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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2010

No 1779 55p

Public consultation ruled out for CAB closure

'The decision could not be a matter of consultation, partly as each area would wish to keep its own'

By Jennifer Lyon

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A public consultation about the proposed closure of the Arran Citizens Advice Bureau would not have been possible, according to Louise Dickinson, chairman of the North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service (NACAS).

No one from NACAS attended the public meeting on Wednesday night organised by the local campaign group to discuss the closure.

But Dave Patterson, spokesman for the Save Arran Advice Service, was able to read from a letter sent to him by Mrs Dickinson.

In it she said: 'The decision as to which bureau to close could not be a matter of consultation, partly as each area would wish to keep its own.'

She continued: 'Regarding Arran and Largs bearing the cost-cutting, this is unfortunately necessary to bring their costs down to nearer the level in the other bureau.'

She then confirmed that the Arran bureau would close on January 1.

'The closure date of January 1, is fairly soon for two reasons,' she said. 'One to enable staff to know the outcomes before the festive period, and two to minimise the period of uncertainty and upset between the end of one form of service and the start of an alternative, in the interests of the clients. The date, incidentally, is not set in stone. It is subject to operational decisions in the meantime.'

Budget cuts mean they can no longer afford to maintain all five offices

It was announced last week that NACAS is to re-structure its local network of advice services, in response to cuts imposed by North Ayrshire Council.

This will mean the closure of the office in Lamlash that has served the people of Arran for more than 20 years.

'So we have now been told by NACAS that they are 'hugely disappointed' to have had their funding cut by three per cent for three years. How many public funded bodies would be delighted to be in that position?' said Dave Patterson, the spokesman for the Save Arran Advice Service.

'Three per cent of NACAS budget is just short of £6,000 per annum,' he added. 'By closing Arran CAB they will save in the region of £20,000 in the first year alone. So in other words, Arran is footing the entire bill for North Ayrshire in one year.'

Currently the service has five offices across North Ayrshire in Largs, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Saltcoats and Arran.

Budget cuts mean they can no longer afford to maintain all five offices and so they are proposing to close the bases in Arran and Largs.

The proposed changes will mean people in Arran will only have access to the CAB through a mobile outreach service that will visit the island intermittently.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson



Happy 90th birthday for Lady Jean

Many happy returns to Lady Jean Fforde who celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday.

The daughter of the 6th Duke of Montrose and Lady Mary Hamilton, she spent most of her childhood at Brodick Castle and has lived at Strabane in Brodick for more than 50 years.

On Sunday afternoon she celebrated with her son Charles, grandson Marcus and daughter-in-law Lynn at a small gathering in Dougarie Lodge with close friends.

'I certainly don't feel 90, even if I am a little less mobile than I used to be,' she told The Banner.

For the full interview see pages 10 and 11.

said that he felt NACAS had failed to address the concerns of the Arran people by refusing to attend the meeting. He said: 'It seems that rurality is not to be a consideration. Arran and Largs are

expected to take on all of the cuts from NACAS.

Compare

'It is unrealistic of them to compare the 'cost per client' with Irvine or Saltcoats, which due to the population of

these urban areas and volume of cases will always have a lower cost base per client than Arran.

'That does not mean the individual need is any less for islanders.'



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Storms and high seas lash roads

Heavy rainfall and high seas over the past week have left a trail of damage around the island.

Many roads, particularly around the coast, have been flooded and covered in thick layers of seaweed and stones, some as large as small boulders, and vehicle drivers have had to take special care to negotiate safe passage.

By Monday morning North Ayrshire Council workers and private contractors were busy clearing up the debris.

The stretch between Catacol and Pirnmill was badly affected, as was the shore road in Kildonan. And in Corrie the seawall and railings were swept away.

Jack McConnachie, transportation manager for North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We have visited Corrie and have inspected the damage caused to the seawall by the severe weather. All of the concrete railings and cope of the wall will be re-set as soon as possible. We will also work to clear debris from the area and repair any damage to the road surface.'

The new black and gold railings in Corrie were only installed a few years ago.



The remains of the seawall and railings in Corrie after Sunday night's storm. 01_b46cor01

Give a gift this Christmas and light up a life

Children and families on Arran and in Irvine will hopefully enjoy a happy Christmas this year, thanks to The Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal.

From today, up until December 14, members of the public are invited to drop in to the venues on Arran where they see the official poster advertising the appeal with gifts for children aged five to 11.

The gifts will then be distributed to referred children and families in the area through The Salvation Army's networks, local groups and social services.

On Arran, the appeal will be jointly co-ordinated by Julie Newall and Lexie Andrade. The Salvation Army is greatly indebted to Julie for her enthusiasm, energy and willingness to give her own time to help.

'Millions of children and young people have benefited from the gifts donated to The Salvation Army over many years. By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas,' said Envoy Lexie Andrade of Arran and Irvine Salvation Army.

Making a donation to The Salvation Army's Christmas Present is simple. Buy a toy or gift for a child aged five to 11 years and take it, unwrapped, to the collection point nearest to you. Julie hopes to ask some pubs to partner with them as drop off points. The PHT has already agreed to this.

The Salvation Army is one of the UK's largest and most diverse providers of social services after the Government.

Lexie added: 'For children we need everything, from soft and educational toys for the very youngest, to CDs, games and toys and accessories for older children. And please, don't forget the boys who sometimes tend to get left out of such appeals. If you have children or grandchildren, or nieces and nephews or young

friends, think of what they might like in their Christmas stocking and consider buying one extra present and donating it.'

She said: 'We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas, and are therefore unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal.'

Police files

In distress at Largiebeg

At 7.50am last Friday November 5 a 46-year-old woman was reported to be in distress on the shore at Largiebeg, south of Whiting Bay.

Police alerted the local Coastguard team and seven members attended the scene. The woman, who was here on holiday and accompanied by her sister and husband, sustained a broken ankle.

She was carried by stretcher three quarters of a kilometre to the road and transferred to a waiting ambulance before being taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Police report that the three had been trying to take sunrise photographs across the Ayrshire coast.

No car insurance

A 34-year-old mainland man was stopped in his car in Shore Road, Lamlash at 7.30pm last Friday and charged with having no vehicle insurance.

Dangerous driving

At 8pm on Saturday night a 23-year-old Brodick man was stopped in Lamlash and charged with dangerous driving and failing to provide a specimen for a breath test.

Walkers flooded off road

Two walkers on holiday from Yorkshire apparently attempted to sleep in their car at Sannox on Sunday night.

At 2am they found their car to be flooded and tried to drive away but crashed near Carlo on Corrie Shore when floodwater across the road washed the car onto the shore. Police were called to the scene and rescued the pair who were unhurt.

More bogus callers

Police warn the public that there has been a recent spate of bogus cold telephone callers involving a number of local residents being duped out of large sums of money, sometimes extending into six figures.

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'The callers often have your name and some personal details that makes them seem to be bona fide. But on no account should you ever give out your bank details to a stranger.'

'One of the current scams involves trying to persuade people to buy energy-saving products, and unfortunately some folk are falling for it.'



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Flare found on Lamlash beach

Arran Coastguards were called out on Tuesday evening to an object found on the beach at Lamlash.

A spokesman for Clyde Coastguard, Greenock said: 'A phosphorus flare was found on the beach. The local Coastguards cordoned off the area for safety and a Royal Navy ordnance team was due to arrive on Wednesday afternoon and dispose of the flare.'

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Arran Malt sails on a slow boat to China

Export sales of Scotch whisky are on the up.

And one of Arran's major exporters is enjoying sharing in this exciting trend. The first two orders of The Arran Malt have been shipped from Lochranza to China this year.

Latest figures show that Scotch whisky's top 10 export markets grew in value over the first six months of 2010 according to new results just published by the Scotch Whisky Association. Export sales were up 17 percent on the previous year and Association chief executive Gavin Hewitt said: 'Scotch whisky distillers continue quietly and consistently to deliver impressive exports in many markets.'

Euan Mitchell, managing director of Isle of Arran Distillers said: 'Our brand sales took a knock in 2009 with the economic downturn but they have bounced back very strongly in 2010.'

'To the end of October, sales of our single malt are up 41 percent by volume and 44 percent by value against the same period for 2009. The key markets driving the growth are as follows: France, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Japan and Taiwan.'

'The UK market is a struggle these days with the independent retailers (who make up the core of our UK business) being increasingly squeezed out by the supermarkets.'

'In addition the rising rate of duty on alcohol is also making our products increasingly expensive and with VAT to increase to 20 percent in January 2011 and another duty increase expected at the next budget the picture looks increasingly bleak. As a result the whisky industry is focusing more than ever on exports and in particular on the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China. We shipped our first order of The Arran Malt to China earlier this year and a second, larger order is expected to ship in November 2010.'

'The recession seems to have barely touched Asia and this region is only going to grow in importance as an emerging middle class seek out luxury goods such as The Arran Malt.'

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson added: 'A bright future for our whisky exports is good for the exchequer and for Scotland. With our own distillery on Arran it shows that a bright future lies ahead.'

Nursery Garden site for hotel housing

Staff accommodation for the Douglas Hotel is planned to be built on the site of the former Brodick Nursery Gardens.

Four weeks ago the Banner reported on the current progress of building work at the Douglas Hotel in Brodick.

Contractors Thomas John-

stone have been moving ahead apace and the site is actually beginning to resemble a hotel that will open for business next spring.

Now owner Sean Henry tells us that the company has bought the site of Brodick Nursery Gardens adjacent to the hotel grounds.

He said: 'The Douglas Hotel are delighted to announce that they have recently completed the purchase of the former Arran Nursery from Colin and Jackie Morrison.'

'With its proximity to the hotel, I felt it was a fantastic opportunity to sympathetically develop the area and to provide housing for the hotel manager and staff.'

Brodick Nursery Gardens was established in 1986 by Howard and Lesley Wood of Whiting Bay and has been run by Colin and Jackie for several years, supplying plants, seeds and garden equipment to island gardeners.

The business closed down last year, and in August 2009 planning permission was granted by North Ayrshire Council for three detached houses on the site. It is planned to build a bridge across the burn to the wooded area below the nursery garden site.



The wooded area across the burn where hotel staff accommodation will be built, as seen from the front door of the Douglas. 02_b46dou01



'Penny for the Guy?' - this condemned man was seen being carted through Brodick on Friday afternoon by Doreen McNulty and Louise Haggarty. 01_b46guy01

Bonfire night goes with a bang

It was difficult for islanders to forget that it was November 5 last Friday as Bonfire parties were held all across Arran.

Brodick Fire Brigade would like to thank all those who helped to make the bonfire a success; Brodick Improvements, Murchie Sand and Gravel, Wooleys Bakers, Brodick Co-op, Cladach Sawmill, Brodick Golf Club, Arran Oils, Book and Card and of course Doreen and Louise with their 'guy'.

Whiting Bay Improvements also held an amazing firework display with great soup and toffee apples!

Barbara I'Anson of the village Improvements Committee, said: 'I am sure everyone will join me in extending a huge thank you to Chris and Neilly for the bonfire and brilliant timing of the display as always.'

Thanks also to Liz, Susan and Cate for the excellent refreshments. Finally thank you to all those who attended and for your generous donations.'

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Wednesday	Yogalates Circuit Training Hockey Learn To Salsa	9.30am to 10.30am (spa studio) 6pm to 7pm (games hall) 7pm to 8pm (games hall) 7pm to 8.15 pm (cruise bar)
Thursday	Senior Fitness Pilates	9.30am to 10.30am (spa gym) 10.30am to 11.30am (spa gym) 6pm to 7pm (spa studio)
Friday	Aquafizz Yogalates	9.45am to 10.30am (hotel pool) 10am to 11am (spa studio)
Saturday	Karate Family Games Fun In The Pool	11.30am to 12.30pm (games hall) 3pm to 4pm (games hall) 4pm to 5pm (spa pool)
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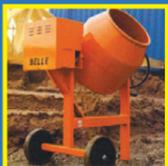
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Brodick Golf Club's captain, Iain McDonald and Lady Captain, Fiona Crawford present a cheque for £500 to Janis Heaney, centre, the chairman of the RDA. 01_b46rda01

Golfers raise much needed funds for Arran RDA

The island's Riding for the Disabled (RDA) group were delighted to receive a cheque for £500 from Brodick Golf Club last Thursday. Half of the money was raised by the raffle at the Ladies Open in August and the rest came from the entry fee at the Gents Belhaven Texas Scramble.

Janis Heaney, chairman of the RDA, said: 'We are absolutely delighted with this fantastic donation to Arran RDA.'

'The group relies entirely on donations and fundraising to enable us to keep doing the good work we do, and to carry on improving the lives of the children and adults who benefit from our charity. Thank you to the ladies and gents of Brodick Golf Club!'

Arran RDA is now busy organising a Christmas Fundraiser which takes place on Saturday 27 November in Brodick Church Hall from 11.30am to 3pm.

Antiquarians hear about Dalbeattie Museum

'A Dream Come True'

The Arran Antiquarians enjoyed an interesting and informative talk at their October meeting from Tommy Henderson of Dalbeattie Museum.

The title of his talk was 'A Dream Come True' and resembled in many ways the dream that many islanders had for years of opening a museum on Arran.

This dream started in 1989 when a group of like-minded friends, including Tommy, who was born and brought up in Dalbeattie, had an idea for a museum.

First, they had to acquire suitable premises, which they did by getting an old building next to the British Legion premises.

It was in a bad state of repair, having lain empty for many years.

They had to combat rot and unsafe floors, the ground floors needing to have the cobbles replaced.

All the renovation work was done by volunteers, and no professionals were employed—they even cleaned and vacuumed carpets in the street!

To pay for all this funds were raised in various ways; they organised a charity shop and also, at Christmas time, a barrel organ brought in money.

This is now an exhibit and can be played by visitors.

Generous donations of objects came from all sorts of people; for example, a black kitchen range and a 100-year-old electric washing machine.

Coincidentally, this washing machine was actually donated to the museum by the grandmother of The Banner's very own Jennifer Lyon, who lives in Dalbeattie.

The museum opened in 1993 and entrance is free, revenue being raised by donations from visitors.

Tommy regaled the Anti-



Tommy Henderson of Dalbeattie Museum is pictured with the president of the Arran Antiquarians, Grace Small, who gave the vote of thanks to Tommy for his great talk.

quarians with many amusing anecdotes about the museum's birth, and finished his talk by showing part of his personal collection of old postcards. Local groups would be well advised to contact Tommy Henderson and persuade him to return to Arran to meet him

and be entertained by him.

The next meeting will be at 2pm on Monday 19 November in Brodick Hall. Unfortunately, the original speaker cannot come, but Dr Christine Ewing of Ayrshire Archives has agreed to talk on the work of the archives.

Remembrance services

Remembrance services will be held at a number of war memorials around the island on Sunday.

The service at Brodick War Memorial opposite Ormidale Park will be earlier than usual, at 10am this year so as not to disrupt ferry traffic arriving off the 10.40am ferry or leaving on the 11.05am boat. The Pirmill service will also be at 10am, with the services at Corrie and Shiskine Memorials both at 12pm.

In Whiting Bay a shortened service commences at 12.15pm before leaving the church to lay the wreath at the War Memorial in the grounds. There will also be a service of Remembrance in Arran War Memorial Hospital at 1.30pm on Sunday.

Arran's tourism operators encouraged to go wild

Arran's tourism operators are being invited to make the most of the island's natural resources and attend the Wild Scotland conference in Grantown on Spey on November 18.

Wild Scotland is a group set up to promote Scottish destinations and wildlife tourism in a sustainable manner.

Lucy Wallace, RSPB Information Officer and co-ordinator of the Arran Wildlife Festival for the past four years, has joined Wild Scotland and feels that Arran could benefit from a boost in this sector of tourism business.

She said: 'If anyone is interested in coming with me and

fancies a jolly in the north east, I am driving to the event the afternoon before so would be able to share fuel; just let me know if you plan to attend.'

Caroline Warburton, manager of Wild Scotland, explained: 'Many of our visitors consider their experiences with us as an adventure and there is a huge amount of overlap between wildlife tourism and adventure tourism. Wild Scotland has been heavily involved in recent discussions on the topic and has ensured that adventure tourism goes beyond adventure sports.'

Anyone interested should contact Lucy on 07825 644161.

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North Ayrshire Council is required to prepare a Local Housing Strategy every 5 years and the new Local Housing Strategy 2011 - 2016 will set out the strategic vision for housing in North Ayrshire.

The Council is also required to prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Local Housing Strategy. This report identifies the possible effects that introducing the Local Housing Strategy may have on the environment.

The draft Local Housing Strategy 2011 - 2016 and the Strategic Environmental Assessment are now available for you to view and provide comment on. They can be accessed:

- On the Council's website
www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Housing/LocalHousingStrategy
- At Housing Services, 5th Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine between 10am - 12noon and 2pm - 4pm, Monday to Friday.
- On request by contacting the Development and Strategy Team on 01294 324031.

Please send any comments or feedback either electronically using the form included within the Council's website, or, in writing to:
Development & Strategy Team, Community Care & Housing,
5th Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.
Feedback should be received by the Council no later than Friday 26 November 2010.

NORTH AYRSHIRE Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016



Tony van Breugel with his celebrated Arran map that he is reprinting in time for Christmas.

Arran mapped again!

Arran has recently become one of the best-mapped Scottish islands with the appearance of another new illustrated map.

Tony van Breugel from Whiting Bay has completely redrawn his successful 1993 map of the island and included more detail, with beautifully drawn landmarks in the margins and illustrations of the villages.

He has retained the original whimsical poem that describes the island's mythological and geological origins. As his name suggests, Tony is a Dutchman.

He arrived in Glasgow in 1968 and after a career in the advertising industry, he has

drawn a number of illustrated maps, of which his 1993 map was the first. Tony told The Banner that he still feels like a tourist in Scotland and is continually fascinated with the country's beauty spots, a beauty that he believes natives sometimes take for granted!

Tony is hoping that local people will buy his map as well as visitors to the island as he added that the map makes a nice present for family and friends!

It is available in a sturdy postal tube, ready for posting abroad. The maps are produced in association with Arran Graphics and are available at various outlets across the island.

Don't take antibiotics for a common cold

Antibiotics are losing their effectiveness. And it is not too late for a free flu jab.

That is the warning message from NHS Ayrshire and Arran. Pharmacists from NHS Ayrshire and Arran are urging residents to use antibiotics more wisely. Apparently, bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotic treatment due to frequent inappropriate use.

Principal Pharmacist Dr Nik Reid said: 'Antibiotics are important medicines that kill bacteria and save lives. But

they are not the solution for infections caused by the common cold or flu viruses.

'Taking antibiotics for cold or flu has no benefit. In fact it can mean that when you need to take antibiotics in future they may no longer work.'

'If your doctor confirms that you need antibiotics, complete the course and don't share

them with anyone else.'

Dr Reid gave advice for people who catch a cold or flu this winter. He said: 'Take plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids.'

'And if you are in an 'at risk' group, there is still time to take up the offer of a free flu vaccination by contacting your doctor.'

Fantastic response to shoebox appeal

One hundred and ninety five shoeboxes filled with everyday essentials, clothes and Christmas gifts have been sent from Arran to people in need in the developing world.

The shoeboxes were filled in response to the Blythswood Care Christmas Show Box appeal by volunteers on the island.

They also managed to raise £721 in donations.

'I should like to thank most sincerely the members and friends of the North Arran Parish together with their many friends and members of other island churches for such a magnificent response to the appeal,' said Hamish Mitchell of Brodick, who was the co-ordinator of the charity fund on Arran.

'Morag Watson, Anne Mitchell and Helen Donnelly and

her ladies, deserve a special thank you for their assistance in the preparation of the boxes for despatch.'

Hamish also thanked Tony Morrow and his staff at Arran Deliveries for transporting the boxes to Glasgow.

The shoeboxes will be distributed to people in need, in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, India, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Craft group funds to buy 'chillows'

The members of the Machrie Craft Group have raised an incredible £1,006 in their attempt to gather enough money for the charity DebRA to purchase some special cooling pillows.

Known as 'chillows', they are used to ease the pain of those suffering from the most severe cases of EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa) in Scotland.

DebRA is the national charity working on behalf of people with the genetic skin blistering condition EB, which leaves

skin extremely fragile.

Barbara Black of the craft group said: 'Some months ago you kindly printed a thank you letter, from members of the Machrie Craft Group, for all the generous support they received in their attempt to raise enough money for DebRA to purchase cooling pillows.'

'Since then the group has gone on to increase that sum from £410 to £1,006,

after a very successful coffee morning on Tuesday 26 October, at St. Molios Church hall, in Shiskine, and many further donations and sums collected in charity boxes placed in three shops on the island.

'This is well above our target of £500 and we are so grateful to everyone who helped us achieve this amazing result for such a worthy charity.'

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Arran's more than 'all white' in latest winter tourism campaign

The newly appointed chairman of the Scottish tourism organisation VisitScotland made his first official visit to the island last Thursday.

Dr Mike Cantlay, who has extensive tourism and retail sector experience, was launching the 'Winter White' campaign in partnership with Arran Aromatics.

Shannochie Cottages and The Barn at Glencloy will both feature in the national 'Winter White' promotional campaign, which will target visitors to the UK and encourage them to visit the island this coming season whilst also promoting food and drink, wildlife and scenery on the island.

'Selling Scotland and de-

veloping Scottish tourism has dominated my working career,' said Dr Cantlay.

'Post recession, Scottish tourism faces a new, challenging environment. It will be my objective to lead VisitScotland, our partners and the industry to seize the 'step change' opportunities that will drive our industry forward toward our ambitious targets.'

Research

He added that research from another campaign partner, Scottish Natural Heritage, shows that wildlife tourism is worth £127million to Scotland, so Arran is well placed to capitalise on this and can take the opportunity to benefit from this trend.

VisitScotland's regional director Annique Armstrong wants those involved in the tourism industry on Arran to pull together to help increase Scottish tourism overall.

She said: 'Arran has a unique and incredibly attractive tourism product at all times of the year so is well positioned to reap the rewards of this latest, seasonal campaign that targets millions of households in the UK.'

'Tourism is performing well and growing faster than other sectors including manufacturing and retail, however, we cannot be complacent.'

'I firmly believe that tourism will be at the heart of economic recovery in Scotland, but in order to provide long term sustainable growth we must attract more visitors at the quieter times of year.'

'That is why the Winter White campaign is so crucial. Arran businesses are tapping into this potential and the more that follow suit, the bigger the benefit will be for the island and Scotland overall.'

Abundance

Arran has an abundance of wildlife with red deer, buzzards, dolphins and seals all to be found here and enjoyed by those visiting the island.

This is Scotland's Year of Food and Drink and the campaign is also highlighting the great food to be served up in Arran.

The national campaign will include TV advertising, direct mail and partnerships with leading Scottish brands and will reach 17 million potential UK visitors to encourage them to book a trip to Scotland.



Dr Mike Cantlay, the new VisitScotland chairman, centre, is pictured with Janet Russell and Iain Pittman of Arran Aromatics at Home farm, Brodick. 01_b46vis01



Jane Murray from Brodick was just one of many people that brought along DC Thomson books for the company's former managing director, Dave Donaldson, to sign.

Oor Wullie! Your Wullie! A'body's Wullie!

Jane Murray from Brodick was first in line to have her 'Maw Broon' book signed by Dave Donaldson, the former managing director of D C Thomson's children's publications, at a special meeting in the McLaren Hotel last Thursday.

Dave's visit was organised by the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion and there was a good turnout of islanders eager to hear all about his experiences.

Alan Milligan of the Legion said: 'Dave had us all riveted with tales of his long career writing scripts for the much-loved 'Broons' and 'Oor Wullie' cartoons at the Dundee publishing firm of DC Thompson.'

'A full house of British Legion members and friends thoroughly enjoyed the stories and memories of the

many characters involved over the years including the war years.'

Dave looked back on a lifetime of living with immortal cartoon characters such as Desperate Dan, Lord Snooty and Dennis the Menace that are still loved today by differ-

ent generations of fans. And of course our best loved family from 10 Glebe Street, The Broons, and their near neighbour sitting on his bucket, Oor Wullie, were his constant companions from the 1960s to his last script in June of this year.

Kilmory celebrate success of Malawi Rice Project

The pupils in primary one, two, three and four at Kilmory Primary School would like to say a big thank you to all those who bought rice and helped them to reach their target of selling 90 kilograms.

The rice sale was part of the Malawi Rice Project that was designed to raise money for children in the African country.

'This now means that we have raised enough money for a farmer in Malawi to send his child to high school for a whole year,' said teacher Mrs Karen Barbour. 'Only one in three children in Malawi goes to high school. Education is one of the best ways to escape poverty.'

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Ele flies the flag for Arran in Delhi

We flew over to perform the 'Handover Ceremony'

A young dancer from Arran was flying the flag for the island at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi last month.

Ele Milesi from Whitefarland was part of a Scottish dance team that performed in front of one billion people worldwide that watched the finale of the two-week games in India.

'It was such a fabulous experience,' said Ele, who is now at college in Glasgow. 'My lecturer said that there was a volunteering opportunity for someone within our college to represent Scotland at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.'

'It involved intensive train-

ing for three to four weeks, before we flew out to India to perform in the 'Handover Ceremony' at the end of the Games.

'When my lecturer told me that I was going I was so happy as it was definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity!'

Encompassing

During the ceremony Ele was involved in a number of dances but one in particular was designed to represent that all encompassing image that foreigners have of Scotland - the Loch Ness monster! The 21-year-old had to take three and a half weeks out of college in order to learn the choreography with the rest of the cast members.



Ele, pictured in the red jacket, with the Scottish Commonwealth Games dance team.

'It was very intensive training with long hours and very long days!' added Ele. 'Sometimes we were even outside in the 'lovely' Scottish rain trying to perfect the movements of the Armadillo and Nessie.'

'Because there would be so

many people watching the performance, we had to perfect it as there was no room for error with such a huge audience.'

Training

'We also had to make it the best we could as we were there representing Scotland.'

However, Ele, agreed that the training was worth it.

'The feeling of walking out into a stadium of 60,000 people and knowing one billion people were watching on television; you can't even explain how amazing it was!'

Around the Rurals

Kildonan SWRI

The next meeting of Kildonan Rural will be on Tuesday November 16 in the village hall.

It is an open night and all members and friends will be most welcome.

Mrs Judith Baines will be giving a talk and slides on 'Moths found on Arran'. This promises to be most interesting meeting and should not be missed.

Supper will also be served, and a large turnout is expected.

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

The second meeting of the new session was opened by president Elma Stevenson, when she welcomed the demonstrator Janine Crisp.

She gave the ladies some really interesting skin care treatments to try from the Body Shop, one even containing salt, which left their hands feeling - as one member said - 'as soft as a babies bottom'.

A further demonstration then occurred when the president had a very relaxing facial! Janine explained the environmentally friendly and animal welfare friendly ethos behind the products.

And lots of Christmas ideas for gifts were sorted out!

Lists were sent round for attendance at the Rally on November 11 before a very enjoyable supper was provided and competitions were judged with Pennies for friendship.

The next meeting takes place in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 18 November, when the speaker will be Jerry Arthur doing a cookery demonstration.

The competition is for a jar of mincemeat.



Ele Milesi from Whitefarland was part of the Scottish dance team at the Commonwealth Games 'handover ceremony' last month.



The dances Ele was involved in at the ceremony were watched by one billion people worldwide.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Comfortable retirement no longer guaranteed

On Sunday Lady Jean Fforde celebrated her 90th birthday.

This landmark birthday is perhaps no longer seen as quite the achievement it once was as people begin to live longer and longer.

Here on Arran, more than half the population are above retirement age. Now this is usually attributed to the expensive cost of housing on the island but could it also be that the British population in general is just getting older?

We are, as a nation, living longer, and that means people are having to find much more money to pay for their care when families cannot provide it. For those who do not have houses to sell or families to help pay for their care, the services provided by local authorities are the only way forward.

While resources and funding are obviously stretched in the current economic climate, North Ayrshire Council has a very careful line to tread when making the decision about how to proceed with the future of its residential care provision.

Whichever option the council finds itself supporting, it must balance the needs of those who require more intensive looking-after with providing accommodation for the more independent older people on the island.

What is vital is that the chosen option caters for all those who need whatever level of support the council has pledged to provide.

Lady Jean is very lucky to be so independent and mobile at her age. She still drives and lives in her own home but many people of a similar age are not as lucky.

There are tough times ahead for many of and the prospect of a less than comfortable retirement. For younger generations it is important to act now to ensure they are looked after in their old age – otherwise the future doesn't look so good.

□□□

The island was battered by storms on Sunday night that left many of Arran's roads strewn with debris from the sea.

And on Monday the grumbings from the four corners of the island about how long it was taking the council to clear the debris were positively deafening. We had numerous phone calls from people demanding to know why the road outside their house was still strewn with pebbles from the beach on Monday afternoon. One of these irate callers even suggested that he would be unable to leave the house as the road was scattered with seaweed.

Firstly we gently reminded these people on the end of the phone that Arran is rather a large island.

Secondly, the council only has two teams of workers available to clear the roads.

And then thirdly, we politely suggested that perhaps they could take out a brush themselves and clear their own little part of the road.

Needless to say, that suggestion went down like a lead balloon!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. (Isaiah 2: 3-4)

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Closure should be reversed

Sir,
My wife and I are regular visitors to Arran and we have just heard of the imminent closure of the island's Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

Whoever is responsible for the closure decision must be rather short in the brains department. The tourism industry provides many jobs on Arran and many of these jobs are vulnerable.

The UK's economy is affected by government-imposed cuts brought on as a result of bankers' greed and it is inevitable that visitor numbers will reduce.

Fewer visitors will mean fewer jobs.

Fewer jobs means increased problems for Arran residents. Where are those troubled by unemployment, possible unfair dismissal and debts to go for advice?

Advice offices on the mainland may be accessible by telephone but people with problems need face-to-face help and support and it is impossible to produce the necessary documents on the telephone. The closure decision should be reversed and whoever failed to think this matter through should be sacked.

The savings on his/her salary will pay for the continuation of the CAB on Arran.

Yours,
Albert Edward Gloucester

Save Arran's Advice Bureau

Sir,
I am writing to disagree with the decision to close the Arran Citizens' Advice Bureau. The island-based service provides a vital source of information and advice to people who would otherwise be left ignorant of their rights and responsibilities in the face of increasingly confusing rules and regulations.

When people are faced with difficulties with regard to any aspect of their lives, they are able to access this free and impartial service to gain a clear indication of what choices are available to them, and where to go to get any specialist help

they may need. The trust and confidence held by people who use the service means that they are more likely to seek help when they most need it.

The fact that the service is delivered in person by a team of volunteer staff only enhances the value it has within the local community.

It may be the case that improvements in technology will allow some people to access advice more easily, but for the most vulnerable and confused members of any community this will not be the case.

A service as effective as the Arran Citizens' Advice Bureau, where people can talk through their concerns in person and be given accurate information they can actually understand, should be kept going in any way possible regardless of any wider pressure to make 'efficiency' savings.

Yours,
Jamie Smith
AIMS Advocacy Service

Free flu vaccination

Sir,
Most people will be aware of the TV and press advertising campaigns regarding influenza vaccinations that are running at present.

The campaigns are targeting people under the age of 65 who have heart or lung problems along with those over the age of 65, encouraging them to contact their GP surgery to arrange a flu vac appointment.

At Brodick Health Centre we have already held two open flu clinic days for our patients and a good number did attend.

However we still have many patients who fall within the heart and lung 'at risk' categories along with those over the age of 65 who have as yet not taken up their free flu vac.

To get the most benefit from the vaccination it should be administered as early in the flu season as possible so I would encourage any of our patients in either of the above categories who wish to be vaccinated to contact the Health Centre on 302175 to arrange an appointment as soon as possible.

Of course people do not have to accept a flu vac if they don't want one and many make a conscious decision not to be

vaccinated. However GP practices are duty bound to contact every qualifying patient to offer a flu vac.

Therefore any Brodick Health Centre patient who has decided not to accept this service should phone the Health Centre on 302175 with this information, which will be recorded, and they will not be contacted regarding flu vacs again this season.

Yours,
Jenni Turnbull
Brodick Health Centre

Why no fuel

discount on Arran?
Below is the copy of a letter sent to Danny Alexander MP, Katy Clark MP and Kenneth Gibson MSP by the Isle of Arran Elderly Forum.

Sir/madam,
I write on behalf of the above organisation with regard to the reduction in fuel costs for remote islands.

We note that the Isle of Arran is not included in the scheme and would like to point out that the current price of 130.9p for unleaded and 134.9p for diesel, Arran must be one of the most expensive places in Scotland for fuel.

Please give due consideration to including Arran in the fuel discount pilot scheme.

If there are reasons for Arran being excluded, we would like to be informed of them.

Thank you for your time.

Yours,
Janet Lacey
Secretary
Isle of Arran
Elderly Forum

Black squirrels sighted?

Sir,
Relatives of mine have just returned from another enjoyable holiday on Arran.

Whilst chatting about their experience and trips around the island they mentioned two sightings of black squirrels in one week.

I have heard of grey squirrels and red squirrels but I have never heard of black squirrels in my life.

Could you confirm that there are indeed black squirrels on Arran or can you identify what they must have seen instead?

Your help with this most intriguing mystery would be appreciated.

I remember reading 'Nature Notes' in a Banner publication so there must be someone on the island who can shed light on these sightings.

Could it have been a mink that they saw?

Yours,
Hugh Ramsay
Westfield Road
Stonehaven

First lady bus driver in 1909

Sir,
Neither of the two previous items about Arran's first lady bus driver is accurate.

They are based on honestly held beliefs. A bus is a vehicle running along a set route at set times and individual fares, all of which are pre-advertised.

The first bus ran in London in 1829 and in Arran 15 years earlier in 1814. At that time they were horse-drawn, but nevertheless, buses. Motor-buses came into use in 1895, so horse buses have been around for longer than motorbuses. I have driven both versions but was not as good a horse bus driver as, say, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Given a choice between a box on wheels pulled by two or more dumb unpredictable animals and stopped by a wooden block on a pole, or a diesel-engined hydraulically steered, airbraked Volvo, I'll go for the stretched Swede anytime. It follows, therefore, that anyone who drove a bus, pulled by horses and albeit with only 12 seats, from Corrie cravie to Lamash had a hard job.

Jenny Stewart did it on a regular basis on and after 1909 and it is no petty pedantry, no mildew-esque nitpicking to state that Jenny Stewart was Arran's first lady bus driver.

Yours,
Bernard Mitchell-Luker
17 McKelvie Road
Lamash



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Lady Jean Fforde celebrates her 90th birthday

By Jennifer Lyon

The Lady Jean Fforde, the much-loved grand dame of Arran, celebrated her 90th birthday with close family and friends at a small gathering at Dougarie Lodge on Sunday afternoon.

The daughter of James the 6th Duke of Montrose and Lady Mary Louise Hamilton, she spent an idyllic childhood at the family's three residences; Brodick Castle, Dougarie Lodge and Buchanan Castle, the Montrose home by Loch Lomond.

Those who have read her childhood autobiography 'Castles in the Air' will know that she had what most would describe as a 'privileged upbringing'.

She spent her early years being waited upon by maids, footmen, butlers and nannies. 'I think the younger generations today would be amazed

'I have seen the world change in so many different ways but I look back at it all with great fondness'

by the way we lived,' said Lady Jean. 'Life was much simpler but we had people to do so much for us.'

Related to many of the Royal families of Europe, Lady Jean received regular visits at Dougarie by Prince Rainier of Monaco and his sister Princess Antoinette.

When she talks now about those hazy summer days it is clear that she remembers that time with real fondness.

'They came every year to

see us,' she said. 'We used to take two little cart ponies up the hills. Our two nannies would be sat on the horses and we'd have to push the horses from behind to help them get up the hill.'

'After that we'd plod along to the shop where Weir's garage is now at Machrie and we'd be allowed to spend our pocket money on sweets.'

'Everyone we passed knew who we were but we weren't treated any differently to the other children in the area - we were just part of the community like everyone else.'



The Lady Jean Fforde celebrated her 90th birthday on Sunday. 02_b46lad01

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Willie Innes receiving an award from Lady Jean Fforde for five-a-side football tournament in 1949 where Brodick 'A' beat Brodick 'B' in the final 4-0. Picture courtesy of Brodick Football Club.

'I certainly don't feel 90, even if I am a little less mobile than I used to be.'

This summer when she held her official birthday party in the grounds of Strabane, Prince Rainier's son, Prince Albert of Monaco was one of many distinguished guests at the event.

As a young child she witnessed the aftermath of the Great War and its effects on British society before she joined the team of world famous code breakers at Bletchley Park during the Second World War.

'It was a very exciting time,' she recalls. 'Although I didn't really want to be at Bletchley. I had been determined to join the WRENS but my childhood tuberculosis put paid to that.'

In 1945 she was sent to India with the Red Cross but when doctor's suspected the tuberculosis had returned she was sent home.

After her marriage to John Fforde in 1947 she moved to Palestine where her husband was chief of police.

'It was a very fractious time,' she recalls. 'We were living through a civil war and it was a very dangerous place to be.'

After Palestine her husband was posted to Sierra Leone and Lady Jean has fond memories of her time there.

'One looks at the African countries today and sees such turmoil, it wasn't like that when we were there,' she said. 'I felt very safe there. We had no concerns about our safety.'

When her son Charles reached school age she returned to Britain and for the

past 50 years she has lived at Strabane, her Brodick home and still remains an integral part of Arran life.

The only sadness that she mentions is the hand-over of Brodick Castle to the National Trust for Scotland in 1958 in lieu of death duties.

Even now, more than 50 years later, she still finds it difficult to discuss that time apart from saying that she wished she had been able to save more from the castle.

'But sadly my house just isn't big enough to store it all,' she said dejectedly.

However she does not dwell on this sadness for long and is quick to remind me that she has very few bad memories of her 90 years.

'I've had a very good life,' she told me. 'I have seen the world change in so many different ways but I look back at it all with great fondness.'

'I certainly don't feel 90, even if I am a little less mobile than I used to be.'

In next week's Banner there will be full coverage of the various island presentations to Lady Jean, marking her 90th birthday.

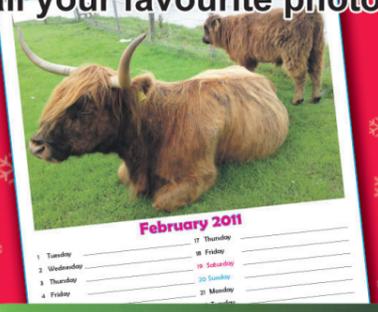


Brodick Castle, the childhood home of Lady Jean, which still holds her fondest memories.

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The Laurel and Hardy film night will form part of Brodick Church's centenary celebrations.

Laurel and Hardy come to Arran

As part of the Brodick Church of Scotland centenary celebrations, a Laurel and Hardy film night has been organised to take place on November 20.

The Sons of the Desert is the worldwide appreciation society for Laurel and Hardy.

It describes itself as a society with scholarly overtones and heavily social undertones.

When Stan Laurel learnt that the Sons of the Desert would have a celebration as its essential theme, he thoroughly approved, saying: 'The only thing I really insist is that everybody have a lot of fun.'

His wish has been keenly honoured.

Willie McIntyre, a regular Arran visitor, has been an active member of the society since 1976, when he founded the oldest British 'tent' in Glasgow.

Since then he has been

screening Laurel and Hardy films in many parts of Scotland and has recently completed a fifth season at the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall in Glasgow, where Stan Laurel made his stage debut in 1906.

Although Willie regularly visits Arran, the film night on November 20 in Brodick Church Hall will be the first time he has been invited to show films on the island and it is an opportunity he has eagerly seized.

Willie has written two books on Laurel and Hardy and has published regular magazines on his heroes since 1976.

He said: 'Our regular screenings of Laurel and Hardy films are always filled with laughter and friendship.'

'We do hope that you will come along to our special event on Arran.'

Trefor is the island's new conker champion

A 10-year-old from Corrie was crowned the Conker champ of Arran last Sunday afternoon when he defeated his rival in the final.

Trefor Goronwy beat Nick Underdown 2-1 in the final of the Conker Cup in Kilmory Hall after fighting off some tough opposition.

Consolation

In the preliminaries, last year's champion Dan Goronwy, Trefor's dad, was beaten by Lorna Logan of Lochranza but at least Dan had the consolation of seeing his son win.

In the semi-finals Nick was victorious over Simon and young Trefor beat Alan Picken.

The new stamping rule resulted in a number of amusing passages of play throughout the day as competitors wrestled each other to the ground in an attempt to flatten each other's conkers.



The 2010 Conker Cup champion is Trefor Goronwy of Corrie.



Nick Underdown, left, and Trefor Goronwy with their winning conkers that saw them through to the final.



In a tense final match of the Conker Cup competition, young Trefor Goronwy beat Nick Underdown 2-1.

Friends of Brodick Castle meeting

The Friends of Brodick Castle have their next meeting in the castle tearoom at 7.30pm on Wednesday November 17.

The guest speaker will be David Christison who will give a talk entitled 'Bottom of the Heap'. Castle administrator Ken Thorburn will give the annual review at the annual general meeting.

Cheese and wine will follow the talk and the AGM.

TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Bus arranged to go from Ardrossan to Silverburn for Christmas shopping

arranged by the people of Lochranza but we need more people from around the island to make up numbers
£10 maximum

Call Kate Hartley on 01770 830226 if you want to know more

SC018338



CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN CORRIE

Parish Church of Scotland
on Sunday 5th December at 7pm
with Peter Alexander Wilson - Tenor
Crawford Logan, Andrew Heggie - Baritone
and Diana Hamilton.

Tickets £7 available from Book and Card, Brodick and 810210
Coffee Tea and Mince Pies
SC005030

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Arran Riding Club enjoy inaugural dinner dance

The Arran Riding Club held a fantastic dinner dance at the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday night.

Members, family and friends from all over the island joined to celebrate a busy and successful riding season at the first event of its kind organised by the club.

The club prizes were presented by Amanda Saville from the Chariots of Fire display team to the following people: Junior Club Champion - Hannah Bone and Lily;

Reserve Junior Club Champion - Taylor Smith and Sue Tozer's Katie; Intermediate Club Champion - Lauren MacAlister and Fudge; Reserve Intermediate Club Champions - Nicola MacAlister and Dawn Macalister's Barloch Doll, Amy Downard and Jenna Thomson's Merlin and Megan MacAlister and Ali; Senior Club Champion - Jen Tod and Morgan Spice; Reserve Senior Club Champions - Janis Murchie and Actor's Choice and Eilidh Kerr and

Altimo; Most Improved Junior - Eilidh McNeil and Sullivan; Most Improved Senior - Liz Kennedy and Diesel; Helper of the Year - Mike Cobbhan.

The club would like to thank everyone who supported the event, Ann and her staff at the Kildonan Hotel for a fantastic evening, and Arran Aromatics, Arran Distillery and Arran Adventure who very kindly donated prizes for the raffle which made £210 towards club funds on the night.



The prizewinners.



Isla Yuill and Kirsty MacQueen.



Jacqui Smith, Sarah-Jane Young and Eleanor Bone.



Janis Murchie, Josie Fulerton and Jayne Faulkner.



Lauren MacAlister, Laura Tait and Janice MacVicar.



Laura Hemming and Nicola McAlister.



Jacqui Smith and Liz Faulkner.



Janice MacVicar and Kenny Bone.



This was the first dinner dance organised by the Riding Club.



Hannah Bone and Lori Young.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 11th December
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A *Merry Christmas*
To all my relatives and friends from Hugh Harvey, Oban

B **SEASONS GREETINGS**
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C **SARAH McMILLAN**
Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all my friends and relatives.

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Bird Notes for October

by Jim Cassels

October was mainly dry but the month finished with a few very wet days.

In the September bird notes, there was a request for the last sighting of Swallow.

The latest report was four at Sandbraes on 27 October.

Other latest dates for summer

visitors included: a Whitethroat at Kilpatrick on the 11th, a Chiffchaff and a Blackcap at Auchenhew on the 12th, a Wheatear on Cleats Shore on the 14th and eight House Martins in Lamlash also on the 14th.

In October, migration con-

tinued with reports of various wild fowl on Arran including: 48 Greylag Geese at Machriewaterfoot on the 10th, three Pink-footed Geese at Shiskine on the 11th, 23 barnacle Geese on Cleats Shore on 14th, five Brent Geese in Brodick Bay also on 14th, 10 Wigeon on Cleats Shore on 22nd, 13 Whooper Swans including four juveniles in Shiskine on the 29th and up to 35 Greylag Geese also there on that date.

With the hedgerows heavy with haws and other berries, the wintering thrushes, the Redwings and Fieldfares, from the north have plenty to feed on.

There were widespread reports, with the largest groups being one hundred Redwing in North Newton on the 12th and 300 Fieldfare at Balmichael on the 23rd.

The highlight of the month were the Waxwings that featured in last week's article in the Banner.

There were widespread reports from Pirnmill to Kil-



Three pink footed geese were seen in Shiskine.



A number of whooper swans – with four juveniles – were spotted in Shiskine last month.

donan starting with five at Inverclyde on the 21st.

By the end of the month groups of 100 were being reported at the Auchrannie.

Other sightings included: four Common Scoters from the MV Caledonian Isles on the 8th, two Little Grebe in Loch Ranza on the 10th, 250 Golden Plover in High Kildonan on the 11th, 20 Twite at Whitefarland on the 12th, 25 Goldcrest at Auchenhew on the 12th, two reports of Merlin on the 13th a juvenile female at Corriecravie and a juvenile

male on Cleats Shore, five Snow Bunting at Cioch na h-Oighe on the 19th, a Kingfisher at Cnocan Burn Cladach on the 20th, 14 Bullfinches at the top of the Lamlash to Brodick Road on the 23rd, two Crossbills in the forestry above Arran High School on the 27th and several reports of Brambling including 10 at Kingscross on the 28th and 12 mainly males at Mayish on 30th.

Finally, after the Eider survey in September, ironically Eider numbers began to build

up in October with 100 birds in Lamlash Bay on the 16th being more than the total during the survey period!

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 2008' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

It's local Christmas Shopping Time!!

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Bright Star at Corrie Film Club

Film of the Month: Bright Star (2009 UK PG)

This month's choice at Corrie Film Club is Jane Campion's beautiful film about the last three years of the life of John Keats and his love affair with Fanny Brawne, tragically ended by his death at the tender age of 25.

This fine film, perhaps Cam-

pion's best to date, proceeds at a gentle pace allowing you to hear the sound of birds or the footsteps in a country lane just as Keats would have done, you imagine.

Performance

Abbie Cornish gives a memorable performance as Fanny Brawne, the sensitive young woman who is intrigued and

amused by the reputation of her neighbour, John Keats, but insistent on her own rival skills as a dressmaker and seamstress.

Keats, as portrayed by Ben Whishaw, plays to perfection the artist, married to his work and at the same time facing up to his fatal illness.

Yes, this film cannot help but have a sad ending, but along the way there is a great deal to be joyful about and even at the end the sadness is bearable, even strangely uplifting.

See this interesting film on Sunday at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall at 8pm.

All welcome. Bring a bottle to share if you wish.

QUINTET ZAMBRA

BRODICK HALL 7.30PM

SATURDAY 20th November

brought to you by Isle of Arran Music Society and Brodick Post Office

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St Bride's Church Brodick

CENTENARY 1910 - 2010

LAUREL AND HARDY FILM NIGHT



Brodick Church Hall, Saturday 20th November

At 7.30pm (door open 7pm)

Ticket prices: Adult £5, Children £1

Available from the Book and Card Centre, Brodick SCO12017

SWING INTO WINTER

with the

Dundee University Big Band

Lochranza & Catacol

Village Hall

November 20th

8pm - 11pm

£10 Adults £5 Children (Accompanied)

Licensed Bar

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, November 17, 1990

Happy Birthday Lady Jean

Many happy returns to the Lady Jean Fforde who celebrated her 70th birthday last Wednesday.

She celebrated her birthday in the summer with a big party attended by all her family and many friends from the Royal families of Europe.

So what had she planned for the day itself.

Not one to sit around, she attended a business meeting in Edinburgh!

Exodus from Holy Isle

On Sunday, 16 Highland cattle and seven Eriskay ponies filled the pens on the car deck of the CalMac ferry Morvern on a voyage from Holy Isle to Brodick.

This was the culmination of a four day operation to move the beats from the island to a farm in Dumfries before the cold weather and food shortages of winter set in.

For more than seven years there have been rumours that the animals have been mis-managed by the island's owners Mr and Mrs Jim Morris.

The SSPCA responded earlier this year to allegations that the animals are starving, hence the move to a farm near Dumfries.

Advice service future uncertain

The future of the Arran Advice and Information Service looks uncertain after a grant application had to be resubmitted to Cunninghame District Council.

If they are unable to get the £18,000 needed, the service will be unable to continue.

Bunny plague

Arran's rabbit population, unrecorded but certainly much greater than its human population, has been decimated over the past few months by myxamatosis.

In a five-minute walk around one field this week there were seven corpses.

Country park ranger Derrick Warner said: 'It's not only the myxamatosis that kills them, their bodies are so run down that anything will finish them off.'

Dog attack

Retired postmaster Sandy Gauld was attacked by an Alsatian at Douglas Row, Brodick on Tuesday while helping out with post deliveries.

The wound needed five stitches and as a result a report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Hamish McCrae a member of Brodick Golf Club, who was attacked by a dog two weeks ago, said: 'These dogs

have got the secretary of the club, now they've got the treasurer. There's not many of us left.'

Golden wedding

Meg and Johnnie Robertson of Kilpatrick celebrated their Golden Wedding on Tuesday.

Brought up at Laggian Farm, Johnnie met Meg from Banff after she came to work in Blackwaterfoot Post Office in 1931.

They married in 1939 and together farmed Laggian, the third generation of Robertson's to do so.

Relegation fight

Three seasons ago the Arran Rugby team were promoted to the Glasgow District first division.

At first they did rather well – but this season they are facing relegation.

Today's game against Alan Glen's could be the make or break game and we are told that substantial support makes a big difference so the team would like to see as many people there as possible.



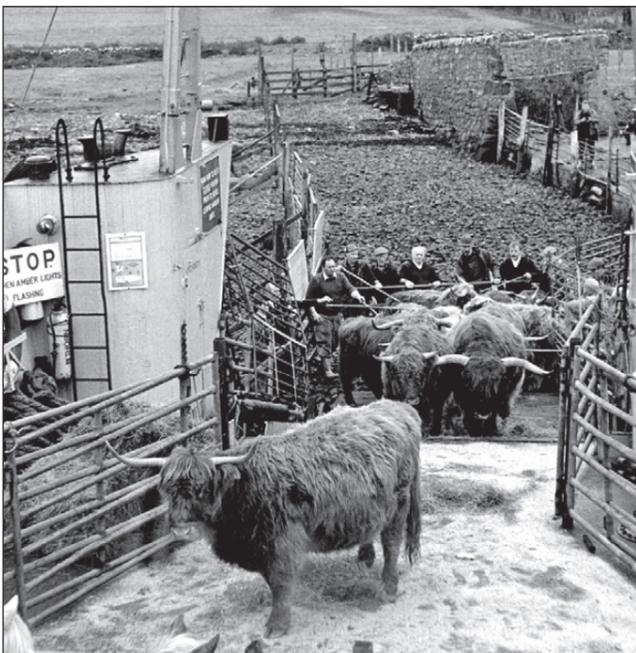
Warm fire and warming soup at the Blackwaterfoot fireworks display. b46twe02



Seven local ladies have been attending childminding courses and last Tuesday they received their certificates to say they are eligible for registration as childminders. The ladies are, from left to right: Christine Stachura, Grace Stewart, Joan Keen, Nina Hamilton, Ruth Robinson and front row: Elma Judge, Katherine Bain and Elizabeth Smith. b46twe01



Andrew King and Helen Riley from Doncaster were married on Arran on Firday because they wanted a wedding in the 'open air'. Pictured here outside the Lamlash Registry Office, they are with Andrew's father, the Reverend King, who married them prior to the legal formalities on the hillside. b46twe04



Loading the reluctant Holy Isle cattle onboard MV Morvern. The men behind the beasts are forming a barrier and slowly edging forward. b46twe03

Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles



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If you think you know then post your answer on the website

www.arranbanner.co.uk

Or email us at:

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was sitting outside the old church at Bennecarrigan at the west end of the Ross Road. First correct answer came from Janette of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire. This week he is sitting in front of an information plaque, but where would you find that stone edifice? 02_b46arc01



Whats on

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EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery Open Mon - Fri 1pm-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank
 Hawk Walks Lamlash
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom (except Fridays) 11am - 4pm
 Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily 9am - dusk

SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm
 Friends of Brodick Castle AGM Brodick Castle, 7.30pm
 Quiz Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm
 Over 21's Disco with DJ Slume The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Annual Art Show Brodick Castle 12pm - 4.30pm
 Open Music Session Pirnmill Village Hall, 8.30pm
 RNLI Shop Open Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Bingo Night Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm

SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
 Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Folk Session Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Quiz PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 BBQ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 1pm - 7pm
 Corrie Film Club - Bright Star (2009 PG) Corrie Hall, 8pm

MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER

Over 50's Badminton Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
 Ladies Netball High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games Ormidale Park, 6pm
 Junior Basketball (P1 - P7) Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym
 BreathWalk Class Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
 Quiz Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
 Zumbastyle Latin Dance Workout Auchrannie Games Hall, 7pm - 8pm
 Arran Antiquarians - Mike Aynsley - The Border Reivers Brodick Hall, 2pm
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Badminton Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm

TUESDAY 16th NOVEMBER



Lochranza Swimming Club
 Army Cadets
 Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Citizens Advice
 Youth Club
 Rotary Club
 Junior Hockey Club
 Open Music Session
 Motocross Practice (Weather Permitting)
 Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up
 Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
 Country Dancing
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Indoor Bowls
 Youth Club
 Cricket
 Kildonan WRI Open Night

WEDNESDAY 17th NOVEMBER

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

THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER

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

FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
 Yogalates 10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
 DJ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am
 Seniors Badminton (Over 50) Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group Corrie Hall, 8pm - 10pm
 Ladies Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Mens Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Jazz Quintet Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm, Free Admission

SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER

Dundee University Big Band Loch & Catacol Hall, 8pm - 11pm
 Laurel & Hardy Film Night Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Quintet Zambra Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Save The Children Xmas Fayre Brodick Hall, 10.30am - 1.30pm

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Information sessions have been planned for anyone who would like to come along and find out more. Each session will last around an hour and are being held on Thursday 18 November at 6.30 pm in Common Room 2, Ayr Hospital; Monday 6 December at 6.30 pm in Room 1 Education Centre, Crosshouse Hospital; and Tuesday 7 December at 4.00 pm in Training Room 1, Ayrshire Central Hospital.

For an application pack and full details on these and other public appointments, please visit the dedicated public appointments website: www.appointed-for-scotland.org

Alternatively application packs can be obtained by contacting the following address. You should provide your name, address and the appointment that you are interested in, to the Scottish Government, HR Public Appointments, Saughton House (E1 spur), Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD, by calling (Freephone) 0800 015 8449 (Fax) 0131 244 3833, or by e-mailing: paapplicationsmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Completed applications must be received on or before Friday 10 December 2010.

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For full job details and information about how to apply, go to www.nts.org.uk and click on the "Vacancies" tab. Closing date 26 November 2010. Interviews are likely to take place at Brodick on 13 or 14 December. Visit us at www.nts.org.uk

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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 14 November
 Shiskine, 11am
 Sunday School in the Church Hall (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
 Rev David Karoon
 All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Morning Mass
 11am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 14 November
 Remembrance Sunday
 Holy Communion, 10.55am.
 Mr John Roberts
 Coffee after service followed by
 Wednesday 17 November
 Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 (SCO15072)
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 14 November
 Rev Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches:
 Service of Remembrance
 All welcome, including families;
 children's area
 All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 14 November
 Morning Service, 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Glen Cloy Rd. Brodick
 Evening Service 7pm
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
 Rev J Miller
 Prayer Meeting
 Wednesday 17th November
 7pm
 5 Glen Road, Brodick
 Rev. D. Macleod
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
 Ormidale Pavilion
 Brodick.
Sunday 14 November
 10.45 - Communion
 Tea and Coffee from 11.10am
 11.30am - For all the family
 Speaker: Rev Willie Wright
 Everyone very welcome
Thursday 18 November
 Friendship Hour
 2.30pm - 3.30pm

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 North Arran: Brodick,
 Corrie, Lochranza,
 Pirmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.

Minister
 Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
 Mrs Jean Hunter.
 Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome
Sunday 14 November
 Remembrance Day Services.
 Brodick War memorial 10am followed by Church Service at 10.30m
 Corrie War Memorial 12pm followed by Church Service at 12.15pm
 Pirmill War Memorial 10am followed by Service in Pirmill Hall at 10.15am
 Shiskine War Memorial 12pm followed by Church Service at 12.15pm
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 14 November
 Worship for Remembrance Sunday will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.15am for a shortened service of remembrance before leaving the Church to lay the wreath at the War Memorial where the two minute silence will be observed.
 There will be a retiring offering in aid of the Earl Haig Fund.
 All welcome.
 Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
 There will be a service of Remembrance in the Arran War Memorial Hospital at 1.30pm to which all are welcome.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Sunday 14 November
 11am
 Brodick Library
 Enquiries to Tessa 830662

MEMORIAMS

BANNATYNE
 In loving memory of my husband Jimmy, died 13th November 1992. Also my loved ones gone too.
 Along the road of memories that lead me back to all. I've thought of us all together and happy times we knew. And every day that passes I seem to find a way, on roads of yesterday.
 Loved and missed. Sal, Sheena, Greta, Alastair and all the family in Skye.

HAMILTON - GORDON
 Remembering my lovely husband Gordon.
 Sadly died 11th Nov 2004.
 Missing you so much and will never forget our time together.
 Much love, Eleanor



Shiskine Golf Club
 Men's Arran Challenge 2010 results: 103 played. Scratch Ken McKinlay, Morton Hall 44+43=87. First class: (0-7) 1 Derren Urwin, Milngavie (7) 41+38=79 BIH, 2 Sandy Kerr, Shiskine (7) 38+41=79, 3 Stuart Cameron, Milngavie (6) 42+40=82. Second class: (8-14) 1 Jim Mclean, East Renfrewshire (8) 42+36=78, 2 James Shields, Kirkhill (8) 42+41=83 BIH, 3 David Brookens, Whiting Bay (9) 39+44=83.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Mclean who was the overall winner!

Whiting Bay Golf Club
 Whiting Bay got off to a good start in this year's AGA Winter League by beating the host club Corrie by three games to one.

Fixtures: Sunday 14 November, Winter Cup Round 2. Sunday 21 November, first friendly game with Lamlash at Lamlash Golf Club.

Arran Golfers Association
 Winter League, Duncan Trophy 2010/2011.

The first round was played at Corrie Golf Club on Sunday 7 November. This year's competition got off to a dry start, course was in superb condition with slick greens and wet fairways making things tricky, thanks to Corrie for hosting and to The Sannox Bay Hotel for soup, chips and sandwiches which were enjoyed by all.

First match saw hosts Corrie against Whiting Bay. With the Bay struggling last year it looked like a good chance

PERSONALS**GLEW - DELLICOTT**

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Katie Glew (formerly of Blackwaterfoot) and Adrian Dellicott of Birmingham.

Anne, Dom and Lizanne

A big thank you for all your help last week
Anne X

for Corrie to open their account with a win but a battling display from Whiting Bay saw them take the tie three games to one. Second off were Shiskine against Machrie in another one-sided match that saw last year's winners, Machrie, prove too strong for Shiskine as they took the tie with a convincing three and a half games to a half.

The last match was Brodick up against Lamlash, another one-sided match with Lamlash coming out winners by the score of three games to one. Maybe Skelf's 50th had some bearing on the result as one or two of the Brodick boys were clearly nursing heavy heads before they started!

Fixtures: Sunday 5 December, second round at Shiskine Golf Club. Matches are as follows: Shiskine v Corrie at 8.30am, Lamlash v Machrie Bay at 9.20am and Brodick v Whiting Bay at 11.50am.

Brodick Golf Club
 Saturday 6 November, Stableford Cup, 12 played. The poor turn out was blamed on Shiskine running a tournament that attracted the Gold Diggers of Brodick's golfers.

The weather was dry early morning but became very wet by midday with the bulk of the competitors getting very wet. This was not reflected in the scoring however as Ewan McKinnon won the scratch with a gross 67, Alistair Hume was first with a 68-9=59, Campbell Russell was second 80-19=61 and Iain Macdonald was third 71-7=64. There were two magic twos with Alistair Hume and Jimmy Armit each getting one. Congratulations to Alistair Hume on winning the Saturday Cup. On Sunday with eight players away on Arran Golf Winter League duty a sweep was held with seven playing. In view of the low numbers there were only two place prizes with Alastair Dobson winning on the better inward half 71-8=63 with Don Rudge second 79-16=63. There were two magic twos with Alastair Dobson and Bryce Walker getting one each.
Fixtures: Sunday 14 November, Brandon, draws at 9am and 12pm.

Arran Ladies Golf Union
 The postponed President's Prize was played at Machrie Bay on Sunday November 7. A record 36 ladies crowded the course for nine holes of stableford golf in excellent weather (courtesy of Elizabeth) and enjoyed lunch afterwards.

A raffle was held for Children in Need and raised £140. The runner up, losing on the bih was Elizabeth Kelso and the winner with a score of 18 points was Carole Stewart. Another first for the new granny. Elizabeth thanks everyone for coming and the ladies (and

Marshall) for the very welcome hot soup and excellent sandwiches and cake. **Fixture:** Saturday 27 November, Drumadon at Brodick.

Machrie Bay Golf Club
 Tuesday 2 November, Winter Cup from yellow tees. 1 Mary Wilkinson 71 BIH, 2 B Sherwood 71 BIH, 3 D Price 71. Scratch D Price 78. Saturday 6 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup. This was played over nine holes because of bad weather. 1D Price 19 points, 2 D Wilkinson 11 points, 3 B Sherwood 11 points.
Fixtures: Tuesday 16 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12pm tee-off.

Corrie Golf Club
 Saturday 6 November, Stableford, 39 points to bogey, 13 played. 1 D Crawford 44 points, 2 B Rooney 42 points, 3 E I Cannon 41 points. Best scratch D Crawford 68. There were magic twos from D Crawford and H B McKin-

non. Monday Cup, November 8, eight played. 1 E I Cannon 71-16=55, 2 S Beardsley 66-7=59. Best scratch S Beardsley 66. There were magic twos S Beardsley and D Crawford.

Fixtures: Saturday 13 November, Winter Cup first round at 8.30am and 12pm (11.50am for 12pm). Monday 15 November, Monday Cup, 12pm (11.50am for 12pm).

Lamlash Golf Club
 Thursday 4 November, 15 Hole Medal, 1 Jim Young 64-10=54, 2 Peter Smith 74-17=57 BIH over Alan Smith. There was one two from Billy O'Connor at the 17th.

Sunday 7 November, well done to the Lamlash Team who recorded a 3-1 victory over Brodick at Corrie in the Winter League.

Fixtures: Thursday 11 November, 15 hole Medal, make up own groups. Sunday 14 November, Winter Stableford, 9.30am and 11am start.

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David and Jennifer are best in class

Arran girl Jennifer Emsley was once again first female home in the Stranraer 10K race last Saturday. And David Black came first in the over-45 class.

Six members of Arran Runners took part in the annual Stranraer 10K Road Race on Saturday November 6.

In a welcome break from the rain and wind that had threatened during the trip from Arran to Stranraer, the conditions for the race were ideal. It stayed dry and wasn't too cold.

Retained

Jennifer Emsley retained her First Female title from 2009, coming in 14th in a time of 38 minutes and 57 seconds.

First Arran Runner home was David Black who won first prize in the over-45 years

old category. It was only his second race win in an Arran Runners vest and he was taking part in the event for the first time. He came in tenth overall in a time of 38 minutes and 17 seconds.

Improved

Derek Shand was the most improved member of the team, finishing 128th in a time of 55 minutes and 32 seconds, a massive improvement of five minutes from his time last year. Paul Emsley was third in the over 50 category in a time of 43 minutes and 19 seconds. Cameron Paul was 23rd overall in 40 minutes and 32 seconds, and the sixth member of the team, Fraser Shand, was 50th in 44 minutes and 50 seconds.

Jennifer said: 'The course is tough with some very steep inclines which makes it chal-



David Black was first in the over-45 class in the Stranraer 10K road race.



Jennifer Emsley receives her prize as first female in the Stranraer 10K.

lenging for the runners to achieve fast times.'

A total of 198 runners completed the event, with Border Harriers' Jon Fletcher winning the race in a fantastic time of 32 minutes and 32 seconds.

The annual general meeting of Arran Runners will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday November 24 in the Ormidale Hotel. Members are invited to attend and bring anyone else who is interested in joining the club, whether as runners or in an organisational capacity.

Arran Bridge Notes

Brodick Bridge Club

Results for Brodick Bridge Club on Thursday November 4.

N/S 1 M Gardner and E McNiven -280, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton -480, 3 A McKelvie and J MacLure -1140.

E/W 1 E McConnell and M McGill +2630, 2 J McArthur and M Cummings +2090, 3 H Boyd and L Paul +1730.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 8 November were as follows: N/S 1 D and M Bruce +190, 2 E Paul and A McNiven -210, 3 L Trickett and M McGill -1110. E/W 1 H Bopyd and J Murchie +4030, 2 T Martin and R Thompson +3270, 3 P Adamson and E McConnell +2050.

Shock placings in Arran Pool League

The first league table of the new pool season has been published, and there are a few shock placings.

Firstly Catacol, the team that languished at the bottom of the league for many years, are now sitting second from the top below the mighty PHT who have yet to lose a game.

Winners

Last year's winners, Bar Eden, are sitting in third place but then they have only played one game so far.

Sadly the Bar Eden B team are second from the bottom after failing to win a match.

The results from Thursday 4 November were as follows: Kildonan (G) 7 Mac's Bar 3, PHT (G) 6 teamGoil 4. Bar Eden B (G) 4 Catacol 6 and Drift 5 PT1934 5 (G).

Next Thursday (November 18) Kildonan will play teamGoil, PHT play Catacol, Bar Eden B take on PT1934, the Drift play Bar Eden and Mac's Bar have a bye.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
PHT	2	2	0	0	6
Catacol	2	1	0	1	4
Bar Eden	1	1	0	0	3
Kildonan	2	1	1	0	3
Team Goil	2	1	1	0	3
Drift	2	0	0	2	2
PT1934	1	0	0	1	1
Eden B	2	0	2	0	0
Mac's	2	0	2	0	0



All the prizewinners in Stranraer with David and Jennifer centre, back row.

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