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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2014 No 1984 60p

Arran aims to be among the chieftains o' the puddin' race



'We feel it is time to put The Arran Butcher products on the map'

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Stornoway black pudding had better watch out. There's a new kid on the block waiting to take its crown. And it is made right here on Arran. The Arran Butcher has completely re-branded their homemade black pudding and haggis with a view to selling them across Scotland and beyond. It is the first attempt by David and Dawn McKinnon, who run the family firm, to break on to the mainland with their products. Both the black pudding and haggis are made from scratch in the company's Blackwaterfoot premises where they have been tweaking traditional family recipes - one from David's dad Hugh, who started H B McKinnon 50 years ago. David said the rebranding had been a 'work in progress' since March. The company has had new printed skins produced for the re-launched products

which are designed to be bold and state that they have been made 'exclusively' on the Isle of Arran. As production increases David is planning to build a new chilling and storage area. He has already bought a new chiller from the now closed Bilslands cafe. And if the move proves a success it could mean one or two new jobs on top of the three full time and seven part time staff presently employed. Stornoway black pudding, which has been called 'the best sausage made in the UK' was forced to apply for protected status after the four butchers who make it on the Isle of Lewis saw their businesses threatened by 'impostor puddings' labelled as Stornoway, but made outside the Western Isles. The black pudding and haggis are already widely available in the two Arran Butchers shops in Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza, the Co-op and Wooleys, but are now in the Island Cheese Co shop in Brodick and Bay Stores in Whiting Bay.

Bye, Bye, Bilslands!
 So Arran bids a sad farewell to one of its best loved shops. Today (Saturday) Bilslands of Brodick closes its doors for the last time. Owners Alastair and Alison Bilsland are retiring after 44 years trading on the site to spend more time with their nine grandchildren. The present shop, which opened in 2002, has been bought by a developer who is to lease the shop which will become a Tesco Express after renovation early next year. Alastair says he is retiring with 'mixed emotions' after a lifetime in the retail trade. End of an era see pages 10 and 11.

Alison and Alastair are still smiling as they look forward to retirement.
 20_b43bye01

Continued on Page 3



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Disruption and power cuts mean it's welcome to winter

Arran was battered by the first storms of winter this week.

Gale force winds, which had been building over the weekend, peaked on Monday night leading to the cancellation of all ferries on Tuesday leaving many passengers stranded on the island and the mainland.

At the north end of the island 230 homes in Lochranza and Catacol were left without electricity when storms brought down a power line.

Half of the customers had their power restored after three hours, with most of the rest in the hours which followed by rerouting their supply.

However, 35 homes in Catacol were not able to be restored until the original fault near the village was repaired more than eight hours later.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution apologised to customers for the disruption and thanked them for their patience.

The storms which hit Scotland were the aftermath of hurricane Gonzalo which caused widespread damage and a power blackout when it hit Bermuda.

Caledonian MacBrayne said the ferries could not sail on Tuesday due to 'adverse weather of north-westerly



Head gardener Tim Keyworth stands beside the huge oak tree which was uprooted at Brodick Castle. 20_b43tree02

winds gusting up to 55mph.' The Lochranza to Claonaig service was also suspended for the day.

On Wednesday there was an unscheduled 5.40am sailing from Brodick in order to pick up the scheduled 7am sailing from Ardrossan and after that the ferries returned to normal.

Overnight on Monday strong winds and torrential

rain had battered the island with the east coast and particularly Brodick, Corrie and the north coast experiencing the worst of the weather.

Blocking

At Brodick Castle a huge tree fell blocking the whole road near the castle exit.

The 80ft oak tree, thought to be about 100 years old, was blown down from the roots,

pulling several other trees down with it as it fell.

New head gardener Tim Keyworth, on his second day on the job, lead a team of gardeners who spent several hours cutting up the tree with chainsaws to clear the road.

The castle and country park was closed to visitors on Tuesday as a safety precaution.

Police warning after rise in unreported accidents

During the past two months police have received reports of several minor road traffic collisions on the island where the driver of the vehicle which has struck the other car has not stopped or reported the matter.

As a result local police Sergeant Allen Dodds is urging residents to be aware of their obligation under the road traffic act.

If you injure a person, damage property or another vehicle with your car, it must be reported to police if you are unable to trace the owner.

He told The Banner: 'In the event of a collision the driver of the vehicle must stop and, if required to do so, give their name and address and any identification marks of the vehicle to the person whose car or property was damaged.'

'If a minor road traffic collision occurs and the damaged vehicle is unattended, please contact 101 and inform police of the incident, this will allow us to trace the driver of the damaged car.'

Police files

Police on Arran have reported a relatively quiet month.

However a 76-year-old man from Arran has been reported to the procurator fiscal after an alleged act of vandalism.

A 22-year-old woman from Kilmarnock was also reported after allegedly driving carelessly.



The huge oak tree completely blocks the castle exit road. 20_b43tree03

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Successful rebranding



Dawn and David McKinnon with the newly rebranded products outside the Blackwaterfoot shop. 20_b43pudding01

They plan to target the hospitality industry

Continued from Page 1

It is also popular on breakfast, lunch and dinner menus at hotels and restaurants across the island which champion Arran produce. They have produced a sausage exclusively for the Auchrannie Resort and are in advanced talks with another hotel.

Dawn said: 'We get customers in the shop from the Kinloch Hotel who have just had their breakfast and want to take a taste of Arran back home with them to share with friends.'

'Not just Scots but visitors from England and elsewhere where black pudding and haggis are hard to come by.'

Now, after developing the products on the island, David is ready to take on the challenge of taking on competitors on the mainland.

And for the first time the couple are to take a stand at the Scottish Food Show in Glasgow early next year to solely promote the products.

They are also in talks with a distribution company on the mainland with a view to getting the products out, initially across the west of Scotland, then across the country and beyond.

Target

They are also planning to target the hospitality industry and are to hold talks with Taste of Arran.

The products are being sold in a 325gm finger, a 650gm half stick and a 1.4kilo full stick for hotels and restaurants.

The firm which began as H B McKinnon changed its name to The Arran Butcher when they took over the

Blackwaterfoot butcher's premises in 2011.

David said: 'The products have no added extras and no e-numbers which is important. It is a true taste of Arran. There are only a few brands which are well known, and obviously Stornoway is one of them, but we want to get our black pudding, and haggis, known off the island. The feedback we are getting is already positive and we want to build on that.'

They chose these products due to the relatively long shelf life. But for the couple it is very much the start of expansion plans which could see further new products coming on line in the months ahead.

Dawn added: 'We feel it is time to put The Arran Butcher products on the map.'

Drivers urged to get ready for winter

Police Scotland is urging drivers to make a few simple checks this winter to stay safe and not put themselves, their families and other road users at risk. Last week, in a seven-day initiative, Police Scotland road patrols conducted mobile and static road checks across the country in an effort to keep road users and pedestrians safe ahead of winter weather conditions and shorter days. In the West of Scotland, Police Scotland dealt with 767 drivers who were using their vehicles on public roads with a defect.

A total of 394 received warnings for minor defects, 232 were issued with Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme Tickets (VDRs) and for more

serious defects 141 were issued with a fixed penalty conditional offer ticket or reported to the procurator fiscal for the most serious offences. Inspector Craig Linton at the divisional road policing unit, Greater Glasgow said: 'Thankfully most of the defects detected were minor and could be dealt with by giving some advice to the drivers, however there were still 141 defects that were serious enough for the officers to issue a conditional offer of fixed penalty or report the driver to the court.'

Arran's police sergeant, Allen Dodds, added: 'The checks are not difficult, anyone can do them, and they will help to keep you and your family safer when out

in the car during the wetter and colder weather. It doesn't take long and should be done regularly.

'If you're not sure how to check your vehicle, have a look at the Police Scotland website where you will find a short video which we hope will help you.'

'If you do not feel able to carry out the checks yourself or think there may be other issues with your vehicle, you should have it checked by one of the garages on Arran. 'Don't put yourself and your family at risk when a few simple checks will help to keep you safe ahead of winter.'



Remember to put your clocks back one hour this weekend

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Buyout plans public meeting to be held

Cash pledges as 'Save our Shurig' campaign gains village backing

A rescue bid for a village pub has already been pledged as much as £20,000 in community donations.

The offers have poured in after a community buyout was suggested when the Eden Lodge Hotel in Whiting Bay shutdown almost overnight last month.

The loss of the last hotel in the village has led to what is being called locally the 'Save our Shurig' campaign, as the pub was previously known.

The cash has so far all been pledged by holiday home owners, but with the campaign gaining momentum a total of 84 people have now signed up to show their support by registering their interest with the buyout plan.

They are now being sent questionnaires asking what they would want to see a

community village pub to provide and what investment they would be willing to make in the event of a buyout.

A public meeting is to be held next Sunday, 2 November, at 1.30pm in Whiting Bay Hall to explain the buyout proposals and discuss any alternatives, such as share in any future ownership.

At the meeting there will be a presentation by Martin Booth on community owned pubs. He was involved in the buyout of his own local pub the George and Dragon in Hudswell, North Yorkshire and two others.

However, buyout co-ordinator Sandra Butler says that while the community should be prepared to act, her hope is that the seven bedroom hotel can be sold as a going concern.

Five potential commercial buyers - including one which is said to be 'very interested' - have come forward and Sandra has now been in touch with the previous owner Finola McGinley and is keen to speak to anyone who is seriously interested in taking over the hotel as a going concern. 'While the hotel is not on the market the family would be happy to look at reasonable offers,' Sandra said.

But she insists: 'I only want to hear from serious contenders for purchasing it as a going concern - otherwise the village is ready to act if anyone has plans for a change of use.'

Sandra has also been investigating what grants would be available to a community buyout.

She said: 'We have a community conversation going and that is exactly what we need, with some great ideas coming in.'



Prize draw winner announced

Visitors to the 2014 Arran Open Studios event in August had the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win a signed limited edition print by AOS founding member Josephine Broekhuizen of Lamlash. Josephine is pictured, left, presenting the print to winners David and Pat Pendlebury of Brodick at Josephine's home last week. 20_b43art01

'If a commercial buyer is found for the hotel, I think everyone will breathe a huge sigh of relief. If that happens and this all comes to nothing, I don't think it will have been in vain because it has been a largely enjoyable three weeks and it has got the community talking.'

Martin Booth said it was a 'privilege' to be asked to give a little presentation. He said: 'With my wife Linda, I've been visiting Whiting Bay regularly over for last 25 years to see my wife's

mum and dad June and Tony Curtis, who both live there. We have often dropped into the Shurig for a pint and a chat, so I was really saddened to hear that it had suddenly closed. But I knew that this was not necessarily the end of the story.'

Bankrupt

'Six years ago, the George and Dragon, the only pub in our village closed, as the owners went bankrupt at the height of the recession. After a year of doing without it, as no one looked likely to

buy it, a few villagers got together and, to cut a long story short, we formed a community co-operative, persuaded about 170 villagers, friends, relatives and a fair few strangers to join and invest, which enabled us to have the funds to buy and re-open the pub.'

'We were only the second community in the UK to do this, but since then about 30 pubs across the UK - including a couple in Scotland - have used the community co-operative model.'

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Local MSPs join fight against breast cancer

Today (Friday 24 October) people across the country will come together to find fun and stylish ways to wear pink in the office, at home or at school.

Donations raised by this year's fashion-inspired event will go to the Breast Cancer Campaign to fund lifesaving breast cancer research.

Arran's SNP MSP Kenneth Gibson and West of Scotland Conservative MSP Jackson

Carlaw have joined the fight against breast cancer by taking part in Breast Cancer Campaign's flagship fundraiser.

Mr Carlaw said: 'Every year in Scotland, more than 4,500 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. Sadly, more than 1,000 women die from this disease each year.'

'This is why we need to support Breast Cancer Campaign's fundraising efforts

to support world-class breast cancer research that saves and improves lives, giving people quicker diagnoses and more effective treatments.'

The theme of 'wear it pink' this year is to 'look good, do good' in support of breast cancer research.

Mr Gibson said: 'I hope *Arran Banner* readers will join me and wear pink today to show their support for breast cancer research.'

Distillery in fight for first visitor experience award

The Isle of Arran Distillery will learn next week if it has won a prestigious award.

The Scottish Field Whisky Challenge, run by our sister publication, has for the first time this year launched a distillery visitor experience award.

Arran is up against nine other visitor centres across Scotland in a bid to win the title. These include Laphroaig and Lagavulin on Islay, Dewar's World of Whisky in Aberfeldy, Highland Park on Orkney and Balblair in Tain.

Readers of the magazine, in print and online, had to vote for their favourite with the winner to be announced at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh next Friday 31 October.

Built in 1995, the visitor centre at the Lochranza distillery was opened two years later by HM The Queen.

The visitor centre has been awarded a TripAdvisor certificate for excellence this year and has hosted The Arran Malt and Music Festival for the past five years. An exclusive bottling is produced to mark the festival each year, which has become a highly sought-after collector's item.

The Scottish Field Whisky Challenge is now in its 14th year and has firmly established itself within the industry, and on the night will name a Whisky of the Year chosen by a readers' panel. This will be between Aberlour A' Bunadh and Bunnahabhain 18 year-old and 25-year-old.

For the second year, there will also be a Whisky Bar of the Year award.



Jackson Carlaw MSP has donned his brightest pink clothes for the campaign.



Kenneth Gibson MSP is urging Arran's residents to take part in the 'Wear it Pink' event.

Ayrshire and Arran catering team go close in NHS good food challenge

A catering team from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board has finished runners-up in the NHS Good Food Challenge.

The challenge is a new competition which tests the skills and imagination of hospital catering teams across Scotland in developing the best Scottish-themed patient meals. The Ayrshire and Arran team beat off strong competition from Glasgow and Dumfries and Galloway to win the west regional heat of the challenge.

In the national final at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank last Friday the team

faced competition from teams from Lothian, who won the east heat, and Grampian who won the north of Scotland heat. Lothian were crowned eventual winners.

Committed

Martin Henry, programme lead for soft facilities management (which includes catering) at National Services Scotland, was one of the judges. He said: 'Every patient has the right to expect decent, nutritious food when they are in hospital.'

'We are committed to providing patients with the best nutritional care possible.'

BEST WESTERN
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Isle of Arran

Saturday 25th October
Due to the wedding celebration of Stuart and Gillian the hotel will be closed to the public from 2pm

The swimming pool will be open from 10am until 1pm.
Bar lunches will be served from 12pm until 1.30pm.
Unfortunately no evening bar meals will be served.
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Our best wishes to the happy couple!

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Free Screen Machine films for youngsters

Youngsters on Arran are being offered a free trip to the cinema as part of a film festival.

Two films will be shown on Friday 14 November when the Into Film Festival, in partnership with Regional Screen Scotland, brings the Screen Machine to Brodick.

The films to be shown are The House of Magic at 11am, an animated film about an abandoned cat who stumbles into the wacky home of a retired magician, and the latest episode in the X-Men saga, Days of Future Past at 2pm.

Both films are open to five to 19-year-olds and are free to book and are being promoted so that youngsters can learn and discover more about the cinema.

Paul Reeve, CEO of Into Films said: 'Using Screen Machine is a fantastic way to extend our programme beyond the usual cities and towns and enable young people who don't live near a cinema to experience the magic of film on the big screen. Our aspiration is to be fully accessible to every young person in the UK and with initiatives such as the Screen Machine we're on our way to achieving that.'

• Do you have a story for **The Arran Banner?** Call our reporters on **01770 302142**

Winter vomiting – how to protect yourself from norovirus

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's infection prevention and control team are reminding residents on the island that we are entering that 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 which investigates outbreaks of Norovirus in our hospitals.

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

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

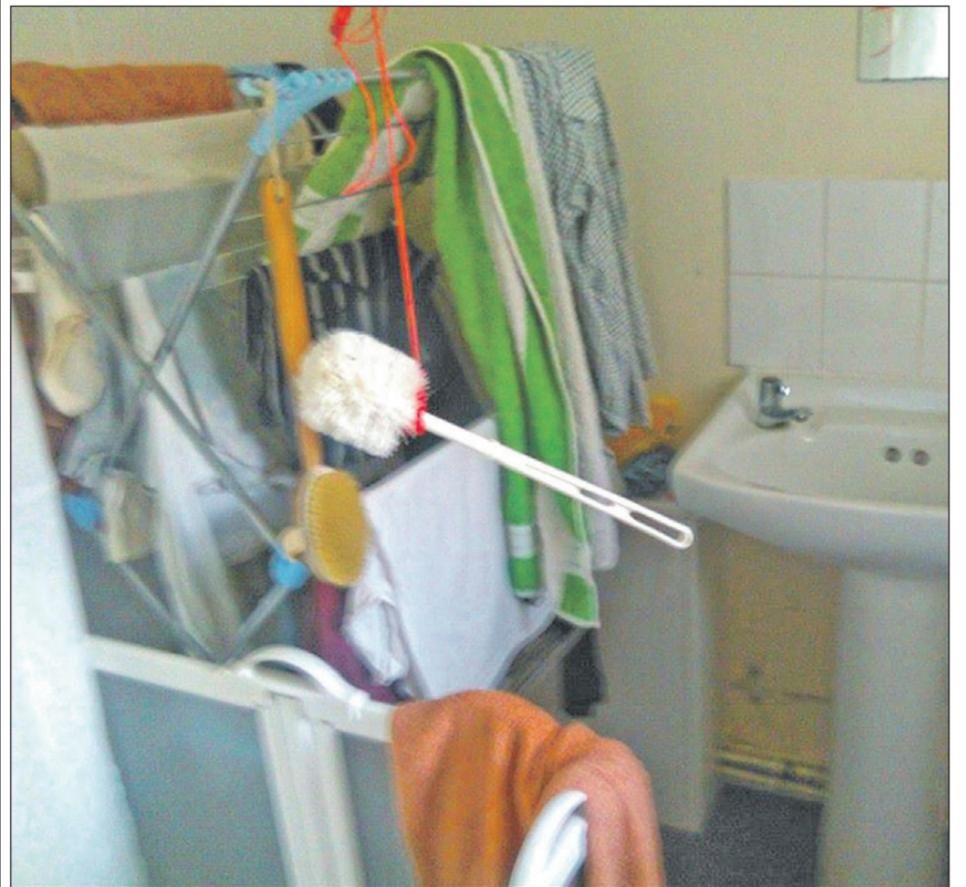
How is norovirus spread?

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.

Bob stressed: '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.'



'What are the chances of this ever happening again?' The toilet brush wrapped around the panic cord.

Lucky escape for pensioner

A Lochranza pensioner had a very lucky escape when he collapsed in his home last week.

John Stuart, who lives in the Kirk Care houses in the centre of the village, was left lying on the floor of his bathroom after breathing difficulties on Wednesday night.

The 75-year-old knew his only chance of alerting help was to pull the emergency panic cord.

But unfortunately it was high up and well out of his reach.

'He threw the toilet brush at

it,' said his friend Stan Redman. 'He had just one chance and unbelievably it hooked

onto it and pulled the cord.'

'What are the chances of that ever happening again? It

was just incredible.' The panic cord alerted the emergency services and Mr Stuart was taken to Arran War Memorial hospital where he remains for treatment.



It's a long way down!

This unusual shot of men working on the spire at St George's Church in Lamlash was taken recently by local photographer David Ingham. Work is still progressing on the £1.4million redevelopment of the long-derelict building to turn it into flats.

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Seven of the youngsters fundraising for the Malawi trip climbed Goatfell earlier this month.

Eight months to go until Malawi trip for Arran High School pupils

It's eight months to go until Arran High School's Malawi expedition and one of the pupils fundraising for the trip is Jack Ewing.

Here he gives an update on how their preparations are going.

'Before the holidays the seven of us had a great walk up Goatfell on a beautiful sunny day to start our fitness preparation for the trip.'

'Sadly Mr McEnaney has had to withdraw from the expedition as he has now left the island, but we are very pleased that Mr Steve Garroway will be joining us in his place.'

'One of the places we will be staying during our trip is at Fisherman's Rest, near Blantyre in Southern Malawi.'

'This is a social enterprise run by a family of former missionaries as a base for work

they carry out alongside the local community.'

'Some of the projects they are involved with are: conservation and tree planting, construction of school kitchens and teaching at the local community centre giving help with computers, reading, writing and games.'

'Blantyre is at quite a high altitude, over 1,800 metres and we will be staying there for a few days during our trip and getting involved with some of the projects.'

'Our next group fundraising activity will be selling calendars at the high school Christmas fayre in November, and we will be starting to work on a wall display in the school when we return after the holidays.'

'We are also working hard on our individual fundraising ventures as well.'

Concert to launch land initiative success

Two top international jazz musicians are top of the bill at a special celebration concert to be held this week.

The Arran community land initiative is hosting the 'musical feast for all' to celebrate securing the funding for the first community land purchase on Arran in Whiting Bay.

On the night, top musicians pianist Alan Benzie and bass player Andy Sharkey will join local musicians Tim Pomeroy on guitar, Mandy Hunter on clarsach and jazz singer Joni Keen.

Multiple award-winning pianist/composer Alan Benzie is one of the UK's most exciting young talents. His mixture of flowing lyricism and spontaneous creativity has earned him consistent critical praise, while his own

trio showcases his colourful, tuneful compositions, as well as revealing an imaginative storytelling quality. Alan is currently working on his debut album Traveller's Tales, due to be released in the spring of 2015.

Performing

In the last few years, he has toured in the US, UK, eastern Europe and Japan, as well as performing at London International Jazz festival, Monterey Next Generations festival and Rochester International Jazz festival.

Andy Sharkey is no stranger to Arran audiences, having played here in recent years with The Euan Stevenson Trio, Joni Keen and Ugly Bug Ragtime Three. Back on the mainland he is one of the most sought-after bassists in the country, performing

alongside a host of different musicians. Recent highlights have included the Vilnius Jazz Festival, a concert for EU delegates in Brussels, launching the Glasgow International Jazz festival with the award-winning nonet New Focus and some gigs accompanying UK jazz pianist of the year David Newton.

Andy is also a member of the Nova Scotia Jazz Band, Scotland's premier Dixieland group.

Initiative treasurer Juliette Walsh said: 'We want it to be a night of celebration but also to bring our group and our aspirations for the future to a wider audience.'

Tickets cost £10 or there are a limited number of tickets costing £30, which includes a pre-concert dinner and a glass of bubbly.

Whisky tasting comes of age on Facebook

A whisky tasting with a difference will take place later this month.

To bring the ancient art right up-to-date, it will take place entirely on Facebook.

The Isle of Arran distillery will host their first ever mini tasting on the social media site on Wednesday 26 November.

In the past year the Lochranza distillery has hosted two Twitter tastings which proved a great success and they now feel it is time to give their Facebook friends a chance to participate in a special edition tasting and share their thoughts and comments with the community on the site.

Marketing manager Jaclyn Mckie said: 'On the night we will be tasting our 10 and 14-year-old single malts and would like to invite all of our Facebook friends who have either or both of

these expressions of Arran at home to come and join us on Facebook for a dram at 7.30pm GMT.'

'To make things a bit more interesting, we would also like to offer some of our friends the opportunity to receive a mini tasting pack containing 35ml samples of both the 10 and 14 year-old drams plus two more extra special drams.'

Wee bit special

'We have been in secret talks with James MacTaggart our master distiller and he has made a selection of two drams that he feels are that wee bit special and something very different. We are keeping the identity of these two drams a secret for now, but suffice to say they will be worth waiting for as they are whiskies which are a work in progress and very much an exclusive.'

To be put into the draw

to receive one of the mini tasting packs, email Jaclyn at jaclyn@arranwhisky.com with your name and address by midnight on Sunday 9 November. Put Facebook tasting in the subject line of your email.

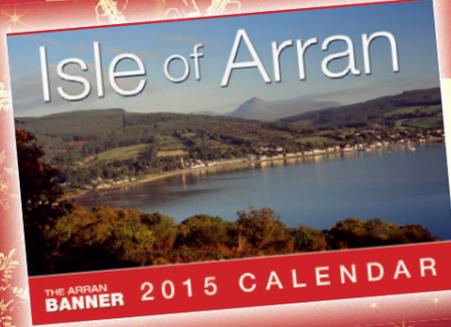
The winning names will be drawn at random the following day and the packs sent out the week commencing Monday 17 November.

Jaclyn added: 'The tasting packs are limited and can't be sent to everyone, however we do hope that our Facebook friends will take part with the Arran drams they have at home even if their name isn't drawn to receive the pack this time around. We really hope people support us on our first Facebook tasting and we are looking forward to hearing all your comments and thoughts on your favourite Arran whiskies, your visits to Arran and our distillery.'

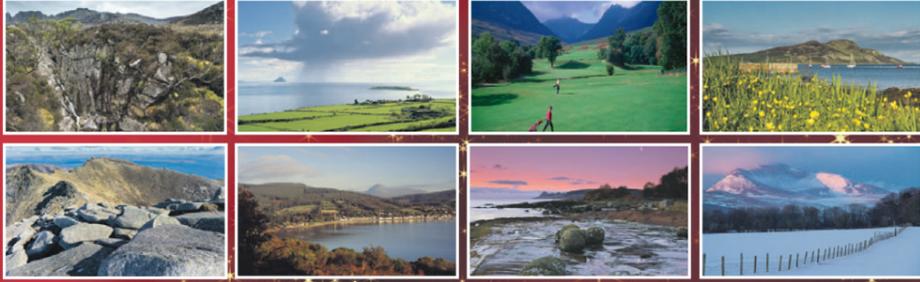
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THE ARRAN BANNER

Fond farewell to 44 years of family trading

It was with a heavy heart that we reported on the closure of Bilstands this week.

The once great institution that was Bilstands in Brodick will today (Saturday) cease to trade.

After 44 years the time had come for owners Alastair and Alison to put their feet up and finally enjoy retirement.

Many will be very sad to see the instantly recognisable 'Bilstands' name removed from the building on Brodick seafront.

No more pottering about on a Saturday browsing through the rails and rails of clothes, toys, books, cards, walking boots, jackets, souvenirs, pyjamas, hand bag, duvets - and even pet baskets - before enjoying a cup of tea in the cafe.

Bilstands really did sell everything.

For so long Bilstands has been at the core of Brodick, it's hard to imagine the village without it.

Like so many business owners on Arran, Alastair Bilstand was a trailblazer.

It was when faced with the reality that very little was open in Brodick on a Sunday that he came upon a great idea.

He demolished the old boutique and mini cafe to make way for what stands there now - a large shop and restaurant which was open seven days a week, 363 days of the year!

This meant that even on the darkest winter days, when the wind was blowing a gale and the ferries were disrupted, there was always somewhere to take shelter - in Bilstands.

Ian Johnston at the Auchrannie was another who recognised that visitors coming to Arran wanted more than just mountains and beaches, so he built a resort with restaurants and swimming pools.

Likewise when VisitArran was founded in 2007 it paved the way for a different kind of holiday advertising which has seen visitor numbers rise and rise in the years that have followed.

Taste of Arran too, created to celebrate the wonderful produce made here on the island, has seen Arran's many food products shipped to the far corners of the globe and made Arran a household name in some parts.

These are just a few examples of the men and women who have had the guts to do something different in order to make Arran the best it can be.

Alastair and Alison Bilstand were two of a great few who helped pave the way for modern tourism on the island.

And for that we thank you!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor

RET confusion

Sir,
With the Road Equivalent Tariff coming in, I phoned CalMac to buy a six-journey ticket.

While not expecting a further discount I was looking forward to paying less than £90 for them.

While preparing to give my credit card details to the salesperson on the telephone, I asked what the price was and was given a figure of a touch more than £150.

On asking how this could be I received the reply 'The RET tariff doesn't apply to six-journey tickets. Do you want to proceed?'

Containing myself I gave a civil (but negative) reply.

I am horrified that the salesperson tried to make us pay

more than £60 more than we should have; she even knew that my wife and I are senior citizens, as this had emerged from our conversation.

We thought everyone should know of our experience.

Yours,
Phil Ryder
Farnham
Surrey

Helpful pickup driver

Sir,
I would like to thank the man in the red pickup who went out of his way to take me to the hospital on Thursday 16 October.

I had come off my bike coming into Brodick and wasn't in the best shape but I think he said his name was Brian?

Also thanks to Jamie at CalMac for dropping my bike back in Lamlash.

I really appreciated it!

Yours,
Lynsey Mackintosh
Lamlash

Pub worship isn't new

Sir,
I am pleased to see the Episcopalian minister's programme of services in pubs has gone well, but it's not a new idea.

I remember going to an Episcopalian service taken by the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Douglas hotel in the late 1950s.

Yours,
Carol Primrose
Bishopbriggs

Bright idea

Sir,
Your 'dazzling' front page of the 16 October edition of *The Banner* prompts me to ask if the National Trust for Scotland at Brodick Castle are making such savings on electricity then perhaps they may think seriously about reinstating the Castle Modern Art Exhibition in November 2015?

Very regrettably it will be much missed by all the exhibitors, it being a focal point, and certainly by much of the local community and visitors to the island.

Yours,
Viv Parks
Kilmory

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Valley to show off hidden talents to the whole island

In just a week's time the hidden talents of Shiskine Valley are to be displayed for the whole island to see.

Organisers say that as far as they are aware, an arts and crafts exhibition has never taken place in this corner of Arran.

So, they decided to find out just how many different talents and skills could be found in and around the Shiskine Valley and discovered there were many more than they could ever have dreamed of!

As a result Shiskine Valley's Hidden Talents will take place over three days next weekend at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

Response

Organised by artists Susie Thompson and Coral Smith, Susie told *The Banner*: 'We have had such a tremendous response to the appeal we put out to our local community earlier this year. An amazing 45 exhibitors are now taking part in the exhibition. There are going to be a very wide variety of skills on display including, quilling, paintings, embroidery and tapestry work, photographs, furniture and marquetry, knitting

and crochet and much, much more.'

The event gets underway at 10am next Friday (31 October) with a non-celebrity opening. Susie explained: 'Because, without all of us, none of this could ever have happened, so we are all going to open our very own Hidden Talents together. We will all have something to be proud of and celebrate.'

An unexpected bonus for organisers is that Robbie Crawford at the Kinloch Hotel is offering a discount of 20 per cent for lunches from 12pm until 3pm on all three days, but only for visitors to Hidden Talents, and the vouchers will only be available at the exhibition's reception desk.

Susie said: 'We hope this should help to tempt all who live in those distant, far flung places on our island to come and look at all our hard work. They will most likely be in need of drink and sustenance before they return from whence they came - so please spread the word.'

The exhibition will be open on Friday 31 October until Sunday 2 November from 10am to 4pm.



The Arran Banner on holiday

Gordon and Geraldine Robertson have taken our popular 'Banner on Holiday' feature to a whole new level.

For the Arran couple even found time to read their favourite weekly newspaper on their wedding day last month (September) and are pictured here at the waterside at Javea in Spain.

Started seven years ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

Arran residents and holidaymakers are making sure that they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Slaidburn or Santaponsa, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to *The Arran Banner*, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.

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How the Gift Shop and Boutique and Mini Cafe looked for many years.



Demolition of the Gift Shop and Boutique in 2001.



Shona Cormack cuts the ferry shaped cake at the opening of the new Bilslands shop in 2002 as Alison and Alastair look on.

It's end of an era shuts its doors for Forty-four years of family

The institution that was Bilslands of Brodick is no more.

Today (Saturday) is the shop's last ever day of trading.

It brings to an end a family history on the site by Alastair and Alison Bilsland after 44 years, as they prepare for retirement.

The story begins in 1968 when at the age of just 21 Alastair moved from his native Glasgow to rent the Boathouse Grill at Cladach which he ran for two summer seasons.

Two years later he bought the Mini Cafe which had been set up with the mini golf park in 1960.

It was originally built by the Dawes family from Kilmarnock who poured 3,000 tons of bottoming on what was a marshy site between two hotels.

It was sold in 1967 and put up for sale again in 1970 when Alastair saw it as a golden opportunity and bought it - complete with the flat roofed house behind the cafe - and became engaged to Alison.

Three years later he and his new wife built the Gift Shop and Boutique next door which opened in April 1974 and couple operated the two premises for 30 years.

Only in 1994 was there a threat to the continuation of the businesses when Dawn Construction applied for planning permission to build a supermarket on the site, then believed to be for Safeway or Presto, only yards from the newly built Co-op, but the plans came to nothing.

Alastair recalls: 'I was made a favourable offer which I couldn't really refuse and I got swept up in the whole thing, but it was all dependent on planning permission which was refused.'

Now 20 years later the shop is indeed to become a supermarket, a Tesco Express, as previously reported in The Banner.

Dream

It was the late 1990s that Alastair's dream of a new shop began to take shape after a chance encounter with a group of young foreign visitors.

It was a Sunday and one of them asked Alastair: 'Is Brodick closed today?' as they could not even get a cup of tea.

Alastair's own businesses lay shut and it was after that he vowed to open his new shop every day of the year - except Christmas and New Year's Day.

In September 2001 the two Brodick landmarks of the



Alastair still has a smile on his face

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How Bilslands looked when it had just opened.



Alastair, Shona and Alison outside the new shop.



Alastair with staff at the Boathouse Grill pictured in 1970.

As Bilslands for the last time trading on the same site



Despite the demolition work.

cafe and the gift shop were razed to the ground with the gift shop moving next door while construction work took place over the winter on a new expanded store and the Bilslands name was born.

The new two storey shop, cafe and restaurant opened in April 2002 principally a clothing shop with an eating places both inside and outside on the patio.

Meeting place

At the time Alastair told The Banner he wanted it to be 'the meeting place' in Brodick where customers could have a cup of coffee, browse in the shop, meet a friend, enjoy a good meal and all in the centre of Brodick with a fine view over the bay.

He vowed the shop would open all year and for longer hours.

Alastair, who is 67, and been in the retail trade all his life, said: 'I hate shopping. I just like to sit and have a coffee and read the paper and that was the concept I wanted for Bilslands.'

The official opening the following month was attended by more than 100 guests with the ferry shaped cake cut by guest of honour Shona Cormack the daughter of friends of the Bilslands who loves Arran.

The couple's first attempt

at retail came in 2006 when they agreed a long lease of the shop to another couple but, 'unfortunately', says Alastair, that didn't work out and the Bilslands took back the running of the shop in May 2012 until today.

Alastair said: 'It was not my intention to sell the shop as a supermarket development, but after advertising worldwide, we could not get anyone to take it on as a going concern.'

He says it is with mixed emotions he will close the shop for the last time today.

'I will be sad to say goodbye to the staff who have been fabulous and so loyal over the years. Two of them have been with us more than 40 years.'

Happy

'But I am also happy that we can now retire and spend more time with our four children and nine grandchildren - two of whom are in New Zealand.'

Alastair also plans to spend more time messing about on his boat, the Arran Rose, with one future adventure a sail round Ireland.

But Alastair says: 'We have no plans to leave Arran. The island has been my home for three-quarters of my life so we have no plans to go anywhere.'

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Antiquarians dig deep

Around 50 members of the Arran Antiquarians Society enjoyed a fascinating and lively account of the work of a National Trust for Scotland (NTS) archaeologist this week.

Derek Alexander began his career by studying Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh before becoming a field archaeologist and in 2011 was appointed by the NTS to advise on all properties and small and large scale projects of an archaeological nature.

The same year also saw him appointed head of archaeological services for the Trust.

With three full-time archaeologists in his team, between them they cover Scotland from the Solway to Shetland, and from St. Abbs in the east to St Kilda in the west.

Portfolio

The Trust has 11,000 archaeological sites in their portfolio, with 100 scheduled monuments and 270 listed buildings.

In 2010/11 an overview of all their sites was undertaken, using many methods; radio carbon dating, tree ring counting, dates found on buildings and artefacts, and geophysical surveys.

Much of the archaeology is under threat by soil erosion by animals, birds, the weather and the sea.

Proposed development on NTS properties are also a threat and have to be carefully evaluated before work begins.

Derek's team also promote



Derek Alexander, NTS archaeologist, discusses his work with a member of Arran Antiquarians.

'outreach' by conducting guided walks, Thistle camps involving local schoolchildren, and liaising with media to promote interest.

Recently Derek has concentrated on the islands. St Kilda is a dual World Heritage Site

(one of only 25 in the world). In areas of Hirta settlements were found Bronze and Iron Age artefacts.

A souterrain was also studied, and pollen evidence proved early cereal cultivation.

There were some early Christian burials with 7th and 8th century grave markers bearing signs of the cross.

Nearby Boreray also showed signs of Iron Age occupation. The islands were laser scanned, as was the is-

land of Staffa, including Fingal's Cave.

Staffa has very few archaeological remains other than a 15th century farm and a 19th century bothy, but this year test pits were dug and Iron Age pottery and flints were found, so man was certainly there 4,000 years ago.

Incidentally, Derek said he found a fragment of 14th century pottery lying on a footpath there.

Abandoned

The small island of Mingalay is a NTS property, and was abandoned in 1912, but is slowly being covered by sand and machair, although it still yields pottery and tea spoons.

Derek then spoke about Arran and the great potential at Brodick Castle for investigation once new development starts.

The replica Bronze-Age roundhouse has created great interest, and contributors have included a potter from Stonehenge and a bronze forger.

Ongoing work on Arran included Terrence Christian of Glasgow University surveying air crash sites from the Second World War on Goatfell and Ben Nuis.

Matt Ritchie of Scottish Archaeology, the sole archaeologist for the Forestry Commission Scotland, is doing work on chambered tombs which are coming to light after tree clearances.

Derek added that next year the European Archaeological Conference is coming to Glasgow, and hopefully will visit Arran, so archaeology on Arran should be the hot topic of 2015.

A fascinating and informative afternoon, and after an hour-and-a-half Derek still had not got onto the promised part of his talk on battlefields.

The next meeting will be on Monday 17 November, shortly after Remembrance Day, when appropriately Stuart Gough, will be showing his collection of postcards from the Great War.

Learning about the birds of Arran

At the October meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle Dr Jim Cassels spoke on his favourite subject - birds.

As he frequently told members: 'I really need to learn to say 'no' but fortunately, when asked to take on the task of mapping the birds on Arran, he didn't say no and so became involved in an enormous task. It took five years, counting both in the winter and the breeding season.

Jim explained that 700 reporters were recruited to cover the island, which was divided into 139 areas, each one square kilometre. As a result 36,300 reports were generated and 177 species counted. A lot of computer work was involved in producing colourful maps of the island with data about the different species, and the project became a beautifully illustrated book with photos of birds and their habitats making lovely pictures of Arran.

Church quiz winner announced

Kilmory Church once again produced an annual quiz to raise money for kirk funds. This year the theme was 'It's all in a Number' - cryptic clues with numbers were the answers.

Congratulations go to Quintin Oliver from Lamash who was drawn as the winner. For those who tried the quiz but were unlucky on this occasion, here are the correct answers.

1. 366, 2. 20,000, 3. 12, 4. 1,189, 5. 8, 6. 4,408ft or 1,344m, 7. 12, 8. 650, 9. 8,296ft or 2,528.7m, 10. 282, 11. 2, 12. 90, 13. 15, 14. 13, 15. 6, 16. 200, 17. 21, 18. 6,076, 19. 1,923, 20. 88, 21. 16, 22. 767 mph or 1,234km/hr or 340.29m per second, 23. 30, 24. 147, 25. 112.

Mairi Duff, session clerk, would like to thank Janet Mulholland who each year manages to find something a little different for the church quiz which this year raised £300 for funds.

She added that they look forward to the quiz for 2015.

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Last chance to save castle friends from disbanding

It looks like the end of the road for a group of friends on Arran.

At the annual general meeting (AGM) of the Friends of Brodick Castle next month there will be a proposal to dissolve the charity.

It would bring a sad end to the group which has been fundraising for the castle for more than 18 years.

But chairwoman Ann Hollingworth said they could simply not find trustees to take on the work of running the group.

As well as holding monthly meetings with guest speakers, the friends give their time to help raise funds and take part in activities run by the castle during the year.

They also help with the maintenance of the gardens and looking after the artefacts in the castle.

However, five of the trustees are due to stand down at the AGM, having served their four years in office as per the constitution, leaving Ann

with just three trustees and no obvious replacements. Ann herself has just one more year as chairwoman.

‘Unless people come forward at the AGM, which I think is unlikely, the group will sadly have to close.’

Ann says she has spoken to a number of people including the honorary president Lady Jean Fforde, but no one has been able to come up with a solution.

The voluntary work carried out by Ann and other individual members will continue, but not under the umbrella of the group.

Ann said: ‘If we could have an influx of 50 or even 60 year olds that would help, but that isn’t going to happen. I would rather group was disbanded, rather than left slowly dying, so that someone may be able to pick it up again in a few years time.’

‘Some of the friends have been with the group all of its 18 years and everyone has

done their bit but none of us is getting any younger.’

She said they were experiencing what other groups on the island were facing, a falling membership which has already seen the closure of the Brodick and Lochranza SWRI groups.

‘I think it is a combination of things. Lifestyles have changed, couples are both out working, grandparents and looking after grandchildren. People may also be involved in more than activity and genuinely have only a certain amount of time to give any one group.’

As a result at the AGM the following proposal will be submitted by the trustees: that an application be made to OSCR to dissolve the charity known as Friends of Brodick Castle and Country Park - No. SC033817 - in accordance with regulations.

The AGM is on Wednesday 19 November at 2.30pm in the castle tearoom all members are urged to attend.

Brewery expansion takes them to America

The Isle of Arran Brewery has opened a company in the USA to manage its imports into America.

The CEO of the new American operations is Karen Miles, former finance director of the US Rice Producers Association, who will now be responsible for registering Arran Brewery labels in 50 states and obtaining import licenses.

Arran Brewery will not just be importing its own beers but other Scottish and European Craft Beers into the US market, which grew by 18 per cent in the last six months alone.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: ‘We have had great support from Scottish Enterprise and others in entering the US market and this major drive will see Arran beers being available to



Karen Miles is the new CEO of Arran Brewery USA.

wholesalers throughout the USA in 2015.

‘This is a considerable investment as we continue to build a new brewery at Loch Earn and have just taken the keys for the sake brewery development in Dregghorn, North Ayrshire.’



The colours on each of the new bottles have been chosen to mirror the hues of the landscape on the Isle of Arran where the whisky is made.

New look for distillery’s core whisky range

Isle of Arran Distillers has given its core range of single malts a packaging makeover, inspired by the dramatic landscape and natural beauty of the island.

Pocket Rocket Creative has redesigned the packaging of four of the distillery’s key products to better reflect their quality and provenance.

The colours on each of the new bottles have been chosen to mirror the hues of the landscape on the Isle of Arran where the whisky is made.

Distillery managing director Euan Mitchell said: ‘We feel very lucky to call such a beautiful place home.

‘It offers us so many perfect conditions for making top quality whisky and as so many of our expressions are inspired by the legends and landscapes of Arran, it makes sense that the packaging does too.’

‘Arran is known as ‘Scot-

land in miniature’ and offers in a single location the stunning and varied landscapes for which Scotland is noted – we could have no better inspiration.’

The Arran 10 year old malt, the distillery’s classic expression and flagship bottling, has been redesigned in shades of green, which reflect the mossy green of Arran’s hills.

The Arran 12 year old, the only cask strength expression in the core range, now comes in shades of grey inspired by the rugged rocks and stones that adorn the island, while the 14 year old has shades of purple in an echo of the

heather on Arran’s hills.

The new look of the Lochranza Reserve, a non-aged single malt bottled at 43 per cent, uses shades of blue inspired by the often dramatic skyline.

Euan added: ‘We’ve gone for a modern feel but kept some of the classic design cues, such as the copper edging, because these are our classic single malts which our loyal followers will recognise.’

‘The new designs have been very well received and we expect the enhanced standout they offer will create opportunities for retailers.’

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Found a dead Barn Owl?

The PBMS relies on members of the public sending in any predatory bird carcasses they find

As the dark winter days approach, Barn Owl sightings increase and occasionally people come across them dead. What should you do?

Scientists at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) have been monitoring the levels of pollutants, including pesticides and industrial contaminants, in predatory birds like Barn Owls for more than 40 years through a scheme called Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS).

The PBMS relies on members of the public sending in any predatory bird carcasses they find.

Anyone who finds a dead Barn Owl, or any bird of prey, should initially contact Lee

Walker on 01524 595830 or by email on leew@cch.ac.uk. PBMS will then send you out a submission pack that will allow you to post the bird back to PBMS free of charge.

Results

A post mortem examination is carried out on every bird received.

The results are sent back to you and PBMS retain tissues in their archive for their monitoring programme and future studies.

When picking up a carcass ensure it is safe for you to do so - especially if it is beside a road.

It is a good idea to minimise skin contact with the carcass. Use an inverted plastic bag

to pick the bird up and always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling a carcass.

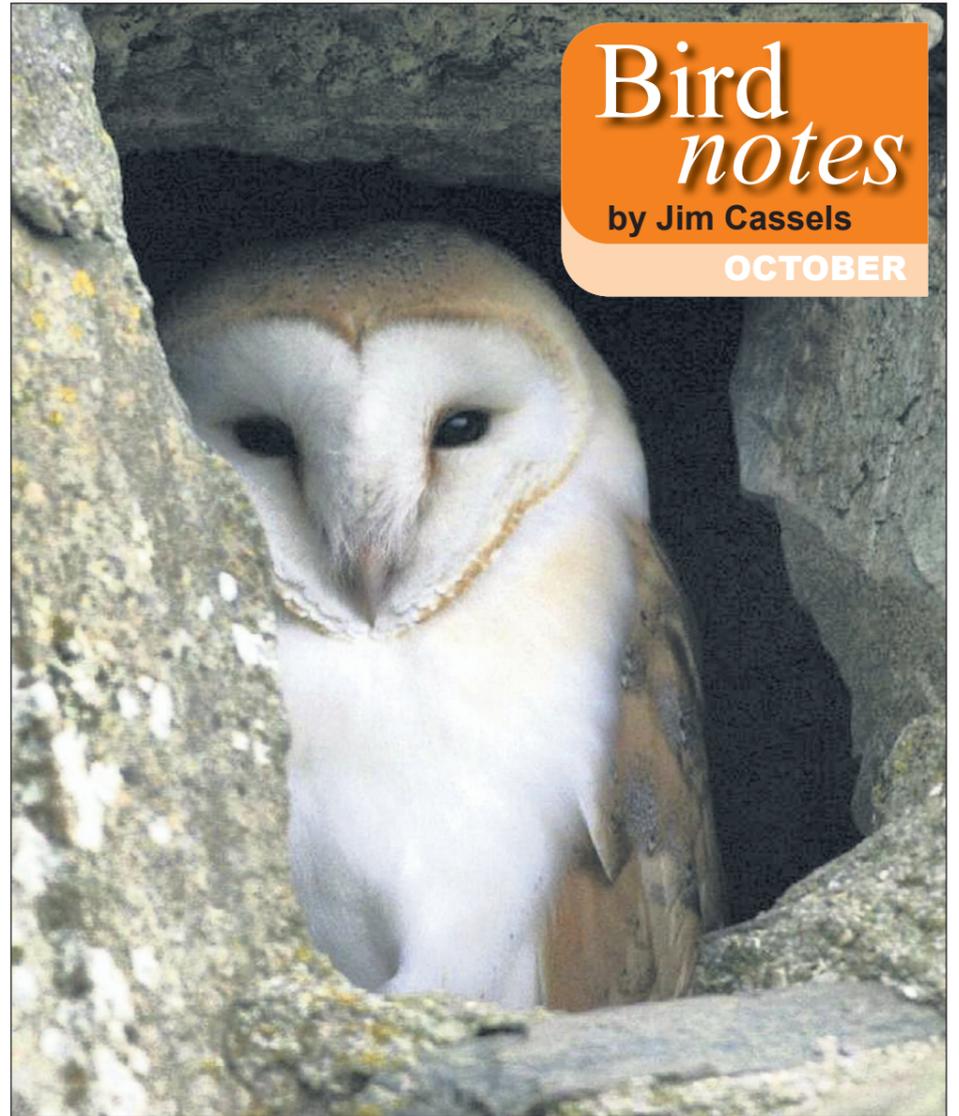
To find out more about PBMS go to <http://pbms.ceh.ac.uk>

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at james.cassels@virgin.net.

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Bird notes

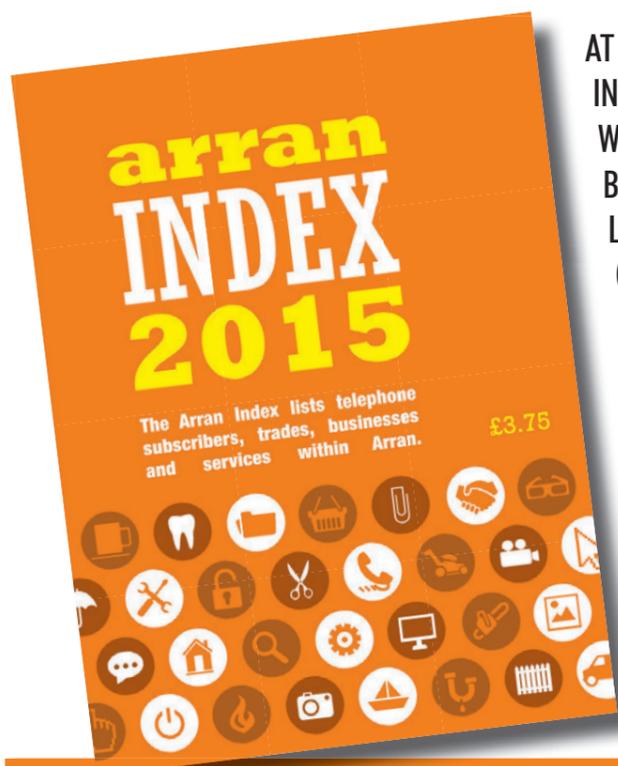
by Jim Cassels

OCTOBER

A Barn Owl. Photo by Carl Reavey.

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POP INTO THE OFFICE ANY TIME DURING BUSINESS HOURS FROM FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER.

ROUND THE RURALS

Shiskine SWRI

At the first open meeting of the new session held on Wednesday 1 October, Evelyn Hamilton the new Shiskine SWRI president, welcomed members back and gave a warm welcome to new members and visitors.

The guest speaker was James Murchie, in his second visit to Shiskine, and his talk was entitled 'Life at Sea part 2 - Nautical Medley by Land and Sea'.

Once again the audience was enthralled by the

informative stories of his 40 years of service in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA).

The RFA is manned by a civilian crew and, as well as supporting the Royal Navy worldwide, they also support commercial trade routes.

Aerial photos

He also shared aerial photos of Arran taken from a helicopter when one of the RFA ships was anchored in Brodick bay, and many recognised their homes.

After a lovely supper the annual WRI show trophies were presented by Evelyn.

Competition winners for beetroot chutney were: 1 Morag Murchie and 2 Jenny Harper.

The exhibition 'A boat' was won by Kate Mackintosh with Margaret Bannatyne coming second.

The raffle was won by Jeanette Houston, Machrie and Glasgow.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 5 November at 7.30pm in Shiskine Village Hall when the guest speaker will be Alison Burnett talking about associated country women of the world.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 29 October, 1994

Housing revolution

The middle of Brodick village may never be the same again.

Since work began to build a new Co-op supermarket, many have wondered what will become of the old store.

The Banner now knows that a revolutionary type of development - the first in Scotland - will fill the site and a much larger space behind; it is called Foyer Housing.

At a meeting of Arran Community Council this week, it was mentioned there is not enough housing for single people.

Chairman John Sillars then revealed he has heard a development of low-cost houses is to be built on the site of the old Co-op.

A century of purvey

William Cook & Sons of Kildonan is one of the oldest established businesses on the island but in the past four years there were fears a century of purvey would come to an end. But this week new owners Elspeth and Russell Cheshire from Nottingham took over the shop and post office, saving it for now.

One quirk is that Elspeth's father, who moved south shortly before she was born, recalls working as a cigarette salesman and 40 years ago visiting Cooks stores to supply them with tobacco.

Glass attacks

It was reported during the summer that broken glass had been hidden in the sand at the children's playground at Brodick.

At the time it appeared to be a one-off, but police now say it is such a regular occurrence council workers now have to rake the sand every morning.

Cally Isles returns

The *MV Caledonian Isles* has returned after three weeks away for her first annual overhaul.

During her time in dry dock, a number of inspections were made to her bow and stern doors after anxieties following the Estonia disaster.

Engineers were surprised to discover significant damage to the steel plates at the bottom of the vessel, probably sustained during frequent use of the Irish Berth in Ardrossan.

Consulting first

There are more big changes afoot in Brodick. A few weeks ago it was reported that improvements were being planned for the sea-front as well as changes to the pier.

No specific plans have yet been submitted but other plans include a car park near Brodick slipway, a cycle track the full length of the front, an extension of car parking at Curries as well as a plan to look at the 'uncomfortable road geometry' around the post office and Curries.



Brodick Pier's new bus stance is now fully operational. b43twe01

Coal triangle

Arran's residents are used to higher fuel prices, but coal on the island is cheaper than it was two years ago.

There are three suppliers now all vying for the trade that two have been doing for some time.

This competition means that in the short term the prices might have come down but can business support all three?

For 18 years Middletons of Lamlash have been responsible for keeping the home fires burning on Arran.

They have co-existed happily with Banatynes of Blackwaterfoot for much of that time.

And now Colin McCaig has come into the game - how will it all end?



Russell Cheshire and his wife Elspeth have taken over William Cook and Sons village store in Kildonan. b43twe03



Middleton's coalmen Tony Scott, Ronald McDowall and David Boal in their Lamlash yard. b43twe02

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, boat & bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 12.30-4pm
 2pm
 Open all day

Saturday 25th October

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Arran Lifeboat Launch
 Grand Auction

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Green, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lamlash Pier, 2.15pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 11am

Sunday 26th October

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

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

Monday 27th October

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

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

Tuesday 28th October

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowles
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 Garden walk
 RunArran
 Live Music

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

Garden Walk
 Metafit
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing

Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Arran High School, 6pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 29th October

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Back to the Bronze age
 Coffee Morning
 Arran Fiddle Club AGM

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall 10.30am - 12 noon
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm

Thursday 30th October

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

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

Friday 31st October

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

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Castle, 11.30 - 1pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-5pm
 Kinloch Hotel, 10am - 4pm



Recruitment

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Public Notices

Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall

AGM

Monday 10 November at 7pm

At the village hall

Contact Anita Ford 830200
or Tony Baboolal 830217

ARRAN FIDDLE CLUB

AGM

Wednesday 29th October, 7.30pm

Library, Brodick

BANNER BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 14.11.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development
14/00574/PP; Site to West of Blairbeg House, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Erection of detached dwelling house.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

The Glenisle is an award-winning family run hotel and we are looking for people with a customer-focused outlook to join our team.

HEAD HOUSEKEEPER - We are looking for a person with hotel housekeeping knowledge to run the housekeeping and laundry department at the Glenisle and to lead our team of housekeepers.

The ideal candidate will have worked in hotels before, and will have detailed knowledge and skills relating to hotel housekeeping. The skills you will need include leadership, team-building, and policy and procedure development. In addition you will need to know about cleaning procedures, health and safety regulations, and have clear ideas on how housekeeping contributes to good customer service.

You will need to be well organised and will have responsibility for ensuring that everybody follows the agreed policies and procedures, and that standards are maintained by all housekeeping staff.

As well as working in the housekeeping section, you will have the opportunity to work in other areas of the hotel, and will receive training so that you can act as a duty manager when necessary.

This post is a permanent position, either full or part-time. Salary dependent on experience.

GENERAL ASSISTANTS - to work in all areas of the hotel (housekeeping, laundry, restaurant, kitchen)

Previous hotel work would be helpful, but it is more important that you are friendly and outgoing, and can show that you know what good service means to a hotel guest. All positions could be full-time or part-time over 5 or 6 days a week.

For more information please call Timothy or Geoffrey on 01770 600559
To apply send your CV to admin@glenisلهotel.com

Glenisle Hotel & Bistro, Shore Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8LY



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Tel: 07979 925435 (Arran)

Classifieds

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WANTED
Records/vinyl wanted. Phone Thomas on 07504 739952

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2 single beds. Modern wood and metal frames, with mattresses. £25 each. Can be sold separately. Brodick. Tel 07841 107881

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Weddings



Catriona Allison, eldest daughter of Colin Allison (Tighnamara, Blackwaterfoot) and Barbara Doctor (Edinburgh), and Graeme Tod, youngest son of George and the much-missed Lillian Tod (Balgowan, Shiskine) were married by The Reverend Angus Adamson in the garden of Tighnamara, Blackwaterfoot on Saturday the 9th of August followed by a reception at the Kinloch Hotel.

The new Mr and Mrs Tod would like to thank Angus, all at the Kinloch and all their friends and family for the kindness shown to them and for helping to make it such a fun and memorable day.



David and Fiona would like to thank everyone for the many cards and good wishes they received following their wedding on 1st October.

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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, 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

Sunday 26th October Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches 10.15am Harvest Festival service at Lochranza.

Shiskine Church, 12noon, Harvest Festival service. Brodick Church, 10.30am Harvest Festival service followed by soup and sandwich lunch in the church hall in aid of Christian Aid.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 11.50am Tea and Coffee and Fellowship, 12noon Harvest Festival service. A Harvest Festival service 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 26th October Kilmory 10am Lamlash 11.30 am Both Churches: Mrs Liz Clarke All welcome, including families; children's area Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing) **Sunday 26th October** Morning Service, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick Prayer Meeting **Wednesday 29th October** at 7pm 5 Glen Road All welcome

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005). **Sunday 26th October** 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. All most welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass 7.30pm Sunday morning mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings **Sunday 26th October** 11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick Tea and Coffee after the service. Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer. Contact phone no 600222 Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 26th October Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie) Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office) Mr Philip Rose

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. **Sunday 26th October** Harvest Thanksgiving. Holy Communion, 11am. Coffee after service. **Wednesday, 29th October** Holy Communion, 12.15 pm. ALL WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BANNATYNE - Margaret and Donald are very appreciative of the support and kindness shown to them after Colin's death. Special thanks to the two lady paramedics and Dr Welsh, to the Rev D. Ford and Mrs J. Hunter for the lovely and uplifting service. Our thanks also for the many cards, letters and expressions of sympathy, to D & C Hendry and to the Kinloch Hotel. The generous donations to the RNIB amounted to £524.

McCULLOCH - Following the death of Iain McCulloch, Nancy would like to thank family, relatives and friends. Also medical staff, staff at Cooriedoon for their support, David and Clair Hendry for the funeral arrangements and Jean Hunter the assistant minister.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 19 October, Gents 12 Hole Medal, nine played in tough conditions. 1 G Andrew 47-6=41, 2 D Logan 49-5=44 BIH, 3 J Morrison 49-5=44. Scratch G Andrew 47. Magic twos D Logan @ 4th, G Andrew @ 7th and W Robertson @ 12th.

Brodick Golf Club

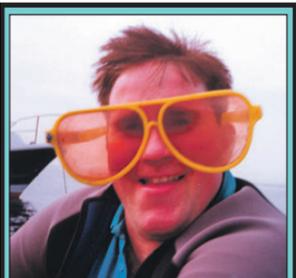
Wednesday 15 October, only six turned out on a cold and windy day. 1 W Kroner 79-12=67. There were three magic twos one each for D Robertson, J Dick and J Hartley. Sunday 19 October, Winter Cup round three, non-handicap counter - it was almost a total washout. There were only four brave souls who went out and two, Gordon Hendry (31pts) and Alastair

Bridge club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club competition held on Thursday 16 October were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Fiona and David Henderson, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. E/W 1 Eendy McNiven and Morag Gardner, 2 Janie Macclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Ian Andrews and John Dick.

The result for Monday 20 November were: N/S 1 Alison Bilsland and Tricia Martin, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Janette McBride and John Baraclough. E/W 1 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar, 2 Jennifer McArthur and Ellie Jones, 3 Jessmay and Jim Peacock.

BIRTHDAY



HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY
Love from all the family xx



Lamlash Golf Club.

Dobson (29pts) who returned scores in awful conditions, so well done to them. No twos were recorded. Fixtures: Sunday 26 October, Clochendichter first round. Don't phone the team captains - they will phone you. Saturday 1 November, Saturday Cup, arrange own games. Sunday 2 November, AGA Duncan Trophy, sweep at Brodick, open draws 9am and 12noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 18 October, sweep from medal tees, 8 played, CSS 62. 1 S Beardsley 65 BL9, 2 B Rooney 65. Best scratch E McKinnon 64+2=66. Magic twos from S Beardsley and J McGovern.

Monday 20 October, Monday Cup from yellow tees, 10 played. 1 G Murray 69-16=53 (well done), 2 J McGovern 66-10=56, 3 A Smith 65-7=58 best scratch. Magic twos from G Murray, J McGovern, J Adams, and R Burke.

Fixtures: Saturday 25 October, sweep from medal tees at 8.30am and 12.30pm. Monday 27 October, please note 12noon start all winter for Monday Cup.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

The Hamilton Salver, due to be played on Sunday 19 October, will now be played on Sunday 23 November (weather permitting). Fixtures: Saturday 25 October, Texas Scramble at 1pm,

teams of three, £2 per head. End of season buffet, 7pm at the clubhouse. Sunday 26 October, Captain's Prize, one draw at 10am.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 16 October, back nine competition. 1 Norrie MacIntyre 31-4=27, 2 Scott Campbell 38-8.5=29.5, 3 Ian Reid 37-7.5=29.5.

Best scratch Norrie MacIntyre 31, magic twos Mark Wren at the 16th and Iain Murchie at the 17th.

Fixtures: Saturday 25 October, 125th Anniversary Dinner. Sunday 26 October, Winter Stableford, note earlier starts 9.30am and 12noon. Thursday 30 October, Winter Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.



'Erupting peaks' spotted from Brodick

Could it be that Goatfell is about to erupt? Well, apart from the fact that it isn't even a volcano, it seems very unlikely. But as this picture taken by Gordon Kinniburgh of Shiskine shows there is definitely something funny going on at the summit!

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Scotstoun is scene of success for Arran

Hyndland 7 Arran 39

Glasgow Warriors were not the only team to taste success at Scotstoun Stadium on Saturday. Isle of Arran RFC travelled to the 3G pitch at Scotstoun to take on Hyndland in the BT West Regional Bowl. A league below Arran, Hyndland proved to be a straightforward game for Arran but the boys were still nervous. The first try of the game came very quickly with a great pass to Todd Jameson who scored in the far corner.

This try also sadly injured Todd's ankle so he was substituted for Frazer Barr who threw himself into the game with gusto. There was a strong westerly wind which unfortunately took Iain Keen's conversion kick off-course. Lachlan Jones added another five points early on but because of the blustery conditions the conversion attempt took too long and Hyndland eventually were awarded a penalty but missed the lineout. Arran were on a roll

though and some incredible team work from Lachlan and Jack Barbour gave them their third try in 20 minutes from Frazer Barr. (0-15) Hyndland increased the pressure on the Arran line and dominated play for the next 10 minutes but failed to score. Frazer Barr then scored his second try of the day after a fantastic push towards the line by Liam Boal, Niall McMaster and Robbie Bayne. But once again the wind

was just too strong for Iain Keen to make the conversion and it finished (0-20) at half time. As the second half began Arran clearly had not lost any of the momentum of the first 40 minutes. A fantastic ruck and maul pushed forward by Jamie Picken saw Niall McMaster power himself across the line. (0-25) At this point Hyndland managed to score their only points of the match before Robbie McDonald crossed the line in his inimitable

Liam Boal makes a break down the line. 20_b43rug01
style after a fantastic run down-field by Mark Wetton. (7-32) And just as it seemed that Arran could do no more another classic Niall McMaster powerful run gave them seven more points and a fantastic 39-7 victory. Arran will now play Strathaven RFC in the quarter finals.

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