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Shock as sudden hotel closure leaves village high and dry

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A village hotel has closed without warning leaving Whiting Bay without a pub. The Eden Lodge suddenly closed its doors almost without warning, and owner Finola McGinley appears to have left the island. However, the community is determined not to let the hotel shut without a fight. And it has drawn up a contingency plan which could see the villagers buy it if no one is interested in taking it over as a growing concern. Villagers are particularly anxious that the hotel should not be converted into a house or flats as looks likely to happen to the closed Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash. The driving force behind the community bid is Corriedoon Nursing Home director Sandra Butler. She has already begun investigating the possibility of a community buy out of the hotel. She said: 'Without an inn this place is going to be a ghost village. We have lost too much in the village already.' There are already 30 pubs in the UK which have been saved through a community



Sandra Butler has launched a fight to save the local pub. shares scheme, one of them in the Scottish Borders. But before anything can happen on that front the community need to register their interest with the government agency Co-operative Development Scotland. And there already seems to be a potential interest in the village for such a scheme with 46 residents already

Community launches bid to save Eden Lodge

The seven-bedroom hotel was bought by Ms McGinley just over three years ago. Sandra told the Banner. 'The first thing any of us knew was on the Wednesday (24 September) that the following Sunday would be its last day. 'The ideal solution would be for someone to buy it but if that fails to happen the community has to be ready to act,' Sandra said. Under a community buy-out a tenant landlord would be brought in to run it. Sandra has already had considerable support from the family of Tony Curtis in the village. His brother-in-law Martin Wilson already has wide experience of pub buyouts down south, firstly with his own the George and Dragon in Hudswell, North Yorkshire and two others. He has offered to travel to Whiting Bay to speak at a public meeting if this is required. Guest house owners in the village have also rallied to the cause. 'It is great to see a commu-

nity spirit and even people who seldom used the pub are getting involved. Perhaps when it reopens they will be more inclined to use it.' Shares in community pubs can range from £100 to £100,000 but the mean figures of those investing in them usually ranges between £500 and £6,500. But a bigger stake does not give the shareholder a bigger say in the premises being acquired. Sandra has also been in contact with Co-operative and Mutual Solutions which has been working with social enterprises for many years and the Plunkett Federation to

find out about grants and avenues of funding. She is also keen to contact the Arran Community Land Initiative, which just last month secured the island's first community land bid in Whiting Bay, and Arran Community and Voluntary Service in Lamlash and Highlands and Islands Enterprise for assistance. Community control of pubs is nothing new. At the turn of the 20th century there were more than 20 pubs in Scotland known as 'Goths' run under a trust system for the benefit of the community under a scheme which originated in Gothenburg. Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Sandra by e-mail at: sandra.65@tiscali.co.uk



The Eden Lodge Hotel which has closed down.



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A right good soaking raises vital defibrillator funds

The Corriecrievie Fire Brigade took great pleasure in soaking the directors of Kilmory Hall last week as part of the annual village fete celebrations.

An impressive amount of money was raised for the Southend defibrillator project after people pledged money to increase the 'soaking' time.

Jean Clark, manager of Kilmory Public Hall, said: 'I would like to thank Michael O'Brien who has donated a defibrillator to the Southend so this means we can have two - we only need to raise another £100.

'The defibrillators will be situated at Kilmory Hall and Corriecrievie.

'Please hand in donations to the hall so that we can get the second one ordered soon.'

She added: 'The directors would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make Kilmory Fete a very successful day.

'Donations of tombola and raffle prizes helped us to raise more than £750 for hall funds. Special thanks to Ross Edmunds who put on a spectacular display using Hula Hoops.'



Above: Before the soaking...
Top: And during!

Baton Relay cost NAC £150k

North Ayrshire Council spent £150,000 on the Queen's Baton Relay this summer - the biggest expenditure in Scotland outside of Commonwealth Games host city, Glasgow.

Figures released under Freedom of Information requests have revealed that North Ayrshire Council blew almost three times as much on the baton relay as most other councils.

Host city Glasgow spent the most with £500,000 being forked out, followed by North Ayrshire Council at £150,007 and then Perth and Kinross which spent £112,374 on its Commonwealth event.

North Ayrshire even managed to outdo Edinburgh on cash spent on the baton event, with the capital city keeping costs below six figures at £99,378.

But financial chiefs at NAC defended the massive spend, insisting that, despite ranking 15th of areas with the highest populations, it was 'value for money'.

A spokesman said: 'The funding spent on QBR Day was just more than £1 per head for the people of North

Ayrshire and, we believe, represents excellent value for money, given the lasting legacy of community engagement and benefits.

'More than 22,500 North Ayrshire residents turned out to see the baton and take part in events organised by 15 local community groups and voluntary organisations throughout the day as part of our legacy plan.'

The majority of NAC's money - an eye-watering £94,815 - was spent on entertainment and infrastructure, but council chiefs say it was necessary in order to include residents of Arran and Cumbrae.

A spokesman said: 'Since the QBR route for North Ayrshire did not include a visit to our island community of Arran, the council funded 300 free return ferry tickets to bring Arran residents to the mainland and allow them to join in the end of day celebrations.

'Given the high number of community groups and residents supporting and participating in this event, the cost of hiring infrastructure - such as staging, crowd control barriers etc - was considerable.'

Eco Savvy goes from strength to strength

A total of 300 people on Arran have joined the Eco Savvy community in less than six months, the first members meeting heard last week.

And while only open since Easter, the Eco Savvy community shop in Whiting Bay has surpassed all expectations in its sales of upcycled goods, donations and second chance items where members sell on things they no longer want, and share the profit with Eco Savvy.

Eco Savvy's many volunteers reported on many activ-

ities to date, from the recent brilliant skills sharing day to working with eco schools and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at the high school.

There was continuing discussion around members' views on what a zero waste island might be and many suggestions of projects that could help move them towards that goal.

One immediate aim is to help promote the end of the plastic bag on Arran, especially with the charge for plastic bags coming in later this month. These ideas will all be taken to the working group for discussion and, where possible, for implementation.

The next big event will be the Grand Auction and Fashion Show on Friday 24 October in Whiting Bay Village Hall.

The new winter opening hours for the community shop from Monday 13 October will be, Monday to Saturday 10.30am till 4.30pm. Closed Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm.

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Families will go wild for castle adventure park



A glimpse of how the adventure park will look.

No solution for visitor's glass as bottle banks removed from Lamlash and Brodick

Bottle banks used by islanders to dispose of glass have disappeared.

Council bosses have confirmed they will not be replaced.

Instead householders should now put all their bottles in their blue recycling bin.

But the move has sparked concern as the bottle banks, which separated glass into individual colours, were well used.

The is also a worry of where holidaymakers, including those camping and in caravans, who do not have access to blue bins will put their unwanted bottles.

The bottle banks were sited at both the Brodick Co-op stores, the shorefront car park at Lamlash and other sites around the island.

One Brodick resident told The Banner: 'I used

the bottle banks regularly as my blue bin is often full with other recycled waste, as it is only collected every fortnight. It seems strange given the importance that is attached to recycling today that the council should take a useful facility away.'

But another said they thought they were an eyesore and was glad to see them gone.

The issue was raised at last week's meeting of Arran community council whose members were concerned that the bottle banks had been removed without any prior discussion.

They are to ask North Ayrshire council to consider making more general amenity bins available for visitors to dispose of their bottles.

A spokesman for the council said: 'Following the introduction of the kerbside

blue bins to households on Arran the use of large bottle banks has significantly reduced.

'A number of these bottle banks are now being removed as a result of households having access to a more convenient and simplified glass recycling service, right on their kerbside.

There was also concern that the bottle banks may have been removed to save money as there is no glass crushing facility on the island.

But this has been denied with the council spokesman adding: 'Glass collected on the island is transferred to a licensed glass recycling processor on the mainland and this will continue to be the case. The cost of shipping the glass bottles off the island is not the reason for removing larger glass recycling banks.'

A major new tourist attraction is coming to Arran.

The Wild Arran Adventure Park is to be built in the grounds of Brodick Castle and will feature treetop walkways, bridges, chutes and lookout towers all designed in wood to blend in with its natural surroundings.

It is the latest of the Signature Project developments by the National Trust for Scotland at the castle.

The project is being created by The Curious Adventure Play Company which has designed several adventure parks across the country including the multi award-winning BeWILDerwood Adventure Park in Norfolk.

Final designs are due to be completed by the end of the month, and subject to planning permission, work could start as early as next month with the attraction open in June. It will be built on a site of nearly two hectares around the current play area, along with a toilet block, ranger's shack and countryside centre.

Along with the adventure park there will be associated facilities including a small ticketing and a food and drink outlet. There will also be audio visual interpretation unit and educational elements to the project and new tree planting. The developers have now submitted a request for a formal screening opinion to planners at North Ayrshire Council, ahead of a full planning application and that is under consideration.

A report prepared by property consultants Bidwells states

that the development will have no significant ecological impact and will be 'sensitive and appropriate' to the location. They also say it will not adversely affect any wildlife including red squirrels, bats or birds.

The development will directly create two full time jobs, that would suit young people on the island, as well as bringing indirect benefits from the construction and provision of the play equipment itself.

The Curious Adventure Play Company creates unique, adventurous play spaces with play equipment which through its design and construction are sensitive and appropriate to their surroundings. This includes projects within the setting of a range of listed buildings and historic gardens.

As well as the BeWILDerwood Adventure Park they have designed other theme parks including the Cotswold Wildlife Park in Oxfordshire, the Squires' Courtyard at Leeds Castle in Kent, Woodland Adventure Play at Holkham Hall, Norfolk and Craggletop Treehouse at RHS Harlow Carr in Yorkshire.

Property manager David Cameron said: 'This is an exciting development that is part of a wider set of projects and initiatives by the Trust as part of the Signature Project.'

Project development director Simon Egan added: 'We are thrilled to be involved in this exciting project.'

These include improvements to the castle and gardens, a new visitor centre and two hydro schemes.

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Island to feature on Antiques Road Trip

Arran is to feature on one of Britain's best loved early-evening shows later this month as the hit show Antiques Road Trip continues weekdays at 4.30pm on BBC One.

Antiques Road Trip follows the country's top experts as they battle it out in a search for quirky and valuable antiques to auction off for profit.

Travelling across the UK in a fleet of remarkable vintage cars, the experts stop at nothing to seek out those buried treasures and they are all determined to make the most profit at auction.

Returning for the new series are top antique hunters Paul Laidlaw, Margie Cooper, Charlie Ross, Christina Trevanion, Thomas Plant, Anita Manning, James Braxton and Philip Serrell.

In week four of the new series, James Braxton and Philip Serrell set off on a road trip starting in Maybole, travelling through Ayrshire, to the Isle of Arran, Innerleithen, Peebleshire, Jedburgh, Preston, Lancashire, Liverpool, Merseyside, Manchester, Greater Manchester, Altrincham, Cheshire, Holyhead, Isle of Anglesey and Snowdon, before ending their journey in Gwynedd.

Songs for Autumn tour comes to Arran

Two talented musicians, sisters Roxana and Ancuta Nite, will be performing on Arran on 19 October as part of their 'Songs for Autumn' tour. Although born in Romania the sisters are based in Scotland but have performed in Romania, Germany, Holland, and Denmark, as well as across the UK. Roxana's roles include Countess Almaviva in 'The Marriage of Figaro, Adina in L'Elisir d'amore, Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus, Drabella in Cosi fan tutte, Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni among others.

Ancuta came to Scotland in 2001 after winning the Constantin Silvestri National Music competition which led to a scholarship to study in Scotland.

She joined the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and

graduated with a First Class BMus Hons degree followed by a Masters.

She won the Mozart Concerto competition and was selected to perform with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2008.

Now she teaches piano at the Mary Erskine school and Stewarts Melville College in Edinburgh, and at St Aloysius College and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

She was married on Arran and with her sister will be performing in Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday 19 October when the programme includes Dichterliebe by Schumann, songs by Rachmaninov, Losses, Love and Life by John Maxwell Geddes and arias by Puccini.

Lochranza by-election candidate for Largs

An Arran-based UK Independence party (UKIP) candidate is standing in the Largs ward by-election.

Meilan Henderson from Lochranza is attempting to repeat the unexpected success of UKIP in England.

The north coast by-election,

which follows the death of SNP councillor Alex McLean, has implications for the make-up of North Ayrshire Council as a whole as well as locally, with both the SNP and Labour groups currently sitting with 11 members.

With nominations having closed on Monday, five candidates will contest the north coast seat.

The by-election will be held on Thursday 30 October.



There's been a murder at Brodick Castle - can you solve the mystery?

Brodick Castle's last great gasp

Join the staff at Brodick Castle for a night to remember this Hallowe'en as they host a 1920s-style, murder mystery evening.

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To find out more or to book a table for Saturday 1 No-

vember at 7pm call the castle or book online at www.nts.org.uk/events

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Arran supports Macmillan's biggest coffee event

Arran was well represented during the world's biggest coffee event last Friday.

Both the Lamlash early years class and Kilmory Primary school held events in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

There was magic in the air at the Lamlash coffee afternoon as this term the children had been learning about magic as a theme, which involves them looking at some exciting science experiments.

Book

They produced a lovely book that allowed parents to see what their children had been learning and they also performed some songs.

Heidi Macfarlane, senior early years practitioner, said: 'We would like to say a very big thank you to parents and

friends who donated baking and supported us on the day and to Peter Hollingsworth, team leader from Glencloy Co-op and Barry Miggin, manager from Lamlash Co-op for their donations of tea, coffee, milk, biscuits and cakes.

'And of course Wooleys of Arran for their donation of tray bake.'

In Kilmory Primary a coffee afternoon on the same day raised £350.75 for Macmillan.

Thank you

The pupil events committee said: 'We would like to say a big thank you to all the people who baked, helped and came along and supported our coffee afternoon. We raised a huge £350.75, which is pretty good from such a small school.'



The Lamlash children who performed songs on the day.



Kilmory Primary pupils with the welcome sign for their coffee afternoon.

Objections fail to halt new homes at piggery

A developer has been given permission to build five new houses in Corriegills, despite objections from local residents.

Neill Collie from Derbyshire has been given planning permission by North Ayrshire Council to convert a piggery into three terraced houses and build a further two semi-detached houses on the site west of Lairghru on Corriegills Road.

There were two objections from nearby residents to the proposals mainly in relation to the increased traffic caused by what one objector described as 'a small estate'.

They told planners: 'This development lies at the end of a very steep, twisty

narrow rural lane. The road is the only access to the proposed properties. With five dwellings, each with at least one vehicle, the traffic levels will increase beyond what should be considered safe for a rural environment.

'Not only will this increased traffic increase the risk to pedestrians and vehicles, but the wear and tear on a road that is already in a permanent poor state. In many places it is simply patch upon patch. In certain parts the edges of the road are breaking up and slipping into the ditches. Increased traffic can only render the road unsafe.'

There was also concern over construction traffic during building work. The objector

also expressed concern that Corriegills Road now forms part of the Arran Coastal Path and increased traffic could deter visitors and walkers.

However, the council's Development Planning Services (Transportation) had no objections to the proposal stating: 'There is sufficient parking and turning within the site to accommodate the proposed development such that it will not impact on the adjacent public road network.'

However, planners want a condition that a survey of the road will be carried out before the work starts and a commitment that any damage caused by construction vehicles will be promptly repaired.

Arran's kids to be offered flu vaccine

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

The programme will help protect children this winter and reduce the risk of flu being spread to others. In Ayrshire and Arran, 10,101 pre-school children and 27,321 pri-

mary school children are eligible for the vaccination in 2014/2015.

Parents of primary pupils should look out for and return the consent form sent home in school bags so that their child can be vaccinated at school. Parents of children aged two to five who are not at school should make an appointment with their GP from October.



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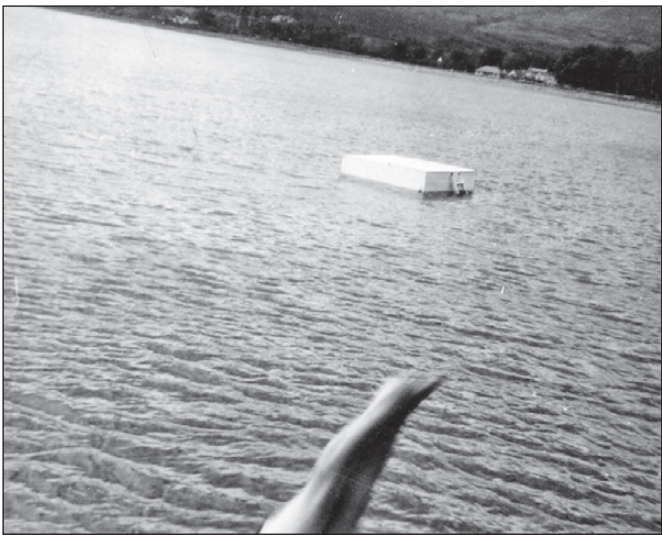
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Whatever happened to the Lamlash bathing pontoons?



Some of Ms Hogg's old snaps show how much fun she had holidaying on Arran as a teenager.



Whatever happened to the bathing rafts in Lamlash?

Earlier this year 80-year-old Moira Hogg of Kilbarchan approached The Banner with this very question.

'My family, grandpa, aunts, uncles always had their annual holiday at a house in Cordon and the main feature of our holiday always centred around the bathing raft in the bay,' wrote Ms Hogg.

'What ever happened to them? Was it a safety issue?'

'There was one at Cordon, one at the old pier and one at the foot of Bungalow Road.'

So can anyone help Ms Hogg and tell her when and why the famous pontoons were removed?

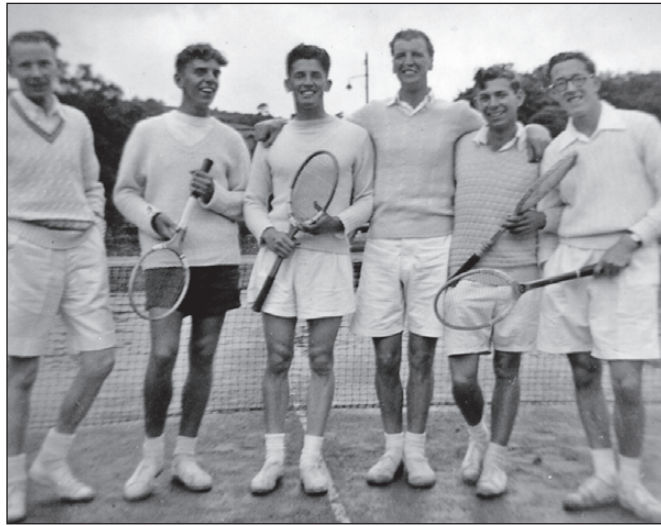
In her letter Ms Hogg explained that during the Second World War she lived at a house on the Brodick Road and then once the war was over spent all her teenage holidays at Mr McKay's Glenisle Hotel.

She writes: 'The cost was 8/6d, £42.05, per day for full board including a cuppa and a scone in the evening.

'I didn't even need to save up - one week's pay plus one week's holiday pay and a small bonus was enough.'

She continues: 'I was able to hire a bike for the fortnight, get a season ticket at the tennis, I loved the annual matches against Brodick and Whiting Bay, two Saturday night dances, bus run to Lagg or Lochranza, climb up Goatfell, trip over and up to the top of Holy Isle, picnic on Kildonan beach and many walks but most of all I loved swimming, having quickly learned by the 'shallow water method at Cordon.'

She concludes by saying



that although she has since travelled the world, Ms Hogg would not have swapped those early years for anywhere else.

So does anyone know why the bathing pontoons were removed - please contact The Banner on 302142 if you do.

Around the Rurals Lamlash

The president extended a warm welcome to all former members and to four new members Frances, Jacqui, Mary and Hillary.

As it was the first meeting of the new session, there were more business items to get through than usual and also the show report. A detailed list of comments which had been brought back from the federation meeting was also discussed and, where appropriate, voted on.

Ideas were also sought for next year's show. Cath lead the group in a well deserved round of applause for Kathleen in appreciation of all the hard work she had put in as convenor to make the show such a success.

In the 'tacky souvenir' competition Alison Thomson's Alcatraz ornaments certainly deserved most votes.

After a delicious supper prepared by hostesses, Vivienne, Rosemary and Liz, members could have another look at many beautiful show items and find out more about them. Unsurprisingly the beautiful shawl knitted by Morag Gardiner was awarded the winner's points. Kathleen presented the now-engraved trophies won by the institute. The raffle of items brought in by members rounded off the evening and made a welcome contribution to institute funds. At the next meeting the speaker for the evening will be the always-entertaining and informative Stuart Gough talking on the foundation and history of Arran War Memorial Hospital. Please remember also your ideas for next year's show and if you will be going to the annual rally at the Kinloch on Thursday 13 March. A warm welcome awaits any new members who would like to join.

Corrie

Those who have seen the colourful paintings of the youngsters from 'The Happy Children's Home' on exhibition at the Isle of Arran Distillery will be interested to hear Gordon Davidson tell of his voluntary work with the children in Nepal.

You will be made very welcome at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Thursday 16 October at 7.30 pm.

There will be tea and cakes too. Look out for the posters! Everyone welcome.

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Lamlash hydro scheme will help power homes on Arran

A new hydro-electric project, which will supply power to homes on Arran, has been given the go ahead in Lamlash.

Planning permission has been granted for the Glenkiln scheme which will be built on a site to the north of Benlister Burn.

Work will start later this month on the scheme and it should be fully operational by September 2016.

It will produce more than 1.5 million kilowatts of electricity a year, which is enough to power 380 homes on the island, in a joint venture between landowner Kenneth Bone and developer MEG Renewables.

The scheme will harness the water from the fast flowing Benlister Burn which winds its way through the fairly inaccessible Benlister Glen, before pouring into Lamlash Bay.

North Ayrshire Council planners have now given permission for the construction, installation and operation of the scheme which will have three intakes, a 3.8km pipeline, a powerhouse building, an access track, grid connection and associated temporary infrastructure for construction.

Conditions

Various conditions have been imposed on the planning permission including approval of the colour of the proposed powerhouse, pipeline and other structures and the vegetation lost in the construction work must also be replaced.

Part of the project is within the Arran Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and planning bosses are insisting that no construction work on the intakes or access tracks should take place within the SPA between the months of April to August, to avoid disturbance or displacement of any breeding hen harrier.

Similarly part of the site cannot be developed until a programme of archaeological works, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, is in place.

The construction of the project is expected to last eight to 12 months.

When operational MEG Renewables will sell the electricity to the national grid, operated on Arran by SSE, the majority of which will be

Project should be up and running by September 2016

used on Arran before any excess is effectively exported.

Alongside the planning consent, the proposed scheme has obtained a CAR licence from SEPA, allowing the water to be extracted from Benlister Burn, and has been pre-accredited for Feed in Tariffs.

Pre-accreditation means that the scheme requires to be constructed and connected to the grid no later than September 2016 in order to be eligible for the higher tariff rates which were cut by the government by 10 per cent last week.

That and further proposed cuts could put future hydro schemes across Scotland in serious jeopardy.

The aim is to construct the scheme by the end of 2015, however the requirement to time the construction works around various environmental considerations, and the vagaries of the Scottish climate, means that the project may run into 2016.

Work is set to commence on the hydro development shortly with construction of access tracks to the power house

and to the intake locations. Once operational, the scheme is projected to generate approximately 1,577,000 kWh per annum, which equates to around 13 per cent of the electricity used by all of the homes in Arran.

Mr Bone said: 'I am very pleased that the challenge of gaining planning consent has been successful and that we can now commence with the next challenge of developing the hydro scheme. The project will provide a local source of renewable energy and contribute to the possibility of Arran being self-sufficient in its energy requirements in the future.'

Kenny Hunter of MEG Renewables, the renewable energy subsidiary of long established Scottish retailer M&Co, said: 'We are delighted to be partnering with Kenneth Bone in the development of the Benlister Hydro Scheme. With our 250 plus retail stores being a significant consumer of electricity, we are very keen to generate as much of our own renewable energy as possible.'



The main intake point for the hydro scheme will be high up Benlister Glen.

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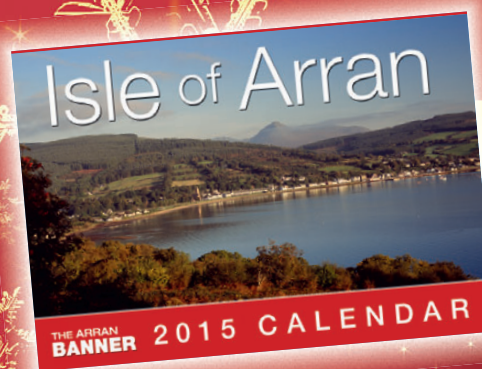
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THE ARRAN BANNER

Community buyout's the future

Pubs and hotels, shops and visitor centres - over the years the pages of The Banner have been filled with the sad stories of businesses closing their doors.

But it is rare for two well-respected pubs to shut in the space of a few weeks.

The Bar Eden in Whiting Bay, the village's last remaining hostelry, closed on Sunday night.

Last month the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash was also closed after an unsuccessful attempt by the Arran Brewery to keep the business open.

Currently for sale on the open market, a planning application has now been given the go-ahead to turn the once much-loved PHT into flats.

Thankfully for the residents of Lamlash they still have three other pubs to choose from, but it is a very different story in Whiting Bay.

So it is reassuring to hear that the community are determined not to let the hotel shut without a fight.

They have drawn up a contingency plan which could see the villagers buy it if no one is interested in taking it over as a growing concern.

Social club

Two years ago the community in Kilmory opened up the 1934 Social Club in the village hall in response to the closure of the village bar.

They have already proved that it can be done - although unlike the residents of Whiting Bay, they already had a publicly owned building to house the club in.

Communities all over the UK are being given grants and loans to allow them to buy and run local pubs, shops and other amenities that are under threat of closure.

There is also an organisation founded by the Prince of Wales to encourage landlords to diversify their businesses and help community groups take over ailing pubs.

His scheme is at the forefront of a revolution that is saving many beleaguered boozers and putting them back at the heart of the communities they serve.

One recent success story is the 16th-century Sorrel Horse in the Suffolk village of Shottisham, where hundreds of investors raised the £350,000 asking price to buy the pub and nearly all the additional £100,000 required for refurbishment.

Pubs and restaurants are important meeting places for rural communities and Whiting Bay will sadly miss the Bar Eden.

Let's hope that the community can save it.

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.

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



End of an era

Sir,
Thank you for the recent coverage of the ending of milk processing at Arran Dairies.

It was a very emotional decision for us to make and was not taken lightly.

We would respectfully ask to use the pages of The Banner to offer a massive thank you to all the fantastic supporters and advocates of our milk, we have been very proud to supply you over the last 36 years.

We are extremely sorry to have had to stop, as we are very passionate about Arran products for Arran people but the commercial world has overtaken us with many consumers looking for cheaper, longer life, processed products.

The quality milk we get from Arran's dairy farmers the MacKenzie, Murchie and Reid families, is second to none. We will now deploy all of our hard working staff to make even more Arran Dairy Ice Cream from that wonderful Arran milk and develop our national and international markets and the reputation of Arran, and of course the world famous Arran cheddar will continue to be made by First Milk at Torrylinn, Kilmory.

Heartfelt thanks to all our supporters from the team at Arran Dairies and the Dobson family.

Yours,
Alastair Dobson
Managing director
Arran Dairies and
Taste of Arran

Shoparran this Christmas

Sir,
This year Shoparran are proposing to have another 'shopping on Arran' event on December 5, 6 and 7 offering locals and mainlanders a unique and fun shopping experience with bargains galore and prizes to be won.

I would like to invite any other shops who would like to participate this year to please get in touch with either myself at lorna@oldbyre.co.uk or Stacey at Red Door enquiries@reddoorarran.co.uk

We have some fantastic shops on Arran offering things that are that little bit different,

why not take advantage of what is on your doorstep.

Yours,
Lorna Mansfield
Old Byre Showroom
Auchencarr

Grand success

Sir
Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our Grand Teas Afternoon in the hall such a success. The fantastic sum of £1,100 was raised.

Yours,
SMSC Committee

Couldn't go wrong!

Sir,
A fortnight ago, I had occasion to go into the Lamlash Post Office.

I was staying in the village for a few days, intending to visit friends holidaying in Whiting Bay. Not being much of a hand with the mobile phone, I had been trying repeatedly to contact them without success and our holiday time was passing.

Once in the PO at Lamlash, though, I found myself telling the smiling postmistress all about my troubles with technology.

In the end, she asked me where my friends were staying. I mumbled the house name, the only address I had.

At once, the other lady assistant recognised it, and even drew a wee diagram directing me right to their cottage!

What a difference it all made! Well done, Lamlash Post Office!

Yours,
Sheila Graham
Glasgow

Jargon warning

Sir,
Beware of the use of unexplained jargon to the general public.

'Nukes' are nuclear weapons but I presume that to beekeepers they are the nuclei of their bee colonies.

A wealth of interesting changes are recorded in the Banner (No1975) - not many weeks come like that.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
Drovers Lane
Penrith

Open debate welcomed

Sir,
Malcolm Kerr's letter (No1981) is a broad canvas of opinion and assertion that should form part of an open debate as Scotland comes to terms with the overall 'no vote' at the referendum. His conciliatory tone towards no voters is to be welcomed.

Learning from the results will be paramount and one of his assertions should be corrected immediately.

He states that 'more than 70 per cent of 16 and 17 year olds voted yes.'

This data comes from the Conservative Peer Lord Ashcroft's combined on-line and off-line poll undertaken over the 18 and 19 September.

Only 14 people in this age group were included in this poll making any inference about them statistically invalid.

As Professor John Curtice of Strathclyde University states in referring to this poll and to another undertaken at the same time 'neither poll contains enough 16 and 17 year olds for us to be able to make any definitive statement about how this newly enfranchised group voted' (Blog://What Scotland Thinks.org).

The best evidence on the voting behaviour of 16 and 17 year olds takes us to the reverse conclusion to the one drawn by Malcolm Kerr; that is that more voted no than yes.

The evidence from School-run 'mock referenda' throughout Scotland was decisively no; the evidence from an Edinburgh University study [Applied Quantitative Methods Network, Edinburgh University] showed the no preference amongst this age group as 64 per cent, arguing that this group is 'much less likely to favour their Scottish national identity over their British identity'; and, in a further poll of this age group, in September, the preference was showing 57 per cent for no.

So we could usefully come to more evidence-based conclusions before we make assertions about crucial issues concerning social group preferences. I hope, for example, that research will eventually show:

Why was the vote in Orkney, Shetland and in the Borders so emphatically no?

How do we explain yes voting in only four of Scotland's 32 polling areas?

Why was the Glasgow turnout so low on the day, comparative to others?

Why was the Dundee yes vote so emphatic at 57 per cent?

Why amongst the age-group segments was the 25-39 year old group the only one to vote yes, as shown in the 'YouGov Final Prediction' from on-the-day data?

Knowing more about these and other social preferences will be helpful in forming sound judgments about the future of the polity in Scotland.

Yours,
Professor Emeritus
JA Taylor
Glasgow

Youngest Goatfell conqueror?

Sir,
I am afraid I am the barer of bad news for young Isabel and the Wilson family.

We took advantage of the good weather and hiked up to the summit of Goatfell when Harris was at the ripe old age of 31 days - must put our dress sense down to the sleepless nights!

It is great to see that couples are getting out and about with their young ones and making the most of this wonderfully accessible environment we live in.

Harris says he is looking forward to receiving his tee-shirt from Graham and the team at Arran Graphics.

Yours,
Calum McNicol
Brodick



Calum and Victoria McNicol pictured with their son Harris at the summit of Goatfell when he was just 31 days old.

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Letter Referendum reflections

Sir,
Rejection of independence was a major defeat for the Scottish Nationalists.

Over two million voters elected to stay in the United Kingdom by a majority of 383,937.

North Ayrshire voted No. Interestingly, part of it, the Ardrossan/Arran ward had a majority of three in favour of Yes so there is a strong probability that a majority of voters on Arran voted No.

One major shortcoming in the Yes campaign was a failure to spell out in detail for the public a plan B for currency and banking arrangements, the significance of having to wait to join the EU and how independence would be funded to include provision for welfare and pensions.

It may not have helped a vote for independence that the Yes campaign was strident. Such an attitude was perhaps understandable since the Yes campaign was behind in the polls. The stridency and vitriol surfaced in several forms notably when views were expressed or questions asked about the substance of the Yes campaign.

The media came in for special attention. When Andrew Marr on his BBC programme asked the First Minister about the possible difficulty in automatically joining the EU it was followed by a tweet from the SNP spokesman on broadcasting Peter Wishart 'there will be consequences for Andrew Marr'.

Throughout the latter period of the campaign there was, unfortunately, a stream of bullying and threats. As a consequence many preferred to say nothing.

The referendum was a triumph for the democratic process. Although the outcome was decisive it was also divisive leaving behind a degree of acrimony. During the campaign families were pitted against each other. Friend disagreed with friend. Neighbours were at odds. It should not be forgotten that 1.6 million people voted for independence. The outcome was not what they wanted but some consolation for them lies with promised increased devolved domestic powers. Particularly in the relatively small community of Arran there is a need for those who voted Yes to be gracious in defeat. Those who voted No require to be magnanimous.

Yours,
**Jamie Gilmour
Broddick**

Arran Belles complete Macmillan bike challenge

Last Sunday 700 female cyclists crossed the start line at the Macmillan Cycleletta Scotland event, setting off from Scone Palace in Perthshire on a variety of picturesque routes ranging from 20km to 100km.

And amongst those 700 women were six of the Arran Belles cycling group who travelled to Perth to participate in the challenge.

Three of the ladies - Janice Small, Fiona Carswell and Fiona Leslie - completed the 100 kilometre cycle.

Janice from Broddick completed the 100km in 4:44:28 - the fastest in her age category and only an hour behind Commonwealth Games medal-winning cyclist Charline Joiner, who finished in 3:42:44.

Toni McKenzie and Isla Murchie completed the 70 kilometre challenge and Shona Hume came along as the ladies' main supporter.

Fiona Carswell said: 'We'd like to say an enormous thank you to our many sponsors who helped us raise a substantial sum for Macmillan Cancer Support and Alzheimers Scotland.'



Fiona Leslie, Fiona Carswell, Toni McKenzie, Shona Hume, Isla Murchie and Janice Small at Scone Palace after the race.

Bag charge boost for good causes

Good causes on Arran could soon bag more than just the 5p carrier bag charge from The Co-operative Food in Scotland.

The community retailer has pledged to reinvest profits from its entire carrier bag range, and not just the 5p charge on single-use carrier bags, to good causes.

The Co-operative Food expects the move will raise as much as £750,000 in the next 12 months, and all the money will be reinvested in community projects across Scotland - including Arran.

Charge

From Monday 20 October, all retailers are required to charge customers 5p for single-use plastic bags.

But as well as the statutory charge, The Co-operative Food will add the money it makes on the sales of its new woven reusable large shopping bags and its compostable carriers.

John McNeill, regional stores director for The Co-operative Food in Scot-

land, said: 'We're getting carried away with carrier bags, and it'll mean bags more money for communities the length and breadth of Scotland. By going much further than we need to we'll raise hundreds of thousands of pounds extra for good causes.'

Commitment

'It's not just a commitment to local communities though, we also have a strong commitment to the environment and we share the aspiration of reducing the number of single use carrier bags that are distributed.'

'By buying any of our range of carriers, customers will be contributing to the environment, as well as to good causes. Together we will reduce, reuse, recycle and reinvest in our communities.'

The Co-operative Food will confirm which good causes can bid for the funding, and how they can apply, early in 2015.

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Edge of the seat thriller

Corrie Film Club

This weekend Corrie Film Club is showing an academy award winning thriller directed by Juan Jose Campanella – *The Secret in their Eyes* (Cert.18).

This is a stunning edge of your seat thriller which has been described as a cinematic tour de force of nail biting suspense and hailed by audiences and critics alike.

When a retired criminal prosecutor decides to try his hand at writing a novel he

finds himself inextricably drawn into the harrowing events of a past crime. As he delves deeper he finds himself at the dark heart of society where mysteries lurk in the shadows and danger awaits around every corner.

This is a really exciting film but please note that it is an 18 certificate and is not suitable for children. See it in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall tomorrow (Sunday) at 8pm. Everyone is welcome.

Evanton Macmillan fundraiser thanks

A coffee morning held at Evanton, Cordon last week raised the impressive sum of £363 for Macmillan Cancer.

Organiser Rosemary Roberts would like to thank everyone for their help and donations which made the event such a success.



Two members of the hawk club admire the scenery.

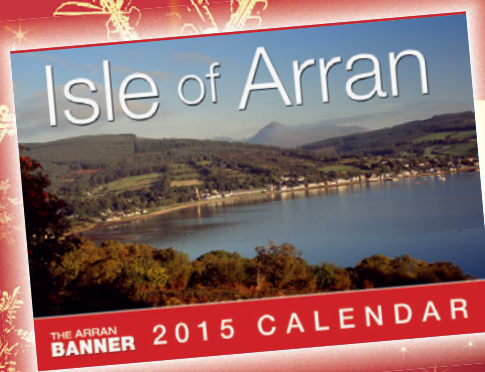


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Odin gives hawk

Last week members of the Scottish Hawking Club once again made their way to the island bringing with them a selection of raptors.

Most of the birds had been to Arran before but it was the first time for Odin - an immature golden eagle.

Prior to his visit he had

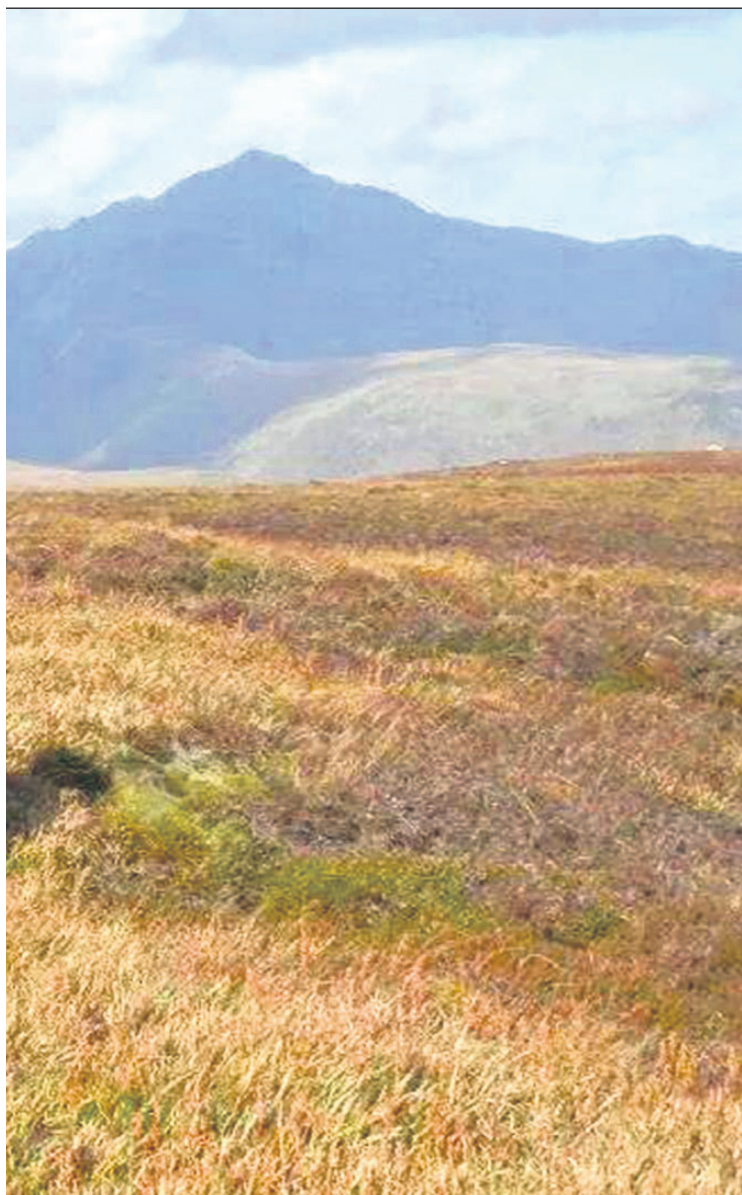
only been flown on a training line, or creance, so with the high winds there was some potential for fun.

Ian Struthers explained: 'The idea was to pursue brown hare and his first couple of flights were close to the ground and not very spectacular but as the days

advanced he started to play with the wind.

'To be that close to an eagle which is focused on its quarry really is a thrill and by day three he was beginning to use





New wildlife spotting guide for watersports enthusiasts

Autumn is a great time to get out and see Arran wildlife on the land or at sea.

Now a website, developed by the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism team has revealed some of the surprising ways in which locals and visitors can discover both common and rare coastal wildlife this autumn and winter.

The website also highlights some of the places amateur wildlife enthusiasts can learn how to protect endangered species around Arran.

One way to get a different perspective on wildlife spotting is from the sea.

Russ Cheshire from Ocean Breeze RiB boat tours in Kildonan said: 'Discovering wildlife from the water offers a unique perspective and is the ideal way to get some close encounters with species that are more difficult to spot on dry land.'

'This autumn we'll be hoping to show visitors basking sharks, as well as birds such as Manx shearwater preparing to migrate to warmer regions. Grey seal pupping has just started and the grey seal bulls are becoming territorial in preparation for their mating time. There is also at least one minke whale in the Firth of Clyde just now. Other cetaceans may appear over the winter.'

'You never know what you might see as the weather can throw some surprises our way at any time – for example sightings of great skua have been reported recently. These birds normally frequent the Northern Isles and the North Sea, but we are beginning to see them more often in the Firth of Clyde.'

Recording sightings is one way in which people can help to protect wildlife. Ocean Breeze RiB Boat tours keep a range of literature at its base so that enthusiastic customers can find out how to do this effectively.

The team at Ocean Breeze is also involved in a number of initiatives to protect the marine environment - from official scientific research in partnership with recognised bodies to raising awareness of the benefits of the Lamlash No Take Zone and the South Arran MPA.

There are many additional ways in which experienced watersports enthusiasts can discover Arran's wildlife by sea. Watersportscoast.com provides a one-stop website with detailed information about 12 different activities –



Passengers hold on tight on their Ocean Breeze RiB tour off Lamlash.

from yachting, dinghy sailing and sea kayaking to kite surfing, scuba diving and paddle boarding.

To ensure that enthusiasts observe wildlife responsibly, the website has recently published a guide on what to do before undertaking a watersports wildlife adventure.

For more information or to plan a trip visit www.watersportscoast.com



The RiB can get up close to wildlife at sea.

club a thrill

the wind rather than just being buffeted - this was fun. 'No hares were taken by him, their evading tactics are incredible in every sense, and I, like most hunters, regard them with a great deal of respect, but it would have been so good to see Odin succeed.'

He added: 'Three years ago the Scottish government brought in a legal close season for hares which brings the country into line with most of northern Europe. 'This was long overdue and they can only be killed from the first day of October till the last day of January. 'Murray Boal and I would like once again to say a big thank you to the farmers who make this event possible.'

Far left: Les Gibson from County Durham with his raptor.

Left: Odin made his first trip to Arran.



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Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
SEPTEMBER



There were increased numbers of kingfisher with reports from Catacol, Cordon, Fisherman's Walk and Lochranza. Photo by Dennis Morrison.

Dry spell ideal for breeding species

September 2014 was the driest for many years.

There was a fifth of the rain of September 2013 and indeed the mean temperature was warmer than August this year.

This prolonged dry warm spell was ideal for many breeding species.

In addition with September being the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move, there was a wide range of species recorded.

It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected.

Unusual records included: a great crested grebe off Cordon on September 1st was the first report this year, a black-tailed godwit in a field by Sliderry on the 2nd was only the second report of the year and this month there were two reports of great skua - one in Brodick Bay on the 10th and three in Kilbrannan Sound on the 13th.

Other birds on migration included: five sanderling at Drumadoon Point on the 7th, three wheatear by Shiskine Golf Course on the 9th, five twite on Blackwaterfoot shore on the 11th, two white wagtail on Kildonan shore on the 13th, 10 sandwich tern at Sandbraes on the 14th, a merlin on Beinn Bharrain on the 22nd, eight dunlin at Silver Sands on the 23rd and several reports of greenshank including Cosyden on the 10th, Claulands on the 12th and Silver Sands on the 14th.

At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: 35 mistle thrush at North Sannox on the 1st, 14 skylark at Sliderry

on the 11th, 400 kittiwake by the mouth of the Blackwater also on the 11th, 200 linnets on Cleats Shore on the 12th, nine black-throated divers off Drumadoon Point also on the 12th, 150 starling at Kilpatrick on the 28th, 100 gannet off Cosyden on the 29th, 44 redshank in Whiting Bay also on the 29th, and 30 pied wagtail on Brodick Golf Course on the 30th.

Some winter visitors began to be reported including: seven rook at Sliderry on the 8th, two wigeon at Claulands on the 19th, 12 fieldfare at Dhunan on the 26th, and two reports of nine whooper swan on the 29th.

The first report was of them calling as they flew down the Shiskine Valley and in the second report they were in a field at Bennearrigan.

Summer visitors

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: a singing chiffchaff at Strathwillan on 14th, a whitethroat by Silver Sands on the 24th and both house martin and swallow were still around on the 30th.

While there were reports of both species taking advantage of the good spell of weather to rear broods late into September most of the birds had left by the end of the month.

The largest group of house martin was 60 at Knockenelly on the 19th and the largest group of swallow reported was 150 at Corrie on the 5th.

The observer of the swallows at Corrie said that two groups joined together and in a blink they were gone. October should see the

last of the house martins and swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included; a male black grouse in one of the Arran Black Grouse Group release areas by the northern range on the 8th.

This bird was one that was released five years ago by the Arran Black Grouse Group. This is an encouraging sign that habitats on Arran are suitable for long-term survival of Black Grouse.

In addition, there were two reports of juvenile puffin on the 17th, one in Brodick Bay and one off Glenashdalewaterfoot.

Further encouraging breeding signs this month were the increased reports of grey wagtail and stonechat.

Both species had declined after the two recent consecutive very cold winters. This September also saw increased numbers of dispersing kingfisher with reports from Catacol, Cordon, Fisherman's Walk and Lochranza.

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

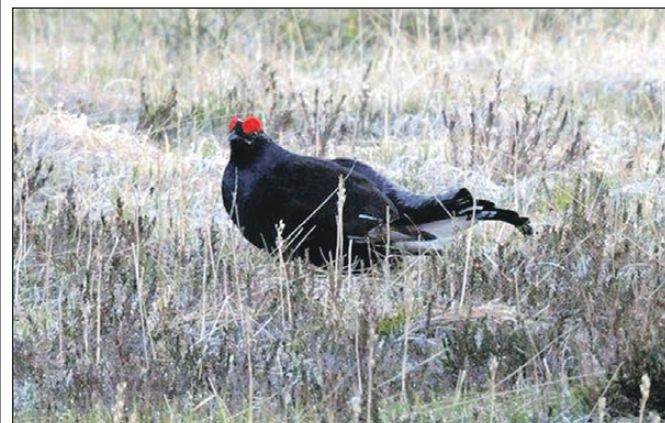
Total number of birds recorded around Arran was 116. Last year the total for Arran was 144 but 10 years previously it was considerably more at over 600. There was almost total coverage of the Arran coastline.

The data on the eider survey contributes to the ongoing research of Chris Waltho who has been monitoring eider in the Clyde Estuary for over 20 years. The population trend is down.

For the latest report from Chris visit this website. http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/clyde_eider_news_no_12_aug_2013.pdf

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Left: A black grouse that was released five years ago by the Arran Black Grouse Group was photographed by Angus Hogg. This is an encouraging sign that habitats on Arran are suitable for long term survival of the bird.

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Wildlife of Tanzania in spotlight at Arran Natural History Society

At the meeting of the Arran Natural History Society on Thursday 2 October in the Ranger Centre at Brodick Country Park, Zul Bhatia gave an illustrated presentation on the 'Wildlife of Tanzania'.

Within the varied landscapes of this fascinating country, Zul focused on the birds and mammals seen on many trips to the world class Northern Parks.

These include the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. There was a short section on some of the people of Tanzania and everyday life in Tanzania too, using Zul's own photographs.

Zul is a Tanzanian citizen of Asian origin who has been living in the UK for many years.

He was born and brought up in Dar es Salaam. As well as being fluent in English, he is also fluent in Swahili, Gujarati and Kaatchi.

He has been working for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for more than 35 years, around 30 of these in Scotland.

He currently manages the RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve where he has been for 17 years.

He has an exceptional

knowledge of the wildlife of east Africa, especially Tanzania. Immediately prior to coming to Lochwinnoch, he lived with his wife and two children in Tanzania for nearly three years.

During this time he was the coordinator of a project to draw together a plan to protect some unique forests in the Uluguru Mountains.

Experienced guide

He has been guiding trips to several countries in Africa for more than 20 years and has visited or led trips to many other African countries including Burundi, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Botswana, Tunisia, South Africa and Namibia.

He has carried out ornithological and socio-economic research in Tanzania and presented papers on the findings to international conferences.

Although primarily a birder, Zul is interested in all wildlife and his hobbies include photography and gardening.

All this expertise was clearly shown in his descriptions of leading wildlife trips in Tanzania.

These often begin in the Arusha National Park, with its blue monkeys and flamingos, and then move on to the Tarangire Park,

where there are many elephants, baboons and, of course, lions.

Next comes the Serengeti National Park, the size of Northern Ireland, with its two million plain animals (including the great spectacle of the wildebeest migration), its wonderful plant life (wild gladioli are common), its 1,000 species of butterflies, and its 1,100 species of birds including no fewer than 72 species of raptors.

Finally comes the Ngorongoro Crater, where a fantastic mix of iconic birds and mammals come to use the reliable water sources, and where the Masai people live and herd their animals.

Photographs

All this was illustrated by Zul's beautiful photographs, and it became abundantly clear why Tanzania, a poor but stable country, is becoming such a favourite destination for wildlife tourism. A big thank you to Zul for a great evening.

The next meeting is on Thursday 6 November in the Rangers Centre at 8pm, when Jack Ibbotson will be talking about the seabirds of St Abb's.

Everyone is welcome to come along to what should be another fascinating evening.



Zul's guided trips of the Serengeti National Park explore two million plain animals, its wonderful plant life, 1,000 species of butterflies and more than 1,100 birds including no fewer than 72 species of raptors.

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Arran livestock sales

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 1,876 store cattle and cast cows, and 18,886 prime, store and breeding sheep last week.

Bullocks: Craighdu (Charloais cross) £1,080, 243p; Craighdu (Limousin cross) £900, 208p Braehead (Blackface) £500, 152p; Craighdu (Charloais cross heifer) £980, 212p.

Cows: Clauchlands (Holstein Friesian) £835, 111p. Bull: Clauchlands £955, 92p. Lambs: Moor (Texel) £68; Craighdu (Texel cross) £67.50; Bridge (Texel) £63; Craighdu (Suffolk) £65; Drumnaghinier (Suffolk) £64.50; Auchenhew (Suffolk) £63.50; Whin (Suffolk) £60; Balna-coole (Suffolk) £55; Crai-

graineach (Mule) £60; Bridge (Mule) £56.50; Bellevue (Mule) £54.50; Co-syden (Cheviot) £47; Braehead (Easycare) £48.50; Ballarie (Blackface) £35. Cast ewes: Auchenhew (Mule) £46.50; Kilpatrick (Texel cross) £51.50; Whin (Texel cross) £47; Ballarie (Blackface) £37.50; Whin (Blackface) £30.



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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 8 October, 1994

Safety first

Caledonian MacBrayne is putting safety first following the Estonia disaster last week.

Compulsory checks were announced on the bow doors of all ferries operating out of British ports and operations manager Ted Sangster said that these checks will be carried out with diligence on the Arran routes.

Arran livestock sales

At the annual special sale of suckled calves last Thursday Messrs A and J Wilson sold 60 cattle and 362 sheep within the pier market at Brodick.

The top price of the day was £715 for the Knowe farm's Friesian cross calved heifers.

Half measure

Work may begin on the Lochranza distillery by the end of the month, according to Hal Currie.

Mr Currie told The Banner this week that difficulties presented by Scottish Natural Heritage should soon be resolved.

However, the objections from SNH could see the final distillery building halved in size.

Right to know

Argyll and the Islands Enterprise has published details of the financial assistance given by way of a grant during August.

These include £950 to the Arran Music Society for a series of concerts, £500 to Arran Celtic Music Association and £1,100 to Island Porcelain for attendance at trade fairs.

George Sampson of AIE, said: 'The purpose of this list is to let people know what we are doing with public money.'

Bomb disposal

A two man bomb disposal team was called to Arran on Tuesday after council workmen had collected, among rubbish from a house in Kildonan, what appeared to be a small bomb.

The item was put carefully on the coup in Brodick and the two experts quickly identified it as a spent shell of about 18 inches long and a controlled explosion would not be necessary.

Gravel work extension

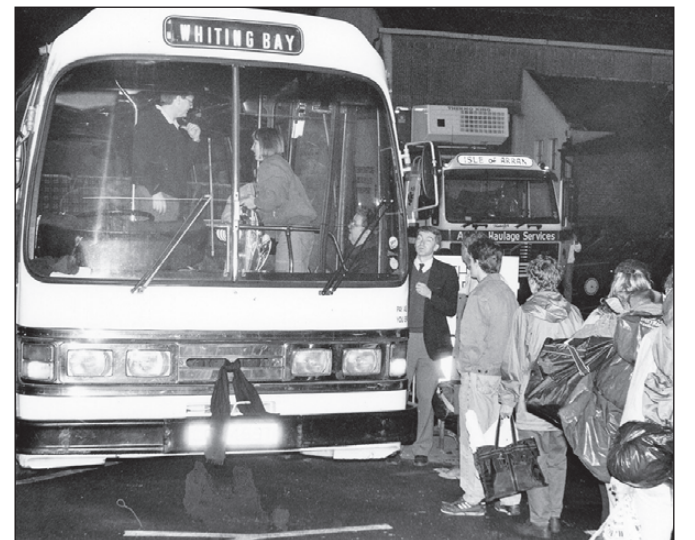
John Thomson Construction Ltd has been given a five-year extension to the gravel workings at Sannox - but with conditions.

Villagers complained to Cunninghame District Council when the original condition of landscaping was not adhered to.

Thomson's, who had taken over after these conditions were agreed, said this had not been possible due to a downturn in demand which necessitated stockpiling on the very land which was to be returned to its original state. The five-year extension is subject to there being no stockpiling.



The Arran Chorus will join around 120,000 other singers worldwide in Handel's Messiah on Saturday night. The choir will join 500 singers in City Hall, Glasgow, and others will perform at 200 places throughout the UK and at another 50 worldwide. b41twe03



Passengers are pictured boarding the 7.10pm bus to Whiting Bay last Friday which has a black scarf tied to the radiator grill. This was the last service bus to be run under the ownership of Arran Coaches. b41twe02

Traffic calming

Brian Wilson MP has asked the Strathclyde roads department to consider traffic calming measures in the area of Park Terrace, Lamlash in response to a petition from residents of Benlister Terrace.

In a letter to the MP, residents express concern that someone will be 'hurt or killed' because of the speed at which motorists approach Park Terrace.

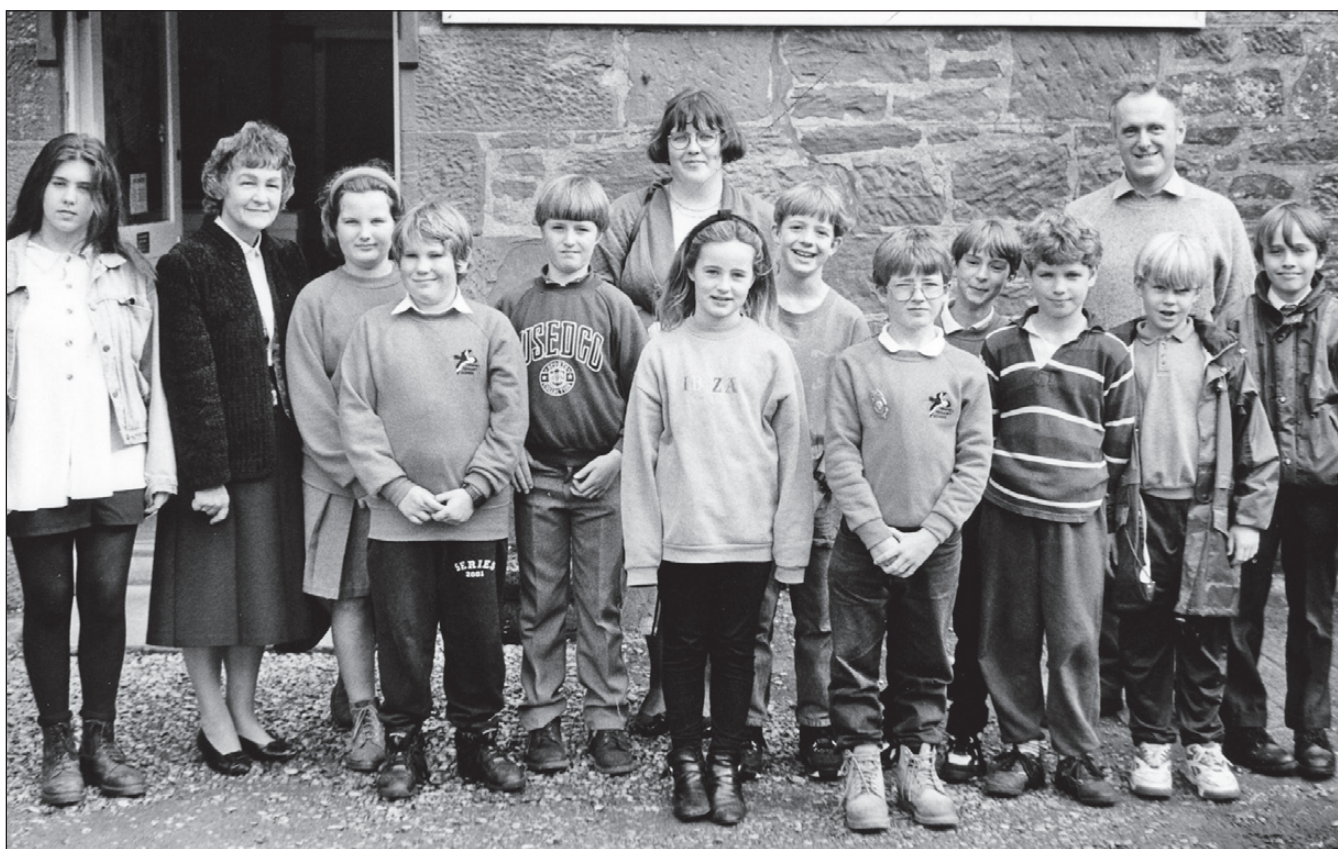
September vandals

The weather smiled on September weekend but it did not pass off without some vandalism.

On Saturday evening a brick was thrown through a window in the Brodick Co-op and a quantity of fruit stolen.

Later that night a number of picnic tables and benches worth £1,000, behind Curries of Brodick were broken up.

At Rosaburn the fire brigade was called to extinguish two burning palm trees in the garden.



The children of P6 and P7 at Pirnmill Primary School visited The Banner premises last week as part of a project on newspapers. They are pictured with teacher Mrs Morton, auxiliary Miss Crisp, Arran High School work experience pupil Rachel Hay and John Millar, editor The Banner. b41twe01

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodick Castle, Garden Open
Arran Brewery
Arran Brewery tour
Arran Heritage Museum

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

Saturday 11th October

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Live music
Whiting Bay Bowling Club
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Live music, 50s to present,

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Green, 2pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
Corrie Hotel 8pm till late

Sunday 12th October

Family Games
Fun in the pool
AA Meeting
Mackerel Lottery
Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
Live music

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodick church Hall, 5pm - 6pm
Kinloch Bar, 5pm
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm

Monday 13th October

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Morning Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Arran Junior Football Club
Yoga
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
Circuit Training
Live Music
Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers
Salvation Army Lunch club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
Lamlash Bowling Green, 7pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2-4pm
Brodick Sheltered housing, 12.30pm

Tuesday 14th October

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
Garden walk
RunArran
Live Music
Garden Walk
Bridge for beginners
Scottish Country Dancing

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
Brodick Castle 2pm-3.30pm
Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
Fiddlers, 7.30pm
Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th October

Rock & Pop Bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
RunArran mixed ability
Yoga-Arran
Drift Inn Quiz
Mixed Hockey
Back to the Bronze age
Arran Elderly Forum
Coffee Morning
Friends of Brodick Castle
Speaker: Jim Cassels on Mapping the Birds of Arran

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-8.30pm
Brodick Castle, 2pm - 4pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 10.40am for 11am
Brodick Church Hall 10.30am - 12 noon
7.30pm in the castle tearoom

Thursday 16th October

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

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

Friday 17th October

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

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Brodick Castle, 11.30 - 1pm
Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-5pm

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(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 31.10.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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


Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

14/00565/PP; Site to West of Bothan Ur, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of field shelter.

14/00564/PP; Lochranza Whisky Distillery, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of building to house offices and VIP lounge.


14/00544/PP; Braehead Farm, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Installation of 16 ground-based solar panels (retrospective).

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. Sunday, 12th October: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 15th October: Holy Communion, 12.15 pm. ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister: Rev Angus Adamson, Parish assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited

Sunday 12th October

Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirmill Church, 10.45am, Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 11.50am Tea & Coffee &

Fellowship, 12noon Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 12th October

Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Mr Ian Watt
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 12th October

Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 15th October

7pm
5Glen Road
All welcome

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005). **Sunday 12th October 2014:** Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth

Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Sunday morning masses 9.30am and 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 12th October

11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick

Tea & Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 12th October

Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)

Rev Richard Muir

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

BANNATYNE - Colin Currie, MRCVS. Suddenly at home on October 5, 2014, aged 92. Deeply loved devoted husband of Margaret Coutts, dear father of Donald and the late Annabel. Funeral service at Shiskine Free Church, Isle of Arran on Monday 13, October at 11.30am and thereafter at Clachan Cemetery. In lieu of flowers there will be a retiring collection for RNIB.

BIRTHDAY

Looking Good at 50



Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies: Wednesday 1 October, Medal 2, 7 played, CSS66. 1 Liz Sinclair 83-18=65, 2 Sheena Murchie 84-14=70. Scratch Liz Sinclair 83.

The medal final or McGill Cup took place on Saturday 4 October. This is the final medal competition of the season and is open to all lady medal winners through the year.

The conditions were rather challenging ranging from bright warm sunshine to torrential rain showers that also included hail! None of this seemed to affect the winner Sheena Murchie who delivered an excellent score of 77 net 63 with a resultant cut in handicap to 13.

A fitting end to a very successful season for Sheena. Second place with 92 net 68 was June Richardson, who also finished a very successful season in great style. Well done ladies!

Gents: Thursday 2 October, front nine competition. 1 Iain Murchie 34-2=32, 2 Jim Stewart 40-7 =33 BIH, 3 Dougie Macfarlane 33-0=33. Best scratch Dougie Macfarlane 33. Magic twos Iain Murchie at the 2nd and 5th.

Sunday 5 October, Glenburn Cup, CSS 65. 1 Ian Bremner 69-6=63, 2 Graeme Andrew 79-9=70. Best scratch Ian Bremner 69. Magic twos Ian Bremner at the 14th and 16th, Graeme Andrew at the 15th.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 October, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm starts. Thursday 16 October back 9 medal, make up own groups.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 1 October, 11 played on a lovely day, but the scores were poor again. 1 W Kroner 77-12=65, 2 D Roxburgh 73-7=66. There were two magic twos D Rudge and D Roxburgh.

Sunday 5 October, Brandon, 21 played, CSS 64. 1 Douglas Robertson (16)65, John



The winner of the Medal final Sheena Murchie with the McGill Cup and runner up June Richardson.

McKean (12)66 acb, 3 David Hendry (14)66 acb. Scratch Iain MacDonald 72. First class Brandon John McKean. Second class Brandon Douglas Robertson. There was only one magic two for Russell Duncan, who scooped the pool.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 October, Winter Cup 2nd round. Open draw at 8.30am and 1pm. Sunday 19 October, Clochendichter first round.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 5 October, 15 played in the first round of the Winter Cup, with the best three scores to count for each player. CSS 63. 1 Jamie McKechnie (6)64 acb, 2 Wolfi Kroner (12)64 acb, 3 John Taylor (16)64. Jamie McKechnie

won scratch with 70 and the only magic two was scored by Jack Simmons.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 October, Taylor Trophy Greensomes, one draw for partners at 10am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 2 October, Ladies 12 Hole Medal, 19 played. Silver: 1 and Scratch Rion Culpan 54-10=44, 2 Isobel MacDonald 55-10=45. Bronze: 1 Julia Salton 63-18=45, 2 Fiona Scott 61-14=47. Congratulations Rion, well played in very testing conditions!

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday 4 October, start of the Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Campbell Laing 37pts, 2 Brian Sherwood 35pts, 3 Phil Betley 31pts. Scratch Brian Sherwood 78.

Fixtures: Saturday 11 October, Eddie Rankin Tro-

phy Machrie Gents v Corrie Gents, tee off 12.30pm. Tuesday 14 October, Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 4 October, Captain's Prize, 23 played, CSS 61. Thanks to all who sponsored holes. 1 Alan Winter 67-11=56, 2 Chris Pattenden 71-12=59 BIH, 3 Raymond Jeffrey 75-16=59. Best scratch E McKinnon 62+1=63. Magic twos from Len Hartley, Hugh McKinnon, John McGovern and Allan Napier. Winner of the captain's prize was Allan Smith.

Monday 6 October, Jerry Pot and Monday Cup from yellow tees, 6 played. Len Hartley was the winner of the sweep 69-16=53. Winner of the Jerry Pot was Barry King.

Fixtures: Saturday 11 October, Eddie Rankin Memorial Match at Machrie, 12.30pm start.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

COOKE THOMAS, Rosie, Sean and Cara would like to thank the Rev. Angus Adamson for the amazing service he conducted for Tom. Mary for the Eulogy and Maggie, not only for the perfect song, but also her unfailing support during Toms illness.

Kate, Trish, Stacy and Billy for keeping us fed and Arran Graphics. To Clair and David Hendry for all the arrangements. Ally Hume for the piping, McLarens staff for all the years of kindness shown to Tom. Janie and the McLaren Hotel for the catering. Grateful thanks to Arran Medical Centre, A.W.M.H and Ayr Hospital, to everyone who sent cards, letters and flowers, it gave us great comfort.

A donation of £200 was raised for our local Parkinson's Group. Finally thank you to Tom for his love and support during his life.

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Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club tournament on Monday 29 September were as follows: N/S 1 Jennifer McArthur and Liz Robertson, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar.

E/W 1 John and Moira Bain, 2 Janette McBride and John Baraclough, 3 Jan Beattie and Margaret McGill.

On Thursday 2 October the results were as follows: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Jennifer McArthur and Maureen Cumming, 3 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone.

E/W 1 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 2 John Dick and Margaret McGill, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

Arran Bridge Club restarted for the 2014/15 season at Lamlash Golf Club on Monday 6 October at 7.15pm.

Everyone is most welcome to join.

The results of the tournament on Monday 6 October were: N/S 1 Morag Gardner and Brenda Livingstone, 2 Janette McBride and John Baraclough, 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales.

E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Jessmay and Jim Peacock.

Rugby visitors no-show postpones game

Arran RFC were forced to postpone their home game against Loch Lomond rugby club on Saturday when the visitors failed to field a team.

A forecast for torrential rain and hailstones on Saturday afternoon may also have been taken into account.

The island's rugby team are now sitting in second place with 14 points behind Strathaven RFC, who have 15 points.

This Saturday the team travel to Stranraer to play Wigtownshire RFC.



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Ryder Cup success for Brodick's juniors

Brodick Golf Club's 'Ryder Cup Challenge' proved to be a successful and fun weekend for players of all ages.

Twelve competitors took part in the beginners' group ranging in age from five to nine - the youngest was Grace Popplewell who was awarded the prize for 'most impressive golf etiquette'.

In this group, Team USA were victorious; Lily Keir was awarded best dressed and Andrew McKelvie was the winner of the longest drive competition.

It was great to see parents, family and friends turning out to support and cheer the children on.

The intermediate group went out as foursomes onto the course at Brodick with team USA coming out in the lead with 2.5.

Alexander MacBeth walked away with the most impressive golf etiquette, Frazer McKinnon took home the award for safety knowledge and Mia Walker was awarded



Five-year-old Grace Popplewell was given the award for most impressive golf etiquette.

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with the title 'most courageous golfer'.

PGA Professional James Browning led the intermediate group in training in the lead up to the Ryder Cup Challenge, supported by Jackie Vaught, Isobel MacDonald and Alyssa Calwell of Lamlash High



The beginners group is presented with prizes as parents look on.

School.

The captain of Brodick Golf Club, Terry Raeside was on hand to present the prizes.



Brodick's PGA Pro, James Browning, leaves the practise ground with the beginners.

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Bowling contests draw season to a close

On Saturday 6 September the President's Trophy was keenly contested in a 15 ends individual progressive competition, with Ann Whattam finally coming out as the winner.

At the conclusion of play on Saturday 28 September, the final day of the season, the Charles Stewart Cup for the highest season total rink game scores were announced, and this year's winner was once again

Charlie Weir. It has been a very successful season for the club and the September rink game results were as follow: 1 September Ann Hollingworth and Andy McCrindle (+11), 3 September Colin Haggerty, Ann Hollingworth and Charles Hendry (+10), 8 September Robert Crawford and Lavinia Hendry (+18), 10 September Colin Haggerty and Charles Hendry (+4), 13 September Charlie Weir

and Tony Wooden (+10), 15 September Charlie Weir and Andy McCrindle (+13), 17 September Colin Haggerty, Len Hartley and Andy McCrindle (+4), 20 September Colin Haggerty and Charlie Weir (+8), 22 September Colin Haggerty and Ann Hollingworth (+4), 24 September John Kerr and Jim Gourlay (+24), 27 September Charles Hendry and John Kerr (+16).

Impressive home win for Arran's hockey ladies



Cat Galbraith and her Arran Ladies Hockey team mates secured an impressive 11-2 win on Saturday against Clydesdale Western. Despite torrential downpours of rain and hailstones, the Arran ladies played exceptionally well on the all-weather pitch in Brodick.

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Arran golfer helps Scotland to win disability golf international

John Pennycott from Whiting Bay helped Scotland beat England in the Auld Enemies Cup.



The two islanders proudly display the cup - John Pennycott of Arran, right, and Jim Thomson from Millport, left.

Scotland beat England in the Auld Enemies Cup at London's Shire golf course last week with a little help from an Arran golfer.

John Pennycott of Whiting Bay formed part of the Scottish team which travelled south for the disability golf tournament.

As expected, it was a fiercely fought battle over three days of unique competition, with all the thrills and spills associated with the famous Ryder Cup.

Incorporating disabled players from throughout the UK, it included a foursome format on the opening

day, four ball on the second, with the winning team being crowned champions after the traditionally tense singles matches on the final day's play.

This hugely competitive event included players with various disabilities such as amputees, stroke and car accident victims, members who are blind and golfers with cerebral palsy.

John told The Banner: 'The whole tournament was such a great experience apart from day two when my prosthetic leg broke down and I had to

go to a nearby hospital for repairs.'

Team Scotland captain Stevie Cunningham said: 'Team Scotland battled to a 3.5 to 2.5 lead after the foursomes and stole an emphatic lead at the fourball

format of 4.5 to England's 1.5 score line.

'The singles were almost halved with only one point separating the teams, which gave Scotland a 13.5 to 10.5 win and we brought the cup home over the border.'

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