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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 16 OCTOBER, 2010

No 1775 55p

Arran motorists miss out as other islands get cheaper fuel



Filling up on Arran has become an increasingly costly task as petrol prices reach more than £1.30 a litre. 01_b42pet01

The gap between garages in Arran and the Scottish capital is currently as wide as 20 pence per litre

By Jennifer Lyon

Motorists in a number of Scottish islands are set to benefit from a five pence per litre reduction in the price of petrol and diesel at the pumps, but Arran has not been included.

The Tory-Lib Dem coalition government is asking the EU for permission to cut fuel duty in remote isles as part of a new pilot scheme.

Shetland will be included, along with Orkney, the Western Isles and the Scilly Isles, and it may be rolled out to

other areas at a later date.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the decision of the government but is urging the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP to go further and introduce the cut in Arran too. Islanders have been accustomed to spending 10-15 pence per litre more on fuel than in many areas on the UK mainland, and the gap between garages in Arran and the cheapest stations in the Scottish capital Edinburgh is

currently as wide as 20 pence per litre for both petrol and diesel.

Even in Ardrossan, just 14 miles across the Clyde, the price of petrol is on average 14 pence cheaper than Brodick.

The prices in Brodick this week are 130.9p for unleaded and 134.9p for diesel.

This compares to 126.9p and 128.1p in Stornoway, 126.8p and 129.6p in Kirkwall and in Lerwick 131.6p for diesel.

'It would be churlish not to

Continued on Page 2

Sweeney Todd comes to Arran – and Arran only!

Arran's Music and Drama Club has been given special permission to perform Steven Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd' next summer.

The local amateur group will be the only one in Britain bringing the Demon Barber of Fleet Street to the stage as a revival tour of the musical starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton will be starting early next year.

Usually a professional UK tour of a musical prohibits any amateur productions, so Arran's Music and Drama Club find themselves in a very privileged position.

A spokesman for the club said: 'Being based on quite a morbid subject, it might be considered a surprising choice for a musical, but like our previous production of 'Jack the Ripper' which was most enjoyable for us to

perform, 'Sweeney Todd' will no doubt be eagerly anticipated.'

In Stephen Sondheim's 1979 stage musical, Todd is portrayed as a tragic character driven by revenge rather than greed.

The play begins with Todd's return to London, 15 years after he was transported to Australia, seeking news of his wife and child.

Todd swears revenge upon the entire world, resolving to kill as many people as he can; and what follows can only be described as a bloodbath.

Rehearsals for the show will begin on Arran on Thursday 4 November at 7.30pm in Brodick Village Hall where a warm welcome will be given to both old and new members.



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Surprise weekend treat for Sandra and Stevie

Cooriedoon Care Home proprietor Sandra Butler has just enjoyed a luxury weekend at Kilmichael House Hotel courtesy of one of her staff.

Sandra and her fiancée Stevie spent last weekend at the Brodick hotel as the guests of senior care officer Tessy and her husband Subash.

Tessy joined the staff at Cooriedoon in April 2006, but after returning to her homeland of Kerala in southern India in July 2008 on holiday, she was barred from returning to this country by the UK Border Agency who expressed doubts that she was really a nurse. After a long battle with bureaucracy and help from Ken-



Tessy outside Cooriedoon Care Home. 02_b42cor02

neth Gibson MSP and Katy Clark MP, Tessy was finally allowed back to Cooriedoon last October.

There were great celebrations at the time, and now one year on, Tessy and her husband wanted to show their appreciation to Sandra for never giving up in the fight to get them back into the UK.

Sandra said: 'It was a fabulous weekend at the hotel and such a nice surprise. Kilmichael couldn't be faulted.'

'We were so pleased to get Tessy back into the country last year and she is a great asset to our care team at Cooriedoon.'

Tessy and Subash have a daughter Suzanna at Whiting Bay Primary School and are expecting another baby in December.



North Ayrshire chief executive Elma Murray dishing up liver and onions with mashed potatoes at the David White Centre in Saltcoats.

Chief executive serves up hearty fare for the elderly

North Ayrshire Council chief executive Elma Murray was dishing up liver and onions to residents at a care home for the elderly this week.

To mark National Customer Service Week, Elma leant a hand as catering staff served lunch at the David White Centre in Saltcoats on Tuesday, 5 October.

The chief executive is one of many senior officers and managers who went 'back to the floor' in a bid to raise awareness of the importance of good customer service.

Elma helped to prepare and serve lunch at the centre, whilst also chatting to staff about their experiences of customer service.

Committed

Elma Murray said: 'The staff at the David White Centre represent a great example of our services in North Ayrshire. They are committed and take the job of improving their clients' health seriously.'

'I had a fantastic time meeting with them and the current residents.'

Centre Manager, Isobel McKenna, added: 'The chief executive was very keen to get involved.'

'Good customer service is a high priority for us. Our customers are our residents and their experience of staying at the David White Centre is incredibly important to us.'

Customer service

Organisations throughout the UK marked National Customer Service Week, which ran from Monday, 4 September to Friday, 8 October.

Along with other senior Council officers, Elma Murray will be attending community workshops in Brodick Hall next Tuesday.

Arran motorists miss out on cheaper fuel

Continued from page 1

welcome the decision of the UK Government, following years of campaigning by SNP Western Isles MP Angus MacNeil,' said Mr Gibson. 'This is especially welcome after the previous Labour Government raised petrol duty to the highest level in Europe and ignored pleas from Scottish islands for any kind of relief.'

'However, many islanders will be disappointed that Arran has not been included in the pilot, despite high fuel costs comparable to and, in some cases exceeding those of other islands.'

'One hopes that this is merely an oversight and I have written to Mr Alexander asking him to correct it. As yet, no date for commencement of the pilot has been announced.'

The Arran Banner spoke to some islanders who were filling up at the pumps on Tuesday.

One man in his fifties who spent £75 filling up his truck said he clearly remembered the price of petrol reaching £1 a gallon on the island. 'Now it's hard to imagine that it was ever as cheap as that,' he said.

Another woman, who had three children in the back of the car, told us that she only uses the vehicle for essential journeys now, as the petrol is too expensive.

Although the Government's five pence reduction will bring the price of fuel closer in line to that paid in mainland areas, the coalition government's move to increase VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent will see the cost at the pump rise by over three pence throughout the UK from January.

'With the latest 1p rise in duty on October 1 and VAT going up by 2.5 per cent in January, the five pence reduction will be all but swallowed up,' added Mr Gibson. 'Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction and shows that the UK Government is beginning to recognise the distinctive needs of island communities. Including Arran in the pilot will show it recognises those needs in all our islands.'

Dangerous driving

A 17-year-old Whiting Bay man was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for dangerous driving on Shore Road, Whiting Bay, at 10pm on Saturday night.

Vandalism

A bright orange Renault Twingo was badly damaged outside the Ormidale Hotel last Satur-

Police files

day night. The car was parked in the staff car park and when the owner found it in the early hours of Sunday morning the driver's window had been smashed, seats torn, paintwork damaged and a brick thrown through the windscreen.

If anyone has any information contact the police.

Fuel thefts

Police are urging boat owners and agricultural workers to ensure that all fuel tanks are secured properly.

In the last few weeks there has been a spate of thefts from fuel tanks left on boats or in farm outbuildings.

If anyone has information about these thefts please call the police.

Council debate Social Services management restructuring

Proposals to save £449,000 a year by removing two layers of management from North Ayrshire Council's Social Services department have been discussed this week.

The restructuring proposals

follow an independent review of Social Services that was presented to the council's Executive in June this year.

The review by SOLACE was commissioned to identify where cuts could be made in

the face of economic challenges and increasing demand for services. The current Social Service structure apparently has too many layers of management between frontline workers and senior management. The restructuring, if agreed, would address this matter. The proposed structure aims to: reduce management costs; focus on safe and effective frontline services—in particular child and adult protection; and allow the services

to meet growing needs and improve at a time when the council has fewer resources.

In total the restructuring proposals outline the removal of two tiers of management with a reduction of 12.2 full-time equivalent posts. If agreed affected staff will be offered voluntary redundancy and the council will work with the trades unions to minimise the impact of the restructuring and to avoid compulsory redundancy except as a last resort.

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RAF flying officers, John Grenville, Cordelia Welsh, Tariq Al-Daoudi and Steven Nile, with NTS Ranger Corinna Goeckeritz, far right. 01_b42raf01

RAF officers complete castle conservation project

Four officers from Royal Air Force (RAF) Cranwell, near Sleaford in Lincolnshire de-camped to the island last week to carry out conservation work on behalf of the National Trust of Scotland.

The four Weapons Systems Officers were here for just over a week from Monday 4 to Wednesday 13 October and were given a list of tasks to complete by local NTS Rangers.

Flying Officers Cordelia Welsh, Steven Nile, John Grenville and Tariq Al-Daoudi

were here as volunteer conservation officers and carried out a variety of tasks including a carbon capture project, wildlife re-integration, re-forestation activity, fencing, dry stone walling and general ecological work.

Corinna Goeckeritz from the NTS Ranger Centre at Brodick Castle said that volunteers have become even more essential to the Trust since the economic recession forced the organisation to make major cuts.

'Volunteers are so important

to the survival of the National Trust,' said Corinna.

'We organise a number of working holidays for volunteers throughout the year but it's especially good to have these RAF officers here with us because they are fit and strong and are happy to work outside throughout the day.'

'On Monday they were completing some work on the bogs on the hillside but they will also be spending time fixing gates, walls and doing a bit of rhododendron bashing at some point.'

Local contractor given go-ahead to start beach work

North Ayrshire Council has appointed an Arran-based contractor to carry out work on a coastal erosion protection scheme at Brodick Beach.

Contractors Murchie Sand and Gravel have been chosen to carry out work that could see the beach reopen by Christmas, depending on the weather.

Councillor Tom Barr, portfolio holder for the Environment, said: 'Despite the inconvenience of the closure, our priority was to not only ensure the safety of members of the public but also to find a permanent solution to the erosion which would not impact on the visual amenity of the area.'

'I am delighted that we have appointed a local contractor

Delight as appointment boosts Arran economy

to carry out the work – this will give the local economy a boost.'

Earlier this year, changes to the estuary system and strong easterly winds led to erosion of the sand at Brodick Beach and caused material from a former landfill site to spill onto the beach.

As a result, the council closed the beach to the public in March.

Following extensive investigation and consultation with coastal specialist, the council's Executive agreed a £150,000 plan to restore the sand and

protect the landfill site from further erosion.

The project will see large geotextile bags – each holding up to two tonnes of sand – placed in front of the eroded coastal dune area, preventing waves from undercutting the shoreline and dispersing the soil.

The use of geotextile containers will provide long-term stability as well as having a low impact on the ecology and the visual amenity of the beach.

Sand that has been swept from the shore to a section of beach further along the coast will be used to fill the containers and to cover the embankment.

Special Marram grass will be planted to create a natural appearance and stabilise the sand.

A new Ayrshire Framework contract, which helped speed up the tendering process, found that Murchie's represented best value for money.

Work is set to start on Monday (October 18) and is expected to take around two months.

However, work can only be carried out at certain times of the day due to tides and may be affected by severe weather conditions.

Coastguard rescues couple

The local Coastguard team were called to rescue a couple in their sixties who found themselves stranded near the Fairy Dell, Lochranza, at 8pm on Saturday night.

A Sea King helicopter was called and picked up the couple before dropping them on the grass at the Lochranza Castle spit.

Police said that the couple had clearly set out inadequately prepared for the time of year and as darkness fell they became disorientated on the path.

First Milk clarifies creamery plans

With reference to The Arran Banner's front page story last week, 'Factory shop ripe for community takeover', First Milk would like to clarify the current situation at Torrylinn Creamery in Kilmory.

Paul Flanagan, First Milk's group communications director said: 'We are looking to reduce our cost base across our entire operation, which includes our creamery on the Isle of Arran.

As a farmer-owned business, our first responsibility is to our members across the UK to generate cash in order to pass this back via milk price.

Turnaround

'Torrylinn Creamery has not been profitable for some time and following a review of operations and discussions with our site team, we are implementing a turnaround plan, which will focus on a

series of cost-saving measures at the site and a strategy to increase sales of our Isle of Arran cheese brand.

'As a result, administration and management of the site will move to our Campbeltown operation.

Packing

'Our packing site in North Wales will pick up the small proportion of cutting and packing of Arran cheese that

was done at Torrylinn.' He added: 'Following consultation with two of our employees, we have now confirmed these roles are redundant.

'We are aware of the concerns within the local community about the creamery shop and we have recently met with Kenneth Gibson MSP and spoken with Councillor Margie Currie to outline our plans.

'We have agreed that the shop will remain open while we consider a number of options, including the store operating as a stand-alone business.'

Proposal

Mr Flanagan also confirmed that an interested party has approached First Milk to take over the shop and they are presently working through their proposal.

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Bridge lessons on offer for winter

With the imminent onset of winter and dark evenings, Tricia Martin is offering an opportunity to learn to play bridge or take the game up again.

She said: 'It is the perfect game for a wet day. Anyone interested should contact me on 600900.'

Arran Elderly Forum

The next meeting of the Isle of Arran Elderly Forum will be held in the Ormidale Pavilion at 11am on Wednesday October 20.

There will be a report from John MacDonald NAC and from the Scottish Seniors Alliance. The guest speaker will be John Rankin of the Red Cross service.

All change for Ormidale Quiz

A big change took place at The Ormidale Hotel in Brodick on Tuesday night when the much-loved Pop Quiz started at 9pm instead of 10pm.

For more than 20 years Tommy Gilmore's famous quizzes have started at the later hour.

From now on both the Pop Quiz on Tuesday and the General Knowledge Quiz on Thursday will begin at 9pm.

Five-star Douglas Hotel begins to emerge from building site

Islanders will soon be able to see substantial changes at the Douglas Hotel.

The rundown Douglas Hotel was bought by 44-year-old St Petersburg property developer Sean Henry in December 2006 who planned to bring it back to its former glory.

The Douglas has been undergoing a major facelift since November 2009 with workmen swarming all over the site. After stripping out and partial demolition, contractors Thomas Johnstone have been gradually rebuilding the grand old hotel with only the front and side sandstone façade remaining from the original.

On Monday project manager Ian McDougall took the Banner for a tour of the site to check on progress.

Before donning hard hat

and high vis-jacket, we were told by site manager Stewart Murdoch: 'In the next four weeks an awful lot will be happening. You will see some big changes at the front of the building.' An 8,000 litre gas tank is currently being buried in the front lawn.

Ian said: 'That will run the cooking and hot water; the building won't require much heating because of the very high levels of insulation. Internal walls are being clad with 150mm of insulation; more than double that of a standard house. The front terrace will be finished with 300mm of topsoil and grassed with the lawns going down in two stages to the lower level.'

Down in the old Perisher Bar Ian showed us the fittings ready for ladies and gents toi-



A bird's eye view of the ferry departing from the luxury suite on the first floor that used to be the residents' lounge. 02_b42dou03

lets, staff showers, electricity and boiler plant and a cold beer store. The new lift goes from the top floor down to the basement and should be installed in two weeks.

Upstairs in the Whisky Bar which used to be called Loren-

zo's, he pointed out the extra soundproofing in the ceiling. Ian said: 'This is down to Sean's desire to have a quiet hotel. This soundproofing is above and beyond anything I have ever seen or used before. The residents upstairs won't hear a sound from down here.'

Throughout the main building they have kept a high ceiling level while being able to cover in all the pipework, cabling and ducting. In many places the contractors have had to shore up ceilings and doorways that have only had rotten timber lintels, but the original staircase has been retained.

Five of the 22 bedrooms will be in the old Doctor's House, with two each on the ground floor and first floor and one large one on the top floor. This part of the building has been painstakingly restored and will be specially clad in copper. Stewart Murdoch said: 'It would have taken half the time if we could have just demolished it and started from scratch.'

Sean's sister and business partner Elaine Campbell told the Banner: 'Contractors Thomas Johnstone have been fantastic. They are very easy to get on with. We should be open for Easter.'



Project manager Ian McDougall looks out over the Doctor's House from the second floor of the Douglas Hotel. 02_b42dou01



Stacks of insulation material in the dining room. 02_b42dou02



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Graeme puts his best foot forward for cancer charity

Graeme Tod has just pounded over 26 miles of tarmac and forest tracks to complete the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon in Inverness.

Graeme, originally from Glenree and Balmowan on Arran, has raised £1,458.20 for MacMillan Cancer Support so far, having set himself a target of £500.

He said: 'Deciding to run a marathon was a bit spur of the moment as I have never really been a runner.'

'But when I heard my Dad had cancer my first reaction was frustration that I couldn't do anything to help and this was all I could come up with. If you know my Dad, someone else who has had cancer, or have known that feeling of frustration, then I guess this is your opportunity to relieve it slightly.'

'I had a knee injury which meant I missed a month of training, and it was touch and go

whether I could run up until two weeks before the race.'

The race all went to plan, with no mishaps or further injury scares. The day began in rain but cleared up to be a sunny, warm day from about halfway round.

Brutal Hill

Graeme added: 'The course was through forests and along the banks of Loch Ness. It is very hilly and one of the trickiest marathon courses around. There was a particularly brutal hill at about the 20-mile mark.'

'I ran every step, felt strong at the end and was happy with my time of four hours and 24 minutes.'

Graeme's father and mother, George and Lilian, travelled up to Inverness to support him. Anyone wishing to contribute should log on to www.justgiving.com/Graeme-Tod



Graeme Tod after completing the Baxters Loch Ness Marathon. Inset: Graeme and his father George, completing the Corrie Capers fun run 22 years ago. b42tod01 and b42tod03

Arran drivers ignorant of risks

Research by the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum has found that many drivers using Arran's roads regard them to be 'low risk' because there is often less traffic on them.

Yet statistically speaking, there is a significantly higher chance of death and injury on these country roads.

More than 1,770 people were killed or injured on country roads in the West of Scotland in 2009.

Councillor Betty Cunningham, chairman of the Forum said: 'In Scotland, 75 per cent of road deaths occur on country roads and addressing this issue is a high priority for the Forum and for the Scottish Government's Framework.'

'During 2009, according to official data provided by Strathclyde Police, some of the most frequently reported causation factors in country road collisions were cited as being loss of control, a failure to look properly and driving too fast for the conditions.'

Councillor Cunningham added: 'The West of Scotland Forum is working closely with all our key partners and members to raise awareness of the specific hazards motorists face when driving in the countryside.'

Arran lifeboat quiz winners

The winners of the Arran RNLI 2010 Ships and Boats quiz were:

1 Jean Farrow, Kirkconnel, 2 Ian and Margaret Wining, Bearsden, 3 Margaret Anderson, Brodick.

The correct answers will be displayed in the RNLI shop in Lamlash, which will be open for the sale of Christmas cards etc on Saturday mornings from November 6 to December 18.

Race Night

The committee of Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall are hoping to see people from all over the island at their Race Night on Friday 29 October.

Hosted by the legendary Alan Johnston, the night is set to be great fun for all who come along.

The first races will begin at 7.30pm and everyone will be very welcome to attend.

Arran's place names wanted for British Collection of Nicknames

Some call it The Rock, others fondly call it Alcatraz – but do you have a nickname for Arran?

Well if you do, the English Project would like to hear from you.

They have teamed up with Ordnance Survey to compile an 'Alternative Gazetteer' of Britain. It's what they are calling a 'Location Lingo'.

'We are keen to receive your nicknames and petnames for places and landmarks,' said a spokesman from The English Project. 'They will then join our massive List of Location Lingo from all over the country.'

'Location Lingo can cover names for all kinds of locations. For example; neighbourhoods, towns, villages, parks or landmarks in the town or countryside.'

To be classified as Location Lingo by the English Project and Ordnance Survey a nickname or petname for a place in Great Britain must not be an official name must be used amongst a group of three or more people for at least a month.

As well as the nickname or petname they are also interested in the story behind the name.

Why did Arran acquire those nicknames? If you know, then let the project know.

Go to www.englishproject.org and select Location Lingo to make your entry.

Halloween celebrations herald the onset of an Arran winter

The autumn celebration of Halloween is just around the corner with many island entertainments on offer.

A disco on Saturday October 30 at Cruize bar at Auchrannie promises fancy dress, prizes and spooky cocktails.

A Halloween bash in aid of the Arran Hospice Fund is being held at Kildonan Hotel, also on Saturday night with prizes for the most original costume and a pumpkin competition. All proceeds will go to the Hospice Fund.

Parties

For the younger children, there will be early evening parties in most village halls and the opportunity for trick or treat doorstep visits, especially in Brodick, Lamlash

and Whiting Bay. Apart from all the fun, Halloween means that winter is really here.

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North Ayrshire and Arran walk hand in hand

It was good to see the editorial of the Banner acknowledge the recent road works on the island.

Between £1.5 and £2m has been spent on Arran roads this year including £1.3m as a grant from the Scottish Timber Transport Fund (STTF). At a meeting about the future of the STTF on September 23, Scottish minister Roseanna Cunningham remarked that she was 'pleased with the work on the String' and thought that it was 'good value for the money'.

The outcome of the bid for stages 2 and 3 will not be known until December and is dependent upon the Scottish Government's willingness to extend the scheme beyond March 2011.

In capital spend in the last year alone £150,000 has been pledged for the repair to Brodick beach and the greater cost of the new Brodick walkway was met by NAC.

Major spends in the last seven years have included a new High School with an amazing public facility and more than £4m was spent on creating the Arran Outdoor Resource facility at Clauchlands. Mainland children who enjoy the unique experience are likely to return to Arran as tourists in future.

Yacht moorings are installed and maintained at Brodick and Lochranza free of charge to the public. Sea defences have been strengthened at Whiting Bay and Pirnmill

Arran local councillor Margie Currie highlights some of the achievements on the island by the local authority in advance of next week's Straight Talking workshops to examine the future financial direction of the Council.

and children's playparks have been recently upgraded. We enjoy excellent displays of plants and flowers provided every year by the local team of grounds maintenance staff.

NAC Area funds support as many Arran projects as they do in the Three Towns. Brodick Country Park receives an indispensable annual grant from NAC. If there is any region of NA where there is underinvestment, it is the Garnock Valley, not Arran.

Dispel

I dispel the myth that Arran is merely an appendage of NA. Since Cunninghame District Council days Arran's profile has risen immeasurably in NAC. The pilot scheme for waste management was trialled on Arran and there is a specific Rural Housing Group on the council for Arran alone.

It is ridiculous to think that Arran would be better off under Argyll & Bute Council. Their officers couldn't travel daily to the island. I visit Irvine at least twice a week and we now have four councillors representing Arran. There is no possibility that Arran could fall off the NAC radar!

The Banner editorial is spot-on about the savings to be

made by NAC in the next three years along with every council in the UK. My advice is to appreciate what we now have because many things are about to change and Arran won't escape. For this reason it is important that those who

are attending the Straight Talking event in Brodick Hall next Tuesday use the opportunity to contribute to the debate towards directing the necessary changes. This is the second major public consultation to be held on Arran this year.

Cuts will bite but Arran has a resourceful community and we will survive. We will, I assure you, still get our fair share of the NA 'pot' as we currently do.

Margie Currie



Arran local councillor Margie Currie.

Council welcomes two new heads of service

North Ayrshire Council has welcomed two new Heads of Service.

Yvonne Baulk has been appointed the new Head of Finance, and Mark Armstrong is the council's new Head of Logistics and Infrastructure.

Yvonne will replace the outgoing Head of Finance, David Nibloe, who is set to retire this month, whilst Mark has taken up a newly-restructured role within Education and Skills that supersedes the post held by former Head of Resources, Brian Gardner.

Mark, who grew up in West Lothian, graduated from University College London with a BSc Hons in Chemical Engineering in 1986.

After graduating, he spent

six months in Seram, Indonesia on a scientific expedition before working for a number of years on education, skills development and employability projects in both the UK public and voluntary sectors.

In 1999 Mark went to work for Aberdeen City Council as the manager of the Great Northern Social Inclusion Partnership before working his way up to Head of Service - Education, Culture and Sport in 2006.

Later that year, Mark completed a Masters in Business Administration and took up his post at North Ayrshire Council in September.

As Head of Logistics and Infrastructure, Mark will be responsible for staffing, procure-

ment, school provision, IT, the schools capital programme and health and safety.

He reports to the Corporate Director of Education and Skills, Carol Kirk.

Ayrshire-born Yvonne is a qualified accountant with 24 years experience working in local government. Yvonne began her career at Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council in 1986 where she worked as a trainee accountant whilst attending day release at what is now Glasgow Caledonian University. She passed her final Chartered Association of Certified Accountants exams in December 1993.

Yvonne took up an accountant's post with Kyle and Carrick District Council in 1994

and was promoted to Chief Accountant at South Ayrshire Council during the local government reorganisation in 1996.

After six years, Yvonne was promoted to Corporate Finance and Accounting Manager before a further promotion saw her take up the post of Chief Accounting Officer at South Ayrshire Council in 2004.

Yvonne joined North Ayrshire Council in September and replaces the outgoing Head of Finance, David Nibloe. She will be responsible for constructing and monitoring the Council's budget, audit, payroll, Council Tax and rates revenue, as well as procurement, banking, insurance and risk management.



Mark Armstrong is the council's new Head of Logistics and Infrastructure.



Yvonne Baulk joined North Ayrshire Council in September and replaces the outgoing Head of Finance, David Nibloe.

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Family's pilgrimage to see grandfather's pillar box

The original pillar box was just a white wooden box on a stick

The great-great-grandsons of the stonemason who built the iconic Machrie Pillar Box that sits on the String Road in the centre of Blackwaterfoot recently returned to see the structure for themselves, more than 100 years after their ancestor helped to build it.

In the 1850s David Wilson, a stonemason from Beith, was tasked with the job of building

a post box for the use of the owners of Dougarie Estate.

Two weeks ago David's two great-great-grandsons Craig and Scott Wilson travelled to the island and visited the site of their grandfather's work.

Distinctive

The family also paid a visit to the distinctive road bridge in the centre of Blackwaterfoot that was built by David's

two sons, Duncan and David Wilson in 1891.

Duncan's grandsons, Stuart McNicol Wilson and Duncan Wilson made a pilgrimage to the bridge that was built by their grandfather.

Born at Woodside in Shiskine, the brothers eventually emigrated to Canada, before returning to Glasgow and starting a building contractors business.

Duncan Wilson, who now lives in Glasgow said: 'The bridge builders' father, David Wilson, also a stonemason, had come to the island from Beith around 1857 and had met and married Janet McNicol from Monamhor.'

According to a letter in The Arran Banner from July 1993, while David Wilson was working on an extension at Brodick Castle he was tasked with creating a new and interesting post box at the end of the Machrie Moor road end.

The original Machrie Pillar Box was just a white, wooden box on a stick, built to serve the needs of Dougarie Lodge.

David Wilson junior told The Banner in 1993 that a friend of the Hamilton family, Lord Overton, was staying at Dougarie Lodge, and his young



Above: Craig Wilson, left, and his brother Scott are pictured with their cousin Fiona Hall nee Wilson. They are the great-great-grandchildren of the post box builder David Wilson.

daughter had gone out riding her pony.

'When passing the pillar box the pony had taken fright on seeing the white box and thrown the girl off,' said David. 'As a result Lord Overton provided a sum of money to build a pillar box which would blend into the surroundings and not frighten passing horses.'

Quarried

As he was the local mason David Wilson was given the job and stone was quarried and transported to the site to allow him to start work.

'I expect my great-grandfather would have enjoyed the theories and admiration of his work throughout the last 130 years,' said David.

'The markings are, of course, not Celtic runes but simply masons' marks which were stamped on their tools for identification purposes when chisels were sent to the blacksmith for sharpening.'



Stuart McNicol Wilson, Craig Wilson, Duncan Wilson and Scott Wilson standing on the bridge in Blackwaterfoot built by their forbearers.

Kilmory SWRI

At the meeting of Kilmory WRI on Monday 4 October, local bird expert Jim Cassels gave a most interesting and informative talk and presented a slide show of photographs from the Galapagos Islands.

Watching the wonderful photographs of the various birds and animals and their habitat on these islands was thoroughly enjoyable.

It was also great to see the ladies being joined by local friends for this open meeting.

Phyllis Picken won both the competitions for a bird ornament and an autumn leaves decoration.

The Rose Bowl for the most points won in last year's competitions was awarded to Janet Mulholland.

The next meeting will be on Monday 8 November when Gerry Arthur will give a cookery demonstration.

The competitions will be for an unusual cookery utensil and petticoat tails.

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Pictured in 1935, from left to right, Duncan Wilson - son of David Wilson the stonemason and builder of the post box - his wife Janet McNicol, his son Duncan Wilson, his wife Winifred.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Pupils spared from 'tattie' harvest

Arran has been very quiet these past two weeks, as all the locals seem to have fled the island in favour of warmer climes.

The schools on Arran are the only ones in Britain that still get a two-week October break.

Traditionally this was always the time of year when schools on the island broke-up for the 'tattie picking holidays'.

Arran's children were encouraged by farmers to take time off school to help with the potato harvest and as a result were given two weeks off.

In those days potatoes had to be gathered by the back-breaking method of working 'stints' behind the 'potato spinner' that dug the potatoes out of the ground and scattered them on the surface to be gathered into baskets before loading them on a trailer.

The more hands the better in those days! Indeed, larger-scale potato growers used to hire farm-workers with large families for just that reason.

During the war years they got help from prisoners of war. The best workers were the Germans and the Italians.

Fortunately those days of gathering potatoes by hand are more or less a thing of the past, and they are now harvested by monstrous machines capable of lifting two hundred tons a day.

Without that mechanised progress Scotland's potato harvest would probably never be gathered as there is no way most folk would spend a day bent over double, gathering them by hand.

The once labour-intensive potato crop has survived because it is a staple food and worthy of mechanisation.

But inevitably as times and attitudes changed, the education authorities objected to the children working in the fields on the grounds that it affected their education.

After much conflict between both farmers and the authorities over the issue, and the raising of the minimum age for employment (education authorities argued for 14 while farmers argued for 12), the tattie holiday remained in place but youngsters were no longer needed in the field.

It is hard to imagine many of Arran's youngsters today, queuing at farm gates early in the morning ready for a day of back-breaking labour in the fields.

For families that are tied up throughout the summer months with bed and breakfasts, hotels, shops and tourist attractions – the October holiday is their chance to leave the island and rest after the busy season.

So although there are some people who may argue that Arran no longer needs a two-week holiday in October, it is essential to help restore the sanity of the island's people.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!' (Isaiah 30:18)

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



Golf course incident

Sir,
We were amazed to pick up a copy of the Banner on 20 September to read letter from Mick Grazier regarding an event that took place 12 years ago in September on Machrie Golf course.

We were the group waiting on the 2nd tee while medical team were treating him and waited until the helicopter took off.

We spoke to Mick's son to

check how things were and then thought we would never hear any more about it. Good to know that Mick has made a good recovery.

Mick, apologies accepted.

Ken & Katrina McKinlay
c/o Machrie Schoolhouse

Birthday fund for stone seat

Sir,
The Lady Jean Fforde's 90th birthday approaches.

The time is coming when it

will be required to close the fund account and to commission Tim Pomeroy to proceed with the making of the gift of a circular stone seat to be presented by the community of Arran to Lady Jean in recognition of her lifelong interest in and love of the island and her patronage of many local organisations.

The plan is to present the design in the form of a drawing or model upon Lady Jean's 90th birthday in November and that the seat will be in-

stalled in the grounds of Brodick Castle in the spring of next year where it can be enjoyed also by any visitor to the castle or grounds.

This is a reminder, therefore, to anyone who may still wish to be associated with this gift that they may contribute to the 90th Birthday Fund in the Bank of Scotland, Brodick.

Yours,
Ken Thorburn
Administrator
Brodick Castle



Jackson Carlaw MSP is pictured, left, with Baroness Margaret Thatcher and Lord Forsyth at the dinner held to mark 30 years since Mrs Thatcher was elected Prime Minister.

Jackson Carlaw addresses local Conservative Club

Jackson Carlaw, the Tory MSP for the West of Scotland, was the guest of honour at the Arran Branch of the Conservative and Unionist Party's annual lunch on Friday afternoon.

Held at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot, numbers were down slightly on last year due to work and holiday commitments.

Entertained

However those present were entertained by speeches from Mr Carlaw and the new Conservative candidate for Arran, Maurice Golden.

Mr Carlaw also answered questions after his speech on the

government's handling of the economic recession as well as other issues closer to home.

'The general mood, apart from the pleasure of meeting old friends again - many from the mainland - was a mixture of determination and optimism, despite the difficulties ahead which will have to be toled,' said Margaret Godfrey, secretary of the organisation.

'Altogether it was an enjoyable afternoon, enhanced by the Raffle for which we must thank our very generous donors.

'Thanks also go to the staff at the Kinloch Hotel who always cater so well to our needs.'

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Bedroom of Glenisle Hotel

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in Whiting Bay. A delivery service is available. Alex Baird are double glazing specialists, supplying windows, doors, porches and sunrooms throughout the island. Howdens Joinery Services offer wholesale supplies of kitchens, bathrooms, flooring and household appliances from their depots in Irvine, Kilmarnock and Ayr. A full interior and exterior decorating service is offered by Stevie's Décor. All your cleaning requirements can be met by Arran Cleaning Services, such as windows, gutters, carpets, cookers and pressure washing.



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The tasteful residents' lounge at Glenisle.



Intimate lounge area at Glenisle with a range of wall mirrors to reflect the light.

Bedroom overlooking the garden.



Pastel colours for a peaceful stay in this luxury suite.

Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash has just benefited from another stage in the long term improvement plans of proprietors Geoffrey and Timothy who are proud to have been working with local Arran trades and craftsmen. An imaginative and sympathetic new lighting system has been installed throughout the hotel to show the superb interior decorations off at their very best. The exposed sandstone walls positively glow in the ambient light and the walls are adorned with a multitude of paintings from Arran Art Gallery in Whiting Bay. Armitage Groundworks have carried out project management, building work and joinery. Building and roofing work was done by John Corbett Construction. Other specialised joinery work has been done by

Andy Surrige of Baroque Woodwork, Donald Schofield and Nicol Bunyan. The Curtain House in Lamlash has supplied blinds and curtains and television cabling has been undertaken by Arran Electrical and Refrigeration. Paintwork and interior decorations have been carried out by Fulton Decorators. David Boyle Electrical and Norrie MacIntyre plumbing have been involved in the second stage of work over last winter, as have Liberty Networks with internet cabling. Skips and building materials throughout the renovations were supplied by John Thomson Construction. The garden was not forgotten, with Alistair Paul completing garden design, hanging baskets and plantings.

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Rear of the Millhill bungalow facing Lamash Bay.

John Thomson Construction is currently completing a new six-house development at Millhill off Bungalow Road in Lamash. The two-bedroom bungalows have views over the rooftops to Lamash Bay and Holy Isle. One of them

has been kitted out as a show house with fittings and carpets of the highest standard. Carpets and furniture has been supplied by County Carpets of Whiting Bay and curtains and blinds are from The Curtain House, Lamash.



A view of Holy Isle from the kitchen window of number 10, Millhill.

The well-equipped kitchen at Millhill.



Bathroom with white suite.



Ensuite shower room off master bedroom.



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Local community workshops to look at Council's way ahead

Only community groups invited to have an input to Council consultation

North Ayrshire Council is holding a series of workshops on Arran next Tuesday in Brodick Hall. But these are solely for members of community groups. Senior council officers will give an outline of the current

and future financial outlook for the Council, as well as discussing future service delivery. Invited guests from community groups will then attend workshops on a range of issues affecting Arran people.

One Arran resident who has a lot to say but won't be allowed entry is Donald MacKay of Brodick. He told the Banner that he had applied for a place at the workshops but because he is not a member of a community group, his opinion will not be accepted. A disgruntled Mr MacKay said: 'It's just like a secret service.'

Jim Arnold is a retired modern studies teacher from Whiting Bay and his voice won't be heard at the workshops either because he too is not in a group.

But both men have firm views on the way ahead and through the pages of the Banner are keen to encourage more local participation in local affairs.

Jim Arnold asks: 'Who will save us from North Ayrshire Council?'

He said: 'Perhaps those of us who do not have children at Whiting Bay Primary School and who did not plan to build sandcastles on Brodick beach, thought that we could smile and be amused at two of the Banner's front page articles this summer.'

'But the ineptitude that has been revealed by our local paper is a waste of all our council



Jim Arnold of Whiting Bay, taking the Council to task. b30see10

income, VAT, fuel and other taxes, because any money mis-spent by North Ayrshire comes from all of us.

'Many readers will have noticed that when the Banner tries to report a Council blunder, members and officials are always able to respond with some plausible explanation. Students of Scottish politics call this the 'wisnae me syndrome'. However, the school transport and Brodick beach blunders have happened while all the elected and official members of NAC should have been 'on watch'. I believe that it is up to all of us to call North Ayrshire to account in any way that we can.'

Jim says that the traditional point of contact is with the

local councillor or community councillor and advises people to put all thoughts on paper.

He adds: 'Anyone who sees North Ayrshire doing something badly or inefficiently should write a 'not good enough' postcard to the chief executive.'

Jim points out that this should be addressed to chief executive Elma Murray but the message should be headed 'to whom it may concern'.

By using this phrase, he says the writer is expecting that their comment will reach the blunderer. The chief executive is in a position to rap knuckles for bad work and ineffective management.

Jim said: 'All you need to get started is a stock of inexpensive postcards, 24 second class stamps and the determination to put your thoughts on paper.'

Corrie Church celebrates with a Harvest Service

The congregation of Corrie Church began their Harvest celebrations with the church supper in an autumn setting of blue and gold.

It was a most attractive setting once the candles were lit.

As always the team of helpers had been busy in preparing the church and bringing a tasty cold buffet with a huge variety of salads and sweets.

The congregation would like to thank Peter Sloan and Hugh and David McKinnon for their generosity in providing food for the evening.

The night continued with several performances; firstly with Ile Morrison's enchanting Scottish songs before Liz Lawrie recited some wonderful poetry in suitable attire with appropriate props.

Diana Hamilton then performed an entrancing Rigoletto compilation on the keyboard.

A spokesman for the congregation said: 'It was altogether a wonderful evening and Corrie Church is fortunate to have so many good friends who get great pleasure in sharing their abilities and helping to make us a vibrant force within the village. Long may it continue.'

The Harvest Service was well supported with a profusion of flowers, fruits and huge vegetables – the result of careful tillage and mulching – as well as tinned products and the staple loaves which were later distributed to the sick and aged.



Golden Wedding celebrations for Mike and Nan

Mike and Nan Meteyard of Glenn House, Brodick, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary recently with friends at the Kildonan Hotel.

The couple who used to own the Lagg Hotel celebrated 50 years of marriage with their family and then met with friends at the Tuesday Lunch Club at the Kildonan Hotel.

Nan wore an attractive royal blue dress that her mother had worn at her own golden wedding.

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Walk your way round Whiting Bay

Around 20 enthusiastic local volunteers took part in Whiting Bay's first week of a walking work party.

At Sunday's brief meeting Anne Cruickshank maps were distributed showing all the paths and walks in the village. The walkers identified their chosen walks and set off armed with forms to fill in and litter pickers and bin bags where necessary.

Co-ordinator Barbara I'Anson said: 'We looked to identify all aspects of the footpaths and walks from signs to the path surface, ditches, trees and fences also to include litter, dog mess and Japanese Knotweed.'

Information

'We met for soup in COAST on Sunday and reports and photographs were returned providing us with a wealth of information covering all of the footpaths and walks. In addition to the reports the Golf

Club Path and the Fairy Glen have had extensive clearing work undertaken.

'Our next action is to undertake all the recommendations we can attend to ourselves, and refer relevant findings and requests to the council. We will hold an open meeting and draw up a plan of action.'

The weather was almost perfect throughout the week and made the walks undertaken a real pleasure. The Improvements and Arran Access Trust will meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss upgrading paths.

The group will be producing a map showing all the paths and forestry walks in Whiting Bay and districts which will be graded and colour-coded to identify the accessibility and ease of the walks.

This map will be for sale as a decorative wall chart, dish-towel and a handy pocket map. It is intended that the proceeds

from the sales of these items will provide an ongoing fund to be reinvested in continuous path maintenance and upgrading. They will also be applying for grants for some of the footpath projects.

Attraction

Barbara added: 'Family treasure trails running from next Easter to October will complete the plans for our promotion of 'Walk Your Way round Whiting Bay'. We recognize these walks as a huge asset to our village for our community access and enjoyment and a major attraction for tourism.'

'Thank you to everyone who took part and to those who continue to help maintain our footpaths throughout the year we are very appreciative of all your hard work.'

If you would like to get involved with Whiting Bay Improvements contact Liz Kennedy on 700552.



The volunteer path clearers relax in COAST after their exertions.



Mrs Rayner, at Archie's spot next to the old plough at Balmichael. b42are02

Archie spotted by the Rayners of Troon

Nigel Rayner of Troon went one step further when he sent in a response to the Where's Archie feature in last week's Banner.

As well as identifying that Archie was sitting at the entrance to Balmichael Visitor Centre, he has sent us a photo of his wife, taken at the same spot while they were here on holiday.

Nigel said: 'Archie is sitting in the grass by the old plough. It looks to me that Archie has surreptitiously turned the front wheel so that you can't see the broken part of it, hidden in the grass. He is only three yards from the main road and is looking in the direction of the bus coming from Blackwaterfoot to take him back to Brodick.'

'I am attaching a photograph of the very same plough, with my wife at the handles. You can see the bit of broken wheel which I think Archie has turned to look as though it is intact!'

For our more agricultural readers, we realise that the implement is actually a harrow and not a plough.

Livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 4,013 store lambs and feeding sheep at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday.

Arran prices:

Texel cross lambs: Moor £59.50, Craigraineach and Marganaish £57, Sheddock £50, Whin £57.50.

Suffolk cross lambs: Craigraineach £60.50, Sheddock £57, Whin £54, Swallowbrae £47.

Mule lambs: South Feorline £54.50, Marganaish £51.50, Whin £46.

Blackface lambs: Marganaish £49, Glenkiln £43.50.

Cross ewes: South Feorline £51.50.

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Graeme Johnston.

Arran Youth Foundations prepare for relaunch

Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) are relaunching their activities for the winter season on Friday 22 October.

The organisation's youth work activities will restart on the Friday night from 7pm until 9pm. Based in the green cabin behind Brodick bowling green, the charity will kick off their winter programme with a drop-in party night, with all young people welcome. Weather permitting; there may even be a barbecue! New youth worker Graeme Johnston said: 'The first night will be a great chance for me to meet the island's young people, so I can't wait.'

'I've been told that last time we did a launch night the barbecue was lit and around 50 youngsters turned up, so I'll do my utmost to get one fired up! If not then pizzas and sausage rolls will be in order. It should be great fun.' Following on from the launch night, AYF will run activity nights out of the cabin every Friday. 'Our long-term plan is to have a youth centre organised and run by a core group of dedicated young people, with them making decisions about the activities,' explained Graeme.

'To start us off, I've penned in a winter programme to show them the possibilities - games, quiz nights, Astroturf sessions, arts and crafts, music.'

'I'll even get them making fruit smoothies!'

Family begin search for grandfather's paintings

The search has begun to find a painting by an Arran artist that his family have not seen for 15 years.

Susan Prewitt from Coventry and her cousin Ian Hawks who lives on Arran are trying to find a painting by their grandfather, Thomas McGowan.

Thomas grew up in the house that is now The Ormidale Hotel in Brodick but he was living in Whiting Bay when he died 15 years ago.

The picture the family are looking for depicts some lilies grown by Thomas' father and his grandchildren believe it may be sitting in the attic of a house in Whiting Bay.

Buried

'My grandfather Thomas McGowan died 15 years ago and is buried in Lamlash,' said Susan. 'He was an artist who painted a number of pictures I have photographs of.'

After Thomas' death, Susan's step-grandmother Louisa McGowan moved to the McKelvie Road sheltered housing in Lamlash.

While there, Susan was able to photograph the works that depicted a boat, a portrait of a lady who is believed to be a prime minister's wife and the picture of the lilies that they are seeking.

'The picture of the lilies is of one of the flowers my great-grandfather cultivated on the island when he worked as a gardener in the house that is now The Ormidale Hotel in Brodick,' said Susan.

'We have been led to believe that this lily won an award at the London Flower show and the date on the picture is 1922 so it must have been around then.'



Thomas McGowan, far right, is photographed as a young boy with his family in the grounds of The Ormidale Hotel, Brodick.

Thomas McGowan and his wife Louisa lived in a cottage in Whiting Bay until his death.

After losing touch with Louisa's niece who dealt with her affairs over the years they no longer have any idea where their grandfather's paintings are.

Remember

'Ian and I would love to know if anyone on Arran knows of the whereabouts of these paintings or even if they are still on the island,' said Susan. 'I'm sure many people will remember Tom and his sky blue Skoda. It would mean so much to us if we could find the picture of the lilies in particular.'

If anyone thinks they know the whereabouts of Thomas McGowan's lily painting please contact The Arran Banner.



Thomas' father's lilies on display at the London Flower Show in 1922.

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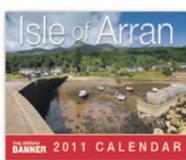


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Gaelic days to be held in Lamlash

Na h-Arainnich, the island's Gaelic club, is holding a series of open days for all those interested in the language, beginning on October 23 in the Youth Centre behind the High School in Lamlash.

Whether you are already learning Gaelic or are a complete beginner - or even fluent native speakers- everyone is

very welcome to attend.

The event is free of charge and begins at 11am and finishes at 2pm.

There will be a short break for lunch (which is not provided, though coffee and tea will be on tap).

The programme follows on a successful first series of Gaelic days held earlier this year.

These were well attended, and went down well with those present.

The activities included conversation - general and in groups graded by level attained- but also fun and games, including a popular Gaelic bingo session and an opportunity to listen to and join in Gaelic songs with the local Waulking Song group.

It is intended to repeat this successful pattern with additional activities as ideas occur

and suggestions from participants will be welcomed.

It is hoped that the first event in October will be followed by others each month until April, with a series of six in all.

However, people are welcome to come and go as and when they please, informality is of the essence - and don't worry, there will be very little in the way of formal grammar!

Thigibh thugainn, bidh fàilte chridheil oirbh!



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Tel: 700393

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Migration - Bird Brain?

It is a fascinating time of year to be watching birds

The arrival and departure of different kinds of birds in the spring and the autumn is a phenomenon that has fascinated people from the earliest time. At this time of year, millions of birds in the northern hemisphere are moving south. The reduction in numbers of Swallows and House Martins around our villages as they head off, in some cases to

Bird Notes
by Jim Cassels

South Africa, is a sign of approaching winter. Thousands of birds from many different species are moving through Arran. Some are just passing through, but others like Greylag Geese, Wigeon and Purple



Greylag Geese will stay here over the winter.

Sandpipers that have been breeding to the north of us, will stay over the winter. It is a fascinating time of year to be watching birds. How birds find their way

year after year from one part of the world to another is one of life's mysteries. Think about it for a moment. What do birds need to do this?

Obviously they need to be able to fly. Their body mass needs to be such, that they can become airborne. Light as a feather is an appropriate expression. Birds also have exceptional respiratory, cardiovascular and metabolic systems.

These ensure that the wing muscles are well supplied with oxygen and energy rich fuel and that the waste products are removed preventing the cramps so familiar to exercising humans.

Compared with humans, birds are much more effective at getting oxygen out of the air into their systems.

To achieve this, as well as lungs, birds have lots of air sacs in the thorax in the abdomen, between the skin and body walls and within the bones.

In addition to these physical attributes, birds need to know where they are, where they need to be, a sense of direction, an ability to navigate from one place to another and

a sense of changing season and of changing day.

In fact they need the equivalent of a map, a compass, calendar and clock, together with a good memory, all packed into a brain that in some birds is no bigger than a pea. The expression bird brain has a different meaning in the context of migration!

As you reflect on where the Swallows have gone that so recently were swooping round your garden or hear the sound of migrating geese overhead, I hope you will agree that the natural phenomenon of migration truly is a wonder.

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



Swallows departing are one of the first signs of winter approaching.

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

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Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles

and **THE ARRAN TEAM**,
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Tel: 01770 303113 Email: help@thearranteam.co.uk www.thearranteam.co.uk

If you think you know then post your answer on the website
www.arranbanner.co.uk
Or email us at:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was sitting at the entrance to Balmichael Visitor Centre on the String Road. First correct were Nigel from Troon, Jamie from Aberdeen, Ann from Blackwaterfoot, Judith from Crewe and Fiona of Lochranza. This week he is next to a large boulder, but where is that plaque?
02_b42arc01

Whats On

ISLE OF

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EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery Monday to Saturday - 1pm to 4pm or by appointment
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank
 Hawk Walks Lamlash
 Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom. (except Fridays) 11am - 4pm
 Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily 9am - dusk

SATURDAY 16th OCTOBER

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm

SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
 Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Folk Session Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Quiz PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 BBQ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 1pm - 7pm

MONDAY 18th OCTOBER

Over 50's Badminton Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
 Ladies Netball High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games Ormidale Park, 6pm
 Junior Basketball (P1 - P7) Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym
 BreathWalk Class Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
 Quiz Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
 Sannox Cricket Club AGM Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm
 Arran Antiquarians "A Dream Come True" Brodick Hall, 2pm

TUESDAY 19th OCTOBER

Lochranza Swimming Club Kinloch 11am - 12pm
 Army Cadets Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
 Rotary Club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
 Junior Hockey Club Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm



Open Music Session
 Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up
 Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
 Country Dancing
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Indoor Bowls

WEDNESDAY 20th OCTOBER

Hockey Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
 Tae Kwondo KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30pm - 8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
 Country/ Blues session Ormidale. 9.30pm
 Selt Making Class Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
 Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
 Yoga for Every Body 10am - 11.30am
 Senior Badminton High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
 Museum, Archives & Geneology Service 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
 Yogalates 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
 Circuit Training Outdoor Green Gym, Auchrannie 6pm - 7pm
 Friends of Brodick Castle "Arran Ranger Service" Ranger Centre, 7.30pm
 Arran Elderly Forum (speaker John Rankin) Ormidale Pavilion 11am

THURSDAY 21st OCTOBER

General Knowledge Quiz The Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Lochranza Craft Club Hall, 2pm
 Coffee Morning St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
 Table Tennis Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
 Youth Club Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Brodick Bridge Club Golf Clubhouse
 Athletics High School Games Hall, 4.45pm - 6pm
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym
 Ladies Night Bar Eden, Whiting Bay
 Pilates 6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio
 Pub Quiz Kinloch Hotel, 9pm
 Wee Blether Soup & Sandwiches Whiting Bay Hall, 12pm - 1.30pm
 Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
 Yogalates 10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
 DJ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am
 Seniors Badminton (Over 50) Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group Brodick Church Hall, 8pm - 10pm

SATURDAY 23rd OCTOBER

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm
 Traditional Ceilidh Brodick Village Hall, 7.30pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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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 5 November 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: 10/00636/PP Address: Site To South Of Bellevue Cottage, Mid Mayish, Brodict, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development: Erection of dwelling house with linked garage and external parking bays
Application No: 10/00635/PP Address: Springwell Cottage, Whiting Bay, Brodict, Isle Of Arran KA27 8RQ Proposed Development: Erection of extension to rear of semi-detached dwelling house
Application No: 10/00644/PP Address: Gicoeca Clauchlands Road, Lamlash Brodict, Isle Of Arran KA27 8LH Proposed Development: Installation of patio doors and formation of decking to front of detached dwelling house

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (MIDDLE ROAD, WHITING BAY, ISLE OF ARRAN) (STOPPING UP) ORDER 2009

NOTICE is hereby given that The Scottish Ministers have on 28 September 2010 in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Paragraph 8(4) of Schedule 16 to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf confirmed without modification The North Ayrshire Council (Middle Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran) (Stopping Up) Order 2009 stopping up the road described in the Schedule hereto.
A copy of the Order as confirmed and relative plan showing the length of road to be stopped up have been deposited at the office of Corporate Services (Legal), The North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE and at Arran Local Office, Council Offices, Shore Road, Lamlash, Brodict, Isle of Arran where they are available for inspection free of charge during normal office hours.
The Order as confirmed comes into operation on 15 October 2010 being the date on which this Order is first publicised but a person aggrieved by the Order may in accordance with the provisions in Section 238 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, by application to the Court of Session within six weeks from that date, question its validity on the ground that it is not within the powers conferred by Part IX of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 or that his interests have been substantially prejudiced by a failure to comply with any requirement of the said Part IX or any regulations made thereunder.
Patrick J Boyle, Manager Legal Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE, 6 October 2010

Schedule
That section of Middle Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran situated generally to the east of Golf Course Road and to the west of the A841 public road, subject to a right of pedestrian access being retained along the full length of the road to be stopped up.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The three island practices are now running their seasonal flu vaccination programme for patients who are 65 and over, or who have a serious medical condition such as lung and heart problems, diabetes, kidney disease or who have a lowered immune system

Brodict Medical Practice Open Flu Clinics

Wednesday 20th October 9.30 – 12noon & 1.30 – 4pm
Wednesday 27th October 2.00 – 4.00pm
(no appointment required)

If you cannot attend any of these clinics phone 302175 for an appointment with the nurse

Lamlash Medical Centre – Phone 600516 for appointment with nurse
Shiskine Surgery – Phone 860247 for appointment with nurse

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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 17 October
Shiskine, 11am

Sunday School in the Church Hall
(Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)

Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)

Rev David Karoon
All Welcome, Tel:860426

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 17 October
Harvest Festival

Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.

Parish lunch after service.
Wednesday, 20 October

Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(SCO15072)

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

Sunday 17 October
Rev Gillean Laclea

Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am

In both churches:

All welcome, including families; children's area

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 17 October
Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 7pm
13 Glen Avenue, Brodick

Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 20th, 7pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.

Ormidale Pavilion
Brodick.

Sunday 17 October
10.45 - Communion

Tea and Coffee from 11.10am
11.30am - For all the family

Speaker: Rev Willie Wright
Everyone very welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick,
Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirmill and Shiskine.

Independent but working together.

Minister

Rev Angus Adamson.

Parish Asst

Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches



Lamlash Golf Club

The Arran October holiday period has once again affected the turnout.

Results: Thursday October 7 first of the nine-hole competitions, 12 participated.

One magic two from Q J Young.

Scratch D.MacFarlane with 32. First D MacFarlane 32-5=31.5, second I Murchie 35-2=33

Sunday October 10 Stableford 10 played CSS 64. Two magic twos from D Robertson and N Stewart. Scratch N Stewart on 68 bih.

First Drew Wales on 38 points, second I Murchie on 36 points.

Fixtures: Every Thursday in October, 9 hole competition first two front nine, last two back nine.

Sunday 17 October Glenburn Cup.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results: Sunday October 10. No sooner have we got the Summer Trophy out of the way than we are playing the first round of the Winter Cup with the best three scores out of a possible six to count. A tricky wind pushed the CSS up to 66 with only one player getting below that mark.

Graeme Crichton (17) 63, Gordon Provan (10) 66 BIH, John Pennycott (11) 66. Nicol Auld won scratch with 70 and there were magic twos from Graeme Crichton and David Morrison.

Fixtures: Sunday 17 October, Hamilton Salver, Sunday 24 October, Taylor Trophy (Greensome).

Whiting Bay Ladies

Just four ladies took part in the monthly medal held on Sunday 10 October. In second place was Ge Ge Kroner with a net 68 (26). The winner was Lynn Walker with a net 65 (19). Scratch also went to Lynn with 84.

Brodick Golf Club

Results: Sunday October 10, Sweep, 25 played, CSS 64. 1 A Hume (10) 59, 2 D Robertson (16) 61, 3 G Robertson (8) 64. Scratch A Hume 69.

There were five twos, A Hume got two, G Hendry, D Hendry and A Robertson got the rest. The second round of this years Winter Cup was held on Wednesday 6 October.

Thirteen turned up on a damp morning but only 11 decided to brave the elements with the forecasters getting it right again and drying up into a pleasant afternoon. Scoring was reasonable with Dougie Robertson in first place with a 75-15=60 and Charlie (I never win anything) O'Neil second with 80-18=62.

There were no magic twos, so its a roll over.

Fixtures: Sunday 17 October, Winter Cup, open draws at 8.30am and 1pm. Sunday 24 October, Clochen-dichter.

Corrie Golf Club

Results: Saturday 2 October, Captain's Prize, 21 played, Stableford, 37 points to bogey. 1 E cannon 39 points, 2 E McKinnon 38, 3 S Beardsley 36 BIH. There were twos from A McDonald, E McKinnon, E Cannon and S Beardsley.

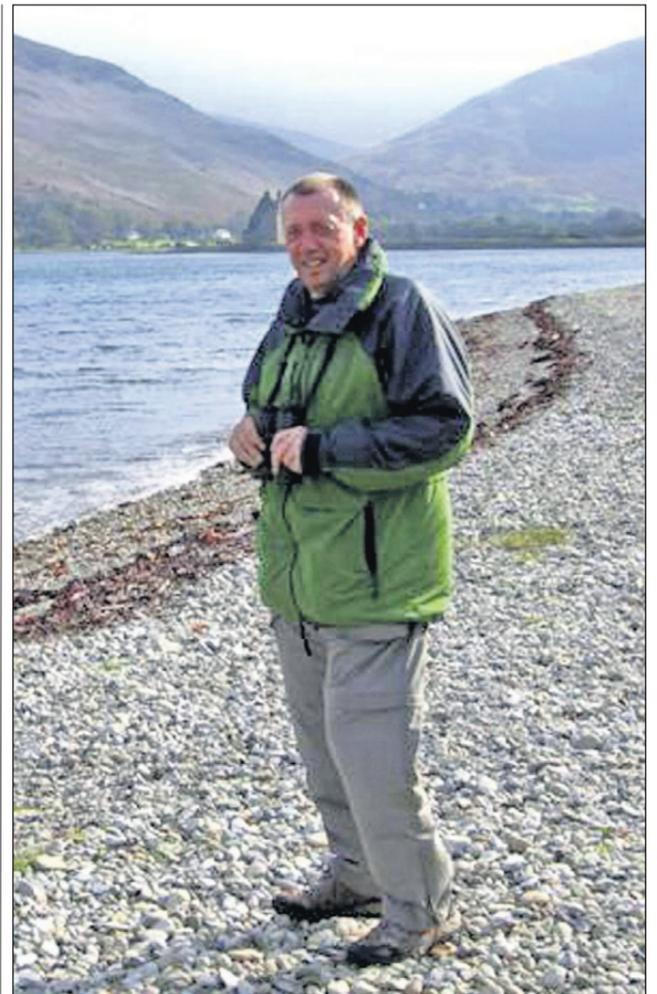
Winner of the Captain's Prize was Eddie Cannon. Captain's thanks to Pablo and David for the excellent condition of the course, J Kerr for organising nearest-the-pin, and to all who turned out as well as Steve and Lindsay in the tearoom.

Monday 4 October, Monday Cup and Gerry Pot from yellow tees, 16 played. 1 P Moran 75-19=56, 2 B Paul 78-18=60, 3 E Cannon 79-17=62. There were twos from T Cotton, J McGovern, L Hartley. Winner of Gerry Pot was W Paul.

Saturday 9 October, Sweep (medal), 13 played. 1 B Rooney 73-15=58, 2 J McGovern 71-8=63, 3 HB McKinnon 75-12=63, Best Scratch A Napier 69. There were twos from S Beardsley, D Logan, D Wilkinson and B Rooney.

Monday 11 October, Monday Cup from yellow tees, 16 played. 1 T Cotton 77-19=58 BIH, 2 J McGovern 66-8=58 BIH, 3 D Wilkinson 73-15=58 BIH over H McArthur. There were magic twos from J McGovern, W Paul and H Macarthur.

Fixtures: Saturday 16 October, Medal Sweep, 8.30am and 1pm (12.50pm). Monday 18 October, Monday Cup at 12pm (11.50pm).



Bob Swann on the shore of Loch Ranza last week.

Full house at Ranger Centre for Bob's bird atlas talk

There was a full house at the Ranger Centre last Thursday when Bob Swann gave an excellent presentation on 'Mapping Scotland's and Arran's Birds' at the monthly meeting of Arran Natural History Society.

Bob is the Scottish Organiser of the national BirdAtlas 2007 to 2011 project.

He travelled all the way from his home in Tain in the north of Scotland to talk to the meeting which with around 50 people present was around one of the best attended in recent years.

He put bird atlases in context providing a fascinating insight into the status of a range of birds in Scotland and in Arran using a series of maps that depict patterns of distribution of birds in both the breeding and wintering periods.

For the casual birdwatcher, bird atlases provide an indication of what can be seen where - indeed they are the basis of distribution maps in bird books. For the scientist they provide a means of understanding the processes shaping bird communities and the factors limiting bird distributions. And for the conservationist they provide indications of changes in distribution that might be indicative of wider issues.

Bob indicated how factors such as land use changes, cli-

mate change and even garden feeding are having quite an impact on the distribution of our birds, with some showing marked increases in their range and others major declines.

He outlined how easy it was to get involved and finished by encouraging everyone to submit their sightings of all the birds that they recognise, including those of common birds.

For more information on how to help locally, contact Jim Cassels, the bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society. james.cassels@virgin.net

On the Friday morning before heading home in the afternoon Bob, on his first visit to Arran, was able to get a taste of the range of habitats and bird species that can be enjoyed on Arran from the raptors over the hills to the divers on the sea in the company of Jim Cassels.

Next indoor meeting is on Thursday 4 November at 8pm in the Rangers Centre when Jim Cassels will talk about the bird life of New Zealand under the title 'New Zealand's Third Island'. All welcome

Next outdoor meeting is on Sunday 7 November with a bird walk round Pirmill and Penrioch. Meet at 10am at the north end of Pirmill. All welcome.

DEATH

ELLIS

Richard Hugh (Toby) passed peacefully away on Thursday 7th October 2010 at Bonaer Nursing Home, Hayle, Cornwall. Loving Dad of Becca, Polly, Helen and Anna, Grandpa of Luzmilla, Mathilda, Tom and Hugh.

A private family celebration of Toby's life will take place.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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WEDDING

McCormick/Murdo



Married in sunshine at the top of Dunfion on 25th September by Humanist Celebrant Marilyn Jackson were Cara Murdo of Dunfion and Dr Andrew McCormick of Kilmarnock. At present the couple are honeymooning in New Zealand, before returning to Edinburgh where they both live.

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Dramatic finish as Iain wins Yacht Club championship

Arran has a new dinghy champion this year, who emerged on a day of high family drama that involved a father and his two sons.

In an unusually close call, three helms were positioned to win at the start of racing last Saturday, the final sailing day of the season.

Former champion Angus Campbell, who set the championship alight in the early summer, was unable to sail on the day, but had only failed to sew things up in his favour by recording a single disqualification in July.

Iain Hunter entered the final three races with six 'firsts' against the five 'firsts' held by his sons, the 'dynamic duo' Rory and Neil Hunter.

Ominously for Iain, however, all his wins were recorded before the middle of August. The Hunter boys, on the other hand, recorded all their wins in their flying 420 after the

middle of August, reflecting a stunning lift in form over the season.

Racing took place in fantastic conditions with a fresh southerly at force 4/5.

The first two races resulted in convincing wins for the rampant young Hunters. Entering the last race (now with seven 'firsts' to six in their favour) they were entitled to feel confident of overall victory.

However, misfortune - and then disaster - were to strike.

Uncharacteristically, they capsized on a long fast gusty reach, and were aware of damaging the 420's centreboard in getting upright again.

The full implication of this wasn't clear until they rounded the next mark.

The fierce shearing forces involved in a hard beat damaged the centreboard beyond repair. They were forced to retire.

All Iain then had to do was to win!

Having been second in the previous two races, this might have seemed a formality. Gus Macleod, gaining familiarity and confidence with Colin Nisbet's new Ovington/Speed Albacore, had other ideas, however, and came within just 11 seconds of an upset!

Of the 29 races held from May to October, 11 were counted towards the championship.

A first place counts as 3/4 points, second place two points, third place three points, etc. The champion is the helm with the lowest aggregate score. In event of a tie there is a 'count back'.

Iain Hunter had one more second place than Rory in this process. Seven helms raced often enough to register in the process.

1 I Hunter (Laser) 13 3/4 points, 2 R Hunter (420) 13 3/4 points, 3 A Campbell (GP14) 17 1/2 points, 4 G MacLeod (GP14) 21 points, 5 G Hamill (Laser) 28 1/2 points, 6 J Leckey (Laser) 38 points, 7 M Kerr (Albacore) 45 points.



Neil and Rory Hunter lost their chance of winning the championship after they uncharacteristically capsized on a long fast gusty reach.

Arran under 18s lose out to Whitecraigs

Whitecraigs 29 Arran 19
Arran's under 18s rugby team travelled to Paisley on Saturday with a squad of only 10

men for a friendly game with the Whitecraigs junior team.

Unfortunately due to the October school holidays and

injuries, the island team took only 10 men but as Whitecraigs had a large squad of 22, they were able to give Arran some players so that a 15-a-side game could go ahead. Paisley/Whitecraigs started the game very strongly and found themselves 24-0 up at half time.

But full credit to the Arran team they never let their heads go down and were determined to raise their performance in the second half. And so they did, by reducing the final score to 29-19 to Whitecraigs.

The return match is on Saturday 23 October, and the Arran boys believe that with a full

squad and players back from injury they could win the game. Arran's Man of the Match was Christopher 'Babbies' McNeil, for his tenacity in and around the ruck area and all round performance. The squad on the day included Robbie Bayne, Ian Bayne, Peter Sell, Alexander McNeil, Charlie Boal, Donald McEachern, Chris McNeil, Beau Gray, Ciaran McMaster and Ryan Boal with the water boys, Stuart McMaster and Liam Boal. This Saturday the team are playing at home against Greenock Wanderer's U18s. The game kicks off at 2pm, please come along and support the team.



The Arran junior rugby team pictured in the summer.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 11 October were as follows: N/S T Martin/A Bilsland -1070, 2 H Boyd/J Murchie -1780, 3 L Trickett/M McGill -3140. E/W 1 B Livingstone/M Gardner +3900, 2 E Sillars/J McBride +2850, 3 D and M Bruce +2740.

Brodict Bridge Club

The results from October 7 N/S 1 T Martin and D Hamilton +630, 2 M Cumming and J McArthur +150, 3 H Boyd and E Paul -680.

E/W 1 D Bruce and D Scobie +2200, 2 A Bilsland and E Duncan +920, 3 I McArthur and E McKellar +190.

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