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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2012

No 1880 59p

Radio listeners vote Arran as a top holiday destination

Arran emerged as the clear-cut winner

Arran has been voted top 'school holiday' destination in the UK by a nationwide radio show.

The island's glowing endorsement was issued last week during the 'Up All Night' programme, fronted by Dotun Adebayo on BBC 5Live.

He had urged listeners to phone, email or text with their views on the perfect spot for families to spend the mid-term break.

And Arran emerged as the clear-cut winner - thanks main-

ly to a glowing 10-minute long call from a woman called Louise in County Down, Northern Ireland.

She told how she spent most of her 'idyllic' childhood holidays in Blackwaterfoot with her parents, having made the two-steamer trip from Belfast in the days when a service existed between there are Ardrossan.

Uniform

Louise said: 'There was - and still is a sort of Arran uniform: shorts! Everyone wore them, no matter the weather.'

'I remember we all changed into them at Ardrossan while waiting to board the boat to Brodick. The moment you put your shorts on was the official start of the holiday.'

She added: 'Blackwaterfoot was just magical for youngsters. It was such a safe place and the kids could go off for hours on end and to their own thing - leaving the grown ups to enjoy some peace and quiet. And if a child was late getting back for a meal or at a

pre-arranged time, word soon got around the village and he or she would be found within minutes and told to get back to where he or she should be!'

Louise added that the Arran tradition has continued in her family through the next generation.

Her memories were then echoed by another caller to the programme, who had initially intended to extol the virtues of North Devon - especially for motorcycling. But he also spoke of his visit to Arran several years ago and admitted he was 'blown away' by the beauty of the island - recalling with excitement a quad-biking expedition.

He said: 'It was just wonderful to be in the middle of nowhere. It was definitely one of the most beautiful places I have ever experienced.'

There were various other nominations for the accolade, however presenter Adebayo had no hesitation in giving Arran the show's No1 stamp of approval.



Angela Robinson and Louise Haggarty took The Banner on a real-life ghost hunt in the hills above Brodick this week. 01_b43hal01

Do you believe in Arran's ghosts?

Ghosts don't exist and are all in the mind - that is probably the view of many people on Arran.

However for this week's Banner we have collated stories from various local people that strongly suggest ghosts do indeed exist on our island.

Last Tuesday, The Banner joined Angela Robinson and her mum Louise Haggarty for a real-life ghost hunting expedition in the hills above Brodick to see once and for all if these spirits are nothing other than tall tales.

The three of us explored what is reputed to

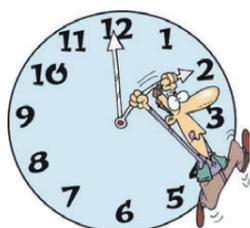
be Arran's most haunted house - the ruined cottage above Glenrickard in Brodick and it certainly was a spooky experience.

Within seconds of us arriving at the cottage doors the birds could no longer be heard singing.

Sightings

There have apparently been sightings of an old woman and her phantom dog at the front door of the cottage but we didn't hang around long enough to see her.

Is this Arran's most haunted house? Find out on pages 10, 11 and 12.



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Super soup and sandwiches raise vital charity funds

'I hear, I forget, I experience and I respond.'

This proverb may well explain the success of yet another Soup and Sandwiches Lunch held on Saturday in Brodick Church Hall in aid of Dr Graham's Homes.

Some 20 people who have all visited the Indian orphanage in person helped by donating their time on Saturday to help run the event.

This was a direct response to their experiences in India and Nepal.

The incredible sum of £808 was raised and this was the result of many cash donations along with the tremendous generosity of all who attended.

One organiser said: 'From this annual event, along with the many coffee mornings, Arran Friends of Kalimpong, raise sufficient funding to provide for the nurture, education and accommodation for one year for a deprived child from Kolkata in Dr Graham's Homes.

'The UK committee is deeply grateful to all who contributed to Saturday's Super Soup and Sandwiches Lunch.'

Got a story for
The Arran
Banner?
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Ferry service will be improved say CalMac

'We will now push ahead and make these improvements as soon as possible'

The boss of the Arran ferry's parent company has pledged to improve services over the next three years.

Peter Timms issued his vow in the annual report of the David MacBrayne group as he welcomed the decision to extend CalMac's current contract to 2016. He declared: 'Our commitment to customer service was recognised recently with the Best Ferry Company title in the Guardian and Observer Travel Awards for the third year in a row.

'However, there are a number of further improvements we would like to make to the customer experience such as updated ticketing systems and improved online booking.

Develop

'We will now push ahead and make these improvements as soon as possible and look forward to working with the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to further develop our services to best meet the needs of island and rural communities.' Mr Timms also revealed the group have paid back almost £6million to Government

as a result of efficiency savings in the last financial year. David MacBrayne have increased their operating profits by 19 per cent to £3.8million. In addition to CalMac, their subsidiaries include North-Link Ferries Ltd and Argyll Ferries Ltd and Timms said: 'As recipients of significant amounts of public funding we take our responsibility to provide value for money to the taxpayer very seriously.

Improve efficiency

'So it was very pleasing to report that our ongoing efforts to improve efficiency both internally and in collaboration with colleagues at Transport Scotland has resulted in just under £6m being returned to the Scottish Government as part of a contractual clawback payment - an increase of 30 per cent.' The company's annual report also said the group carried 5.2million passengers, 1.1million cars and 1.5 million freight metres. That was five per cent drop in passengers and the same for cars, but a six per cent hike in freight. Grants received from the Scottish Government rose by nearly 20 per cent compared with the previous year

to £121.8million mainly due to increased fuel costs and support for Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares on Western Isles routes. Mr Timms said: 'It was a year of highs and lows.

'Among the high points was winning the tender to provide the ferry service between Gourock and Dunoon, while losing the Northern Isles services to another operator after serving Orkney and Shetland for nearly 10 years was a major disappointment.' He added that the drop in passenger and car traffic was also disappointing: 'These figures reflect carryings across the group, and the impact on individual routes will vary enormously, with some doing better than others depending on local circumstances such as major building projects,' he commented.

Combination

'That said, overall our feeling is that a combination of factors have contributed to a general decrease in traffic including fewer people travelling due to the economic downturn, higher fuel costs and poor weather.'

How do you think CalMac could improve? Send us your suggestions.



Angela Stark at the Taste of Arran stall at the BBC Good Food Show last weekend.

Arran produce impresses at Good Food Show

Arran's incredible array of food products was put on display at the BBC Good Food Show in Glasgow last weekend.

Taste of Arran had a stall at the show in the SECC that celebrates the best Scotland's food and drink producers have to offer.

And as Arran now produces everything from milk, ice cream, whisky, mustard and cheese, the show is seen as the perfect platform for promotion.

Angela Stark who has recently launched a rapeseed oil grown on the island was one of the producers who joined Taste of Arran at their stall.

Donald Currie grew the crop for Angela and her husband this year at Drumadoon and the seeds were pressed and bottled just a few weeks ago.

Angela said: 'It was a successful weekend all round as it seems that people really associate Arran with good quality foods.'

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Shiskine pupil Megan Hamill, right, organised the Cake Bake fundraiser to raise money for a wildlife charity.

Shiskine Primary School hosts tasty 'Cake Bake' fundraiser

Pupils and parents at Shiskine Primary School have been busy in the kitchen recently cooking up tasty cakes to raise money for charity. On Friday 28 September, the school held a Cake Bake Sale to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. The sale was the idea of young Megan Hamill who encouraged many pupils and parents to bake for this worthy charity and took

it upon herself to arrange everything. The World Wildlife Fund protects endangered animals and environments around the world and welcomes people to 'adopt' species that are in danger. Megan also had badges, cards and pens on sale from WWF to highlight the charity. Megan, together with the children and parents, raised the magnificent sum of £244.80.

Arran's road department gets ready for winter

Roads maintenance staff on Arran are ready to tackle winter weather to keep residents safe.

The council's roads team on the island is now on round-the-clock standby to deal with dropping temperatures and winter weather.

Roads staff have already been out in gritters during test runs across North Ayrshire.

North Ayrshire Council cabinet member for environment and infrastructure, Councillor John Ferguson, said: 'Recent winters brought some of the most severe weather in living memory.

'It's good to see how well prepared we are even at this early stage.

'Improved planning means that we are better placed than ever to cope with severe winter conditions.

'We can't control the weather but we can make sure we are ready.

'North Ayrshire Council staff have been working hard to get ready for winter and are now on full standby to deal with severe weather.'

Councillor Ferguson said that Arran residents can also play a part in making sure that they stay safe during winter.

He said: 'Residents can start to do their bit now by asking themselves if they are prepared for winter on the roads, at home and in their communities.'

Standby

Three of the Council's 17 gritting vehicles are based on the island, and all are now on standby until April next year.

Around 10,000 tonnes of grit is stockpiled to help keep roads clear.

There are 382 grit bins in place across North Ayrshire, with more in stock to be used

if needed. The council's roads team uses advanced technology to make sure it has all the information needed to keep North Ayrshire's roads safe.

This includes detailed weather forecasting software and vehicle trackers that let staff know exactly how much grit is being used.

Information from a weather station at The String is used, along with specific forecasts for the island.

Vital information relating to road closures, severe weather and the status of Council offices and schools will once again be available on the Council website, twitter and on special council helplines.

Community council meeting

The Arran Community Council will meet on Tuesday 30 October at 7.30pm at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick.

The agenda includes a discussion on Arran's ferry needs and all islanders are welcome to attend and make a contribution through the chair.

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First meeting of the season

On Monday 8 October Kilmory SWRI's President Eleanor Mackinnon gave a warm welcome to all who attended the first meeting of the new session.

The speaker for the evening was Ruth Miggin who gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on applying makeup.

Ruth began by explaining the importance of starting with a 'clean canvas' and then gave a comprehensive demonstration on the techniques of applying makeup.

To quote the old saying 'you learn something new every day!'

A special thank you to our model for the evening Joanne.

The competition for a Perfume Bottle was won by May Macdonald and a Healthy Drink by Janet Mulholland.

The next meeting will be on Monday 12 November at 7.30pm in Kilmory Hall when Judith Baines will demonstrate Beadwork and Bobbles.

The Rural Rally will be held at the Kinloch Hotel on Thursday 1 November where we look forward to meeting up with rural members from around the island.

Rotary district governor pays a visit to Arran

The Isle of Arran Rotary Club was delighted to receive a visit from the district governor last Tuesday.

Alex Blair travelled to the island to talk to the club and according to Rotary members he proved to be a wonderful speaker, sincere and enthusiastic about the organisation that he had only joined in 2004.

He became a member of the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Club and was President there in 2008 the year in which he became very active in his participation to work hard for the End Polio Now Campaign, organising a big golf competition to raise funds.

In his District Governor Elect year, he went to San Diego to the conference for all DGE Rotarians and he gave the RIBI President a replica of a curling stone and received a silk document folder in return which he showed the Club.

His themes for the Rotary in 2012/13 are 'Are you having fun?' and 'Why are you here?'



Isle of Arran Rotary president David Gray, right, presents District Governor Alex Blair with the Foundation Cheque while the club members look on.

Alex also said that wants to have clubs discuss 'Peace through Service' and for the stresses and strains of poverty world wide to be taken into consideration.

Arran President David Gray thanked Alex for an excellent talk and wished him continued success in all the projects he undertook for the Rotary organisation.

Future of British Legion to be discussed

The AGM of the Royal British Legion Arran Branch will take place at 2pm on Thursday 1 November in the MacLaren Hotel Brodick.

All members are urged to attend.



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Woman appointed to regenerate Clyde fish stocks

'Part of the challenge is to restore the Clyde's white fish population'

One of the west coast's most well-known fisheries managers has been appointed to investigate ways of restoring dwindling fish stocks in the Clyde Estuary.

Until 2002 sea angling competitions were held each year in Lamlash but they can no longer take place because of the diminishing fish stocks in the bay.

Promote

The Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT), a charity set up to promote an economically and environmentally viable fishing industry for future generations, has recruited Alex Watson Crook

as a dedicated Firth of Clyde Project Coordinator.

Alex, who has been professionally active in fisheries management for more than 15 years, has been tasked with developing and implementing SIFT's sustainable fishery management plan for the Firth of Clyde.

'Fish stocks are running dangerously low in the Clyde with white fish being especially badly hit,' said Alex, whose career to date has included roles as a Fishery Officer with the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency, Senior Fishery Officer with the Solway Shellfish Management

Association and Local Coordinator at Clyde Inshore Fisheries Group.

'Part of the challenge is to restore the Clyde's white fish population. The other essential task is to raise awareness about the scale of the problem facing the Clyde among the general public and fishermen.'

'It is early days but any future management plan will have to have fisheries management tools along with biological and economic considerations at its heart.'

Inland sea

The Firth of Clyde is the country's largest inland sea stretching from the Mull of Kintyre in Argyll to Corsewell Point in Dumfries and Galloway and covers an area of over 3,600 square kilometres that include the Kyles of Bute, Lochs Fyne, Striven and Long. Historically the Clyde was heavily reliant on fisheries and in particular many of the more rural communities were dependent on the industry which passed its skills down from one generation to another. However, overfishing and destructive practices have caused an almost total collapse of the fishery over the last 40 years.

Its famous and historic



Fish stocks are running dangerously low in the Clyde with white fish being especially badly hit.

herring industry was wiped out first with catches declining from a high of 44,000 tonnes a year during the Second World War to a situation where stocks are so low that it does not merit economic assessment.

Some 72 per cent of the remaining Clyde stock is made up of whiting of which around 85 per cent is less than the

legal minimum landing size. The Clyde ecosystem is extremely degraded, with the once great white fish, herring and recreational fisheries now closed or a minute fraction of their former state.

Delighted

SIFT Chairman Robert Younger said: 'We are delighted that Alex has joined SIFT as she brings with her

a wealth of knowledge about Scottish fisheries management particularly in the south west. We believe that her experience of working with fishery stakeholder groups will enable SIFT to achieve its objectives of reversing the decline in the Clyde fishery and bring about the restoration of a viable mixed fishery within the Firth of Clyde.'



Until 2002 sea angling competitions were held each year in Lamlash but they can no longer take place because of the diminishing fish stocks in the bay.

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Little Yankey is just four-weeks-old but already loves football.

Southend's newest rising star?

This gorgeous silky black Labrador puppy might be only four weeks old but she has already shown an unusual interest in football.

Nicknamed 'Yankey', after Rachel Yankey the famous Olympic team GB female

football star, she was born to Breigh (who is also obsessed with footballs) at Bogarie Farm on the Ross Road.

John and Jenny McFauld have now raised four litters of puppies but the last lot was three and a half years ago when Breigh was born to Storm. Yankey is an appropriate name as Jenny is originally from California but maybe the spelling needs to be changed to Yankee!

John McFauld said: 'We are hoping to get Yankey signed up soon as three of her siblings have already got homes. 'Any one interested in signing up a future football star can contact John on 01770 870339.'

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How safe are Hallowe'en and bonfire night events

Only buy fireworks from licensed traders and not from anywhere you are not sure about

Arran's residents are being advised to make sure they stay safe ahead of Halloween and Bonfire Night.

The North Ayrshire Council led Safer North Ayrshire Partnership is working with local retailers and partner organisations in a bid to ensure residents stay safe during the coming weeks.

Safe 'trick or treating' posters offering advice to pupils and parents on how to stay safe at Halloween are being provided to primary schools.

In the run up to fireworks night Strathclyde Police, North Ayrshire Council Trading Standards and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue will be visiting retailers to ensure fireworks

are being stored safely and sold legally to people who are over-18.

North Ayrshire Council will remove unauthorised bonfires on council owned land while police officers will be taking a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, including the misuse of fireworks.

Enjoyed

North Ayrshire Council's director of community safety, Chief Inspector Roddy Newbigging, said: 'This time of year is enjoyed by many and we are not out to spoil their fun.

'What we do want though is for people to enjoy Halloween and fireworks events safely and legally.

'It is important to remember and take into consideration other people in our communities when trick or treating or letting off fireworks.'

Local residents are reminded:

Children should be accompanied by an adult at all times when trick or treating.

All dark clothing should be avoided when out trick or treating to ensure children are more visible to motorists when crossing the road.

It is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am. On November 5 the curfew does not begin until midnight.

Only buy fireworks from licensed traders and not from anywhere they are not sure about.

Only buy fireworks marked BS7114 or with a CE mark - this shows that fireworks meet British and European safety standards.

In an emergency police, fire or ambulance should always be contacted by dialling 999.

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Olympic torch bearer to speak this Sunday

One of the people chosen to carry the Olympic torch through the streets of Britain is coming to Arran this weekend.

John Hamilton from Saltcoats will be coming to the island, complete with his Olympic torch, to speak at Arran Baptist Church, in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, on Sunday at 11am.

You may be wondering why a Saltcoats boy was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in Dagenham?

But there is an amazing sto-

ry behind John Hamilton being nominated by a local MP to have this honour.

John grew up in Saltcoats and by the time he was 12 he knew the inside of an approved school as a result of his involvement in crime.

Sadly the school didn't help, for it was there that he learned about stealing cars and getting involved in other serious crime, and he became hooked on drugs.

As the years went by John 'graduated' from approved school to prison and his life

continued to deteriorate. It was while in prison that he heard a couple of his criminal friends, who had headed to London, had become Christians.

When they returned to Scotland he met them and, said John: 'I could see the difference.'

They took him to church and, for the first time he heard the Good News of Jesus, and made a genuine decision to yield his life to Him. Did it work? Did it make any difference?

John said: 'I've never been the same since.'

He found the Bible became alive and that God had a brand new plan for his life.

In time he became an evangelist, working for 10 years with South Beach Baptist Church, and for the last seven years John has been an evangelist with the London City Mission.

And it was because of his outstanding work there - mainly in the King's Cross area - that John was nominated by an MP to carry the Olympic torch in Dagenham.



John Hamilton with his Olympic torch at Trafalgar Square in London.

Strange contraption found



This strange looking device was found close to the gateway at Whiting Bay Church on Saturday. There was a funeral at the church at 2.30pm that afternoon and the person who found it is wondering if someone attending the service might have left it behind. We have it here at The Banner office so call 302142 or pop in if it belongs to you.

The Kildonan Hotel

WINTER PROGRAMME 2012

OPEN SESSIONS SATURDAY NIGHTS 9pm ONWARDS IN THE MAIN BAR

27th October

Indian Buffet
Followed with Live Music by
the
Jazz Cafe Band
Buffet 7-9pm
Music 9pm onwards
£20pp



10th November

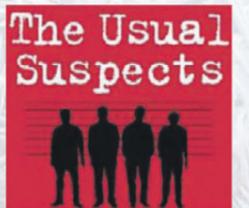
Kildonan Xmas Bazaar
Shop for your Unique gifts and
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17th November

Mediterranean Buffet
Greek, Spanish, Italian &
French
Buffet 7-9pm
£15pp

15th December 2012

Xmas Party Night
Christmas Buffet
Live music by
The Usual Suspects
£20pp



Xmas Party Nights still available
for
1st & 22nd December
(transport can be arranged)

Hogmanay Dinner Dance
Scottish Ceilidh by Arranach
Fireworks, Champagne & Snacks
£60pp

THE ARRAN BANNER

Are you feeling the pinch?

All of us on Arran are feeling the pinch these days, but apparently we don't want to talk about it.

According to a nationwide report, fewer than half of people in Scotland would talk to family or friends if they were struggling to pay their bills – even though research has also found that one in three of us are having difficulty paying their fuel bills.

And while more than one in ten said they would take a second job or do overtime to fuel their home only three per cent would investigate sources of help like an energy advice helpline.

The findings – part of a study of more than 2,000 adults commissioned by the Energy Saving Trust – show that as a nation the middle is 'feeling the pinch' more than ever before.

Apparently one in six Brits on salaries between £35,000 and £55,000 is struggling to pay their fuel bills.

And when you consider that there are probably few people on Arran earning more than £20,000 a year it looks like we may have another very long winter ahead of us all.

The majority of Arran's population is of course also made up of a predominantly older demographic and many retired people are already struggling with energy bills.

By adopting three simple energy saving habits people living on Arran could apparently save hundreds on their energy bills.

Tips to save money include many simple measures that we should all be able to do without thinking.

Turn it off – Make sure you turn your lights, appliances and chargers off when you're not using them.

If you turn a light off for even a few seconds, you will save more energy than it takes the light to start up again, no matter what sort of lights you have. And virtually all electrical and electronic appliances can safely be turned off at the plug without upsetting their systems.

Turn it down – Many households have their central heating set higher than they need, without even realising it.

Try turning your room thermostat down by one degree. Every degree that you turn it down could make additional savings to your heating bill.

Insulate – the government, energy suppliers and North Ayrshire Council all provide grants and free insulation to help insulate your home.

So it might not sound like much but these three simple measures might just help you save a little bit of money in coming months, and make the Arran winter a little more bearable.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near.' (Isaiah 55:6)

press policy

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

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Time for change

Sir,
What on earth is happening to our nation, our peoples, our reputations etc?

As we are all too aware, the world is a very sick place what with war, violet crime etc all over the place.

With regard to the UK, what on earth are our governors doing?

The economy is going down the toilet, everybody getting squeezed to bursting point.

So can any politician explain to us voters (and I remind them that whatever party or colour, we elected you and pay for you)

1. Why is our Prime Minister going on US TV talk shows when he should be sorting this country's problems out and why does he keep such an inept chancellor?

2. Why is the country so 'namby-pamby' towards crime? And why does it take so long for someone to be brought to justice?

3. Why all this tinkering with the NHS, schools, welfare, the army?

4. If we left the European Union wouldn't we be able to change drastically for the better?

This country is like a car, it has been in several different garages and been tinkered about with and has chugged along until now.

Now it's time to stop tinkering with it – scrap it and start afresh!

I for one am sick to the back teeth with it all, it's time for this country to drastically change.

If we don't, God help us.

Yours,
Gary Scott
Red Quarry Road
Corrie

Delay explained

Sir,
In your editorial of last week you ask 'why the delay' in reference to the referendum on Scottish Independence.

You also state that 'as a democrat' you recognised the SNP's right to hold a referendum after winning control of Holyrood in the Scottish Parliamentary election. 'As a democrat' you should also

recognise the right, and indeed the duty, of the elected Scottish government to fulfil their promise made during that election.

The promise was, if elected, to hold a referendum on Scottish independence in the later half of the parliament.

A referendum in October 2014 will fulfil that promise to the letter.

The other parties who returned elected members after the election, with the honourable exception of the Greens, were opposed to the very idea of holding a referendum.

After the election they did a u-turn and, from being totally opposed, became adamant that the referendum should be held as soon as possible.

A cynic might think it strange that politicians should strive to fulfil promises made to the electorate.

However the same cynic should reflect on the fate of the Scottish Liberal Democrats after their Westminster colleagues disgracefully reneged on a pledge made to the electorate during their Parliamentary election.

'Why the delay' you ask, the answer is simple.

To fulfil the SNP's promise made to the Scottish electorate.

Yours,
Jim Lees
Sannox

Shades of Fahrenheit 451

Sir,
So the SNP's latest fundraiser is to double the council tax levied on second homes. Ah, but only on those left unoccupied for a prolonged period.

How would this be policed? CCTV cameras on every property? A tag which reports to a central control room every time you cross the threshold? A network of people peering out from behind the net curtains?

No doubt there would be a Ministry of Informants, but with Eric Honaker's East Germany no more, where could the Minister get advice about setting up such a network?

I'm sure the North Koreans would be happy to

oblige. Shades of Fahrenheit 451?

Yours,
P W Yates
Nosterfield
Bedale
North Yorkshire

Kind Samaritan

Sir,
Thank you very much for your notice in *The Arran Banner*, a good result my Binoculars were handed into the visitors centre at Brodick and they have posted them to me and arrived this Morning.

My wife Catherine has written a wee poem as a thank you.

It's called Lost But Found.
Oh mighty me, whits this I see.

A wee pair O Binocs, sitting aw oan their ain,

On a summer seat at Sannox.

Noo roon an roon ma Maister went hunting every where.

Twas the wifies senior moment that left me sitting there.

A kind Samaritan picked me up...so tae speak of coorse,

Handed me in at Brodick tae find oot I wis yours.

So dinna fash yersel ma lad I am back hame safe and soun.

Its nice tae ken theres Honest folk aw roon the toon,

So we must say a big thank ye tae The Banner on the isle.

Oor binoculars are sittin' here wi' a big Arranic smile.

Next time we pay a visit we will do a safety check

Ma Mrs can keep the Bins safely roon her neck

And she promises no tae leave ye oan a summer seat again

Aye, we will be back tae Arran, come Sun or wind or Rain.

Yours,
James Nichol
Cumnock

Wrong place

Sir,
Regarding the clearance remembrance monument in front of Hamilton Terrace they have been out of place from day one.

Blocking views to the front for terrace houses, it caused a lot of bad feeling at the time.

It should be removed to a better spot or replaced with something more attractive.

Yours,
John Adams
McKelvie Road
Lamlash

Big deals

Sir,
This week's Co-op flyer is offering 'Big Deals to Take Away'.

Does this mean all other 'big deals' have to be consumed on the premises?

Yours,
Ian Ferguson
Sliderry

Keep music live

Sir,
I would like to thank Arran Music Society for the wonderful concert on Saturday 20 October in Brodick Hall.

The outstanding musicians, Tim Kliphuis (violin), Nigel Clark (guitar) and Roy Percy (double bass) blended all genres of music into an emotional journey through folk, classical and jazz.

I was overwhelmed by the nostalgia of remembering my mum and dad taking me to hear Stephane Grappelli when I was a wee girl.

Not only have the trio assumed the mantle of Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt but also they have brought the style completely up to date by including Robert Burns, Stevie Wonder and Carlos Santana in their repertoire.

The concert prompted me to buy three albums – I'll let you decide how good the music must have been.

As a performing musician, the thing I miss most since moving back to Arran from Glasgow is live music of this standard.

We are very lucky here on Arran that we have so many wonderful events like the McLellan Festival and the Folk Festival.

They will thrive with the kind of appreciative audience that supported the organisers and musicians on Saturday.

Yours,
Joni Keen
Whiting Bay

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'Hidden World of Squirrels'

A full house at the Arran Natural History Society meeting on Thursday 4 October enjoyed Peter Lurz's fascinating insight into 'The Hidden World of Squirrels'.

Peter Lurz lives in Scotland and is an internationally recognised tree squirrel expert with 20 years experience of working on red and grey squirrels in the UK, Italy and Germany as well as other tree squirrel species in the US.

Among other tasks he is currently assessing suitability of forests for red squirrels on Arran and offering advice on conservation management to the Forestry Commission.

He is a co-author of several books including 'Red Squirrel (Naturally Scottish)' and 'The Eurasian Red Squirrel'.

With his extensive knowledge he gave an excellent insight into the hidden world of squirrels.

Some of the amazing facts on red squirrels from Peter's well-constructed presentation are listed below.

The presence of red squirrels with black coats was related to climate. Red Squirrels from colder and wetter areas had darker coats.

The red squirrels have in-built sunglasses with sharp

vision across their whole retina. Their highly flexible ankle joint enables them to run down trees head first.

Their presence together with other seed predators is shaping tree morphology such as the length of cones or the thickness of cone scales.

They are able to anticipate tree seed production and plan the number of young they have accordingly.

On the issue of the impact of grey squirrels on red squirrels he clearly illustrated the role of the squirrel-pox virus.

While the virus has no apparent effect on greys they do carry it and greys spread the virus into the red population where it is lethal.

Peter finished by highlighting that Arran was a very special place for red squirrels before answering a wide range of questions from the audience.

The next indoor meeting of the Arran Natural History Society will take place on Thursday 1 November starting at 8pm in the Rangers Centre in Brodick Country Park. At that meeting the presenter will be Neil DL Clark, Curator of Palaeontology at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow. Neil has published

research on many aspects of fossils in Scotland from bacteria to conodonts, crinoids to starfish, and fish to dinosaurs. The title of his talk is 'Dinosaur Stampede – in Scotland'.

All welcome.

Peter Lurz is an internationally recognised tree squirrel expert.



Heavy rain, strong winds and snow. Over the last few years, we've seen it all. Scotland's weather has brought freezing temperatures, flash floods, and storms. And this changeable weather can have a real impact on our lives.

Like getting stranded when we're out and about, being stuck indoors for a few days or losing the things we depend on, such as heat, light or being able to keep in touch with family and friends.

Bad weather can happen at any time of year, so it's worth thinking about what we can do now to be prepared. So let's not get caught out, let's make sure we're ready. By doing a few small things now, we can save ourselves a lot of trouble later.

For useful tips on how to be prepared, go to readyscotland.org

Get ready for winter.



With his extensive knowledge, Peter gave an excellent insight into the hidden world of squirrels.

Sinister tales of Arran's



The history of Arran has often been bloody and

Scotland is widely thought to be one of the most haunted countries in the world, and home to more ghosts, ghouls, banshees and long-legged beasts than anywhere else.

Arran is no different; there have been tales of spooky goings-on here on our island for generations.

The history of Arran has often been bloody and violent, with clan wars and centuries of fighting.

With Halloween fast approaching we bring you some terrifying tales from Arran's people of the ghosts, hauntings and paranormal activity they have experienced on the island.

From legends of phantom stags, grey ladies and creatures of the night, Arran has it all.

Phantoms on the Machrie Moor

A young couple from Lamalsh were travelling home late one night along the Machrie Moor road after an evening spent with friends.

Not long before the small humpbacked bridge, there was suddenly a loud bang as if the car had hit something.

The man, who was driving, suddenly slammed on his brakes and the woman screamed and covered her eyes with her hands.

Once the car had come to a standstill and the couple had checked that they were both okay, the man jumped out of the car and said 'I have to check that the old lady is alright.'

To this day, both of them claim that an old woman walked in front of their car that night.

But no one was ever found.

Not quite gone

Many years ago Rosie Cooke from Brodick was asked to spend the night with an old lady who that very day had lost her husband.

The body of the man was sitting in its coffin in the hall of the house as Rosie and the widow took to their beds for the night.

In the bedroom there were two single beds and Rosie chose the bed nearest to the door.

The older woman went to sleep in the bed by the window with her dog by her side and a flask of tea in case she awoke in the night.

After a few hours of sleep Rosie was woken suddenly to the sound of the dog frantically scratching at the wall and barking as if trying to get of the room.

On turning to ask the older woman what was wrong, she was horrified to see the dead man sitting on the windowsill enjoying a cup of tea with his widow.

Terrified Rosie forced herself back to sleep and awoke in the morning to see the body still lying in its coffin.

The restless Ross

There are a number of tales about ghostly happenings on the Ross Road.

One of Arran's oldest roads, the Ross bisects the southern half of the island and has long been avoided by sole travellers at night for that very reason.

More than 50 years ago a young woman returned to her parents home after walking the Ross and was clearly in a terrible state.

When asked what was wrong, she told her family that while descending the hill she had heard a horse galloping towards her at a great speed.

When she turned to see who it was there was no one in sight but the noise of the hoofs passed her by and carried on down the Ross Road to Lamalsh.

More recently Angela and Andy Robinson from Lamalsh found themselves at the top of the Ross Road late one night with their two children.

They parked their car and sat waiting for a rare glimpse of the Aurora Borealis.

It was a clear, still summer's night but suddenly they felt a shuddering jolt and the car was knocked from side to side.

An irate phantom or a grumpy ghoul? Who knows, they didn't hang around to find out.

Ghoulish Glen Cloy

As part of this Halloween 'ghost hunt', The Banner took a small walk up Glen Cloy in Brodick to a reputed haunted house near Glenrickard.

It was difficult to find but eventually we came upon the rusty old tin roof and ruined boulders looking down the hillside to Kilmichael.

There are numerous stories of spooky goings on at this old cottage, which was once occupied by the Gillies family and is situated close to an ancient chambered cairn.

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ghosts and ghouls . . .

violent, with clan wars and centuries of fighting



Mrs Catherine Gillies, photographed at her home in Glenrickard. It is her ghost that many have reportedly seen standing in the doorway of the ruined cottage.

Rumour has it that the building of the house disrupted the ancient burial site and as a result there are many who give it a wide berth.

Some have claimed to see a white dog running from the front door, and when it appears the birds stop singing.

An old lady then appears at the door and once the dog is called back into the house the birds once again resume their song.

I have to say, although we saw no ghosts when we were there is an eerie stillness that overcomes you the nearer to the house you are.

In fact I could swear that the birds stopped singing as we approached the old front door.

An old friend

One of the most recurring tales we have been told is of old friends returning from another world to say hello.

Louise Haggarty of Brodick told us that as a young woman she was cycling home at around 10.30pm one night when she said hello to an old neighbour walking her dog.



It wasn't until she was past the woman that Louise remembered she had died around three years before that.

'It was her alright,' said Louise. 'She was clear as day and at first I didn't think anything of it. Needless to say I don't think I've ever peddled home faster.'

In another similar instance Gary Hemming of Lamlash said he walked into an old neighbour's house to check the building was okay.

The neighbour had died some years before but when Gary walked into the living room he saw the man sitting in his usual seat.

With a blink of an eye he was gone.

What really sends the hairs up on the back of your neck is that both Gary and Louise say the ghosts they saw looked as real as any living person. Spooky!

Hair raising companion in Lochranza

During the summer, Chris Malley and a friend were staying in Lochranza and their evenings were spent at the Lochranza Hotel enjoying nothing more than a Coca-Cola. After a night of excellent music and company, the time had come to make the 15-minute journey back to their accommodation. He said: 'Walking down the middle of the road, it was impossible to see three feet in front of us, such was the blanket of darkness.'

'The curtains to the houses were drawn and all lights long switched off, we were, we thought, alone! Initially we could hear only the sound of our own footsteps, but after five minutes stepping through the pitch black, another sound invaded the silence.'

'A second pair of footsteps, out of time with our own could be heard, which direction we could not tell, how far away we did not know...but they were getting louder.'

'The footsteps faded, but throughout the entire journey we got the unmistakable impression that we were being followed.' The next night Chris and his friend asked Andy, the local barman, about what they had 'felt' on the walk home.

'To our surprise and mild horror, he did not dismiss our story as simply people making their way home after a heavy night drinking, and instead confirmed that something mysterious comes out after dark and roams the street of Lochranza,' said Chris.

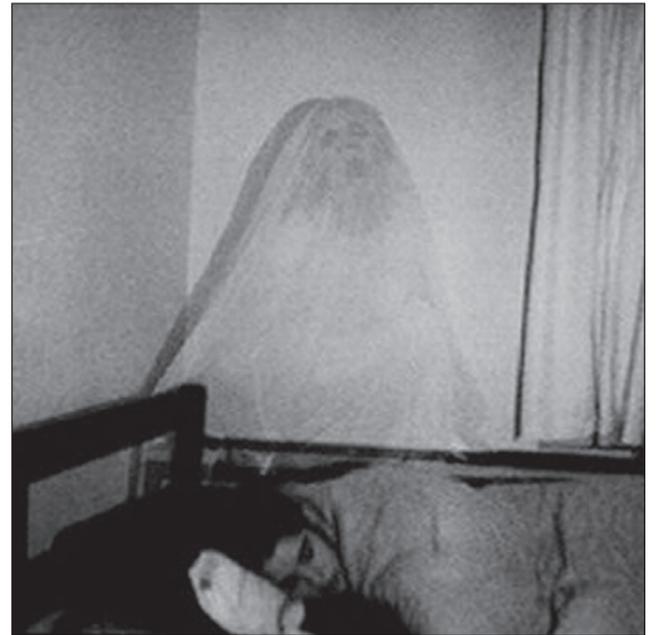
'What it was he wouldn't say. If it was friend or foe he did not know. But we can't wait to return to Arran to investigate next Summer! Happy Halloween mysterious being of Lochranza!'

Ghostly sights at Kilmichael

Kilmichael Country House Hotel in Brodick is possibly the oldest house on the island so it is not surprising many people have reported seeing an apparition of a grey lady haunting the hotel.

One evening, many years ago, a Brodick man was at the house feeding the chickens.

He hopped on his moped to return home and as he drove



past the dining room window was shaken by what he saw in his reflection.

The chilling sight of an old woman sitting behind him on the moped terrified him so much so that he has never returned to the house.

On another night a Brodick woman reported being unable to sleep in the hotel after her bedroom door was repeatedly opened and closed and her bed covers interfered with.

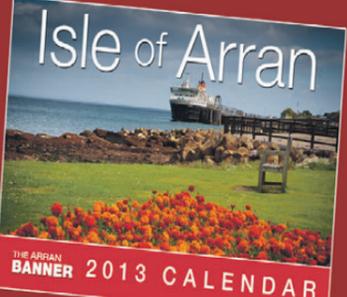
Thinking it was friends playing a trick on her, in the morning she questioned them but they had been fast asleep all night.

Things that go bump in the night

Earlier this year, John Seery and his wife came to the island and booked in at their favourite hotel in Brodick, The Ormisdale.

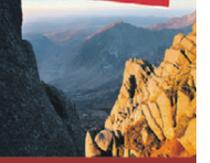
He said: 'On entering our room right away I felt the a pres-

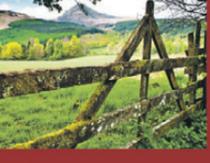
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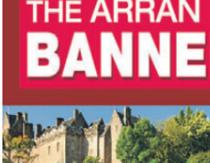


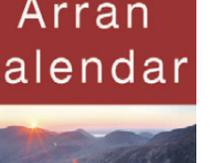
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HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY ON ARRAN AND CUMBRAE – STILL TIME TO TAKE PART

A survey of all households on the Isles of Arran and Cumbrae is currently underway. The survey is part of research being funded by North Ayrshire Council, undertaken by an independent research company called Craigforth, to provide an up to date picture of resident's housing needs, and the difficulties facing people living – or wanting to live – on the islands.

It is vital that the study incorporates the views of as many residents as possible, and the survey was sent out to all households on the islands during September. There has already been a very positive response to the survey, and the research team will be accepting returns up to 2 November.

All households are encouraged to take part in the survey, whatever their circumstances or housing needs.

People can also complete the survey online at bit.ly/hnda, or can request a copy of the questionnaire by contacting Craigforth on Freephone 0800 027 3011 or email survey@craigforth.co.uk

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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!

Sunday 28th October
Bar lunches & snacks 12-4pm
The Hotel, leisure club & public bar closed from 8pm
No evening meals served.

BEST WESTERN

Kinloch Hotel

Isle of Arran

We apologise for any inconvenience

Sinister tales of Arran's ghosts and ghouls . . .

ence and as I looked at an empty chair I saw a teddy bear lying on it.

'With the blink of an eye I had a second glance and it was gone. However as I knew Arran is steeped in history I put this to the back of my mind and carried on with the day visiting around the island.

'The next morning after our first night stay my wife complained of feeling an ice cold breeze at her side of the bed.

'I told her what I had felt as we walked into the room the day before and as we both believe in the spirit world we put it down to a visit from a family member.

'However the second night I was woken in the middle of the night with the same ice cold breeze my wife had felt the previous night. I called out who is there however it was the voice of a young lady I heard.

'She told me she doesn't always get the chance to talk however being as tired as I was I apologised to her and asked her to step back to which she did.

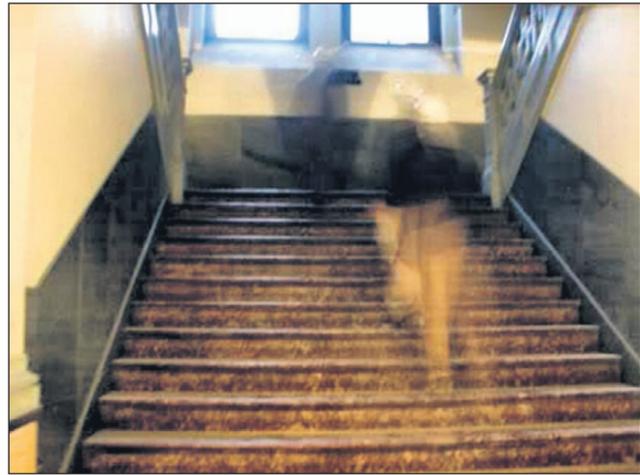
'The next morning after breakfast when paying the bill we spoke to the lady who manages the hotel and asked her about the history.

'She went on to tell us what happened years ago and she mentioned a young lady - who I felt I was communicating with the previous night - and said the young lady also had a baby which may explain the disappearing teddy bear.'

Spooky happenings at Lamlash Community Centre

Lamlash Community Hall was built in 1915 as a hospital for soldiers recuperating from wounds received in the trenches of the First World War.

In 1959 it was gifted to the people of Lamlash, and served



the usual community functions of dance hall, meeting room, cinema and theatre.

The drama club used it for three decades and in 'The Guide to mysterious Arran' Maureen Smith of Park Terrace recalled an extensive range of strange incidents in the hall.

All were concentrated in the backstage area. On three successive nights the caretaker Alan Little locked the mortise lock and placed the two slip bolts only to find it open the next day.

On one occasion, at Eastertime in the early 1980s, 15 members of the club were having a meeting in the smaller room at about 7.30pm when Maureen and one or two others felt a cold draft coming from the closed door leading backstage.

Shortly afterwards several people heard footsteps - as of a man with a slow, heavy gait - in the adjacent main hall. Immediate investigation showed there was no one there.

During a drama festival in 1999 a friend of Maureen's turned to her and said: 'See that wee man standing against the back wall?' Neither Maureen nor another friend could see anything. To her friend he appeared absolutely real.

Lonely nights in Lagg

The Lagg Hotel is one of the island's oldest buildings and there has been an inn on the site for hundreds of years.

A local laird who sold his soul to the Devil in return for sufficient cash to clear his debts reputedly haunts the hotel to this day.

Other ghosts - this time the spirits of two young lovers who were mistaken for smugglers and shot by coastguards - supposedly lurk in the woods above the village.

Boo! It's Brodick Castle

The castle has a great tradition of ghosts whose activities have been widely discussed by Arran's residents for centuries.

In her book *Castles in the Air*, Lady Jean Fforde tells of the many ghosts seen at her childhood home.

Firstly there is apparently a man dressed in a green velvet coat and light coloured breeches that can be seen reading in the library.



The ruined cottage at Glenrickard is reportedly one of Arran's most haunted buildings. 01_b43hal02

When the late Duchess became ill in the late 1950s, a Grey Lady reportedly started to be seen in the back quarters of the house.

Described as looking like a dairymaid, she was most often seen going down a back stairway or followed into the servants' hall, where she always disappeared.

Another story is that a white deer is reportedly seen on the hill when the head of the resident family dies.

A sliver-grey hind was spotted just before Lady Jean's father, the duke, died.

In her book she writes: 'A pure white calf was born four months after my mother died and another was born before my brother, Lord Ronald, died.'

Without its long and very interesting history, it seems believable that a number of spirits will be found there.



A white deer is reportedly seen on the hill when the head of the resident family at Brodick Castle dies.

Arran Pilates

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Sat CLOSED

Lamlash Bonfire Night & Fireworks

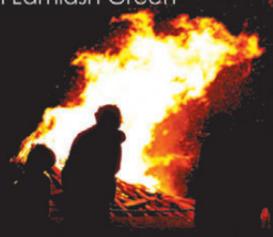
Saturday 3 November on Lamlash Green

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

Lamlash Improvements www.lamlashimprovements.co.uk
Email: info@lamlashimprovements.co.uk Tel: 01770 600559



Greylag Geese on Arran

Bird Notes
by Jim Cassels

The Greylag Goose is probably the most familiar of all the geese seen in Britain.

It is the only native wild goose breeding in Britain. In addition it is the species from which most farmyard geese were bred.

The big deep-based bill, pink or orange, is an eye catching feature plus the pink legs. The Greylag Goose is also bigger, bulkier and paler than other grey geese.

In particular the head, neck, chest, belly, upper-wing, under-wing and rump can all look conspicuously pale grey, making flight identification relatively easy.

According to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust two populations of Greylag Goose occur in Britain.

A migratory population breeds in Iceland and winters predominantly in northern Scotland, with smaller numbers in eastern Scotland, northern England, Ireland, southwest Norway and the Faroe Islands.

A largely sedentary population also exists, which occurs in much of Britain particularly on the Hebrides, the north and west Scottish mainland, Orkney, Shetland and throughout large parts of south and east England.

The sedentary population has expanded its range greatly in recent years, and now

overlaps with migratory birds during the winter.

Both populations are present on Arran. Based on the records from the last ten years the migratory population from Iceland usually arrives between the 10 October and 20 October and departs again between mid-March and mid-April.

The numbers of these geese vary but the maximum reported in each of the last five years was around 450.

From the annual Arran Bird Reports stretching back over 30 years there is no obvious trend in population.

This is a small number in comparison with for example the 35,000 Barnacle Geese that winter in Islay.

The areas favoured by the migratory Greylags on Arran are the farmlands in the Shiskine valley and around Clachaig in the south of the island.

The sedentary population on Arran, which is here all year round, tends to favour the land around Lamash and Brodick in areas like Clachlands, Glenkiln and Mayish. They have been reported breeding on Pladda.

Over the last five years their numbers seem to have increased from around thirty in 2007 to around sixty in 2012.

In the 'Birds of the Island of Arran' by JA Gibson pub-

lished in 1956 there is no mention of this sedentary population of Greylag on Arran.

Records begin to appear in the last few years of the twentieth century. Where these birds came from is not clear.

There is a long established native breeding population in Islay. In addition in the 1930s birds were released in Dumfries and Galloway for shooting.

This naturalised re-established population spread into South Ayrshire in the 1960s and this may be the source of the sedentary population on Arran.

From migratory birds that have fitted with individual labelled coloured collars, these birds do move during the winter.

One collared bird in the Shiskine Valley was previously seen in Caithness and another in Ireland.

The sedentary population also moves. For example they will go somewhere relatively safe to moult. Geese are flightless when they moult their feathers.

Again from coloured ringed birds it was found birds moulting near Hogganfield Loch in Glasgow went back to Gloucester after they had moulted. Where Arran birds go to moult is not known.

There is a lot we do not



The Greylag Goose is bigger, bulkier and paler than other grey geese.

know about the familiar Greylag Goose. If you do see them over the winter, please take a moment to share your sighting with me.

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

'Winter vomiting' – how to protect yourself from Norovirus

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Infection Control Team are reminding islanders that we're approaching the time of year commonly known as 'winter vomiting' season.

Winter vomiting virus - Norovirus - is the most common cause of non-bacterial gastroenteritis (stomach and gut upsets) in the UK.

It is easily spread, so if you're affected, it's particularly important to stay away from work or school, and to avoid visiting relatives or friends in hospital, until you have been free of symptoms for 48 hours.

Symptoms of Norovirus begin about 15 to 50 hours after becoming infected with the virus.

They usually start with nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/ or diarrhoea. Some people may have a fever, headache or aching limbs. Symptoms normally last from

12 - 60 hours and most people make a full recovery in one to two days from the start of symptoms.

Bob Wilson, infection control manager at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, leads the team that investigates outbreaks of Norovirus in our hospitals.

He said: 'People of any age can be affected by Norovirus, but the elderly and very young are particularly at risk.'

Symptoms

'So if you have had symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting and have relatives in hospital or a care home, please don't visit them until you are free of symptoms for 48 hours.'

'And if you have a relative in a hospital or care home where there is an outbreak of Norovirus, please only visit if it's absolutely necessary, and visit only one person. We also ask you not to bring young children to visit, to avoid eat-

ing and drinking while you're there, and to wash your hands before and after your visit.'

How is Norovirus spread?

Humans are the only known carriers of the Norovirus. It can spread from person to person, but the environment and surfaces can also become contaminated.

Bob added: 'Although person to person spread is most common, the virus can easily be spread in the environment if contaminated – for example, it can survive for seven days on furnishings and hard surfaces and for up to ten days on food in a refrigerator.'

Hand washing is the single best defence against the spread of Norovirus.

'The most important method of preventing its spread is to ensure everyone washes their hands with plenty of soap and hot water, particularly after using the toilet,' stresses Bob.

THE ARRAN BANNER

For more great offers visit: www.arranbanner.reader.travel



The Dutch Bulb Fields of Keukenhof

Friday departures, 5, 12 & 26 April and 3 May 2013
From Edinburgh airport, from £449pp
From Glasgow airport, from £484pp

Enjoy a delightful spring weekend break with a distinctive Dutch flavour visiting the magnificent, world-famous bulb fields at Keukenhof, and also, the Netherlands' capital city Amsterdam, the charming seaside town of Sheveningen, the seat of the Dutch government The Hague and the quaint fishing village of Volendam.

- Return flight from Edinburgh or Glasgow airports to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol[†]
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- Entrance to the gardens at Keukenhof
- Visits to Amsterdam, Sheveningen, The Hague and Volendam



Andalucian Capitals

Thursday departures, 6 & 13 June, 19 September and 17 October 2013, from Glasgow airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalusia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

- Return flight from Glasgow airport to Malaga[†]
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
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Included excursions to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

†Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

For more information or to book, please call:

01524 37500



Quote ARR

Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday 31 October, 1992

Arran's choice?

The people of Arran will have no input into where the island should be in the new local government structure.

Two of four options seem most likely at the moment – either joining with Irvine and facing east to urban Ayrshire or joining Argyll and facing the rural west.

For many years Cunninghame District Council has been regarded as a let down

by the people of Arran so islanders are urged to let their opinions be known.

Seafront upgrade

Plans have been prepared for the upgrading of Lamlash seafront and work on the first phase should be finished by Easter.

The upgrade plans include landscaping with pathways, mounds, lights, picnic tables, shrubs and a number of new parking spaces at either end.

Teacher trouble

Arran High School, so long a music teacher short, will be short again after the holidays.

Miss Mansfield who joined the staff in January leaves this week to take up a new post in Edinburgh.

David Oakes said there may be a temporary appointment to fill the gap but 'music teachers do not come easily'.

Reverend retires

The Reverend Douglas Fulton has retired as minister of Kilmory Parish Church.

A special evening was held in his honour at Lagg Hotel and the night commenced with Rev Fulton presenting John McNeish with an inscribed scroll in recognition of 35 years service as Senior Elder and Session Clerk of Kilmory Church.

Population enumeration

Next week the Arran Council for Voluntary Service will undertake an enumeration of the whole island.

It is hoped that an accurate count of every household will be made, with next Wednesday being used as 'census day'.

It will be used to not only compile population figures but to give information about the current housing situation.

On your bike

A bicycle was stolen from behind Brodick School during the holidays and was later found burnt on a fire.



A hunting party of the Royal Greenjackets pause at Glenloig on the String Road during last week's military exercise. b43twe03



Sergeant Blackman of the Hunters with Major Gordon, exercise controller. b43twe02



The command post for the military exercise at High Dougarie, complete with Arran map showing encounters with the enemy. b43twe01



On patrol in the Shiskine Valley. b43twe04

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gibbs galston

Last week must have been far too easy as lots of you correctly guessed that Archie was enjoying a few holes at Lamlash Golf Club. This week he is at the bottom of a muddy tarck but where does that road lead to?

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
Arran Brewery Tour
Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Garden Open Daily

Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12.30pm-4.30pm
2pm
Loch Garbad, Bank and Boat fishing
9am-Dusk

Saturday 27th October

Army Cadets,
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Junior Badminton Club

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 p.m.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16

Sunday 28th October

Alcoholics Anonymous
New Al-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Live Music
Open Mic Session
Sunday folk Session

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30 – 6 pm.
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Ormidale, 8.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
Ormidale, 9pm

Monday 29th October

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Citizens Advice
Breathe Walk class
Table Tennis
Come Dance with me – LeRoc modern Jive
Arran junior Football
Quiz
Badminton
Lamlash Bridge Club,
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Volleyball Club
Arran junior football Club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm –5.30pm
High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm-7pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm –7.30pm

Tuesday 30th October

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary Club
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
Brodict Improvements Committee AGM
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Healthy Outdoors: Conservation, exercise, well being
Cricket Practice
Shiskine & Machrie senior citizens AGM

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm-8pm
Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
St Molios, Church Hall, 7pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7pm
Brodict Hall 7.30pm
Lamlash Church 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
10am-1pm NTS ranger centre
Auchrannie Sports Hall 7 pm – 9 pm
Kinloch hotel, 8pm

Wednesday 31st October

Hockey
Tae Kwon-do
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Senior Badminton
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & little ones
Kids Games
AYF Film Making Club
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy Services
Arran Absolute Beginners Runners
Arran Advance Beginners Runners
Rink Games
Northend Football Training
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Dog Agility Class
Hallowe'en stories for 5 upwards

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School – kids, 6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
Arran High School, 8-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio 10.45am
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5-6pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30-6.30pm
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
5.30pm, Auchrannie Spa Car Park.
6pm Auchrannie Spa Car Park
Brodict Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Lochranza, 7pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
W/Bay Park, Beginners/Kids 1-2pm. Been before 2.30-3.30pm
Brodict Library, 4.30-5.30pm

Thursday 1st November

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
General knowledge Quiz
Zumba Fitness Club
Live Country/Folk music
Cricket Practice
Bridge Drive
Brodict Embroidery Group
Brodict Bridge Club
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Lunchbox
Ladies Netball Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Kinloch Bar, 9pm
Arran high School, 6.30-7.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Sannox Oval, 6pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Brodict Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion 12.30-2.30pm
Lamlash sports hall, 7.30-8.30pm

Friday 2nd November

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Weight Watchers
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Outside Boot Camp
Quiz
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 10am-11am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
Corrie Hall 8 – 10pm



To appear in What's On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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We are responsible, friendly and reliable, and have experience in house sitting. We will always ensure your house is maintained to a high standard as if it was our own. We are happy to look after all aspects of your home life, whether that means simply watering the plants, forwarding your mail, or keeping your pets fed, watered and happy.

We would be happy to meet with you, in person until mid November, or through Skype to discuss any matters.

If interested please contact me at lyn.williamson@xtra.co.nz

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Up to 5 days a week, Drivers Licence is important, £8.50 per hour.

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Public Notices

ARRAN PIPE BAND AGM

**FRIDAY THE 26TH OF
OCTOBER AT 7.30PM IN
BRODICK HALL,
ALL WELCOME**

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AUDITED ACCOUNTS - YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2012

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with Section 6(2) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985, copies of the Annual Accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2012, duly made up, balanced and certified by Auditors are available for public inspection at the office of the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) in Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am - 4.30pm on any weekday. Copies of the Audited Accounts are also available on the Council's website or on application to the undersigned.

Laura Friel
Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure)
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

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 16.11.12. 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
12/00562/PP; Craegard Cottage, Corrie, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8JB; Conversion of outbuilding/store and alterations to cottage to form a dwelling house including formation of dormer to rear
12/00558/PP; Craigielea, Rosemount Road, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Change of use of former care home to dwelling house
12/00566/PP; Site To North East Of Sanda, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of storage shed for equestrian purposes (private use)
12/00525/PPP; Site To The South Of, Mansefield, Kildonan, Brodick; Erection of detached dwelling house

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

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.
12/00577/PP; Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, Brodick; Demolition of existing cottage and erection of new house and raised deck

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

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.
12/00578/CAC; Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, Brodick; Demolition of existing cottage and erection of new house and raised deck

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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.

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This is a sad sale as I have no jockey for him, he needs to have fun.

All tack and rugs will be included, saddle was made to fit pony by the "Native Pony Saddle Company", brown leather.

Price negotiable without wardrobe. No time wasters please.

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SOLDIERS



**YOU ain't nothin
but a hound dog** colourful
images from the
Scottish Hound Show
**AN AMAZING MORAY
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Are red kites wiping out our waders?
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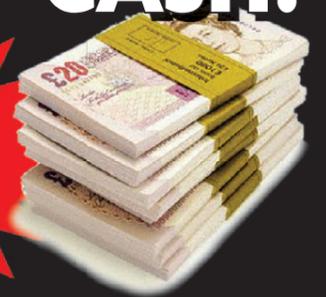
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This striking picture taken at Cladach near Brodick on Wednesday shows the incredible beauty of Arran's trees at this wonderful time of year. 01_b43aut02

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 28th October
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.

Wednesday 31st October
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on
Thursday 1st November
at 7.30 pm
in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran:
Broddick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill 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 28th October
COME TO CHURCH
SUNDAY and
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
at Broddick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, 12noon,
Lochranza/Pirnmill at
Lochranza Church, 10.15am,
Shiskine Church, 12noon,
and in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 28th October
Rev. Gillean MacLean
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In both churches:
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday Morning Mass 11 am

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland (Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 28th October
A Songs of Praise for worship will be led by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 28th October
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Broddick
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)
Broddick 7pm (Church behind Post Office)
Service will be taken by Rev Malcom Peters
All Welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 28th October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Broddick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Broddick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 31st October
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Sunday 28th October
at 11am in Dippin 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

JEAN SUTHERLAND

The family extend their sincerest thanks to all who supported the late Jean Sutherland during her recent illness - the professionals including dedicated District nurses and staff at the Hospital, the Doctors at Lamlash Medical Centre, and the compassionate staff of Cooriedoon - friends from Whiting Bay, the Church of Whiting Bay and Kildonan, the Thursday Club and everyone else, all of whom gave incredible friendship and support, especially as her life drew to a close.

A special mention must go to The Rev. Elizabeth Watson who led such perceptive, positive and uplifting service and also personally gave so much support to Jean at her death. We also thank all who sent messages and cards, they will be treasured. The sum of £222 was donated and will be shared between ArCas and the Church. Thank you also to David and Clair Hendry for arranging the funeral and to the Glen Isle for excellent Afternoon Tea.

You are truly an inspiring and remarkable community who have set an example of unconditional love and support that should be a blueprint for wider society. It is comforting to know that our mother, grandmother and great grandmother benefited from this unique experience.

ENGAGEMENT



DUNCAN NASH

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Ross, youngest son of Russell and Jan and Hannah, only daughter of Alan and Catherine.
(at last!)

BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to our wonderful mum, Louise Bunyan of Corrie who celebrates her 70th birthday this weekend

Lots of love from, Susan, Julie, James and Charlie and all your family and friends

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ALGU

Fiona Scott won the Corrie Drumadon with a great score of 63. She has been recovering from a broken ankle for about a year but now seems fit for golf.

Twenty ladies played on a lovely bright autumn day and we thank Corrie for the courtesy of the course and Eileen and Lorna for the catering - the sandwiches were wonderful.

1 Fiona Scott 89-26=63, 2 and Scratch Susan Butchard 79-13=66.

Fixtures: Saturday 24 November, Drumadon at Lamlash at 10.30am. Please put your names on the sheets at the golf clubs or contact Carole - 860530.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 21 October, 16 played for the Taylor Trophy, a Green-some competition. The winners were Ronnie Mann and Markus Kroner with a super score of 57, and second were Allan MacLeod and Jamie MacPherson with 60.2, BIH.

Nicol Auldand Wolfi Kroner won scratch with 67.

Fixtures: Sunday 28 October, sweep from yellow tees.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Winter League / Duncan Trophy. This year's Winter League starts at Corrie on Sunday 4 November. Draw: Corrie v Whiting Bay at 8.30am. Lamlash v Broddick at 9.20am, Shiskine v Machrie Bay at 11.50am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 18 October, Ladies 18 Hole Medal. 1 A Anderson 86-16=70, 2 V Parks 90-18=72, 3 L Murray 99-25=74. Scratch Alice 86. Saturday 21 October, 12 Hole Medal. First Class: 1 J Morrison 48-6=42, 2 W Kelso 47-4=43, 3 D Logan 50-6=44. Second Class: 1 A Bannatyne 60-13=47 BIH, 2 M Hesp 58-11=47, 3 J Simp-

Bridge results

Broddick Bridge Club

The results for Thursday 18 October were as follows: N/S 1 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McConnell +100, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton -310, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Maureen Cummings -350. E/W 1 Janie McLure and Anne McKelvie +4780, 2 John and Jan Beattie +2200, 3 Michael and Vic Iutz +740.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 22 October were as follows: N/S 1 J Barclay and J McArthur +470, 2 M Gardner and B Livingstone +460, 3 J and M Dick +390.

E/W 1 P and R Thompson +1660, 2 J McBride and E McNiven +960, 3 J McLure and A McKelvie +890.

son 61-9=52. Best Scratch W Kelso 47. Magic Two from J Morrison.

Ladies Arran Challenge 2012, 261 ladies played. First Class (0-12): 1 Jett Pollock, Belleisle (9) 26+25=51pts BIH, 2 Aileen Woodland, Strathaven (10) 27+24=51pts BIH, 3 Linda Greig, Kilbirnie Place (11) 27+24=51pts BIH. Second Class (13-24): 1 Melanie Watt, Strathaven (17) 30+24=54pts, 2 Janet Leiper, Stathaven (17) 26+25=51pts, 3 Mary Joe Tod, Shiskine (20) 25+25=50pts. Congratulations Melanie Watt, overall winner!

Fixtures: Thursday 1 November, 12 Hole Medal (Ladies). Sunday 4 November, Arran Challenge Ends (Gents).

Corrie Golf Club

Monday Cup, yellow tees, 22 played. 1 Paul Bremner 58-5=53, 2 Bryan Lewis 65-10=55, 3 Alan Smith 64-8=56 BIH, 4 Jim Henderson 72-16=56 BIH over Stephen Beardsley. Best scratch Paul Bremner 58.

Magic twos from B Lewis, P Bremner, T Cotton, H McArthur, Jim McConnachie, Jim Henderson, Alan Smith and S Beardsley.

Fixtures: Saturday 27 October, Joe McKenzie memorial trophy, stableford. Sponsored holes. Monday 27 October, Monday Cup from yellow tees.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 9 October, Winter Cup. 1 John Pennycott 62, 2 David Price 66 BIH, 3 Brian Sherwood 66. Scratch Peter Bashforth 73.

Tuesday 16 October, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 David Price 37 pts, 2 Brian Sherwood 34 pts, 3 Alastair MacDonald 25 pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday 30 October, Winter Cup 12pm tee off. Saturday 3 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup tee off 12pm.

Broddick Golf Club

The first round of the 2012/13 Clochendichter Fourballs took place on Sunday 21 October with the reigning Champs the Knowe driving off the current year's competition against last year's wooden spooners Alma.

First out for the Knowe were Gordon Hendry (current Club Champion) and Dougie Robertson against Jim Green and Andy McCrindle after a hard fought match the Knowe team won.

Bobby McCrae and David

Halloween darts night in aid of charity

There is something spooky happening up north tonight (October 26)!

A Halloween fancy dress mixed doubles darts competition is being held at the Catabol 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.

Hendry were next out for the Knowe playing against Bert McGunnigle and Henry Tait for Alma with the game going to the final hole and the Knowe pair winning.

Third out for the Knowe were Terry Raeside and Gordon Robertson playing the Alma pair of Brian Smith and Gus Robertson with the Knowe pair coming out on top.

The final pair for the Knowe were current Knowe team Captain Iain MacDonald and Kenny McMillan and Donald (Stud) McKinnie Alma Captain and Jim Reid (not from Peterhead and very much alive from the Douglas Hotel) with the Alma pair winning on the final hole.

The runners up from last year The Street played the Village in the second match with Russell Duncan and John Hartley for the Street playing the Village pair of John McKean and Iain MacMillan with the Street pair winning.

Next out for the Street were last years unbeaten pair of Gordon Sillars and Bryce Walker against Ally Hume and Ian Sillars for the Village, with the Village pair triumphing.

Third pair out for the Street were Callum Duncan and Finlay Sillars against the Village pair of Billy Armit and Lindsay Keir with the match ending in a win for the Street pair.

The final pairings for the Street were Nichol Hume and Ross Butchard and playing for the Village Jimmy Armit and Bruce Jenkins with the Village pair winning this match.

These results show the table after round one: Knowe 6 points; Street 4 points; Village 4 points; Alma 2 points.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 18 October, Yellow Medal CSS 61. 1 Billy O'Connor 82-21=61, 2 Ian Parker 85-19=66. One magic two from Jim Young.

Sunday 21 October, Glenburn Cup CSS 62. 1 Ian Bremner 65-5=60, 2 Raymond Burke 76-13=63 BIH over 3 Iain Murchie 67-4=63. Twos from Stuart Cree, Ian Bremner and Raymond Burke.

Fixtures: Sunday 28 October, Winter Stableford at 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday 1 November, Yellow Medal (18 holes) off yellow tees - make up own groups.

Arran Pool season gets underway

The first pool games of the new season took place last night (Thursday).

Unfortunately, as always, it is just too late for us to print the results in this week's Banner but we will bring you full coverage of all the games in the next edition. The games for the coming Thursday (November 1) are as follows: Catabol v Kildonan, Mac's Bar v Whiting Bay Golf Club and PHT v PT1934, the Drift Inn have a bye.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Liz Paul

Farewell, Farewell our Golden Girl to us dear friend and Oracle

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Arran lose to Loch Lomond



Loch Lomond proved to be too strong for Arran's senior rugby team. 01_b43rug01

RBS West Division Three Isle of Arran 9 Loch Lomond 23

In what proved to be a hard game on Saturday afternoon, Arran's senior rugby team were beaten by 23 points to nine by Loch Lomond RFC.

The Ormidale Park was once again packed with spectators as the crowds gathered to watch the island's team possibly leap into the top spot.

Dislodged

A win on Saturday would have dislodged Loch Lomond from first place but instead Arran are now back in third position behind Uddingston.

But as team officials pointed

out to The Banner after the game, Arran have now played all of the tough teams so the coming weeks should see more success for the island team.

The game started on a high when the visitors were penalised to give Arran's fly half Lachlan Jones an easy three points through the middle of the posts.

Brilliant tackles from Ryan Robb and quick thinking from Robbie Bayne kept Loch Lomond from scoring and forced more errors.

Another penalty kick from Lachie gave Arran a 6-0 lead after 20 minutes.

Arran failed to make much headway though and consistent turnover ball from Loch Lomond eventually led to a penalty. 6-3

Stunned

Within minutes the crowd were stunned to see Loch Lomond slot through a drop goal to level the score.

As the game neared the end of the second half Loch Lomond pushed forward and eventually reached the try line to leave the score at 6-13 for the break.

Clearly tiring by the second half, Arran failed to make any serious ground.

But it was simple mistakes

and errors that cost them the game as Loch Lomond used gifted opportunities to score.

A third penalty took Lachie's points total for the day to nine but sadly Arran failed to score any more points in the second half.

Another converted try and a second drop goal gave Loch Lomond the 23 point win.

Big game

This Saturday Arran have another big game, this time against last year's main opponents Lanark RFC.

Both teams were promoted at the end of last season so Arran will be hoping for a win.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Loch Lomond	5	5	0	0	24
Uddingston	5	3	0	2	17
Arran	6	4	0	2	17
Oban Lorne	4	3	0	1	15
Paisley	5	2	0	3	11
Isle of Mull	5	2	0	3	10
Millbrae	3	2	0	1	8
Lanark	6	1	0	5	6
Clydesdale	3	1	0	2	5
Jordanhill	4	0	0	4	-4

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