particularly grateful to Lamlash Bay Hotel who have continually supported our events. The next Improvements meeting is on Wednesday October 27 at 7pm in the fire station, and all are welcome, with any help no matter how big or small.'

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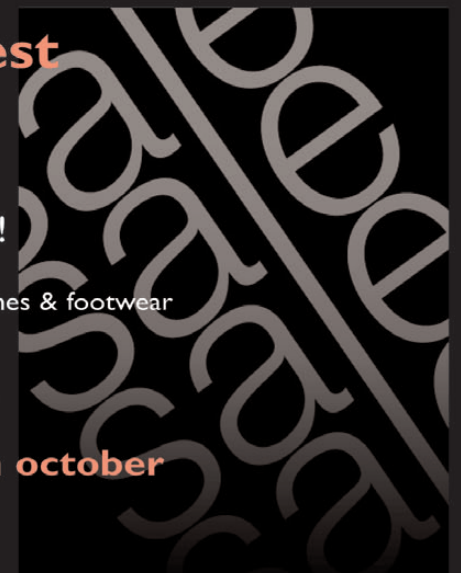


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Rory pips brother Neil to championship

Arran Junior Sailing Club's 30th season closed with the racing championship, eight races being held over two evenings.

With Neil and Rory Hunter now numbered amongst the top youth sailors in Scotland the surname on the trophy was never really in doubt – but which one?

Rory and crew Scott Currie finished the season as RS Feva Champions after the traveller Series in Scotland and a foray down to the National Championships in Hayling Island in Hampshire.

Recently Neil has teamed up crewing for Rory in their 420 dinghy and after coming second in the recent regatta at

Loch Tummel seem destined for the RYA Scottish Squad which brings on young sailors towards the Olympics. So it was game on.

The first of the two evenings was held in moderate to strong breeze and older (and heavier) brother Neil built up a substantial early lead with three firsts and a second, with Rory getting three seconds and a first. Behind them another tight battle for third place was going on between Colin Mackenzie and Iain Logan with Colin finishing one point ahead after the first four races.

The second evening proved a good balance with light winds now giving an advantage to the lighter crews. Rory took the first two races with Neil second and the Championship was now finely balanced.

Recovered

In the third race the wind dropped slightly and with Rory in the lead Iain Logan slipped past Neil for an excellent second place. Neil recovered well in the final race with a first and Rory second.

Third place continued to be hotly contested between Colin and Iain but Iain's good results in the final two races pulled him ahead.

Overall Rory finished first having a better discard than Neil winning the Shemuzzle Trophy. Iain came third and won the Novices Trophy for the most improved sailor which is awarded across both the Junior and Senior Clubs.

Results: 1 Rory Hunter, 2 Neil Hunter, 3 Iain Logan, 4 Colin Mackenzie, 5 Alistair Innes, 6 equal Peter Gilson and Iain Clarke.



Action on the water from the junior racing championships.



Captain John Martin on the bridge of Arran's ferry, MV Caledonian Isles. 02_b41mar01

Health and safety of a seaman's life

John Martin of Carradale worked for Caledonian Mac-Brayne for 17 years and was a regular skipper on the Arran ferry MV Caledonian Isles until his retirement earlier this year. His avuncular and relaxed style endeared him to the Arran travelling public.

He spent a lifetime at sea, and in a recent maritime publication he reveals how much health and safety rules have changed since he first went to sea 48 years ago.

John recalls an incident as a young midshipman in 1962 in San Fernando Bay, 40 nautical miles north of Manila in the Philippines. His vessel, the MV Glensheil, was heading back to the Thames via Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore.

She was calling in at Manila to collect cargo when a Chinese deck rating slipped from his bosun's chair on the foremast, some 80 feet above the deck. The man's fall was fatal, but the manner of dealing with

his death was haphazard and almost comical.

A coffin was made on board the ship ready for the transportation of the seaman's body ashore for burial in the Philippines. As it was carefully lowered over the side to a waiting lifeboat, a discharge pipe unloaded a flow of sewage over the coffin, to everyone's shock and embarrassment.

John accompanied the ship's captain and chief engineer to the burial ground, but immediately after the interment a telegram arrived to say that the body should be returned to Hong Kong for family burial. Then followed a lengthy process of exhumation and four-day sail to Hong Kong harbour. The seaman's family came on board, but no-one could understand their rural Cantonese dialect. Feeling that her husband's body had not been treated with respect, the man's wife became increasingly distraught until she finally drew a knife and approached the chief officer, intent on revenge.

John says that fortunately her family intervened and the body was finally laid to rest in Hong Kong.

He points out that in the following 48 years much has changed in procedure, health and safety at sea. John said: 'With legislation and enforcement, a seaman's life is safer now.'

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

The new session of Corrie and Sannox SWRI was opened by President Elma Stevenson.

She welcomed all, and thanked everyone who had entered items in the show, in particular those who had set up the trays. Her next task was to welcome Brodick Postmaster Cams Campbell. However, the post office was most definitely not the subject of his talk.

This took us through his adult life from 'The Army to Arran', illustrated with a power point production.

We learned about his army life and the injury that made his life take a completely different direction. Arabic, German and Russian are just three of his qualifications, and life in Russia, Kazakhstan and Luxembourg before settling for Arran!

What an interesting and exciting life he has led. We then all enjoyed our supper, and the meeting closed with a reminder that the next meeting will be on Thursday October 14 at 7pm when we will be welcoming Janine Crisp for a body shop demonstration.

The competition for that night is the prettiest perfume bottle, and you are also to bring an addressed envelope.

Corrie Film Club

Film of the Month: Lake Tahoe (Mexico Cert 12)

The 2010/11 Corrie Film Club season begins with the talented Mexican director, Fernando Eimbecke's film, *Lake Tahoe*.

Film club regulars may remember a previous Eimbecke film, 'Duck Soup' which proved a hit when it was shown two seasons ago. *Lake Tahoe* is a follow up which focuses on a teenager in a sleepy Mexican town.

It is a subtle, charming film, which was nominated for the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and uses deadpan humour to unfold a touching story of loss and friendship.

Members are reminded that subscriptions of £15 are now due but non-members are always welcome at Corrie and Sannox Hall this Sunday at 8pm.

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Mystery of white bales in Southend field



Large round bales of silage or hay have become a common sight around the Arran countryside.

They used to be wrapped in black plastic but more recently they have appeared in environmentally-friendly and biodegradable green or white livery. Most farmers bring the bales back to the steading for ease of use for winter feeding, but some leave them stacked in fields.

But residents and holiday-makers have been expressing surprise and puzzlement at the recent scene in a Southend field.

A long row of 24 white wrapped bales has been arranged in a perfect line, evenly spaced, from top to bottom, separating two root crops in the field at Corriecravie.

People are scratching their head and asking what it is all about. Some have even suggested that it is Arran's version of crop circles.

If anybody can cast light upon this phenomenon, please let us know.

Answers on a postcard please, to The Banner office.

The mysterious line of white bales at Corriecravie; answers on a postcard. b36ba101

Arran featured in the international adventure spotlight

More than 10 international tour operators, travel agents and travel writers have been visiting the island and participating in activities on the run up to the Adventure Travel World Summit taking place in Aviemore later this week.

The Adventure Travel World Summit, which is being held in Europe for the very first time, has attracted in excess of 600 delegates from more than 50 different countries.

Experts

Bringing together tour operators, destination management organisations and a host of other industry experts, the summit is the global adventure travel industry's main annual

conference organised by the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA).

The international visitors from the US, Venezuela and Sweden were treated to a number of tourist attractions across Arran including walking up Goat Fell, cycling with Arran Bike Tours around Machrie Moor, and sea kayaking around Lamlash and Holy Isle.

VisitScotland's regional director for Ayrshire and Arran said: 'Whether you are into rock climbing, bungee jumping or, for the slightly less adventurous, taking a stroll and enjoying the stunning scenery, there are an enormous range of exciting outdoor activities available on Arran.'

Arran Antiquarians hear about the Fire Brigade

The September meeting of the Arran Antiquarians welcomed Jim Fallon, a retired firefighter, who talked about the history of the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service.

He served in the Brigade in Glasgow from 1975 to 2005, and worked his way up through the ranks to Divisional Officer.

Firefighting was somewhat random and haphazard in the past, and the first municipal

Fire Brigade in the world was formed in Edinburgh in 1824. In 1947 the Fire Brigade Act was the start of modern fire brigades when the Government made local authorities standardise the systems used.

Jim Fallon told us that Glasgow was termed 'Tinderbox City' as the old buildings had a habit of burning spectacularly, and there were many bonded warehouses in the city.

Firefighting was a hazardous occupation, and in the 17 years prior to the formation of Strathclyde Fire Brigade 37 firefighters from the fire brigades in the amalgamation died on duty.

Strathclyde Regional Council was set up in 1975 and all the local brigades became

Strathclyde Fire Brigade, the Headquarters being moved to Hamilton. Thus, five former area brigades were amalgamated and all equipment and buildings were updated.

This move also brought in strong buying power with funding from each region enabling the Brigade to buy the best available equipment.

Operational control then moved to Johnstone.

The advantage of this large, more centralised organisation means it gives a quality of service to its communities

which small forces could not manage. Strathclyde Fire and

Rescue Service, as it is now called, serves 2.3 million people and covers diverse landscapes such as urban, rural and island, and covers all sorts of properties from

private homes to airports.

There are 2,196 full-time members, 630 retained personnel, 301 volunteers (the latter two categories are in more rural and scattered areas), 520 support staff and 113 firestations.

Once again we had an excellent talk by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker.

The next meeting will be in Brodick Hall at 2pm on Monday, 18 October, when Tommy Henderson of Dalbeattie Museum will tell us of 'A Dream Come True'.

Non-members and visitors are very welcome.

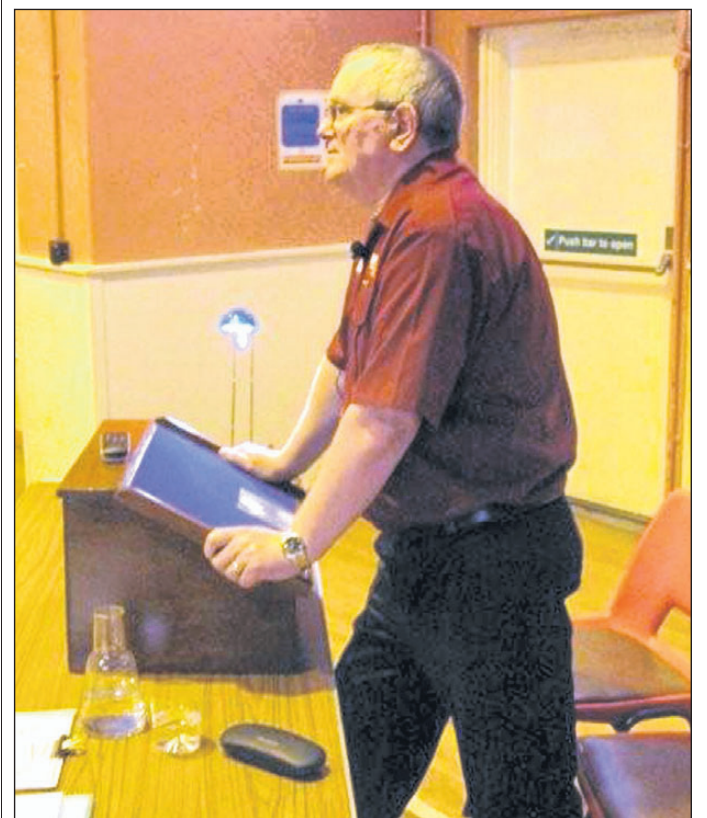
Make sure you are registered to vote

On May 5, 2011, there will be Scottish Parliamentary elections and a proposed referendum on the voting system for UK Parliament elections.

Now is the time for residents to make sure they have returned the annual canvass forms sent out in the past few months. By filling in this form you can ensure you will be on the electoral register for next year's polls.

It is also a good time to think about whether you will be able to get to the polling station in person on May 5, and apply for a postal or proxy vote if not.

The website www.aboutmyvote.co.uk has a lot of information about the annual canvass and forthcoming elections and referenda.



Jim Fallon telling Arran Antiquarians about the fire and rescue service.

M.B.S.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

The recent extensive roadworks on Arran will soon be completed.

Disruption to the travelling public appears to have been kept to a minimum, and in a couple of weeks we should be able to drive freely around the island unfettered by the unfamiliar sight of traffic lights, safety cones and convoy systems to protect the workforce.

Considerable stretches of the String Road, Brodick Hill and The Heights will have been completely resurfaced. For some time at least, this should give trouble-free motoring, fewer broken suspension units and reduce the need to dodge through a plethora of deep potholes. The poor condition of Arran roads has become an issue of legendary proportions.

Over the past few years, quirky internet sites have blossomed, warning visitors to avoid the island for fear of damage to their vehicles. Could we be about to turn a corner?

These road improvements represent a considerable investment in Arran's infrastructure by a cash-strapped local authority.

Some could argue that the roads should never have been allowed to deteriorate into such a state. And yes, in some cases such as The Heights the poor road surface was the result of below par patching that just made the surface more dangerous. But the Council has acted.

North Ayrshire Council in common with all Scottish local authorities is faced with a significant budget deficit. Across the region it has to identify £64million of savings.

Over recent years there has been an undercurrent of feeling that Arran would be better served by becoming part of Argyll and Bute local authority. Cast aside the fact that throughout winter there is only a limited ferry connection with the Kintyre peninsula that would make that notion untenable.

The truth is that, mile for mile, the roads in Argyll are no better than they are here at home. It could well be a case of 'better the devil you know'.

North Ayrshire Council is an easy target for moaners and in the letters page of the Banner is often the whipping boy of the masses. There is no doubt that in the corridors of Cunninghame House we may be low on the priority list for attention, partly because of our population figures compared to the rest of North Ayrshire. It is also the case that our problems and issues often have little in common with those of our neighbours in the Three Towns.

But for the foreseeable future at least, we have to accept that we are bedfellows, however strange. Will these considerable Arran road improvements be lauded by the man in the street? Probably not.

But love them or loathe them, we are stuck with North Ayrshire and must live with them

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' (Matthew 7:7)

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.

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



Why larger piers?

Sir,
I was astonished to read the comments of CalMac chairman, Peter Timms in the Banner of October 2 in which he is seeking more money to build larger piers.

Anyone who has seen what happened when CalMac's new Islay vessel MV Finlaggan was launched and the discovery was made that the new ferry wouldn't fit Port Askaig Harbour, or Port Ellen Pier should be concerned. The taxpayer has been asked to stump up £16million to sort out Port Ellen Pier, now reduced to just £4.5million.

This is on top of the £14million already financially haemorrhaged to redevelop Port Askaig Harbour - and in my view spoil one of the most beautiful harbours in Scotland.

Is it really necessary to spend eight figure sums to upgrade every pier so that bigger ferries can berth? The answer is a resounding no. Like CalMac I made a submission to the Scottish Government's Ferry Review. Evidence within that proves CalMac refuse to listen to islanders. Witness the infamous email from the CalMac MD to Islay hotelier Paul Graham stating CalMac would not listen to anyone but their own experts.

The worst sin of all is the big-boat-syndrome. Apart from being appallingly uneconomical, one example that the big-boat-syndrome leaves islanders disadvantaged is CalMac's curfew on Arran residents of 6pm.

Is anyone else fed-up racing to the last boat to get home? In our submission to the Scottish Government we have virtually pleaded with CalMac and the Transport Minister not to build any more inefficient £24million MV Finlaggan ships.

Instead, build two medium size modern versions of the MV Hebridean Isles at £9million each. Save the taxpayer £6million on costs, save a further £20million on each route infrastructure pier remedy.

Best of all, two ferries can mean increased frequency in

peak hours so you just turn up and a ferry is along within the hour.

Last but not least, two medium sized ferries mean that the length of service can be extended from 6am to midnight.

If Professor Timms thinks there is any money left to dramatically increase CalMac's £55million subsidy, he is in for a rude shock when the Finance Minister tells him to cut it by 20percent.

The evidence seems to indicate that the CalMac chairman is ill prepared, and has no plan for this scenario. Yours,

Russ McLean
20, Commercial Street
Alyth, Blairgowrie

Banana apology

Sir,
May I through your columns make an apology.

About 29 years ago I produced a spoof Banner, The Arran Banana, and recently a number of photocopies have started making an appearance.

Included in the nonsense is a slightly dodgy racial diatribe. Although I wrote a great deal of the Banana I did not pen that particular piece and worse still I have no recollection whatsoever of including it, probably due to the occasional over indulgence for 28 years.

However as I was ultimately responsible for the Banana may I apologise for any offence caused.

Yours,
Marc A Head
Whiting Bay

Save Kilmory Creamery

Sir,
As a regular visitor to Arran I would like to add my support to the campaign to save the Kilmory Creamery.

One of the first things I do when I visit the island is to visit the creamery to buy some cheese and I also make a visit before I leave to stock up. I would like to take this opportunity to say how pleasant and knowledgeable the staff at the creamery are.

At a time when we are all being encouraged to buy our food

locally and support our local farmers and producers it seems ridiculous that Arran residents would have to make a trip off the island to purchase this super cheese which I may be able to purchase in my local M & S store.

Yours,
Patricia M Gibb
36 Athollbank Drive
Perth

Strive for improvement

Sir,
I am very disappointed that Mr Muircroft in his letter last week was not able to make his complaint to me at the Visitor Centre or to my directors to enable us to investigate the complaint as we continually strive to improve the service we provide.

We made many changes to the menu, staffing and tables this year in an effort to improve the service.

We are the fifth most visited distillery in Scotland with over 63,000 visitors per year.

The letter is of great surprise to us as we have received much praise throughout the year and as a result are enjoying many additional bookings so much so that the advance bookings for next year are the best I have experienced in eight years.

Yours,
Robin Bell
Isle of Arran Distillery
Visitor Centre Manager
Lochranza

Missing the point

Sir,
I was interested to read your correspondent's view of poor service in the Co-op and in the Distillery.

Of the latter I possess no experience so cannot comment objectively. The Co-op, however, is a different matter.

I have been coming to Arran since 1978. Indeed, my wife and I have just returned from our latest three-week stay. While service and the Co-op are not exactly synonymous, the writer entirely misses the point of being on the Isle.

Being part of island life, listening to the news, engaging the people around one in conversation whilst waiting in line

is all part of the process of relaxation and of holidays on the Isle. Surely holidays are for slowing down and experiencing the gentler pulse of the island.

We have made lasting friendships whilst waiting in line at the Co-op and we visit the island to step away from the rush of the mainland.

As for the Distillery experience, well, the staff were probably out for a few minutes helping to move the red deer from the adjacent golf course so the tourists could feel less threatened!

Thank you Arran for another wonderful time.

Yours,
Brian and Amanda
Grindall
Uckfield
East Sussex.

Come for a wee blether

Sir,
Contrary to anything you have heard, the Wee Blether is not stopping.

On Thursdays between the times of noon and 1.30pm, the folk of Arran and beyond are welcome to come to Whiting Bay Village Hall and exercise their faces and mouths in the company of friends!

Homemade soup, sandwiches and tea/coffee will be served to you by a group of delightful volunteer ladies and gentlemen who feel that it is worthwhile to give up a little of their time to support the community.

Many people live on their own, and this service gives them the opportunity to come out, have a simple lunch and meet with old or new friends.

You will be made very welcome, and if at the moment you are rather shy, do not worry. You will soon learn to become a 'Wee Blether'.

The Wee Blether will run until December 9 except on October 14 when there will be a market and tearoom. It will restart in January 2011. Any profit made from the Wee Blether is given to the Village Hall Funds

Yours,
Isobel Thomson
Mingulay
Whiting Bay

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Arran Woodlands Project for local youngsters

Arran youngsters have been benefiting from lessons in the great outdoors this summer.

Four groups took part in the Arran Woodlands Project; an S3 science class from Arran High School, Corrie and Pirmill Primary Schools, and a group of young adults with learning difficulties supported by the Arran Adult Outreach Service.

Field study days were arranged for each group, focussing on different aspects of island woodland. Pirmill school divided into two groups with the older children exploring the Arran Whitebeam reserve in Glen Catacol and the younger children the coppiced native woodland once used in the production of pirns or bobbins supplied to thread manufacturers Coates of Paisley.

Corrie school compared the diversity of flora and fauna found in native woodland and conifer plantations. The S3 pupils from the High School visited forestry management in Kilmory and heard Arran's Forestry Commission Scotland manager, Andy Walker,



Corrie pupils identifying plants and insects within the hoop.

describe the issues of commercial forestry and the uses to which the wood is put, including an increasing portion for woodfuel. They also visited the workshop of Dave and Carol Furze at Kilmory and saw examples of work made from a wide range of island tree species. All the Corrie

and Pirmill pupils attended an exhibition of artwork and photographs and watched video recordings of their field trips at the Ranger Centre on Wednesday, September 29.

The Learning Disability group had six sessions and one

field trip walking round the woodland gardens at Brodick Castle.

The parents and carers of David Stefanuti, Emily Gillson and Tom Beatan were at the Ranger Centre last Tuesday September 28 to see the

youngsters' handiwork.

They saw two short films, each about five minutes long, made by Tom and focussing on trees, plants and animals and their relationship to their environment.

Emily said: 'I did some story making and artwork and took photos of flowers and really enjoyed it.'

Tom added: 'I enjoyed the film making and photoshop editing.'

Tutor Ed O'Donnolly said: 'The pupils decided on the duration of the films and selected background music that reflected the nature of the garden.'

Emily attends James Watt College while Tom and David have a series of social and leisure activities through the Adult Learning Centre.

The woodland project enjoyed funding from North Ayrshire Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Arran Theatre and Arts Trust and Argyll and the Islands Leader programme.

Sunflowers brighten the day for String Road travellers



The unusual sight of this stunning field of sunflowers in full bloom at Glensherrraig has been greeting people travelling down the String Road towards Brodick. The sunflowers and cover crop are a feed source of seeds for game birds and the recent wet weather has just about seen them past their best. 02_b41sun01



One of the woodland creatures created by Corrie pupils.

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Brodick Bridge Club

Results for Thursday September 30

N/S 1 T Martin and D Hamilton +410, 2 J Murchie and D Scobie -330, 3 V Iutz and M Iutz -1570.

E/W 1 A Bilsland and E Duncan +2480, 2 H Boyd and L Paul +1670, 3 J Maclure and A McKelvie +1620.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 4 October were as follows:

N/S 1 L Trickett/M MacGill +2390, 2 H Boyd/J Murchie +530, 3 I McArthur/E McKellar -330. E/W 1 E Sillars/J McBride +2320, 2 T Martin/A Bilsland +1200, 3 P Thompson/A Carr +360.

Corrie and Sannox

Wednesday Club

Wednesday October 13 sees the start of the winter activities for Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club with a talk from John Sillars on his experiences as gardener at Brodick Castle.

The club meets in Corrie and Sannox Village hall from 2pm till 4pm.

All are welcome.

Scott's @ Corrie Golf Club

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Arran Banner Photog



'Jellyfish'
George Nicholson,
Lamlash.



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'Fern and Holy Isle' Anne Caldwell, Johnstone.

'The best of the rest'



'Drumadoon Gate' Jane Brown, Linlithgow.



'Fisherm

graph competition



Peter McCalla, Brodick.



'Shearwater on clear water'
Gregor Small,
Brodick.

The Banner's annual photographic competition has been running now for 30 years.

And once again the judges have been overwhelmed by the high standard of entries that have come to us from all over the world.

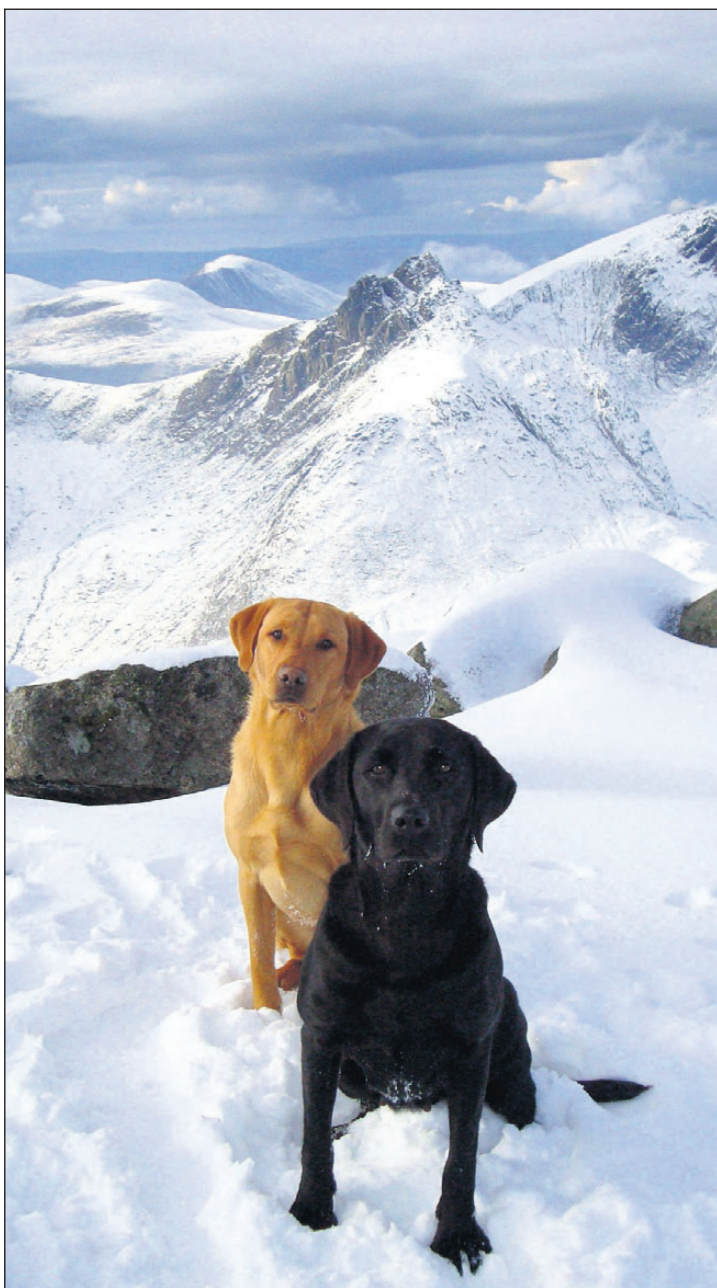
Arran is one of the most picturesque and beautiful places in the world and each year through our photography challenge we ask the readers to capture this perfect island on camera.

The standard of entries really does improve more and more every year, proving that photography is becoming a much bigger part of people's everyday lives.

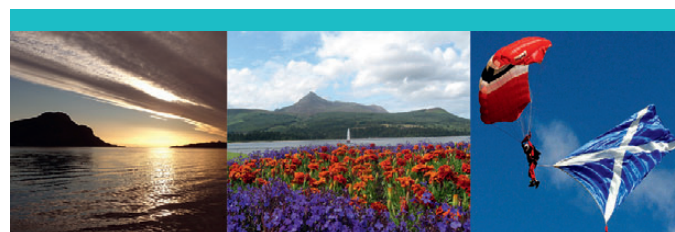
The winners were announced last week but we decided to print a selection of photographs



'Man's Walk' Lillian Smith, Glenloig.



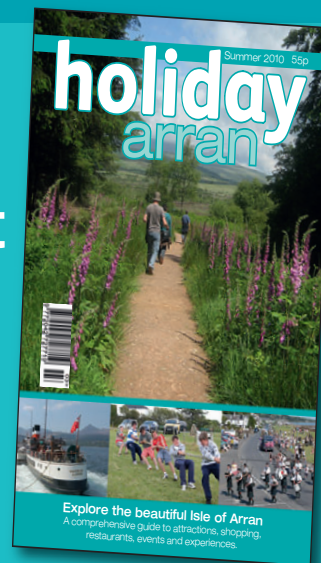
'Boo and Wesley on Goat Fell' David Lilly, Glaister.



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Cats on a plane – from Bangkok to Arran via Inverurie

Richard and Meilan Henderson are coming to live in Lochranza. They bought *The Anchorage* in the village in 1988 and have stayed there many times on holiday. Now they are coming back to the UK after a career in the Far East and are giving the Banner an account of the experiences involved in moving lock, stock and barrel to Lochranza.

This week Richard tells of the difficulties in sending their three cats from Bangkok to Arran.

The best laid plans of cats and men, as the Bard obviously meant to write, gang aft agley. We knew that our three would probably have to go into quarantine.

We did look at other possibilities, like sending them to Singapore for long enough to qualify under the Passports

for Pets scheme, but that didn't seem to work out any better for them in the end.

The next thing was to select a quarantine cattery. The benighted bureaucrats of DEFRA at least make that easy, by licensing only one quarantine cattery in Scotland, in Inverurie. That rather rules

out quick visits from Arran, so we thought we would send the cats off in advance, so they would be well through quarantine by the time we arrived in Lochranza, and ready to come out by the time we, and the house, were ready to receive them.

Arrangements were in progress when the first blow fell. Brussels has changed the rules – or maybe Britain is taking them more seriously.

From October 1, all pets entering Britain for quarantine will have to do so via Heathrow or Gatwick – and then be taken to Inverurie by road. Absurd - so the rush was on to beat the deadline.

A flight was booked to get the cats to Edinburgh on September 30, and all seemed to be in order – until we heard that the booking had been rejected. The flight already had some dogs booked, and Lufthansa didn't want to mix species. You can see their point. Twelve hours of frenzied barking wouldn't be good for anyone.

Panic! We were going to miss the deadline after all. Fortunately, all this time the cattery lady had been working hard on finding ways round problems; alternative ways of looking at things and so on. All this, one gathers, without an ounce of help from the DEFRA lumpenbureaucrats.

First of all, she managed to work out how to have the cats flown from London to Edinburgh, rather than driven. That now seemed to be the answer – although having the cats processed in London would cost us almost a thousand pounds more than if they flew straight to Edinburgh.

Then there was the even better news. Together with the very helpful German bureaucracy, the marvellous cattery lady had managed to work out a way to cope with the new rules, and have the cats fly to Edinburgh via Frankfurt, the original route of choice, after all.

As I write, they are all booked, wee suitcases packed, and ready to go. Will it all work out? Watch this space.



Meilan, admiring the photo of herself and Richard in the Banner four weeks ago, outside their Bangkok house.



Richard in front of their potted garden which runs riot in the hot, wet climate.



Petronella, one of the three cats bound for Lochranza, gets ready to be packed off to Scotland.

Kildonan SWRI

The first meeting of Kildonan Rural was held on Tuesday 28 September when the President, Margaret Stewart, welcomed a good turn out.

The demonstrator for the evening, Patsy Keen, was unable to come along due to unforeseen circumstances. However, Deirdre Cruickshank from Whiting Bay very kindly agreed to take Patsy's place.

After the business had been dealt with Deirdre gave a most interesting demonstration of Waxed Painting.

This was a new experience for the members but everyone joined in and soon the ladies were creating their own 'works of art'.

This was much enjoyed by all and Gillian Lythgoe warmly thanked Deirdre.


The competition for the evening, lemon curd, was won by Thelma Meldrum, second was Beth Mowatt.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 October at 2.30pm when we will have a cookery demonstration by Jerry Arthur. The competition will be your favourite candlestick and there will be a raffle.

LAMLASH BOWLING CLUB
Closing Day
Saturday 9th October
 2pm
Please return all trophies
All welcome

Coffee Morning on Wednesday 13th October
 In Brodick Church Hall
 From 10.30am to 12 noon
for the Scottish Bible Society
All Welcome

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Bird Notes for September

by Jim Cassels

September was wetter than August due in part to several days of very heavy rain. These were interspersed with a number of dry bright days.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move.

It is the time to expect the unexpected. While this year did not have some of the highlights of recent years like the adult Sabine's Gull and a Cory's Shearwater in 2009, there were a number of unusual reports including an osprey at Garbh Allt on the 15th, dotterel on Caisteal Abhail on the 17th, the first autumn record since 1981, and ring ouzel by the Narachan Track in Lochranza on 25th.

The last report was also at this time of year in 2009.

Other birds on migration included from the coast: a whimbrel at Kildonan, 87 golden plover at Machrie and hundreds of Manx Shearwaters off Cosyden all on the 19th.

In addition there were small numbers of white wagtail among the numerous pied wagtail at Blackwaterfoot on the 3rd, two wheatear at Cleat on September 23, eight skylark on Sliderry shore on the 24th and two sandwich tern in Whiting Bay on 25th. A female Merlin, no doubt also

on migration, was hunting the migrants on the shore at Kildonan on the 19th.

At this time of year, birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included 30 gannet in Whiting Bay on the 1st, 100 starling at Kilpatrick on 3rd, 24 long-tailed tit on Whiting Bay Golf Course on 17th, 80 chaffinch at Kildonan on 19th, 100 goldfinch at Kilpatrick also on 19th, 30 linnet at Sliderry on 24th and 18 twite at Kilpatrick on the 29th.

Winter

With the approach of winter some birds move to the milder coast.

Dipper was reported at the mouth of the Rosa on 20th, Kingscross shore also on 20th and Torrylinnwaterfoot on 22nd and kingfisher was reported from near the mouth of the Cloy burn on 20th and from Cordon on 21st.

Other birds more associated with winter included eight wigeon at Machrie on the 19th and a flock of around 50 greylag geese flew up the Shiskine Valley on the 21st.

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: four House Martins at Lochranza on the 27th, a willow warbler at High Kildonan

on 29th and small numbers of swallow still around Kilpatrick on 30th.

October should see the last of the Swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: four black-throated diver at Machrie on the 19th, a puffin in Whiting Bay on the 22nd, two moorhen at Port na Lochan on 23rd and a number of coveys of red grouse on high ground with one of 14 birds.

Finally, my thanks to all the 'volunteers' who took part in the Eider survey in September.

Total number of birds recorded round Arran was 76, a similar figure to last years total, but considerably less than the up to 600 that were being recorded ten years ago.

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 Report 2009 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



This magnificent Finnish Goshawk was among the birds of prey being flown on Arran.

International birds of prey take to the Arran skies

Members of the Scottish Hawking Club held their annual meeting on Arran last week.

The club has been coming to the island for almost 10 years to take advantage of flying birds of prey in the wide open spaces.

Once again, local hawkers Ian Struthers and Murray Boal played hosts for the occasion, and would like to say a big thank you to the people who made it possible.

Not for the first time, the meeting had an

international flavour with visitors from as far away as Kent and Oklahoma, and ages ranging from a 10 year-old girl to some old guy of 66.

Ian said: 'It is always a friendly and relaxed affair and something that I really look forward to.'

'Once again, we are indebted to the farmers and landowners who make this event possible.'



The dipper. Photograph by Brian Couper



A ring ouzel was spotted by the Narachan Track in Lochranza.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

- on holiday . . .



Chrissie Bunyan reading her Banner at Whalers Village in Kaanapali in Hawaii.

b41ban05



Tim and Katrina Scratchard of Sheean Drive, Brodick find a quiet spot on top of the Empire State Building to catch up on Arran news.

b41ban03



Jasper of Whiting Bay took his Banner on holiday while touring the Highlands.

b41ban02

Arran residents and holiday-makers are still remembering to take their Banner with them on holiday.

For those who forget to pack Arran's weekly newspaper in their luggage, they can always pick up a copy in the shop at Glasgow airport.

Since the 'Banner on holiday' feature started more than a year ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of interesting and innovative photographs

of our readers from all over the world. We now have a considerable portfolio of photographs on file, but welcome any new contributions from our loyal readers.

When space permits, we will continue to publish your holiday memories.

This week we have a selection of photographs from Hawaii, The Maldives, Greece, Croatia, the Empire State Building and the Highlands of Scotland.



Sheila Bannatyne of Blackwaterfoot relaxes while catching up on Arran news in the Maldives.

b41ban06



Andrew and Samuel Proudfoot, son and grandson of Lindsay and Elma of Brodick, catch up with the sports news before diving at Rogoznica in Croatia.

b41ban01



Calum Shepherd of Aberdeen is pictured with his Banner at the bottom of the main crater of the volcanic island of Nisyros in the Dodecanese area of Greece.

b41ban04

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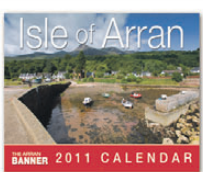


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SATURDAY 16th October

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(drinks are 125ml glass of house wine, half pint beer/lager or can of juice)

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Sunday, October 6, 1990

Pay your share

'Nobody (on Arran) would maintain their income without an active Tourist board,' said Ronnie Mann, the chairman of the board at their AGM last week.

This was an expression of anger that so few businesses that are not directly tourist related are members of the board.

'For anyone to say that tourism does not impact on their business, it is foolhardy,' he said.

This feeling that many people reap the benefits while letting others pay the costs also came up as subscription costs were discussed.

Petrol costs

When you buy petrol in £10 lots you tend not to notice the cost but it is now coming in at

£2.54 a gallon on Arran.

Garage owner John Halstead of Whiting Bay said, when asked if the price would continue to rise, that he could see it being £3 by Christmas.

Haulage collision

An Arran Haulage lorry had a collision near Cumbernauld last Friday with, believe it or not, another Arran Haulage lorry.

When help was requested from Glasgow to shift the loads it was another Arran man, Hamish Hamilton, an independent driver who answered the call.

New community council

A new Community Council has been formed with the lowest possible profile.

The bottom rung of the dem-

ocratic system, candidates should be nominated, and if necessary elections held.

Traditionally it has been almost impossible to get people to stand and co-options have often been necessary.

One of the new councillors said: 'There has been no election this year because we only had the right number of nominations for the places.'

'It's like a chicken and an egg. The council could do so much more but then we get bad press and total opposition from Cunninghame Council.'

Kilmory Grand Fete

Kilmory Hall committee held the final event of the summer season on Saturday when their annual fete took place followed by a ceilidh in the evening.

Stuart Gough, dressed in very colourful attire, came to the rescue in his usual efficient and helpful way, when Mairi McInnes unfortunately couldn't open the fete.

The afternoon took off with a selection of tunes from Arran Pipe Band and pony rides, rifle shooting and many other side shows were enjoyed outside despite the showers.

Train service resume

The train service between Ardrossan and Glasgow has not been curtailed, despite our report to the contrary last week. We said that the winter ferry timetable showed no trains would meet the 1.50pm sailing from Brodick or the 3.15pm from Ardrossan.

We now hear that the timetable is wrong and the trains will run as previously.



A combination of wanting to 'extend the season' and a belief that craft skills are dying out has prompted two local ladies to run a series of residential embroidery courses.

Ann Hollingworth of Machrie, pictured, and Vicky Padfield of Glencloy Farmhouse are hoping to bring together a small group of people who are keen to learn new skills and also impart their own knowledge. b41twe04



Arran's Ladies Hockey Team are pictured in their new Arran Aromatics sponsored strips playing Uddingston at the weekend. Could it be that one of the players has fallen asleep on the pitch? b41twe02



A rather large pile of sand has started to appear on the beach in Brodick in front of the Book and Card Centre. After many months of growing concern about the disappearing sand on the beach, long term sand monitor Archie McNicol said: 'There's no question about it, the beach at this corner is a big improvement. But it will not be long term.' b41twe01



Arran Rugby Club met Newton Stewart last Saturday in their second match of the league. It was also, unfortunately their second defeat, as they lost 9-0. b41twe03

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

COME ALONG AND WANDER DOWN 'MEMORY LANE'

An ever-changing collection of Arran at War, Children's Quiz and Emigration, Farm Cottage, 1940's School Forge, Villages with unique pieces.

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Free Four Star Genealogy Service
(Wed 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm, or by appointment)
Delicious meals and snacks at Cafe Rosaburn seven days a week
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Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles



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editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was at Kelvinhaugh Kennels where he had spent a lovely holiday with Auntie Joyce and Uncle Andre.
First correct were Fran of Troon and Margaret of Lamlash who said: 'He is at Kelvinhaugh Farm where I was born and brought up.' This week he is on the roadside next to an old farm implement, but where is that plough? 02_b41arc01



Whats On

ISLE OF

ARRAN

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

BREWERY

www.arranbrewery.com Tel: 01770 302353

EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery
Trout Fly Fishing
Hawk Walks
Arran Heritage Museum
Brodict Castle, Shop and Tearoom. (except Fridays)
Brodict Castle, Gardens open daily

Monday to Saturday 1pm - 4pm or by appointment
Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank
Lamlash
Rosaburn, Brodict, 10.30am - 4.30pm
11am - 4pm
9am - dusk

Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Junior Hockey Club
Open Music Session
Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
Country Dancing
Scottish Country Dancing

Brodict Church Hall - 2pm
Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm
Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm

SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER

Karate
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)
Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs)
Soup and Sandwiches for Kalimpong
Lamlash Bowling Club Closing Day
Open Music Session

Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am
High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm
Brodict Public Hall, 12pm - 2pm
Lamlash, 2pm
Pirnmill Village Hall, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Country/ Blues session
Selt Making Class
Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Yoga for Every Body
Senior Badminton
Museum, Archives & Geneology Service
Aquafizz
Yogalates
Circuit Training
Coffee Morning in aid of Scottish National Bible Society

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Ormidale. 9.30pm
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10am - 11.30am
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
Outdoor Green Gym, Auchrannie 6pm - 7pm
Brodict Church Hall 10.30am

SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER

Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Folk Session
Quiz
BBQ
Corrie Film Club: Lake Tahoe

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Library Annexe, 1.45pm
3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 1pm - 7pm
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 8pm

MONDAY 11th OCTOBER

Over 50's Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games
Junior Basketball (P1 - P7)
Senior Fitness
BreathWalk Class
Quiz
Lamlash Bridge Club
Blether and a Bite

Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Open 10am - 2pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm
Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym
Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 12pm

TUESDAY 12th OCTOBER

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz

Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



THURSDAY 14th OCTOBER

General Knowledge Quiz
Citizens Advice
Lochranza Craft Club
Coffee Morning
Table Tennis
Youth Club
Brodict Bridge Club
Athletics
Senior Fitness
Ladies Night
Pilates
Pub Quiz
Ladies Night
Brodict Embroidery Group
Village Market
Corrie & Sannox SWRI - Bodyshop Demonstration

The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Open 10am - 2pm
Hall, 2pm
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
Golf Clubhouse
High School Games Hall, 4.45pm - 6pm
9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay
6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio
Kinloch Hotel, 9pm
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 11am - 2.30pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 7pm

FRIDAY 15th OCTOBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice
Citizens Advice
Quiz
Over 21's Disco
Aquafizz
Yogalates
DJ
Seniors Badminton (Over 50)
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Ladies Indoor Bowls
Gents Indoor Bowls

Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Open 10am - 2pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 8pm - 10pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm

SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER

Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)
Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs)

3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am
High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm


To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Sannox Cricket Club AGM
Monday 18th October
Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm
 all items for the agenda to Tim Pomeroy no later than Friday 15th October
phone 600287 or email pomeroyarts@supanet.com
 or post to Whiterock, Lamlash KA27 8NL

LOCHRANZA & CATACOL VILLAGE HALL THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 SHALL BE HELD IN THE HALL @ 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER
 ALL WELCOME
 Charity Nos SCO18338

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

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 Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine* between the hours of 9am 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 Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the address below by 29 October 2010.
 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: 10/00574/PP **Address:** Ashlar Farm, Machrie, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8DX
Proposed Development: Variation of planning permission N/07/01141/PP to include (i) change of use of children's activity/picnic area to site 9 camping pods
Application No: 10/00621/PP **Address:** Site To North Of Appin, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran
Proposed Development: Erection of two dwellinghouses
Application No: 10/00607/PP **Address:** Arran Show Room, Whiting Bay, Isle Of Arran KA27 8PR
Proposed Development: Alterations to and change of use of retail unit to become ground floor accommodation extension to existing first floor dwelling
Application No: 10/00629/PP **Address:** Site To West of Tarnnacraig, Corrie, Brodick Isle Of Arran
Proposed Development: Renewal of unexpired permission for installation of underground septic tank (22,000 litres) to serve housing development (max 24 dwellings)
Application No: 10/00622/PP **Address:** Ivybank, Kilmory, Brodick Isle Of Arran KA27 8PH **Proposed Development:** Demolition of byre and barn and rebuild to form two dwelling houses
Application No: 10/00620/PPP **Address:** Site To The North Of Kildonan Hotel, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran **Proposed Development:** Residential Development

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



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CENTERPARCS, WHINFELL FOREST, NEAR PENRITH.
 Due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to take up a reservation at the above centre from Friday 22nd October to Friday 29th October.
 Lodge will sleep 8 (3 bedrooms & sofa bed)
 Full information package available.
 Please contact Samantha on 07769 539922 or 01770 302122

ISLE OF ARRAN PIPE BAND
Annual General Meeting
 at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd October in Brodick Hall All welcome



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 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
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Arran runners complete Great North Run for charity

A group of runners from Arran have completed the Great North Run in a bid to raise money for two leukaemia and cancer charities on September 19.

While most people were enjoying their usual relaxing Sunday morning at home the group of Arran runners were standing along with around 40,000 other runners getting ready to start the worlds largest half marathon.

Running in fancy dress were Kirsty West, Evelyn McCluskey, Ann Reid, Nicola Coyne, Shonagh Murchie and Alex Reid.

Between the six of them they have raised a fantastic amount of money for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, Children with Leukaemia and Mary's Meals.

Paula Withington from Ripon, but originally of Lochwinnoch but holidays on Arran every year, ran with Linda Johnston and Jillian Plenderleith of Brodick.

The three have been raising money for Can-

cer Research, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research and Breast Cancer Campaign.

Linda said: 'Despite the fact that I am not one of the world's most natural or aesthetically pleasing runners, I somehow managed to complete the Great North Run, my first and last half marathon, to celebrate my half century! I have raised £1,800 so far by asking for donations instead of birthday presents. I am hoping to get this total up to £2,000.

'I would like to thank all those who have sponsored me, and especially Alison Howie, the physio, without whose help I could not have completed it.'

All the runners have raised an extraordinary amount of money for their chosen charities and their Just Giving sites are open until December 19 if anyone would still like to donate.

After the event they all agreed that the Great North Run is a fantastic event with an 'unexplainable atmosphere'.



Kirsty West, Evelyn McCluskey, Ann Reid, Nicola Coyne, Shonagh Murchie and Alex Reid before they took part in the Great North Run.

Young rugby stars notch victory against Belmont

Arran 33
Belmont Academy - 17

Arran under 18s beat Belmont Academy last week in the Scottish Schools Bowl rugby tournament.

The Arran team, having only played one game this season, were eager to get the match started. Throughout the game the Arran defence continually put in big hits and made Belmont work very hard for any territory or points.

Arran started well and found themselves 14 - 5 points up at half-time thanks to two tries from the bulldozing brothers Ryan and Liam Boal, both converted by Robbie Bayne.

Belmont started strongly in the second half, scoring early to close the gap to two points. However Arran regrouped and scored straight from the following kick off, the move finished off with terrific running skills of Donald McEachern and converted by Robbie Bayne.

Belmont scored again to reduce the Arran lead to 21-17, and were then putting pressure on Arran's line until Jack 'The sidestep' Barbour pounced on turnover ball and ran the length of the field to score. The try was converted by Michael Jenks. Matthew Evans finished a great day for the team by running through tackles to score in the corner, making the final score Arran 33 - Belmont 17.

Man of the Match was Stuart MacMaster, for his physicality at break downs, turnovers and running power.

The next game is at home versus Eastwood High (Glasgow).

Arran Pool League

The first fixtures of the 2010/11 Arran Pool League season will be on Thursday October 28.

Changes were made to the rules of play at the AGM last Sunday in the PHT.

League matches will now consist of six singles games and three doubles with an extra 10th team game by all six players in the format of the gallon of beer. This will give a total of 10 games per match, allowing for a match to be drawn.

Captains must write down a list of the six players to take part in the team game. Captains may also use up to 12 players in a match. The home team captain is responsible for telephoning the result in to the PHT on 600380 on match night. Only players aged 18 and over are eligible to play.

Once again, cup matches will be played on a Thursday night with the finals taking place on a Sunday.

The next captains' meeting will be at 2pm on Sunday, October 31 in the PHT.



Paula Withington, Linda Johnston and Jillian Plenderleith also took part in the iconic road race through the streets of Newcastle.

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk
Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 was 3,172. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.