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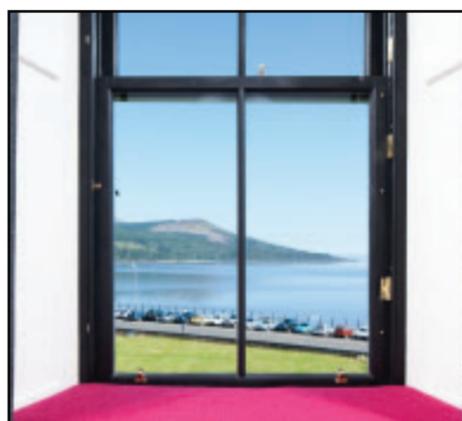
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Arran's Weekly Newspaper **SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2012** No 1879 59p

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Now offering intimate corporate facilities, why not pop in and see what the hotel can offer you and your business? Since opening it's doors in May 2011, The Douglas Hotel team have worked hard to return the hotel to it's former status on Arran and into the hearts of the local Arran people. The team at The Douglas Hotel are extremely proud of the hotel's heritage and of it's close associations with the Arran community.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



Locally owned, and family run, The Douglas Hotel is once again the pride of the island.

Arran's Douglas Hotel wins industry 'Oscar' prize

The Douglas Hotel picked up one of the country's most prestigious accolades in May when it was chosen as The New Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards in Glasgow.

Gold Laurel

Owner Sean Henry flew in especially from his new home in Marbella, Spain, for the black tie event to see The Douglas also win a Gold Laurel for Out-

standing Achievement for the multi-million pound restoration of the hotel and a Bedroom Design Gold Medal.

Sean said: 'This is an extremely prestigious award – great recognition for Arran and for The Douglas.'

Now in its ninth year the Scottish Hotel Awards aim to recognise exceptional achievement in the Scottish hotel industry.

The event has gained exposure to the extent that it is now recognised at the must-attend night for hoteliers and caterers from all over Scotland.

Accolades

Nominations for the accolades take place throughout the year with thousands of people from both inside and outside the industry voting for their winners.

Can you name the best suite on Arran?

The Douglas Hotel picked up a Gold Award for Bedroom Design, and in recognition of this they have decided to invite Arran Banner readers to name one of their suites, which have some of the best views that the island has to offer.

Stunning views

Staff are looking for locals to suggest a name for the suite, which has

stunning views of Brodick Bay - at the moment it only has a number.

Can you think of an unusual or striking name for the suite shown below?

Send your entries to The Douglas Hotel in Brodick, douglas@thedouglashotel.co.uk, by 31 October. The winner of this will receive a weekend for two in the suite for use before 31 March 2013.



International flair brings The Douglas kitchen to life

When the new Douglas Hotel opened its doors in 2011 chef Gregg Russell was the perfect choice to head up the kitchen.

Already living on the island, and with an impressive CV, he was a natural choice for the new venture.

Now firmly established at The Douglas Hotel, Gregg's cooking style is very much in harmony with the hotel's ethos of rustic-chic combined with a refreshing simplicity which nevertheless belies serious intent, and with his years of cruising he brings an additional international flair to his cooking.

'Because the cruise ships were boutique, we got to spend time in some really interesting ports where I loved being able to explore the local markets and learn more about authentic local cuisine,' Gregg told The Banner.

Amongst his signature dishes you will find a rather delicious 'Grilled Chateaubriand Espatada, Sea Salt Fries and Dressed Salad'.

'What's the point of serving up another steak when, with a little imagination, you can make it much more exciting?' Gregg explains, whose dish was inspired by a traditional Portuguese recipe picked up on his travels.

Aromatic

Typically made with large chunks of beef rubbed in salt, garlic and other aromatic herbs, skewered onto a bay tree branch and served with garlic butter and rustic chunks of farmhouse style bread, Gregg approached Kiscadale Forge to make some bespoke metal skewers and stands to incorporate the bay leaf theme.

With a new delicious winter menu now being

served in the Bistro, now is the time to go and savour Gregg's cooking for yourself.

The hotel now also has a perfectly crafted children's menu to make any dining experience at The Douglas special for the whole family.



Arran offers the opportunity for Head Chef Gregg Russell to cook with some of the finest local products.

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MSP's calendar ignores Arran

'Is Mr Gibson trying to tell us something'

REPORT
by **JENNIFER LYON**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A free calendar distributed by Arran's MSP has been criticised for not including a single picture of the island.

The 15-month calendar was produced and distributed by Kenneth Gibson, the MSP for Cunninghame North, which includes Arran.

The glossy 32 pages feature 15 photographs of some of North Ayrshire's most stunning views but not one has been taken on the island.

One constituent told The Banner that many people had commented on the oversight.

He said: 'Arran comprises almost 50 per cent of the landmass of North Ayrshire and yet there isn't one photo taken on the island.'

'It's interesting to see two from the Blair Estate in Dalry, four of Largs and two of Portencross but the closest picture to Arran is one of the marina at Ardrossan.'

'Is Mr Gibson trying to tell us something?'

The MSP told The Banner that Arran is not the only Cunninghame North community missing from the calendar.

'The calendar doesn't feature Barrmill, Beith, Kilbirnie - where I live - Millport, Skelmorlie or West Kilbride either,' he said. 'But there is at least one background view of Arran.'

He added: 'The content and overall quality of the calendar is what is important and 98 per cent of the effort that went into this was to include information on a host of things, from dealing with scammers and Alzheimer's to how to contact local CABs, including the one on Arran.'

'If I was to produce such a calendar again, I would perhaps give more thought to the geographic spread of the photos but they were not the reason for producing it.'

'I should add that I have been contacted by many islanders who really like the calendar.'



Gen Inglis and Snowy, centre, are presented with their Pet Idol prizes by John Simmons of The Pillar Box and Jenny Lyon of The Arran Banner. 02_b42snow01

Beloved bunny wins The Banner's Pet Idol competition

Snowy voted for by the public as top island pet

Forget singing – The Arran Banner's 'Pet Idol' competition has been much more entertaining.

And at last we are able to announce the lucky winner, voted for by you the public.

Our 2012 Pet Idol is Snowy, a three-and-a-half year old dwarf rabbit from Lamlash.

Owner Gen Inglis, aged eight, was absolutely over-the-moon that her beloved pet

had won.

'I am really happy for Snowy,' said Gen. 'I think I might use my prize money to buy him a new cage. Or maybe a canoe.'

Lucky Gen won herself £100 and a fantastic goodie bag from The Pillar Box in Whiting Bay for her beloved bunny.

John Simmons of The Pillar Box, which sponsored the competition, said: 'Snowy is

a very worthy winner. I think it's great that a rabbit has won, as it's something a little bit different.'

Great success

'For me the competition has been a great success as it has helped to raise awareness of all the pet items that I have for sale here.'

'I'm really looking forward to Pet Idol 2013 now.'

The number of entries we

received for the competition – more than 100 in total from all over the island and further afield - has overwhelmed us.

They ranged from pampered pooches and cute cats to more unusual animals such as mules.

It was up to the public to vote for their favourite pet by sending in a coupon or voting by text and the final votes were counted two weeks ago.

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Energy price rises criticised

The recent decision of three of the UK's biggest energy suppliers to increase their gas and electricity prices has sparked outrage from Arran's MP.

Katy Clark MP has voiced her anger after Scottish Power announced it will be increasing its prices by around seven per cent. The move came days after British Gas announced a six per cent increase in its prices and NPower a rise of around nine per cent. A price increase previously announced by Scottish and Southern energy takes affect this month.

Ms Clark said: 'These price increases are completely unacceptable.'

These price rise announcements are the last thing families need.

This contrasts very sharply with the fortunes of the energy companies with Centrica, which owns British Gas, seeing their profits increase by 15 per cent in the first half of this year.'



A basking shark in Arran waters. b42shk01

Basking sharks around the Isle of Arran

Jackie Newman of Lamlash reports on the many seasonal sightings of basking sharks in Arran waters at the moment.

'Within 10 minutes of setting off in search of basking sharks I was rewarded with my first glimpse.

'The shores around the island seem to be alive with these mighty beasts. Although I only travelled between Machrie and round the north end as far as Sannox I saw 10 close in to shore.

'Basking sharks are the second largest fish in the world and can be up to 10 meters long and weight up to seven tonnes. They are easy to spot as they slowly meander at about three miles/fivekm an hour near the surface.

'On the surface they appear greyish brown and create a distinctive profile.

'Their large mouth can be up to a metre wide, with 5000 gill rakers that are used to strain 1.5 million litres of water an hour. They feed on plankton and very small

fish and although they have teeth are non-aggressive. 'Occasionally they are known to breach the water like whales. This is usually unexpected and caution is advised for anyone in the water near to them.

'Breaching was the cause of the last and only known fatality that occurred in the Firth of Clyde prior to the Second World War when a small boat was capsized and three people drowned. 'These fish are protected in UK waters up to 12 miles offshore, as they were previously fished to dangerously low levels for their oil and fins. Fin soup is considered a delicacy in some parts of the world! The species is still considered at risk.

Open studios visitor wins original print

One lucky visitor to the island has won himself an original print after he won the Arran Open Studios prize-draw.

Nigel Marks came to the island specially for the open studios event and coincidentally was coming back up to visit family when Josephine Broekhuizen phoned with the good news that he had won one of her prints.

He picked up the print in person, last week, along with other members of the family, declaring that he would be coming back to the Open Studios Event next year.

All the visitors to the long

weekend in August were invited to fill in data forms to help compile statistics to help procure funding for next year's event.

As well as helping organiser, Josephine, get a better idea of how widely visitors travelled to get to the open studios, it gave information about how many studios individuals managed to visit and what their reactions to the artists and artworks were - all valuable information.

These data forms were put into a hat and one was drawn to win a linocut by Arran artist and event organiser Josephine Broekhuizen.



Josephine Broekhuizen presents Arran Open Studios prize-draw winner Nigel Marks with his original print at Whiterock Studio.

Lamlash beach clean

Lamlash Improvements is preparing for an end of season 'spruce up' and they require your help.

The village's annual beach clean will take place this Sunday (October 21) in a bid to tidy up Lamlash before the winter season.

Those willing to take part should meet on the green in front of the Co-op at 12.30pm.

Pickers and bags will be supplied but people are asked to provide their own gloves.

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Defibrillator so simple that even these guys can use it

Arran's first public access defibrillator was unveiled at Kildonan Hall last week.

Now we can show the second of these amazing life-saving machines that has been attached to the front wall of the Lochranza distillery.

Fiona Laing of North Arran First Responders has taken it upon herself to get as many of these vital units around the island as possible.

She told the Banner: 'For every minute that a patient

in cardiac arrest is denied the use of a defibrillator, their chance of survival decreases by 10 percent.

'If you suspect someone has had a cardiac arrest, every second counts.

Valuable time

'First call 999 for an ambulance, then perform CPR chest compressions; it can buy valuable time until a defibrillator arrives.'

The defibrillators are battery operated and simple to use. A

recorded voice tells you exactly what to do and how to perform CPR.

Tour guides Campbell Laing and Richard Wright showed us the new machine on the outside wall at the distillery last Saturday.

They both laughed and said: 'You can caption the photo that it is so simple that even these guys can operate one!'

Fiona's ambition is to get 20 defibrillators in public places around the island.



Richard Wright and Campbell Laing with the new distillery defibrillator at Lochranza. 02_b42def01



Stormy seas signal winter's arrival

In stark contrast to the weather at the beginning of the week, high tides and stormy seas battered the island on Wednesday afternoon. Large areas of the road in Brodick and Whiting Bay were flooded as well as stretches of the road to Sannox. 01_b42bay02

Exam result performances praised

Councillors have heard about plans to keep building on some of the best exam results ever achieved by North Ayrshire pupils.

This year's exam results saw 76 per cent of fourth year pupils achieve five or more Standard Grades at general level, or equivalent awards – the strongest performance ever.

Some 42 per cent of fifth year pupils achieved one or more Highers, or equivalent awards – an improvement of 11 per cent during the past four years.

North Ayrshire Council, director of education, Carol Kirk, said: 'Performance has improved across all measures at Higher in fifth year and the results are the best ever in North Ayrshire.'

Busking Matt to appear on BBC Alba

The talent, variety and diversity of Scotland's street musicians are to be captured in a new BBC Alba series and it features an Arran musician.

Buskers, produced by BBC Gàidhlig, looks at possibly the toughest stage of all on which to learn your musical trade – on your own, on the streets.

Featured

Matt Johnston of Lamlash is one of the buskers featured in the programme that will be aired on Monday night.

Each episode delves into the lives of current and former street artists with input from

recording artists such as Eddi Reader and the busker's biggest critic and supporter, the public.

From young to, well, not so young, you can find every form of street artist, whether solo artists to full bands, fire jugglers to dancers, on the streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh. There are many reasons as to why buskers find themselves performing on the city streets, and *Buskers* is on a mission to find out why.

Buskers starts on BBC Alba on Monday 22 October at 8.30pm and each consecutive Monday thereafter.

Arran livestock prices

United Auctions had forward 2,116 store cattle, cast cows and young bulls and 8,316 prime and store lambs and cast ewes at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last week.

Arran prices: Cnoc (Texel cross) £81, Ardheinn (Texel cross) £65, Drumla (Texel cross) £50; Cosyden (Cheviot cross) £50; Lenamhor (Suffolk cross) £53.50, South Feorline (Suffolk cross) £51; Drumnaghinier (Mule) £46; Drumnaghinier (Blackface) £42; Ceither Gaoithe (Easy-care) £57.50; Drumla (Texel cross ewes) £67.50; Cosyden (Cheviot cross) £46.50; Sheddock (Blackface ewes) £35; South Feorline (Blackface ewes) £28.50.

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Lamlash SWRI - first meeting of the season

The first meeting of the season for Lamlash WRI took place on Wednesday 3 October.

President Kathleen Sowden welcomed everyone and introduced our speaker Reverend Gillean Maclean who spoke on her year as Moderator's Chaplain.

We had a lovely supper and thanks go to our evening's hostesses.

The competition and exhibit were won by Kathleen Sowden and Morag Campbell respectively.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 November at 7.30pm at Lamlash Fire Station when we will welcome Jill Jeffries and we will be painting our own plates.

Please remember to bring along £3 for craft materials.

The exhibit for the evening will be unusual teaspoons and the competition will be the best plate judged on the evening.

A warm welcome to all former and future members.

Bluegrass sound come to Lamlash

The Ballinger Family Band from Tennessee played at Lamlash Church last Sunday night, and what a treat it was to have such world-class musicians playing in our little village!

The music native to Tennessee is bluegrass, which has its roots in the music of the Scots, Irish and English who emigrated to the Appalachian Mountains on the east coast of North America in the 18th century.

The fiddle tunes in particular have the same kind of energy that you still hear at ceilidhs, you know, the kind of steady pulse and driving energy that makes it almost impossible not to tap your feet or even get up and dance.

But it's more than just the hornpipes and the jigs and the reels. There are also the songs, the ballads, the vocal harmonies and the high lonesome singing.

And then there are the

breaks, when individual band members take turns to play a solo, while the rest of the band keep the rhythm and accompaniment going.

Mom and dad (Kris and Dale Ballinger - rhythm guitar and bass) played at Lamlash Church in 2010, and the concert was extremely well received, so I was very excited to hear that they were coming back.

This year, they brought along their 26-year old son, Ethan, who played mandolin and guitar, and their 'band', Mike Whitehead on five-string banjo and fiddle.

The set list was very well put together and crossed the acoustic genres of American music, including not just bluegrass, but Texas swing, gospel and country with a bit of jazz thrown in.

Kris Ballinger's voice reminded me somewhat of Alison Krauss's, which is a compliment indeed, like a thick layer of honey on toast, with butter!

Her rhythm guitar was perfectly paced and, with the solid bass playing of husband



It was quite a treat to have The Ballinger Family Band from Tennessee play at Lamlash Church last Sunday night.

Dale, provided a solid backbone for Ethan and Mike to show off their chops on mandolin and guitar, fiddle and banjo.

Fine Example

They played a few bluegrass standards, including Eight More Miles to Louisville and Bill Monroe's Jerusa-

lem Ridge, and finished with Nine-Pound Hammer, giving the audience a fine example of what bluegrass music really is and how it should be played.

Ethan's mandolin and guitar playing was outstanding. He really got to shine when he played a tune called Sea

Minor from his CD Wish Upon a Falling Star. Mike Whitehead looked very laid back up there on the stage and gave the impression that he was playing nice and slow and easy. This is the sign of a great musician, because those banjo rolls and fiddle breaks were fast and flawless!

For me though, some of the best moments were the vocal harmonies. In one of their songs, they opened with a three-part vocal harmony for a whole verse before adding in the sweet high tones of the mandolin, and then the other instruments joined in on top. The effect was sublime.

I bought a few CDs at the end of the show and the liner notes of Mike and Ethan's CDs read like a veritable who's who of the Tennessee bluegrass scene. Truly world class!



It was a real treat to have such world-class musicians playing in Lamlash. b42ba102NO

Congratulations!

Due to the wedding of Paul & Vivien on Saturday 27th October, the hotel and leisure club will be closed.

No lunches or evening meals will be served.

The public bar will be open for drinks from midday until midnight.

Best wishes to the happy couple!

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Valdete tries out new mode of transport

Sue Davidson of Whiting Bay has been in Albania for three weeks now carrying out charity work on behalf of The Valdete Trust.

Here she has sent us an update of all she has been doing since she arrived.

Well, here I am settling into Albanian life and enjoying the hot weather.

Last Saturday, we wanted to go and visit four disabled people in a local village, called Ku. Three of them are in one family.

The physiotherapist who treats Valdete, volunteered to bring some students and come with us to visit these people to see how we can help them.

We set off at 10am not really knowing what to expect but we'd been assured that the road was 'ok'.

That's not how I'd describe it but once our journey had begun, we had no choice but to continue as there was no place to turn around.

It certainly wasn't for the faint hearted. There were huge channels and lots of loose shale, which made it difficult to keep going especially with such a steep gradient. After an hour of this tortuous journey, we saw a place to turn and the first houses of Ku came into view.

Interpreter

We needed Vali as an interpreter so we were wondering how we could continue. I decided to leave her with Liljana, the physiotherapist while I took Arber, the male student with me to the village to ask for help.

After trudging along rocky, steep paths for 15 minutes we reached the house we were going to.

Two of the women said they'd come and help, but the thought of carrying Vali in her wheelchair for that distance in that terrain, didn't exactly appeal to me.

Down on the hillside was a donkey grazing and minding his own business. The women grinned from ear to ear and disappeared down the hill to return 10 minutes later with the animal complete with seat.

When I say seat, it's rather basic, made of local wood by the owner and fastened on with cotton straps which didn't look particularly strong.

I didn't think Vali would be impressed and I wasn't sure she'd approve of this mode of transport, but how wrong I was.

As you can see by the photograph, this was a great adventure to her and she hung on with her one good hand

while the women walked beside her holding onto her.

Half an hour later, we made our grand entrance into the village with Vali feeling very tired but elated that she'd made it!

We met the young people and we'll supply Susanna with a larger wheelchair. Genti has never had a wheelchair and gets around by shuffling on his bottom like a baby. This is quite humiliating for a young man in his twenties.

Their younger sister is still

able to walk so we'll take her a walking frame and try to keep her mobile for as long as possible.

Liljana was able to read medical notes about them and we discovered their problem is a genetic degenerative disorder with three out of seven children in their family being affected.

They need physiotherapy twice a week just to try and maintain some movement and muscle tone but how do we do this in such a difficult,

inaccessible place? There's another boy in the village with cerebral palsy, so he'd be included in this venture. There must be some way; we just have to find a solution.

As I was writing this, I've just had a phone call from a local church. They are looking for 25 wheelchairs, so another problem to solve!

This is life in Albania, but that's what we're here for.

By the way, Vali is fine. She just had a slightly tender posterior for a couple of days!



Valdete's surprise donkey ride ended up being a lot of fun.



Andy McNamara receiving his hamper from Alison Hollingworth at the Cheese Shop at Duchess Court. 02_b42win01

Hamper for photo winner Andy

Last week we revealed the winners of the 2012 Arran Banner Photo Competition.

The winner in the landscapes category was Beth Davies of Glasgow, and as luck would have it, her parents are on holiday here this week, so they will have been able to collect her prize of a super hamper of goodies from the Isle of Arran Cheese Company.

Winner in the people category was Andy McNamara of Whiting Bay with a candid portrait of his daughter Daisy May.

Andy told us that the photo was taken at Kings Cross with a simple Kodak Touch digital point and shoot camera.

He said: 'I just noticed her sitting on the rock, engrossed in the Collins British Wildlife book. So I quietly knelt down and took it as a snap shot. It worked out perfectly on a beautiful day.'

He added that they had friends coming to stay at the weekend, so the hamper would be extremely well-received.

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Excavation team seeks to uncover mass war grave

Archaeologists will survey Ardrossan Cemetery to establish if some of the Dasher victims are buried there

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Next week a section of ground in Ardrossan Cemetery will be subjected to an archaeological search.

After months of planning with North Ayrshire Council the archaeologists will arrive on site and commence the search for a mass grave.

It is expected that several

bodies never found after the HMS Dasher exploded off Arran in March, 1943, killing 379 people, will be discovered.

Only 23 bodies are in marked graves across Scotland. The other bodies have never been accounted for.

John Steele, a writer from Ardrossan whose one-man campaign has led to the search, believes some of the bodies were buried in an un-

marked grave at the town's cemetery in a cover-up by the British Admiralty.

Excavation work

Permission has now been given for excavation work to be carried out at Ardrossan Cemetery to establish if some of the Dasher victims are buried there.

North Ayrshire Council submitted a petition to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court seeking permission to carry out ex-



The section of ground at Ardrossan Cemetery believed to hold the mass grave.

cavation in the cemetery. The petition has been granted, which means archaeologists can now go ahead with the work.

Mr Steele said he hoped the excavation would finally clear up the mystery of where many of the bodies ended up. Sixty bodies were taken ashore at Ardrossan, meaning there could be around 44 bodies in the mass grave.

'It's wrong that young men who fought for their country and gave up their lives should be treated in this way,' he said.

'There was a cover-up because the Americans had made a grave mistake in the design of the petrol storage system on the Dasher which resulted in numerous leaks.'

Mr Steele says evidence he uncovered for his book about the disaster, *The American Connection To The Sinking of HMS Dasher*, shows the captain of the vessel had warned there was a serious

fault with the fuel system but nothing was done.

'The Admiralty took a gamble,' said Mr Steele, 'but they lost the gamble, which cost us a valuable aircraft carrier and 379 lives.'

Dasher, which had 24 Scots among its crew, blew up on March 27, 1943, just off the coast of Arran.

The families were all told their relatives were posted dead or missing but they were not told the details of what happened.

Mr Steele believes some of the bodies that were taken ashore were buried anonymously at Ardrossan Cemetery as part of the cover-up. He identified a disused plot at the cemetery where he believes the bodies may be.

Initial investigations by Tony Pollard, an archaeologist at Glasgow University, suggested there might be bodies at the site. Mr Pollard recommended a search, which will now be carried out by the Glasgow archaeology firm Guard.

Big step forward

Mr Steele said the search was a big step forward in his campaign to reopen the case of the Dasher.

'If the bodies are there, all I want is a plaque up, we can

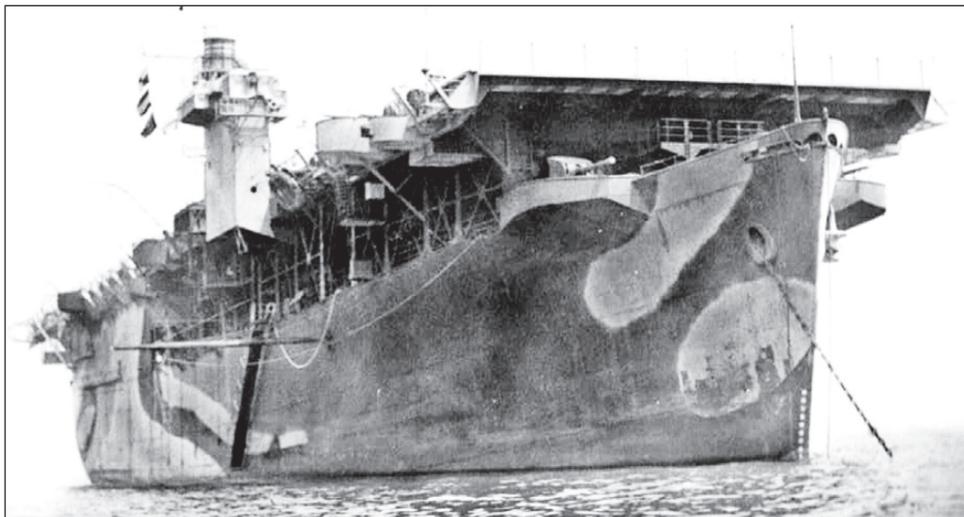
have a service and give them some dignity,' he said. 'To think that they are in there without coffins, they have been dumped. I'm angry it should have been covered up all these years and mothers and fathers died of broken hearts never to be told the truth because the Admiralty made a decision that it was war time, we have a wonderful ally in America, we can't upset them, we can't upset the public.'

'Even today, it's disgraceful this is still a secret. It's shocking.'

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'The council understands the sensitivities surrounding this matter, both for the relatives of those who died and the need to maintain the sanctity of the cemetery itself.'

'We submitted a petition to Kilmarnock Sheriff Court seeking permission to carry out limited excavation in Ardrossan Cemetery.'

'This petition was successful and the archaeologists have been given the go-ahead to carry this work out. There are a number of conditions attached to ensure the work is carried out appropriately and with minimum disruption to the cemetery.'



HMS Dasher sank off the coast of Arran in 1943 with the loss of 379 lives.



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National poetry day

Local poets gathered at the Brodick Bar for the National Poetry Day event.

Church of Scotland holds special events

A very special day for the churches of the North Arran Parishes is to be held next Sunday (October 28).

The Church of Scotland will be holding a number of very important events – see church notices on page 19 for times of services in your area.

First of all it will be a service of thanksgiving for the harvest, always a lovely service at which members and children bring gifts of food and flowers that are displayed at the front of the church.

This is to remind us how grateful we should be for the food that we in the western world take so much for granted.

These gifts are later distributed to the elderly and housebound in the community.

This year, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine churches have also designated that day as 'Come To Church Sunday'. It is so easy to get out of the habit of regular church attendance, but not so easy to return.

It is appreciated that not everyone can attend church regularly.

Be assured you will be welcomed whenever it is possible for you to come along.

So why not resolve to go along to one of these churches on the 28th?

As an added incentive there will be simple soup and sandwich lunches at Brodick and Shiskine churches after their services, with donations to charity.

Put it in your dairy now!

Guising at Montrose House

The tradition in Brodick of calling in at Montrose House at the end of October dressed in all sorts of fancy creations will soon to be with us again.

The annual Montrose House Halloween Party take place this year on 31 October from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

The residents so look forward to the children coming in, doing their party piece, and leaving laden with goodies dispensed by their hosts.

They hope that as many children as possible will include Montrose House in their journeys around the village that evening.

Bag pack – with a difference!

The ladies of Lamlash Church Guild have been busy all summer with a unique bag-packing project in aid of charity.

For four months the ladies of the church have been collecting items for the Backpack Project for Mary's Meals.

The bags will be distributed to children at school in some of the world's poorest countries and contain such items as shorts and t-shirt, pencils and notebooks, soap and towels.

These are given out to children who have very little when they attend schools that are part of the network of areas covered by the Mary's Meals school feeding programme.

Gill Butcher of Lamlash Guild, the project coordinator, said: 'In all the grand total of 28 backpacks were filled, with extra items for use at the depot to fill others.'

To celebrate this year's National Poetry Day on Arran an evening of poetry and music was held at the Brodick Bar.

More than 50 people packed into the pub to hear local poets reading well known pieces and from their own work.

Local poet Tim Pomeroy said: 'It was amazing and gratifying that there are so many poetry lovers about.'

'We had six principle readers including Jason Watts, Diana Dunn, David Underdown, Cicely Gill and Alison Prince and myself.'

'Nine invited secondary readers brought a mix of their own and 'weel-kent' poems. 'Especially appreciated were contributions from Katharine O'Donnelly and Chris Jenks from the High School.'

As Tim pointed out, reading poetry is a very difficult thing to do at any age so many were impressed to see the youngsters taking part.

Colin Guthrie was expansive and expressive as ever and Heather Gough performed - instead of directed this time - Edwin Morgan's poem that accompanied the opening of the Scottish Parliament.

Musical interlude

Local singing ensemble Vivace provided a musical interlude and the penultimate item on the programme was an 'open mic' where audience members could take the floor and read a favourite or one of their own.

It was all warmly received and already the Arran poets are considering what their next event might be.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Independence – why the delay?

As Arran's families confront the daily challenges of modern life, I doubt if many of them think a referendum on Scottish independence is the most important problem for our two governments to be focusing on.

Right now, jobs for the island's young people, affordable houses and cheaper ferry fares feature much higher on Arran's agenda than the break-up of the Union.

For the next two years, whether we like it or not, there is to be a referendum campaign in which huge amounts of money and human energy will be spent trying to persuade us that breaking up Britain is what we really want to do.

As a democrat, I recognise that once the Scottish Nationalists won control of Holyrood last year by taking 42 per cent of the vote, a referendum was inevitable.

And a good thing too, if it brought this endless debate about independence to a swift conclusion.

On Monday David Cameron and Alex Salmond agreed the framework within which that referendum will be held. Thereafter, it will be up to the Electoral Commission to ensure the terms of engagement are fair and above board.

What I find maddening is the delay of a further two years until this vote takes place.

As one commentator said this week, we are lumbered with 'an unsettling, long drawn-out, boring process' which invites us to take 'a great and unnecessary leap in the dark'.

Back in 1997, when Labour came to power having promised a devolution referendum in its manifesto, Donald Dewar took an Act through Parliament at maximum speed and the referendum was held within five months of Tony Blair becoming Prime Minister.

There is absolutely no reason why the same process could not have been repeated – and Scotland would already be getting on with normal life and business, whatever the outcome.

The only man who saw advantage in spinning it out over more than three years was Mr Salmond and this may have something to do with recent poll figures.

These show that at the moment only 28 per cent would support independence, so he needs time to spin out his arguments.

Much of the next 18 months will be wasted on a pointless fight about whether we should remain as one country.

In my opinion the argument is going to be difficult to win as the Scotland Act has already given Holyrood more powers, including tax-raising ones, which have not yet been acted upon.

So what are we really voting for? Answers on a postcard please.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Black spot for dogs

Sir,
I have just returned from my annual two-week holiday in Brodick with my Golden Retriever and Black Labrador who love the many beautiful walks on the island.

I am writing to let you know about a horrific experience I had at Lochranza.

I got to the part of the Arran Way at the very end of the houses on the far side of the harbour.

I let my dogs off the lead to let them have a lovely run on what looked like grassland on the right hand side opposite the water.

After a short time I heard a dreadful scream and turned to find my retriever on his back wedged in a deep wet ditch with his legs in the air.

He screamed and screamed and I was sure he had either broken his leg or back. Thankfully I had a friend with me and he was able to pull him out of the ditch and fortunately he had just sprained his shoulder.

On looking closer we found to our horror that the whole area was full of ditches in which children as well as dogs could have a dreadful accident. I have *The Arran Banner* sent to my home in Bournemouth every week and I am sure your readers would like to be warned of this danger and indeed a notice put up so that dogs could be kept on a lead and children on the path.

I am astonished that it hasn't been done with all the publicity about Health and Safety.

If I had been alone I could not have got Humphrey out and how could I have left a screaming dog to try to get help!

Yours,
Fiona G Wylie
Bournemouth

Online shopping

Sir,
To answer in the same vein as Sandra – yes, as a frequent visitor to Arran I am aware of the cost, as is anyone else who chooses Arran as a holiday destination!

I shall skip the part of the three main food stores, as it is only the small village stores that concern me. Visitors and

locals alike do need them.

As for online shopping, it is ridiculous to claim that I object to islanders using the facility if they so choose!

I simply gave my opinion on the possible consequences to the island if this project takes off.

Incidentally, I wouldn't know about M&S or Amazon.

I sincerely hope that Sandra's confidence of the project not having an impact on the village shops comes to fruition.

Yours,
Irene Taylor
Frequent visitor

Five ferries

Sir,
I noted from last week's *Banner* that Mrs Currie's letter succinctly directed us to the principal hindrance to Arran's development. Only five ferries a day!

A crossing that now takes 55 minutes was done in 40 some 50 years ago.

By comparison Dunoon has a daily continuous service from 6.10am to midnight.

Our nearest neighbours in Bute have a first ferry at 6.25am and a last from Wemyss Bay at 7.45pm.

How can Arran or its young people achieve their full potential with such a dismal performance especially from a ferry company that is in receipt of quite handsome public funding?

CalMac is a service provider and as such should not be allowed to dictate terms of service that may inhibit the development of the community they serve.

Yours,
Ian McCallum
Whiting Bay

Phone masts on golf flags

Sir,
I noted with interest the various items concerning Mobile Phone signals across the island.

In Norway, many of the golf courses that have flagpoles obtain fees for allowing these flag poles to be fitted with Mobile Telephone Masts. This greatly assists in the cov-

erage of reception and brings in much needed income to the golf clubs.

Perhaps something worthy of consideration where, appropriate, by the Arran golf clubs.

Yours,
Roy Stornaway
Trondheim
Norway
c/o Wee Silverbank
Whiting Bay

Glaciated scenery

Sir,
I enjoy *The Banner* photo competition every year and always look forward to seeing the photographs that you print.

This year was particularly pleasing as my daughter won the landscape category. However, may I please correct one of your statements?

Although the photograph is an incredible image, Coire Fhionn Lochan is not a volcanic crater.

The corrie has been formed by glacial erosion.

Arran is renowned for its glaciated scenery and is one of the reasons that hundreds of students flock to the island each year.

Yours,
Fran Hadden
Via email

RET a benefit?

Sir,
I write to point out to Victoria McNicol, who wrote to you two weeks' ago, that Arran is due to have RET in 2014.

I understood that in 2013 Islay and Gigha are to have it first and we should only have a year to wait after that.

Surely it will not cause shops and businesses and tourism on Arran to suffer.

Our wait is largely due to plans to build a new linkspan at the pier here and also the decision about new ferries is still to be announced.

I am well aware of the benefits of RET having gone to South Uist twice since it was applied to that island.

While I agree that there were many people about on all the Western Isles, I spoke to many over there who aid they were not benefiting as they had hoped because many

of the extra tourists had come over in campervans bringing their food with them and setting their vans up along the Machair by the sea at no charge.

And the hotels seem to have had minimal benefit as people bring their own food in many cases and the shops did not gain much either.

The islanders themselves benefit, of course, by getting cheaper travel and maybe they will entice more people into the shops eventually.

As for Islay and Gigha I have been there many times every summer as a tour guide over several years and I know they have a great need of help.

The journey takes about 25 minutes and is too pricey, as too is the journey to Arran and Islay.

Islay is a much bigger island – its biggest financial asset is its seven distilleries, which export a great deal of whisky, but they need to be serviced continually and this can be expensive when using the ferries. Another beautiful island, it needs help to keep its population served by ferries as cheaply as possible in order to flourish.

Arran is to wait just one year longer than these two and I feel that is fair, much as I love the isle that has been my home for 20 years now.

I have worked in tourism a lot during the past 12 years since I retired and love each and every one of the beautiful islands of the Hebrides.

Arran used to be called the 'Innermost Hebridean Island', a title now given to Gigha. Since Arran became a part of a mainland council it has become known as a Clyde Island as are the Cumbraes and Bute.

We will get our RET and be a lot better off but it seems to me that all three islands plus the work to be done on our pier could not get it all out of one year's budget.

Making a big fuss and blaming people for not trying is simply not fair, nor true at this stage.

Yours,
Gillean Bussell
Murray Crescent
Lamlash

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Attracting visitors brings responsibilities

The Arran Mountains: they are steep, they are rugged and the rewards of climbing them are immense.

Their dramatic profiles and airy ridges are some of the most impressive in Scotland. Yet, other than Goat Fell, on most days of the year, mountaineers have their summits to themselves.

Splendours

Each year, the Arran Mountain Festival spreads the word about the splendours of our mountains in order to enhance island tourism (78 per cent of places were filled in this year's festival).

Each year, new routes and themes are added to the pro-

gramme. And each year, the Arran Mountain Rescue Team is loyally on hand, offering support in many ways from being group leaders to cooking fund-raising barbecues.

To express the Festival Committee's gratitude, Chairperson Jo Totty recently donated £100 to the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

Attracting visitors brings with it responsibilities and in a year that has seen several mountain rescue incidents reported in the Banner, participants to the Festival receive plenty of sound advice about safe practice when mountain walking.

In addition, leaders ensure

that groups leave no trace when travelling through our precious mountain environments.

Welcome

Everyone is welcome to come along to the Annual General Meeting of the Arran Mountain Festival on Tuesday 13 November in the Rangers' Centre at Brodick Castle, starting at 6.30pm.

It is an opportunity to learn more about the Festival, watch a slideshow of this year's action, or even to get involved with the organisation of the 2013 Festival which will take place from May 17 to May 20. Tea, coffee and home baking will be provided.



Jo Totty chairperson of the Arran Mountain Festival committee presenting a cheque for £100 to Neil Bulger of Arran Mountain Rescue Team. b42res01

Protect your pipes in holiday homes

As property owners prepare to close up their cottages and holiday homes on Arran, Scottish Water is teaming up with VisitScotland to provide some important winter advice.

The organisations are urging holiday home-owners to follow the winter code to protect pipes, and their property, for the months ahead.

Protect your pipes – Be prepared is Scottish Water's winter message to customers, whether in their family home or weekend retreat. Following this important advice can help to ensure peace of mind ahead of extreme weather conditions.

The campaign encourages people to protect their pipes and advises them on how to prevent the headache of burst or frozen pipes, where to find their stop valve and what to do in an emergency.

Colin Houston, VisitScotland Quality Assurance manager said: 'It's important to ensure that properties are prepared for the winter so they are ready for visitors during the winter months or primed and ready for opening in the spring.'

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The Arran Banner photo



Lochranza Castle. Raymond Watson, Kilmarnock.

The favourites chosen by us

The winners of the 2012 Arran Banner photo competition were announced last week but we felt there were many more photographs that deserved to appear in print.

Selection

So this week we bring you a selection of

our favourite photographs – the ones that Howard and myself liked the most.

From crazy escapades on the top of Goat-fell to lovely snaps of family holidays, there were so many wonderful pictures this year. Enjoy!



Exploring. Anne Strachan, Bathgate.



Brodick Beach Mischief. Janice Small, Brodick



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Dougal's Holiday on the Isle of Arran. Julie Henry.



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On Top of the World. Iain Keen, Brodick.



Butterfly taken in a Whiting Bay Garden. Kenny Boyle, Whiting Bay.



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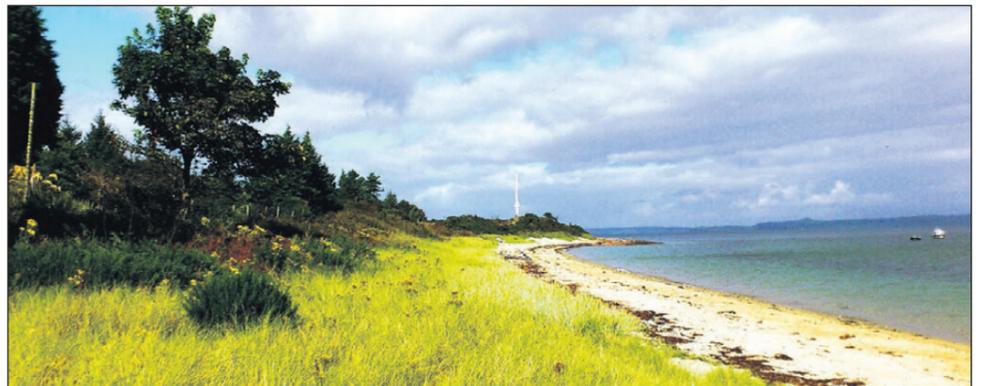
Rock Climbing on Arran. Stephen McAdam.



Choppy at the Pier. Val Boyle, Bothwell.



Above: Holy Isle Sunrise. Tony Church, Lamlash.



The Measured Mile, Sannox. Irene Reid, Brodick.



Geologist in the Making. Rodger McDowall, Strathwhil-lan.



Stuck in the Middle with You. Sarah Crawford, Lamlash.

Right: Rosie. S McWilliam, Lamlash.



Googly eyed Adam at the Whins. Michael Moran.

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Antiquarians delve into Scotland's history

The Battle of Landside 1568

The October meeting of Arran Antiquarians saw about 60 members hear Ian Marshall talk to them about the Battle of Langside, which was a short battle, not involving huge numbers, but was nevertheless pivotal in Scotland's history.

Ian worked for 40 years as a medical microbiologist in the NHS, and for 30 years has worked as an amateur archaeologist on field surveys. Since retiring he has worked on field surveys in winter and digs in summer.

He is a member of the Association of Certified Field Archaeologists and from 2003 to 2006 was its president.

He has worked on surveys in Bute, Rona, Raasay, Levenoroch and Kilpatrick, the latter two on Arran.

Although he has never lived in Arran, he has holidayed here since childhood.

In the mid-1990s the Glasgow City Parks Department asked for an archaeological survey of the battle site in Queen's Park on the south side of Glasgow.

In 1996 the area was surveyed and a pamphlet produced about the battle, and a walking tour of the site.

Defeat of the forces of Mary Queen of Scots at Langside on 13 May 1568, precipitated her flight, eventually to England and execution, the Union of the Crowns when her son, James VI of Scotland succeeded Elizabeth I of England in 1603 and eventually the Act of Union in 1707.

Mary had been Queen for just seven years, but her reign had been a catalogue of personal disasters.

After her third marriage under duress to the Earl of Bothwell who was implicated in the murder of her second husband, Darnley, she was imprisoned for a year in Loch Leven Castle.

Her enemies were led by her half-brother, James Stewart, Earl of Moray, sup-



Ian Marshall, an amateur archaeologist, discussed the Battle of Landside.

ported by many prominent Earls, including the Lennox family. She was supported by the Hamiltons and the Campbells of Argyll.

She escaped from Loch Leven with the aid of Willie Douglas and was taken to Kinross, North Queensferry and Niddry Castle by the Earl of Seton's men.

Her next stop was Cadzow Castle, a Hamilton hunting lodge.

Incidentally, in the 10 year long civil war which followed the battle of Langside, Cadzow Castle was dynamited. At Cadzow she asked to be

taken to Dumbarton Castle, revoked her abdication which had been forced on her, stated her wish that there was to be no fighting, and watched as her supporters gathered under the leadership of Claude Hamilton, Lord of Paisley, but principally Archibald Campbell of Argyll.

The troops of the Regent Moray gathered in Glasgow near Bishop's House. They comprised of Douglasses, the Earl of Mar's forces, the Royal Archers and French mercenaries, about 4,000 men. The Queen's force, numbering about 6,000, were camped at Rutherglen.

An informer passed on the planned approach of the Queen's troops so Moray had 200 Highlanders armed with harquebus in place early.

At 9am both sides assembled. Argyll gave his battle order and promptly swooned and passed out, taking no

further part. Mary watched proceedings from Cathcart Castle.

The Royal pikemen marched up Langside Loan, a sunken way between steep banks. As the pikemen of both sides locked in battle the armed troops opened fire from behind the banks on either side. Moray with his cavalry was at Parkhead Farm.

The Queen panicked, mounted her horse and fled. She stayed one night at Sankuhar, and via Sweetheart Abbey reached the Solway and crossed into England and execution many long years later at Fotheringay.

This battle lasted one hour, with casualty figures of 200-300 only, but its importance in the futures of Scotland, England and Europe was immense.

The monument to the battle is still prominent today in Battlefield Road.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk

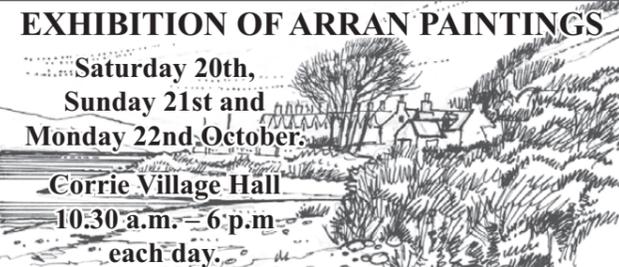
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COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY
 is on
SUNDAY 28TH OCTOBER
 At the following:
St Bride's Church, Brodick at 10.30 am
Corrie Parish at 12 noon
Pirnmill and Lochranza Church
in St Bride's Church, Lochranza at 10.15 am
St Molio's Church, Shiskine at 12 noon

YOU are invited to come along on this special day whether or not you have any church connection. Services will be for all ages and will include our **HARVEST THANKSGIVING.**

EXHIBITION OF ARRAN PAINTINGS
Saturday 20th,
Sunday 21st and
Monday 22nd October.
Corrie Village Hall
10.30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
each day.



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CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 Sunday, 9th December - Whiting Bay Hall

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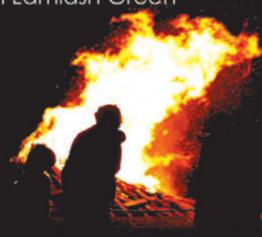
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 Saturday 3 November on Lamlash Green

Contribute items for the fire
 Wooden items only, please!
 Bring them on the day.
 Contact us to discuss collection.

12noon - meet to build the fire
 7:00pm - light the bonfire
 7:30pm - fireworks



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 Email: info@lamlashimprovements.co.uk Tel: 01770 600559

Warm welcome to our winter thrushes

Bird Notes by
Jim Cassels

September marked the start of British Trust for Ornithology winter thrush survey.

Over the next two winters the BTO is asking volunteers across the UK to record where and when they see any of the six species of thrush found in the UK on migration and over the winter.

Blackbird, Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush have largely sedentary populations in the UK but populations of all three are heavily augmented each winter by huge numbers of immigrants from Scandinavia and continental Europe.

Add to these the massive winter influx of Fieldfare and

Redwing from Scandinavia and Iceland and there seems to be something that these birds find to their liking in the British countryside in winter.

On Arran in the first part of the winter, hedges with berries like hawthorn seem to be attractive to these birds and then later arable fields with lots of invertebrates seem to be favoured.

Habitats

The point of the survey is to find out more. How does thrushes' use of various habitats, including gardens, vary, by species, geographically and through the winter?

How do feeding behaviours vary, again by species, geographically and through the winter? What is the relative importance overall of key habitats such as farmland, gardens and orchards and of the various feeding resources?

These are some of the questions the survey hopes to address.

It should be an easy and



Redwing arriving from Scandinavia. b42bir03



Fieldfare arriving here from Iceland and Scandinavia. b42bir02

enjoyable survey operating through the BTO website. Full methodology will be available from the online survey module launched on 12 September.

Observers will be invited to set up routes, based loosely on one km squares, for repeated winter walks. Locations of all thrushes observed, with their habitat and activity will be

recordable online on a map of the survey route.

Walks can be made at any time from mid September to mid April.

To express an interest visit the website BTO Winter Thrushes Survey | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/winter-thrushes> 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 2011 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk.

Happy musical marriage ends McLellan Festival

The final event of the McLellan Festival, 'Arran Connections', performed on Sunday 30 September in the Community Theatre Lam-lash, was a happy marriage of island and mainland musical expertise.

Based in Glasgow, the Eumelia Ensemble, ably led by Angus Anderson (violin) impressed with their sensitivity, and musicality, from the start: the theme of the Handel/Halverson Passacaglia, aka, 'the Impossible Duet' tripped from bow to bow as the leader was joined by the mellow tone of John Harrington's viola.

Sensitive piano

Then, a change of mood, as they were joined by the cello of Jan Anderson, for the premier of a tone poem, written by islander, Diana Hamilton, whose sensitive piano accompaniment combined with the strings to paint for us a 'Sea Drift'; here, shifting chords caught the ever-changing movement of the sea.

Diana's musicality was further revealed in her String

Quartet - another premier, filled with atmosphere, from the beginning of the Andante /Allegro where major and minor chords weave their way into a minor arpeggio and infiltrate the second movement in a gentle and wistful style.

Finally, the chords from the first movement reappear as the violin, with a syncopated accompaniment from the strings leads the final movement into a Jazz Waltz.

Variety, within a classical shape, endeared this work to me, and I eagerly await the follow-up?

As the island vocalists took to the stage, Aileen Wright delighted with 'To Music', followed by Elgar's 'Where Corals Lie'. The German version of the former, together with the mellow tones of Aileen's voice, enriches the cadence of the music in a way English words can never do.

John Cruickshank's Sea Fever, a favourite of mine, was deftly sung, as was the contrasting Captain Stratton's Fancy; both songs a fitting vehicle for John's fine

Baritone. Douglas Hamilton completed this trio of islanders, as their able and sensitive accompanist.

After more enjoyable songs from Aileen and John, this time in a light-hearted mood, we had the final item from the Eumelia Ensemble, accompanied by Diana Hamilton:

Josef Suk's Piano Quartet in A Minor:

Nocturne-like

From the confident opening Allegro appassionata, through the almost nocturne-like slow movement led by the cello and piano, to the bold march-like last movement, the Ensemble led us ably to its ebullient close: a fitting end to a most enjoyable evening.

Just when we thought it could get no better, the Ensemble delighted with a fun encore: Gershwin's 'Let's Call the Whole Thing Off'!

In my musical travels, I have found that most concerts are 'good in parts', but this, my first Arran Concert, was 'good all through'. Congratulations to you all!

Elspeth Glen, Strathaven

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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday 16 October, 1992



Stewart Lambie of Glensherraig retired from the Special Constables after 28 years service and at a celebration at Brodick Golf Club a presentation was made to him by Donald McNiven. Also in the picture is Police Sergeant Jim Wilson and former sergeant Peter Mackay. b42twe01

Golf members' compromise

At an extraordinary general meeting of Corrie Golf Club compromise was reached on the thorny question of who could be full members and who could be country members.

All current full members will retain that status, and new full members will have to be locally born or resident here.

Youths apprehended on ferry

Three youths were apprehended on the 12.30pm ferry from Ardrossan last Monday after being found in the crews' quarters and suspected of intending to commit a crime.

Arran Brass 10 years on

It is 10 years since the walk round Arran on 21 October 1982 which raised the initial finance to start Arran Brass.

Ten years later, with plenty of ups and downs, the band is still going strong. Over these years, 55 people have played with the band.

Council look into portaloo

Following a request from AVCS, the Community Council has agreed to look into the possibility of obtaining grants to purchase portaloo for Arran's outdoor events.

Dog faeces on Brodick beach

Anxiety has been expressed at the prevalence of dog faeces around Brodick beach.

Regional Councillor Fergus Clarkson has asked dog owners to exercise dogs away from the areas where children play.

Lochan Ime restored

The restored lochan above Clauchlands, Lamash has taken shape over the last few months.

Head forester Kerr Robertson organised a work party earlier in the year to channel water to this dried up lochan as part of Environmental Week. Now Lochan Ime is a genuine loch again.

Cash and Carry service

Curries Cash and Carry is open now for hotel and catering supplies. Members of the public are welcome, subject to a minimum purchase. Delivery service is available for caterers.

Douglas takeaways

The Douglas Hotel is starting an Indian and Cantonese takeaway service. All dishes will be cooked to order by Ravi Khosla and F Coyle.



Jim Lees of Corrie Craft and Antiques showed a selection of novel Watcombe Pottery artefacts. b42twe03



The line up of new Western Scottish buses outside Arran High School, having taken over the service from Arran Transport. b42twe02

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC002089

Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

Come along and wander down 'Memory Lane'.

A constantly changing collection of Arran at War, Children's and Family History, Brodick Cottage, and Smith's Forge, Villages and a Gift Shop with unique presents for all the family.

CLOSED FOR SEASON AT 1.30 P.M. SUNDAY, 21ST OCTOBER.

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Last week Archie was deep in the forest on a spooky walk among the tall trees above North Sannox picnic area. Many thought he was at Glenashdale, but first correct answer came from Lisa of Sutton Coldfield. This week he is out of bounds, but where would you find that sign?

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

Whats On

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF ARRAN BREWERY

Everyday

Arran Brewery Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12.30pm-4.30pm
 Arran Brewery Tour 2pm
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank and Boat fishing 9am-Dusk
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open Daily

Saturday 20th October

Army Cadets, Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 p.m.
 Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
 Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Badminton Club Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16
 Farmers Market Kilmory Hall
 Soup and Sandwiches Dr Graham's Homes Brodick Church Hall 12 noon – 2 pm
 Tim Kliphuis Trio Brodick Hall 7.30 pm
 Coffee Morning Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church Hall 10.30 am – noon
 Rugby Arran v Loch Lomond at Ormidale Park, kick off 2pm

Sunday 21st October

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
 New Al-Anon Meeting Brodick Church Hall, 4.30 – 6 pm.
 Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Live Music Ormidale, 8.30pm
 Open Mic Session Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
 Sunday folk Session Ormidale, 9pm
 Lamlash Improvement Beach Clean Meet 1pm on Lamlash Green. Dress Warmly.

Monday 22nd October

Over 50s Badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm –5.30pm
 Ladies Netball High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm
 Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Breathe Walk class Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Come Dance with me – LeRoc modern Jive Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran junior Football Ormidale Park, 6pm-7pm
 Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Lamlash Bridge Club, Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park 6am
 Boot Camp Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
 Volleyball Club Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
 Arran junior football Club Ormidale Park, 6pm –7.30pm
 Scottish Country Dancing for Begin. & Improv. Corrie & Sannox Village Hall 2 pm
 Hospital Supporters league AGM 7.30 pm Morven, Auchlincairn, W/Bay

Tuesday 23rd October

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Rotary Club Glenclay Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm

Melody Movement, Ballet Class 2 ½ yrs up
 Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class 2 ½ yrs up
 Youth Club
 Zumba Fitness Class
 Weight Watchers
 Rink Games
 Junior Hockey Club 8yrs up
 Country Dancing
 Rowan Singers Rehearsals
 Brodick Improvements Committee AGM
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Healthy Outdoors: Conservation, exercise, well being 10am-1pm NTS ranger centre
 Cricket Practice Auchrannie Sports Hall 7 pm – 9 pm
 Lochranza Villagers AGM Village Hall 7 pm

Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
 Brodick Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
 Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 St Molios, Church Hall, 7pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7pm
 Brodick Hall 7.30pm
 Lamlash Church 7.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion 7.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm

Wednesday 24th October

Hockey Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
 Tae Kwondo Arran high School – kids, 6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30-8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
 Senior Badminton Arran High School, 8-9pm
 Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Aquafizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & little ones Auchrannie Dance Studio 10.45am
 Kids Games Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5-6pm
 AYF Film Making Club Brodick Church Hall, 4.30-6.30pm
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy Services 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Arran Absolute Beginners Runners 5.30pm, Auchrannie Spa Car Park.
 Arran Advance Beginners Runners 6pm Auchrannie Spa Car Park
 Rink Games Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Bridge Drive Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
 Northend Football Training Lochranza, 7pm
 Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park 6am
 Boot Camp Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
 Dog Agility Class W/Bay Park, Beginners/Kids 1-2pm. Been before 2.30-3.30pm
 Friends of Brodick Castle Tearoom, 7.30pm

Thursday 25th October

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Lochranza Craft Club Hall, 2pm
 Youth Club Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
 General knowledge Quiz Kinloch Bar, 9pm
 Zumba Fitness Club Arran high School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Live Country/Folk music Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
 Cricket Practice Sannox Oval, 6pm
 Bridge Drive Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm
 Brodick Bridge Club, Brodick Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
 Isle of Arran Drama Assoc. AGM St. Molios Church, Shiskine 7.30 pm

Friday 26th October

Aqua Fizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 10am-11am
 Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Weight Watchers Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
 Lochranza Kids Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Adults Badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park 6am
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group Corrie Hall 8 – 10pm
 Charity Darts Night Catacol Bay Hotel 7pm



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The successful applicant will be subject to an application to join Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme. Initial applications in the form of a CV (max 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by **29th October 2012** to Lorna McDonald at:

Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY
email: lorna.mcdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk
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Public Notices

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall
SCO18338

AGM

To be held in The Lesser Hall at 7.30 on Tuesday 13th November 2012
Any residents of Lochranza and Catacol shall be most welcome on the new committee as we need more support urgently
For more interest please call Anita Ford on 830 200

Annual General Meeting Of Na h-Arainnich

(Arran people interested in learning Gaelic - this includes beginners as well as members of our society)

Our AGM will be held in the Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, at 7.30 pm. On Thursday, 8th November, 2012.
Everybody welcome.

Simon Thorborn at Arran Ceramics

The pottery at the Old Byre Showroom Machrie will be closed for the winter from Monday 22nd October.
My work can still be purchased via the Old Byre which is open normal hours as is Cafe Thyme.
Christmas offers to be announced.
See you in the spring!

Lamlash Friday Club First Meeting Friday 26th October.

Church Hall at 2pm
Guest Speaker Stuart Gough
"The Goatfell Murder"

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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 may be examined at Corporate 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 Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 09.11.12. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development
12/00541/PP; Ad-Astra, Smithy Brae, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Alterations and extensions to side and rear of detached dwelling house.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.
12/00563/LBC; Craegard Cottage, Corrie, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Demolition of outhouses, conversion of outbuilding/store and alterations to cottage to form a dwelling house including formation of dormer to rear.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications for development affecting the setting of a Listed Building.
Written comments to be made within 21 days.
12/00530/PP; Site to North of the Royal Arran Hotel, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran; Erection of one and a half storey detached dwelling house and detached double garage.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2012-13

Arran Medical Group is now running the annual 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.

Eligible patients can attend any surgery

Brodick Health Centre

Tel: 01770 302175

OPEN FLU CLINIC (no appointment necessary)

Wednesday 24th October

10.00 am – 12.00 pm and 2.00 – 4.00 pm

-----o0o-----

Lamlash Medical Centre

Tel: 01770 600516

By appointment only from week commencing Monday 22nd October

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Shiskine Surgery

Tel: 01770 860247

By appointment only from week commencing Monday 22nd October

Patients wishing to make alternative arrangements should telephone for a suitable appointment.

Private Classifieds

FREE TO UPLIFT

Bagged Manure at Oakbank, Lamlash. £1 per bag donation to Arran RDA. Tel: 01770 600752.

UNDER £30

Hoover Carpet Cleaner £25. long Mirror £10. Tel: 01770 302383

Bruin Baby Buggy with hood and rain cover, vgc, £20. Tel: 01770 850236.

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Aerobic Step Machine for indoors exercise, £30. Rowing Machine for indoors exercise, £30. Tel 07910394431.

Breville 4.3L Slow Cooker, as new, with instruction book, £15. Tel : 01770 600238.

Bandsaw Blades, various sizes. Tel :01770 600238.

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There were snowy mountains and blue skies this week on Arran as winter made a swift appearance. Forecasts for the next month suggest we could be in for quite a lot more of the white stuff. 02_b42fe101

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<p>JOHN DIVINE FURNITURE, RESTORATION & REPAIR FRENCH POLISHING UPHOLSTERY</p> <p>Blackwaterfoot – Isle Of Arran Tel: 01770 860236 Mob: 07733 738127 Email: john@thornycraft.co.uk</p>				

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 21st October
Holy Communion, 11.15 am.
Mr John Roberts.

Coffee and sandwich lunch after service, followed by Compass programme with Mrs Elaine Garman.
(PLEASE NOTE LATER TIME - FOR THIS WEEK ONLY).
Wednesday, 24th 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 - Families, Young People and Children Welcome
Sunday 21st October
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Corrie Church, 12noon, Including Sacrament of Baptism
Lochranza Church, 9.30am, Pirmill Church, 10.45am, Shiskine Church, 12noon.
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 21st October
Rev Gilleen MacLean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
Guild Rededication In both churches.
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS

CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday Morning Mass 11 am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 21st October
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
After which will be a sale of Traidcraft goods and cards. at 7 pm in the Church Transept, there will be an informal evening of praise and discussion. All welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 21st October
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
11am Morning worship
Tea/Coffee after the service
Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday at 7.30pm
For details telephone 860 232
Everyone very welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Services as follows
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind Post Office)
Service will be taken by Rev Malcom Peters
All Welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 21st October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 24th October
at 7pm
5 Glen Road.
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Sunday 21st October
at 11 am
Dippen House, Dippen
Enquiries to Judith 820223.
All are welcome.
Come and experience the quiet of a Quaker Meeting.
Quakers believe that there is "that of God" in each one of us, and try to live life accordingly.
We worship together and without Leaders.
Laying aside the humdrum busy-ness of daily life, we seek a deeper place, open to the presence of God within and amongst us all. Do join us.

DEATHS

MURCHIE - Suddenly, but peacefully at home (High Feorline, Shiskine), on Tuesday, 16th October 2012, Sheena, aged 82. Beloved wife of the late Charles, loving mother of John, William, Jean and Charles, grandma of Tracey, Robert and Zoe. Funeral service to be held at St. Molios Church, Shiskine on Tuesday, 23rd October, 2012 at 11.30 am and thereafter to Clachan Old Cemetery, Shiskine. Family flowers only please. Bus to meet ferry at 10.40 am.



Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies: Wednesday 10 October, 10 ladies played in the medal of this season, when again the weather was great. First with a net 65 was June Richardson and second with a net 66 and lowest gross of 82 was Liz Sinclair. Next week is probably 12 hole Fun Competition.

ALGU

The Cir Mhor, the first competition of the ALGU calendar, was played in Shiskine on Saturday 29 September. Twenty-four ladies played on a rather blustery but dry day. The winner was Sheila Gray (72 bih), Kate McAdam a

DEATHS

JOYCE PARSONS (NEE BREMNER) - Peacefully, at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Sunday, 14th October, 2012. Joyce, aged 83 years, formerly of Lamlash, loving mum, gran and great-gran of the family. Funeral Service and Interment took place on Thursday, 18th October at Lamlash.

SUTHERLAND - JEAN - Jean Sutherland, widow of Ian, died on 8/10/2012 at Cooriedoon, supported by the love of close friends and compassionate staff. The funeral service is at Whiting Bay Church at 2.30pm on Saturday 20th October. A private cremation will follow at a later date. The service will be followed by afternoon tea at Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash. All friends are warmly invited.
Family flowers only please- any donation that may be wished to be made can be given to ARCAS or Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church.

WEDDING



Hannah (nee McLellan) and John Layden
would like to thank all those on Arran who sent good wishes and gifts on the occasion of their Wedding in Cyprus on 22nd September.



Pat Adamson won the WRI 12 hole competition at Lamlash Golf Club on Monday 3 September. She is pictured with the eight other women that took part.

very close second also with 72, Carole Stewart won the scratch with 88 on a count back of the last three holes over Sheena Murchie.

Lynn Walker, the new president, presented the trophy and we wish Lynn a successful season with better weather than last year!

Our thanks to Shiskine Golf Club for courtesy of the course and to Tom and Felicity for the catering.

Fixtures: Saturday 20 October, first Drumadoon at Corrie at 10.30am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 14 October, 18 Hole Medal. 1 Q Oliver 83-20=63, 2 B Green 89-21=68, 3 C Rutterford 85-16=69 BIH. Scratch A Napier 74. Magic twos from D Tod and B Sherwood.

Fixtures: Friday 19 October, Gents Arran Challenge Starts. Sunday 21 Gents 12 Hole Medal. Sunday 21 La-



Sheila Gray won the ALGU Cir Mhor trophy. She is pictured with runners-up Carole Stewart and Kate McAdam as well as Lynn Walker, the president of the ALGU. b42go101NO

dies Arran Challenge Ends. Thursday 25 October, Ladies 12 Hole Medal.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 14 October, 14 played for the Hamilton Salver, CSS 63. 1 Graeme Crichton (12)63 BIH, 2 Wolfi Kroner (14)63, 3 Ronnie Mann (11)64. John Dick had the only magic two of the day (very nearly an ace!) and Graeme Crichton won scratch with 75 BIH.

Fixtures: Sunday 21 October, Taylor Trophy, Greensome. One draw for partners at 10am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 14 October, Winter Cup 19 played. 1 A Hume (8)39pts, 2 T Raeside (8)38pts (acb), 3 I Sillars 38pts. There were three twos.

Fixtures: Sunday 21 October, Clochendichter. Sunday 28 October, Sweep Open draws 8.30am and 1pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 13 October, Medal Sweep, 19 played. 1 S Wood 79-20=59, 2 C Pattenden 70-9=61, 3 D Jeffrey 74-11=63.

Magic twos from C Pattenden, D Price and B Sherwood.

Monday 15 October, Monday Cup from yellow tees, 21 played. 1 D Price 67-11=56 BIH, 2 S Wood 74-18=57, 3 J McConnachie 63-6=57. Best scratch John McConnachie 63. Magic twos from J McConnachie, J McGovern, R Lewis, T Kerr, S Wood, H McArthur, D Price, I Taylor and A McDonald - 14 twos recorded which must be a record.

Fixtures: Saturday 20 October, ladies have use of the course for Drumadoon competition. Monday 22 October, Monday Cup at 12.30pm off yellow tees. Saturday 27 October, Joe McKenzie Memorial at 8.30am and 12.30pm. Stableford sponsored holes.

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Arran edge ever closer to top spot after good away win in Paisley

Paisley 3 Arran 7

After last week's disappointing performance against Birkmyre in the Bowl at home, Arran's senior rugby team returned to form against Paisley.

A 7-3 win over the mainland team was a crucial result for Arran and now puts them second in the west division three league table.

On a pitch best described as 'soggy', which is always bad news for a team reliant to a great extent on speed, Arran performed really well.

The pitch was so slow that the referee had on occasion to move the scrum to a drier area to allow the forwards studs to find a grip.

All the scoring was in the first half with Gregor Adamson yet again notching the all-important try converted by Lachlan Jones.

Paisley replied with a penalty goal.

For this game Arran welcomed back Jack Barbour and Craig Ingham who are currently on the mainland.

Craig took the place of the temporarily unfit Donald Murchie at tight head until half time when the latter, obviously champing at the bit, staged a miraculous recovery and took over for the second half.

Also at half time, Arran changed both of their

wingers with Sean 'Higgie' Higgins and Todd Jameson coming off and being replaced by Sandy Kelso and Ryan Robb. Sandy must have doubted the wisdom of his generous action as he sustained a broken nose and Todd Jameson returned to replace him.

Jack played at full back in the absence of Ewan Evans and showed that he has lost none of his skills with the side step predominating. Jack is always disinclined to kick, preferring to run the ball at every opportunity and, fortunately for us he has the speed and strength to do it.

Exciting

The game itself was truly exciting with Arran one moment fiercely attacking the Paisley line and desperately defending their own line the next.

A pleasing aspect of the game was the emergence of Scott Currie at scrum half as a skilled and gutsy performer under adverse conditions. Scott has long looked as if he could be a really valuable asset in the position which he occupied at school and is fast maturing into a vital cog in attack and defence.

In the vote for man of the match, Scott and Gregor could not be separated.

A big well done to all the team for the spirit in which



Captain Niall McMaster, pictured playing against Clydesdale, led his team to victory on Saturday against Paisley. 01_b42rug01

they played this hard fought encounter and especially for the esprit de corps which saw us travel to an away game with a team and five replacements happy days are here again!

This result, as the headline suggests puts Arran in second place and this week's game against league leaders Loch Lomond at home should be a cracker. Don't miss it!

Ghoulish darts night in aid of charity

There is something spooky happening up north next Friday night (October 26)!

A Halloween fancy dress mixed doubles darts competition is being held at the Catacol Bay Hotel in aid of the Arran Defibrillator Project.

The evening begins at 7pm for a 7.30pm start and there will be some ghoulish forfeits for the losers.

Open to over 18s only, either bring a partner or be drawn with one on the night.

Pool season restarts

Fixtures for the 2012/13 Arran Pool League have been drawn.

With just seven teams competing in the competition this year each week one team will have a bye.

The first games of the season will take place on Thursday 25 October and are as follows: Drift Inn v Mac's Bar, Kildonan v PHT, Whiting Bay Golf Club v Catacol and PT1934 have a bye.

There will be a pool meeting on Sunday 28 October at the PHT in Lamash at 2pm.

Team captains are asked to be there with the £25 team registration fee as well as names and money for both the singles and doubles competitions.

Singles are £3 per person and doubles £6.

Auchrannie winter bowls

On Tuesday 23 and 30 October and Tuesday 6 November there will be no bowling at the Auchrannie.

It will hopefully resume on Tuesday 13 November.

Thursday bowls at 7pm will continue as normal.



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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
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ABC

The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 3rd January 2011 and 1st January 2012 was 3,093. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.

Celebrate in style this festive season at The Douglas Hotel

The warmest welcome, wonderful celebrations, festive lunches, lavish dinners and a home from home – the Christmas season at The Douglas Hotel will be truly special this year.

Enjoy a perfectly crafted Christmas and New Year starting on Saturday 8 December with the first of the party night extravaganzas, which are planned for each weekend during December

Christmas party

For just £37.50 per person your Christmas party includes a glass of bubbly, a wonderfully indulgent three-course meal as well as an evening of entertainment with all of the best tunes from our very own DJ (excuse the pun, David Jenkins) - not forgetting the best cocktails on the island.

Why not save on a taxi

fare and treat yourself to a room, which at only £75 per couple including breakfast is a deal not to be missed.

Wonderful rates

Throughout Christmas week there are some wonderful rates including dinner, bed and breakfast and entertainment too from £140 a night based on two sharing.

And why not book now for December 25 when a traditional Christmas day meal will be served for £35 per person, from 1pm and 3pm Hogmanay

at The Douglas Hotel will be very special this year with a wealth of festive events and celebrations over five days with heartfelt hospitality that will make you feel special from the moment you arrive, phone now to avoid being disappointed.



Above: Save on a taxi fare and treat yourself to a room this Christmas, which at only £75 per couple including breakfast is a deal not to be missed.



Left: Watching the ferry arrive from the terrace at The Douglas Hotel.

Going above and beyond the call of duty for Arran's charities

Staff from The Douglas Hotel have been going above and beyond the call of duty over the past year and a half to raise vital funds for local and national charities.

Hotel owner Sean Henry and 16 of his pals climbed four peaks in

four consecutive days in June and in the process they raised over £17,000 for the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

They started in North Wales, climbing Snowdon on Monday 4th June, followed by England's highest peak,

Scafell Pike in the Lake District on the Tuesday, Ben Nevis on the Wednesday and finally Goatfell on the Thursday.

On New Year's Day a group of hardy souls both from Arran and holidaying at The Doug-

las braved the icy waters of Brodick Bay for a festive charity dook.

It is hoped that this will become an annual event to raise money for Arran charities.

A Blooming Great G&T(ea) Party with a twist – of lemon and tonic – was held in the hotel grounds in June to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The incredible sum of £2,248 was raised on the day as people took advantage of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations to enjoy a gin and tonic on the terrace.

Murray Easton, area fundraising manager for Marie Curie, said: 'The Great G&T(ea) party at The Douglas really was a shining example of community fundraising at its very best, everyone came together to put on a great event with Elaine Campbell from the hotel and Arran Women in Business being instrumental in making it happen.'



Hardy souls taking part in the New Year's Day dook in Brodick Bay.

Elope to Arran for your dream wedding

Now that The Douglas Hotel is firmly established on Arran as one of the island's top holiday destinations the focus is shifting to weddings.

With stunning reception rooms, beautiful landscaped gardens and sumptuous menus the hotel is the perfect venue to hold your special day.

Eloping to Arran couldn't be easier at The Douglas Hotel as staff offer the unique balance of a relaxed environment, mouth watering menus and an ideal setting within stunning functional rooms with some of the most gorgeous views on the island.

Ceremonies

From intimate ceremonies to lavish gatherings, your celebration can be tailored especially for you and with a fully approved licence to perform wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships they can provide a complete wedding service.

Their wedding co-ordinator is on hand to relieve you of all the pressure of organising a wedding; offering inspiration and ideas on how to make your day extra special from the word go. These all-inclusive packages, including accommodation, food and drink start at £3,995 for up to 30 guests.



THE DOUGLAS BAR

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The Douglas Bar is essentially a celebration of all things Scottish. Sample the island's finest collection of local and regional whiskies, served in relaxing, intimate surroundings with views over Brodick bay. The extensive whisky list is continually evolving and now boasts many fine malts, in homely and personal surroundings. For those wanting something a little more refreshing, The Douglas Bar offers delicious cocktails, fine wines, champagnes and spirits from around the world. With a welcoming atmosphere, great priced lagers, Peroni £4.20, and some delicious new winter bar food served all day long, we've got the perfect place for you to enjoy your game, **all year round.**



Understated decor, a welcoming atmosphere and impeccable service combine to ensure a memorable bistro dining experience on Arran. With its rustic-chic style, The Douglas Bistro has a refreshing simplicity but a serious intent. The cuisine is honest and straightforward in style, bold and hearty in flavour. No fussy preparation or pretentious artistry, just thoughtful and skilful use of good quality produce. The menus are seasonally driven and make use of home-grown or locally-sourced ingredients, with a contemporary twist on flavoursome classics.



Arran's Favourite New Hotel



Since we opened on May 2011, we have embraced social media - we really do want to be part of Arran community and enjoy the interaction that facebook and twitter allow. We hope that you already like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, but if not, why not start now?

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
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