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Generations gather to remember the fallen



One hundred years after the outbreak of the First World War wreaths were laid by the younger members of the community to honour the sacrifice of Arran's fallen. 20_b46rem02

'I never fail to stop and think about the sacrifice those boys made for us'

By **JENNIFER LYON**
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Services across Arran were held on Sunday to mark 96 years since the end of the First World War and remember those who have died in conflict.

Around 100 people gathered at the war memorial in Brodick for a service of remembrance organised by the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland (disbanded).

A minute's silence followed a roll of honour in which the names of the Brodick men killed in both the Great War and the Second World War were read to the assembled crowd. The Reverend Angus Adamson spoke about the sacrifice of the Arran men and others from around the world in the years since then.

Wreaths were laid by younger members of the community including Fraser Mackenzie of Arran Scouts, Andrew and Annie McKelvie from Brodick primary school and Louise Shankland from the Arran Army Cadet Force.

As the nation commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 it was clear many felt the need to attend a service of remembrance.

Alan Milligan of the RBLs said it was comforting to see such a large turnout of the older generations and the young.

One older Brodick gentleman was overhead to say: 'I probably walk past that memorial three or four times a week and I never fail to stop and think about the sacrifice those boys made for us. We must never forget that.'

A service was also held at Arran War Memorial Hospital and the island's churches and chapel.



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Go ahead for hydro link

A new hydro electric link is to be built at the south end of Arran. The four-pole, 11,000-volt spur will connect the Eas Mor Hydro scheme to the national grid.

Planning permission for the new connection at The Cnoc Farm, Kildonan has been approved by North Ayrshire Council. The work will be carried out by Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution after an application was received by the hydro scheme operators.

In order to provide the connection it proposes to erect a new four wood pole, 11,000 volt overhead line, with three single poles and one double pole. A new 200kva transformer, which will be used as the connection point, will be located at the new double pole structure.

Additional supplies will be connected to this transformer at a later date.

A spokesman for Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) said: 'Our role as the operator of the electricity distribution network on Arran includes offering fair terms of connection for any new customer - including both consumers and generators.'

'In this case, we are proposing work to allow a small hydro scheme to connect to the existing island network south east of Kildonan. This would not involve major work, but would require four additional wood poles to support a short stretch of new overhead line.'

Brewery site suffers three break-ins in three weeks

Arran Brewery's new development in Dreghorn, North Ayrshire has suffered three break-ins in the past three weeks, since the company purchased the site.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said that it had come as quite a shock to them after the relative 'security' of Arran.

'This is something we are not used to,' he told The Banner. 'You can leave your back door open on Arran with no fear of being robbed, everyone knows everyone and looks out for each other.'

Vandals and thieves have caused more than £60,000 pounds-worth of damage to

the site. Lead has been stolen from the roof resulting in major water damage internally and the copper boilers have been stolen from all three buildings, leaving one boiler house flooded.

Delays

Mr Michaluk added: 'We have employed three staff but the break-ins continue and currently thieves are trying to steal kitchen equipment. This is all causing unbudgeted work and if it continues will cause us delays in creating the more than 30 jobs planned for the new facility.'

'Someone must know who these thieves are and I urge anyone with information to



Vandals and thieves have caused more than £60,000 pounds worth of damage to the site.

report it to the police so these people can be dealt with properly.'

The site is monitored by CCTV, but this does not appear to have been a deterrent.

An extra four cameras have been installed and SERCO is monitoring the alarms.

Dreghorn has been chosen

to house the brewery's bottling hall, research and development centre and Scotland's first Sake brewery.

It will contain a visitor centre designed to attract around 30,000 visitors a year to the area with positive spin-offs for tourism and local business.

Flooding evicts community groups from church hall

Community groups that use Lamlash Church Hall as a weekly meeting place have been forced to find an alternative after severe flooding has left it in a soggy mess.

The newly reformed Lamlash Toddler Group has fallen victim to the rain water.

One of the parents, Eileen Jeffrey, said: 'We are unable to use our usual meeting place due to the severe flood damage the building suffered during the heavy rainfall last week.'

'At this time we are still unsure of the timescale regarding the work needed to fix the church hall so for the moment, we will now meet at the Auchrannie Play Barn from 10am on a Monday morning.'

'We plan to look into other premises that can accommodate us for the foreseeable future, and welcome any suggestions or advice that anybody can give us regarding this matter.'

The Arran ceilidh dancers have also chosen to postpone their next dance meeting until after the new year - it's that bad.

John Sillars, one of the dance organisers, said: 'Due to an ingress of flood water the ceilidh dancing is unfortunately postponed until after the New Year. However our enthusiasm will not be dampened and a re-start will be forecast in good time.'

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Cheap fares brings big boost to tourism trade

Cheese shop turnover doubles in a day

Arran is already benefiting from the cheap ferry fares which came in at the end of the last month.

The ferries are busier than ever with more holidaymakers and day trippers bringing their cars helping visitors to travel around the island.

More islanders are also taking their cars over to the mainland leading to a big increase in bookings and long queues of cars in both Brodick and Ardrossan.

The much-anticipated introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares has been predicted to bring an increase in visitor numbers by as much as 40 per cent.

And some businesses are already reporting an upturn in trade, although most say it is too early to gauge the true benefit of the reduced fares.

But early signs are encouraging. Claire Irving at the Corrie Tearoom said: 'I have just had one of the busiest weeks I have ever had in November, we have been really busy with holidaymakers, if this is happening at this time of year, then goodness knows what we're in for next year.'

Gordon Kinniburgh of the Island Cheese Company said that last Saturday he had twice the turnover of the same Saturday last year, yet his Sunday turnover was only a little better.

He said: 'Saturday was a very good day and I would say there are a lot more day trippers about for this time of year many of whom seem to be bringing their cars over.'

'Generally I would say that business is slightly up this month, but that could be an anomaly and I think we will have to wait till January or February to really tell if it is down to RET.'

'However, I would say for retailing the signs are positive and that can only help everyone involved.'

At gift shop Friday's Child

owner Sheila Barr has also seen an upturn in trade with more midweek customers than she would expect at this time of year.

She said: 'I have been talking to some people who come every year, but they wouldn't have previously brought the car. If more people are doing that it should help businesses across the island and not just Brodick.'

She said she did not believe the island Christmas trade would suffer from locals going to the mainland. 'Some people may choose to go to the mainland rather than shop online but I think local people know there are enough good outlets on the island to shop here.'

'But we are primarily a tourism island and we survive on the tourist trade so I think it is important that we embrace RET and make the both new and returning visitors welcome.'

Across the courtyard at Janie's Cafe, owner Janie MacIntyre says she believed RET was already 'working both ways'.

'There are certainly more people on the island and we are getting more customers through the door.'

'When I went to the mainland on Friday the queue of cars waiting for the boat was back to the Asda roundabout which I have not seen for years except at Christmas.'

'It is definitely encouraging

people to bring their cars and I am sure holiday home owners will come to the island more often.'

Gemma Duncan at the cafe added that the ferry was so busy on Friday that she couldn't get a seat. 'If that is the only inconvenience I have to put up with then I say bring it on.'

At the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza, visitor centre manager Faye Waterlow said they were anticipating more business over the winter months and were already opening their Casks cafe for longer, as it was one of the very few eating places in the north of the island at this time of year.

'That means we are able to have more staff in and give them longer hours,' she added.

'We have had a lot of inquiries for forward bookings and while we are busy we have an online offer just now so it is hard to tell if RET is helping yet,' she added.

At the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick business development manager Gordon Hay said: 'Bookings are up slightly but it is really difficult at this stage to tell if RET is the reason for this. I have no doubt it will be beneficial in the longer term but there are some customers who are not yet aware of it, so I think it will be the spring and summer before we can fully assess its impact.'



Susie Thompson and Coral Smith present the money to Iris Mansfield as other members of the Machrie Ladies Craft Group look on. 20_b46hidden01

Hidden Talents show raises charity cash

The success of the recent Shiskine Valley's Hidden Talents exhibition has helped a local craft group.

More than 500 visitors came through the exhibition at The Kinloch Hotel over the three days that it was open earlier this month.

There was no entry fee but visitors were asked to give a donation and a remarkable £403.26 was raised as a result.

And this week organisers Susie Thompson and Coral Smith handed over the money to the Machrie Ladies Craft Group.

Their chosen charity is Mary's Meals which is supporting children in West Africa, who have been badly affected by the Ebola outbreak.

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Arran livestock sales

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 3,202 suckled calves, store cattle and cast cows.

There were also 11,504 store and prime sheep.

Calves: Moor (Charloais) £870, 264p/kg; Moor (Charloais) £820, 263.00p/kg.

Cows: Craigraineach (Aberdeen Angus) £715, 105p/kg; Springfield (Simmental) £665, 125p/kg; Springfield (Limousin) £645, 112p/kg.

Lambs: Drumla (Texel cross) £77; Craighdu (Texel cross) £68; Altgolath (Texel cross) £65.50; Bellevue (Texel cross) £63; Altgolath (Mule) £62.50; Bridge (Mule) £60; Craigraineach (Mule) £60; Sheddock (Mule) £57.50; Altgolath (Black Face) £55.50; Bellevue (Mule) £55; Bridge (Texel cross) £55; Balnacoole (Texel cross) £53; North Sannox (Black Face) £38; Bridge (Black Face) £37.

Ewes: Craigraineach (Suffolk) £100.50; Craighdu (Texel) £100; Bellevue (Texel) £84.50; Bellevue (Mule) £80; Craigraineach (Black Face) £76.50; Bridge (Mule) £60; North Sannox (Black Face) £41; Bridge (Black Face) £38.50; Sheddock (Black Face) £35.

Fireworks spectacle on Brodick beach

The Brodick night sky was lit up with a spectacular display of fireworks on Guy Fawkes night.

A massive bonfire on the beach front was the centrepiece and a big crowd gathered on a dry night last Wednesday to watch the display from the green.

As the fire was lit the seated guy was quickly torched and the heat from the bonfire could be felt from the cordon as Brodick retained firefighters kept a close watch on any stray flames.

Night sky

The fireworks were then set off from behind the fire and from the beach into the night sky to the delight of the crowd.

It was then along to Brodick Golf Club for the traditional Wooleys sausage rolls and soup to round off the evening.

The event, staged by Brodick Improvement Committee, was one of several staged on the island around Guy Fawkes Night.



The glow from the fire can be seen on the faces of the bonfire night crowd.

20_b46fire02



The huge bonfire glows as the fireworks continue to be set off behind it.

20_b46fire05



Fireworks light up the night sky.

20_b46fire03

Lower drink driving limit a step closer

Plans to introduce a lower drink-drive limit for Scotland will have a major impact on Arran, according to Kenneth Gibson MSP.

Scotland's justice secretary Kenny MacAskill set out plans to lower the alcohol limit from 80mg to 50mg in every 100ml of blood, which will bring the reduced limit into effect on 5 December.

And Arran's MSP believes that on the island's rural road network the changes will have a huge impact.

He said: 'We are now a step closer to bringing in a lower drink-drive limit for Scotland, making our roads safer and saving lives.'

'This is about changing people's behaviour.'

Evidence

'All the evidence from countries such as Ireland show that a lower limit actually reduces the number of convictions, as more people get the message that you should never drink and drive.'

'Someone driving with the current legal limit of alcohol in their blood is six times more likely to be involved in a fatal accident than at the planned new lower level.'

'Although there has been a huge decline in drink-related road deaths as drinking and driving is now socially unacceptable, around one in 10 deaths on our roads still involve drivers over the legal limit.'

'This new order will reduce fatalities and injuries even further.'

Three quarters of those who responded to government consultations agreed that the drink-drive limit should be reduced and a multi-media marketing campaign to inform the public of the new lower limit will be launched in the coming weeks.



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Scottish parliament's finance committee to visit Arran

Kenneth Gibson MSP is to bring the Scottish parliament's finance committee to Arran for the first time on Monday 1 December.

Mr Gibson is the convener of the committee as well as Arran's MSP and he told The Banner he wanted the people of the island to have the opportunity to see their parliament in their own community.

He said: 'Once a year, for our most important meeting, the finance committee travels out of Edinburgh.

'In 2011 we visited Largs, in 2012 Hawick, last year Arbroath and this year I am delighted we will meet in Arran.

'It means that islanders can come along and learn more about the work we do to scrutinise the Scottish government.'

Examine

He added that every year it examined the Scottish government's draft budget, which for 2015-16 is more than £30 billion.

The committee looks carefully at

how the Scottish government proposes to spend its money and what that spending is meant to achieve.

Devolved taxes

'This year we will also consider Scottish government taxation plans for the first time, specifically the two recently devolved taxes - Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (which replaces UK Stamp Duty Land Tax) and the Scottish Landfill Tax,' said Mr Gibson.

'As part of our scrutiny process we believe it is vital to hear from

islanders, which is why we have invited local businesses and community groups along to take part in workshops with committee members in the morning.

Report back

'We will report back on issues important to the people of Arran and put these views directly to finance secretary John Swinney MSP when he comes to Arran to answer our questions about the Scottish government's priorities and the money it spends.'

Workshops will take place in the morning at Arran High School.

The formal committee with John Swinney begins at 1pm.

If Arran Banner readers would like to come along and hear more about how taxpayers' money will be spent in Scotland, they should call the parliament's visitor services office on 0131 348 5200 or email sp.bookings@scottish.parliament.uk to book a seat.

Tickets can be collected on the day at the school before 1pm.

Fishy fun is still filling community coffers

A lottery set up to raise money for good causes has exceeded all expectations.

The Mackerel Lottery which started as a bit of fun at the Kinloch Hotel last September has now raised nearly £4,000 in cash for charity.

The latest donations saw £200 go to the Shiskine SWRI, £200 to the Shiskine Christmas Committee and £100 to the local retained firefighters for help in staging

the Blackwaterfoot fireworks. And there was a real festival of fun at the hotel on Sunday afternoon when the lottery draw was combined with an afternoon of live music and a mini cider festival.

The packed pub enjoyed music from the Arran Ceilidh Band before a special lottery draw which saw some great prizes up for grabs.

It was followed with the now regular 'Play Yours

Cards Right' game which for Sunday only had an on-the-day £50 prize won - after a very long time - by Willie Murchie.

The lottery was the brainchild of hotel food and beverage manager Fraser Henrie who, in a discussion with James 'Kipper' Bannatyne, had been told it had been a 'lottery with the mackerel this year,' and so the idea was born. And all the prizes in draw still include fish and other fresh produce.

Fraser said: 'What I thought was something that would last a month or two has really gone from strength to strength. We still get a good crowd every week and people still seem to be enjoying it, and it is raising money for good causes so long may it continue.'

The lottery is held every



The Arran Ceilidh Band entertains at the festival. 01_b46mac02



Fraser turns the cards during the 'Play Your Cards Right' game. 01_b46mac04

Sunday at 5pm in the hotel bar, but is off this weekend.

A special Christmas Mega Mackerel Lottery will be held on Sunday 21 December.

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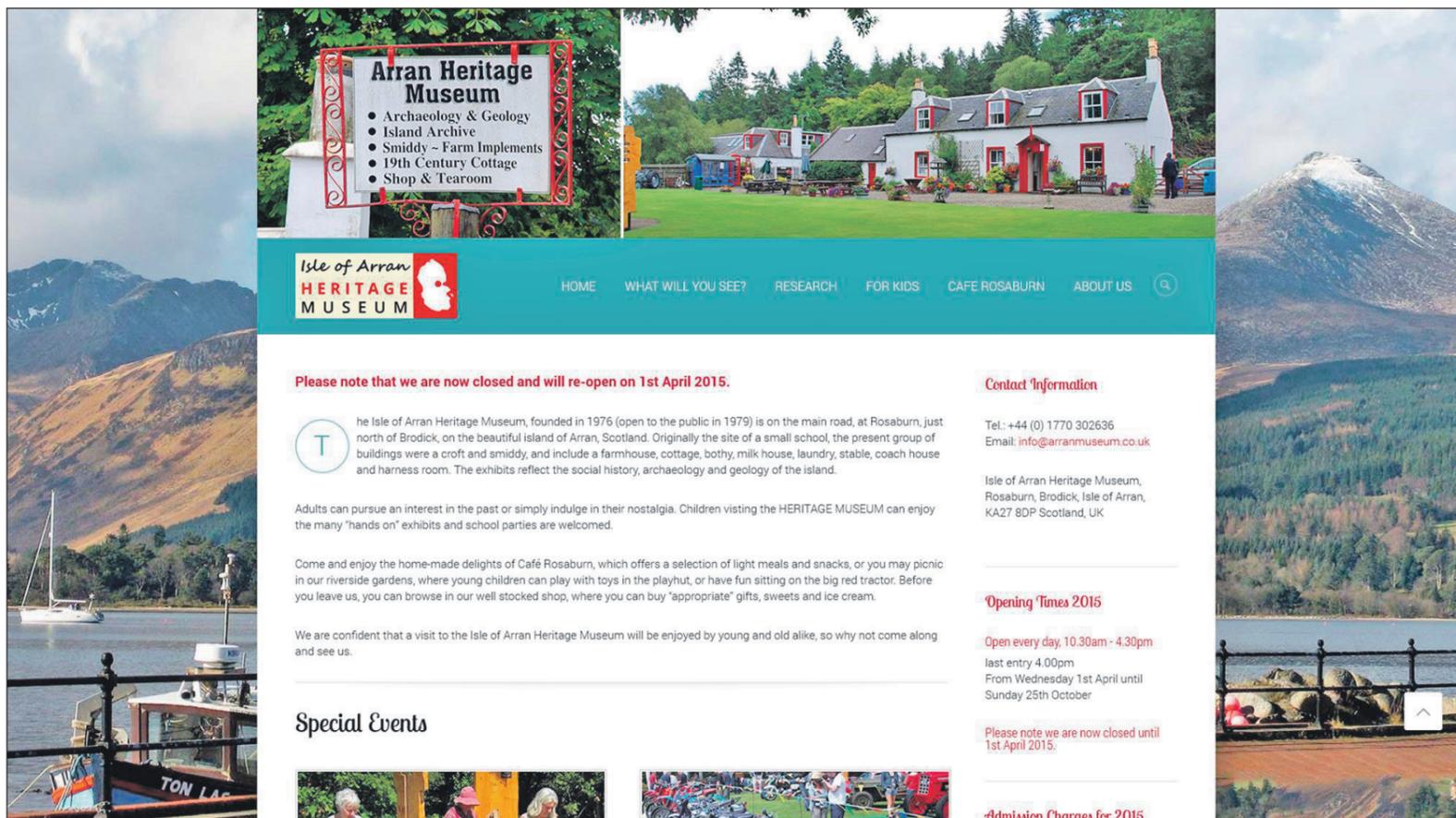
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New website for the Arran Heritage Museum



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Isle of Arran HERITAGE MUSEUM

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Please note that we are now closed and will re-open on 1st April 2015.

The Isle of Arran Heritage Museum, founded in 1976 (open to the public in 1979) is on the main road, at Rosaburn, just north of Brodick, on the beautiful island of Arran, Scotland. Originally the site of a small school, the present group of buildings were a croft and smiddy, and include a farmhouse, cottage, bothy, milk house, laundry, stable, coach house and harness room. The exhibits reflect the social history, archaeology and geology of the island.

Adults can pursue an interest in the past or simply indulge in their nostalgia. Children visiting the HERITAGE MUSEUM can enjoy the many "hands on" exhibits and school parties are welcomed.

Come and enjoy the home-made delights of Café Rosaburn, which offers a selection of light meals and snacks, or you may picnic in our riverside gardens, where young children can play with toys in the playhut, or have fun sitting on the big red tractor. Before you leave us, you can browse in our well stocked shop, where you can buy "appropriate" gifts, sweets and ice cream.

We are confident that a visit to the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum will be enjoyed by young and old alike, so why not come along and see us.

Special Events

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Admission Charges for 2015

The new heritage museum website is up and running.

The museum trust was pleasantly surprised by the offer and is delighted with the result

The Arran Heritage Museum may have closed its doors for the season but that doesn't mean the work has stopped.

It was a busy summer with lots of visitors but nevertheless the team took time to work on a new website together with Friederike and Stuart from GreenMan Web Design.

The two moved to Lamlash in May 2013 and because they feel so welcome and integrated on the island they wanted to give something back.

When they came across the slightly outdated Heritage Museum website they approached the secretary and webmaster Tom Macleod and

offered to create a new, more modern site.

Stuart said: 'The museum is really great and there is a big team of volunteers working hard to maintain it and make it special and interesting for Arran families and visitors.

'So, we wanted to support them with what we can offer.'

Surprised

Tom Macleod and the museum trust were pleasantly surprised by the offer and are delighted with the result.

'I built the site about 14 years ago and have found it difficult to find the time to do anything more than minor changes over the years,' explained Tom Macleod.

'So I was happy and relieved when Stuart and Friederike made their most generous offer.

'The result is a very professional site and reflects the huge amount of work that they have put into it.

'We want to thank them sincerely for their efforts and wish them well for their future on Arran.'

Special thanks also go to Zeno Alberti from Whiting Bay, who generously gave his time to take new photos of the museum.

The website was launched at the weekend and it can be seen it at www.arranmuseum.co.uk

Arran distillery brings back bere barley

Whisky enthusiasts with a taste for heritage and provenance will be delighted with the latest offering of the Arran Malt made with a variety of barley first introduced to Scotland by the Vikings.

Independent Scotch whisky producer, Isle of Arran Distillers, has teamed up with agricultural specialists from The University of the Highlands and Islands - Orkney College to produce a 10-year-old cask strength whisky made with Orkney Bere Barley.

The Arran Malt Orkney Bere Barley edition has been matured in ex-Bourbon barrels for 10 years and has been bottled at a cask strength of 56.2 per cent.

It is sweet, earthy and malty and conjures flavours of ripe honeydew melon and apples with a finish of vanilla and desiccated coconut, which work together to showcase the character of Bere Barley.

The limited edition release of just 4,890 bottles comes after the first edition of the malt quickly sold out last year. Demand for this edition is expected to be extremely high.

Euan Mitchell, managing director of Isle of Arran Distillers, said: 'We are one of only a handful of distilleries that use Bere Barley as it is notoriously difficult to grow.'

'However, for those who persevere, it can produce an outstanding malt, as is the case with this highly-anticipated new release.'

Wedding ring lost

A gold wedding ring was lost somewhere between the Douglas Centre and the Co-operative in Brodick last Wednesday.

It has an engraving on the inside and the owner is desperate to find it.

If found please call 600511.

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Scott Murdoch and Rachel Sedman, left, from Arran Coastal Way project, accept the cheque from Sheila Gilmore of the Arran Trust, centre, as Robert Cumming and Alan Mitchell from Lochranza and Catacol Community Association look on. 20_b46walk01

Groups work together to improve Arran coastal walk

The circular path from Lochranza to the Fairy Dell has been upgraded thanks to a grant from the Arran Trust.

With additional help from the Arran Coastal Way team, the well-trodden path has been significantly improved.

The two-mile circular walk that runs along the shore line, past the geological site of Hutton's Unconformity, to

the Fairy Dell is popular with both locals and visitors but did get boggy in wet weather and was not always easy underfoot.

A joint project saw the Lochranza and Catacol Community Association apply to the Arran Trust to secure funds for a new stretch of machine path, while the Arran Access Trust's Coastal

Way team improved several stretches of path all the way to Fairy Dell cottage with hand built paths and new ditches and drains.

The Arran Trust is the island's visitor gifting scheme which funds projects which look after the landscapes and environment of Arran.

Local contractors Murray Boal and Scott Murdoch have both carried out impressive work to the path in an environmentally sensitive manner.

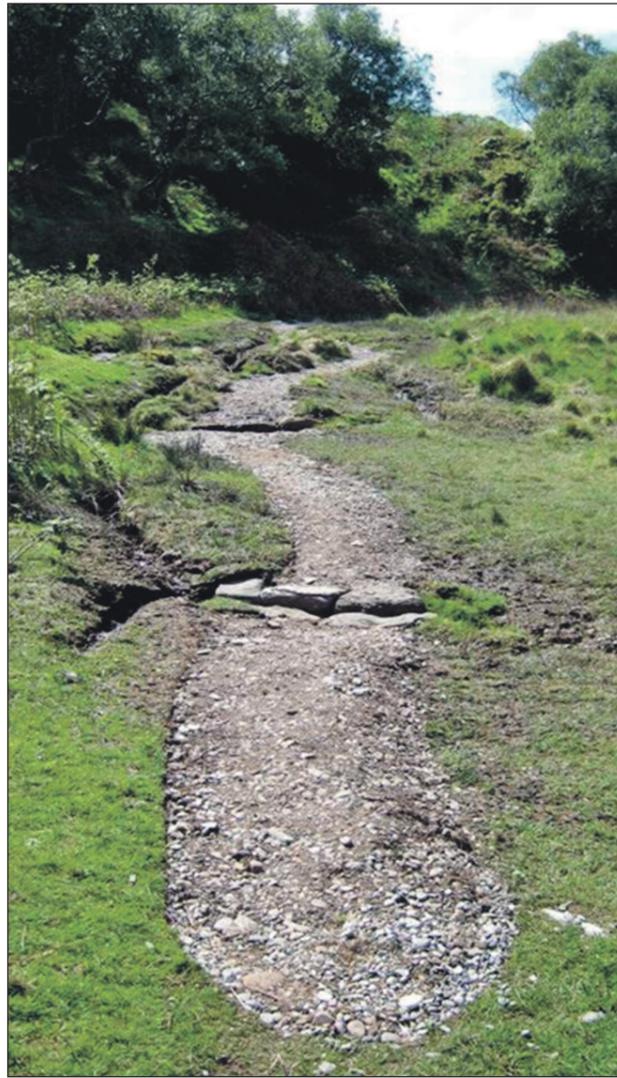
The path improvement further enhances the continuing work on the Coastal Way as well as adding a very interesting shorter walk, with some of the best views on Arran.

Rachel Sedman of the Arran Coastal Way project, said: 'Funded by the Coastal Communities Fund, we have a two-year plan of upgrade works around the whole of Arran, from which it is hoped the Arran Coastal Way will gain recognition as one of Scotland's great trails.'

'If you want more information about the coastal way project, to suggest areas you believe should be improved or if you would like to become a volunteer, please contact me on 303926 or at arran@coastalway.co.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter (ArranCoastalWay).'



With additional help from the Arran Coastal Way team, the well-trodden path has been significantly improved.



The two-mile circular walk that runs along the shoreline used to get boggy in wet weather and was not always easy underfoot.

Thistle award for Glenisle Hotel

Staff at the Glenisle Hotel were thrilled to be named 'most hospitable hotel' at the regional finals of the Visit Scotland Thistle Awards on Friday.

The Lamlash hotel were the only nominee from Arran and beat off competition from all over Scotland to go through to the national finals which will be held in March.

Owner Geoffrey Dallamore said: 'This award has really been won by every staff member at the Glenisle because the customer experience is created through a genuine team effort.'

'It's wonderful for the whole Glenisle team to be recognised this way and we thank the Thistle Awards for recognising their hard work and dedication.'



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THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran is booming thanks to RET

Has anyone noticed how busy the island is?

It's the middle of November and yet on Sunday afternoon the cars were queued along Brodick seafront for the ferry as if it were a summer's day.

RET has clearly had a massive affect on the number of people coming to the island since it was introduced at the end of last month.

The ferries are busier than ever with more holidaymakers and day trippers bringing their cars helping visitors to travel around the island.

More islanders are also taking their cars over to the mainland leading to a big increase in bookings and long queues of cars in both Brodick and Ardrossan.

The much anticipated introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares has been predicted to bring an increase in visitor numbers by as much as 40 per cent.

And some businesses are already reporting an upturn in trade, although most say it is too early to gauge the true benefit of the reduced fares.

But with locals accustomed to turning up for ferries with un-booked cars at this time of year, RET has been a bit of a shock to the system.

With reports that the ferries over the festive period are already almost fully-booked perhaps CalMac needs to push forward the introduction of a two-ferry service all year-round sooner rather than later.

The fallen remembered

How wonderful it was to see so many people gathered at the Brodick war memorial on Sunday morning to reflect on 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War.

A century is a long time. So much has happened since 1914 and sadly there is no one left on Arran now who was alive at that time.

But just because an event has been confined to history does not mean that it has lost its importance.

To see babies and toddlers, primary school children and teenage Army cadets as well as young serving soldiers and the great-grandchildren of men whose names now decorate the stone of the memorial, was touching in the face of so much sorrow.

Who knows how much longer Armistice Day remembrance events will continue for, the survivors of the Second World War are now tragically dwindling at a fast pace too.

But when confronted with the streets of London crowded with young people on Sunday, as well as smaller - but just as important - gatherings like that in Brodick, it would appear that our nation is determined to remember the fallen for many years to come.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' (Galatians 5:14)

press policy

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Sustainably managed creeling

Sir,
As most Arran residents will be aware COAST was partly established in response to the demise of our once vibrant fishing festivals.

We expect the existing No Take Zone and the creation of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA) to encourage the recovery of fish spawning and nursery grounds currently being routinely damaged by dredgers and bottom trawlers.

In time we hope that Arran will once again become an important sea angling destination.

Throughout the MPA designation process COAST has advocated the continuation of sea angling in the area.

The emergency Marine Conservation Order was brought in by Marine Scotland without consultation with COAST or the wider public.

It unfairly impacted on methods of fishing which have little or no impact on maerl beds.

COAST made this point in person and in writing to Marine Scotland, which also received representations from a wide range of other stakeholders including Kenneth Gibson MSP, who has backed the South Arran MPA from the start.

We are therefore pleased that it has now made an amendment to allow the continuation of sea angling and some creeling within the three conservation areas south of Holy Isle, around Pladda and at the Iron Rock ledges.

The amendment does not extend to hand diving for scallops or anchoring within the three new closed areas within the MPA.

It is important to note however, that the Conservation Order will only run for up to 12 months.

It will be superseded by long-term management measures expected to come into force next spring.

Proposed options are not expected to include any restric-

tion on sea angling.

Marine Scotland's consultation on these measures start this week and will continue for three months.

COAST is advocating for the complete cessation of dredging and bottom trawling in favour of sustainably managed creeling, hand diving and sea angling throughout the MPA.

We would like to encourage all stakeholders and residents to respond to the consultation and to attend Marine Scotland's consultation event to be held in Whiting Bay Village Hall on 25 November.

It is vital that everyone's opinions are heard during the consultation and that Arran has a say in a well-managed MPA which benefits the environment, local businesses and residents.

Yours,
Andrew Binnie
Manager
Community of Arran
Seabed Trust

Coffee morning success

Sir,
As a result of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, many of the schools have had to close.

The charity Mary's Meals has reacted quickly and is sending 'Take Home Food Packs' to those children who would normally have a meal at school.

At present they are feeding 80,000 children in Liberia.

Machrie Ladies Craft Group wishes to register sincere thanks to those who braved the wind and rain recently to support this cause at a coffee morning in St Molios Church Hall in Shiskine.

On the day, £399.90 was raised - with donations still coming in, the total will be in excess of £500 - a wonderful response!

This year we have also sent £500 to The Sandpiper Trust, a charity providing medical kits to GPs in remote areas in Scotland to help save lives.

We are deeply grateful to those who continue to buy our cards and attend events.

Yours,
Sylvia Money
Machrie Ladies
Craft Group

Soggy hall

Sir,
Due to an ingress of flood water to the Lamlash Church Hall, the ceilidh dancing is postponed until after the New Year.

However our enthusiasm will not be dampened and a re-start will be forecast in good time.

Yours,
John Sillars
Brodick

We have no choice

Sir,
I wonder who is paying for the 'free delivery' van from the Brodick Co-operative store.

I see a man in a van. Is he doing it for nothing and where does he get his diesel from?

The Co-op is now offering special rates for the under 25s.

They also support Fairtrade which we all have to support whether we want to or not.

Is this why their prices are up to a third more expensive than some other supermarkets?

Come on Co-op, if we don't fall into any of the above categories we are paying through the nose.

What's wrong with low prices for everyone. Is it because we don't HAVE a choice.

Yours,
S Brown
Lamlash

Blythswood shoe box appeal thanks

Sir,
I should like to thank most sincerely the members and many friends of all the Arran churches for such a magnificent response to the Blythswood Christmas shoe box appeal 2014.

In total 206 shoe boxes have been sent on their way to less fortunate people in Eastern Europe and Northern India, together with £546 in donations.

A big thank you to Ann Lauder, Maureen Cuthbert, Liz Lawrie and Anne Mitchell for checking and packing the boxes for dispatch, an onerous task done with care and much laughter.

I am indebted to Tony Morrow and his staff at Arran Deliveries for the carriage of the boxes to Glasgow, a big thank you for your contribution to the success of this appeal.

Finally, to all those who helped in any way, you have brought joy and laughter this Christmas to many people less fortunate than ourselves and belief that there are those who care for them in this world.

Yours,
Hamish Mitchell
Alma Terrace
Brodick

The Arran Banner on holiday

Since 'The Banner on Holiday' feature started seven years ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

This week we have a photo of John McKee of Torbeg taken in September at Angkor Wat, Siem Reap in Cambodia.

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

It could be from Boulmer or Bangkok, it really doesn't matter.

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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Distillery voted best whisky visitor centre experience

'We are absolutely delighted'

Another successful year of whisky has drawn to a close for Scottish Field magazine with the 2014 Whisky Challenge Awards Lunch sparking celebration for an Arran business.

The Isle of Arran Distillers enjoyed great success, winning Distillery Visitor Experience of the Year.

This year's awards, held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa in Edinburgh, was the culmination of another 12 months of Scottish Field's enduring commitment to the whisky industry.

More than 3,500 votes were cast throughout the awards process.

Isle of Arran Distillers was represented by visitor centre manager Faye Waterlow,

managing director Euan Mitchell and restaurant supervisor Kate Hartley.

Each winner was presented with their award and certificate, with Scottish Field staff and the judging panel presenting the trophies.

Very proud

Speaking of their delight at setting the bar high for the first ever Scottish Field Distillery Visitor Experience award, Euan Mitchell said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have won the category of Distillery Visitor Experience at the Scottish Field Whisky Challenge Awards last week and our team is very proud to be the owners of our beautiful new trophy. We will display it with pride in our Visitor Centre.'



Left to right: Kate Hartley, Faye Waterlow and Darren Leitch, The Whisky Shop regional manager for Edinburgh and Scottish Field whisky judge and Euan Mitchell, managing director, Isle of Arran Distillers.

NOMINATE NOW
Nominations close on Monday 8 December 2014

Calling all rural heroes

Do you know an Arran based rural business or an individual that deserves to be recognised for making a significant contribution to their local community?

Then why not nominate them to win one of our inaugural Scottish Rural Awards? The awards, affectionately known as the 'Scotties', are a joint partnership between Scottish Field and The Scottish Countryside Alliance and were formed to recognise excellence across a range of 12 award disciplines.

Nominating couldn't be easier – simply go to www.scottishruralawards.org/category

and choose your category or alternatively call 0131 551 7919 and we will post you out a form. You can nominate as many times as you like and each time you will be entered into a prize draw where six randomly chosen lucky winners will receive a bottle of Tomintoul 12 year old Speyside Glenlivet as a thank you from the judges. The awards will culminate in a special celebratory dinner taking place on 26 March 2015 in Edinburgh.

NOMINATE

Each time you nominate you will be entered into a prize draw where six randomly chosen lucky winners will receive a bottle of Tomintoul 12 year old Speyside Glenlivet as a thank you from the judges.

AND WIN

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2014

Nominate now at: www.scottishruralawards.org

The Judges



RICHARD BATH



JAMIE STEWART



RORY KENNEDY



CHARLIE SHENTALL



BRIAN CAMERON



PADDY CRERAR



THE SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CATEGORIES:

- BUTCHER OF THE YEAR**
Do you appreciate the best quality meat and good service that you local butcher provides? Does your butcher have a speciality or special recipe?
- BUSINESS START UP**
Your nominee must show innovation, inspiration and passion in their chosen field. They must also have been trading for under 24 months prior to 15 December 2014.
- RURAL HERO**
Sponsored by Chiene & Tait, The Chartered Accountants
Chiene & Tait
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
You can be a friend, colleague, family member or anyone else, but can't nominate yourself! We are looking for someone remarkable that has really made a difference to others around them
- EDUCATION**
Sponsored by Strathallan School, Forgardenny, Perth
STRATHALLAN
EDUCATION
Education is vital to a productive and progressive rural society, so your nominee, either individual or establishment, needs to demonstrate skills for teaching which will benefit others around them, young or old, and the community as a whole.
- RURAL TOURISM** – Visitor Centre or Attraction
Your nomination may be about a specific attraction, place, experience or person that has brought something to life in rural Scotland. We are looking for innovation, communication, service and education as well as fun and excitement.
- HOSPITALITY**
Always important and popular, our hospitality industry has made great strides in recent years. Customer service is key, but so is the role that your nominee plays in the local community if they go beyond the call of duty. Are they ambassadors for local produce who care about where their food is sourced? These are important questions that you can help us to answer.
- BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION**
The key to thriving in a rural business is the ability to focus, re-focus and even change tack in order to stay ahead of the competition or even the times. The winning business here will be the one that has thought outside the box not only to survive, but to succeed to the benefit of all.
- CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
The SRA take a realistic view of what conservation means and what can be and is being achieved right now. This award will be given to the organisation, business or individual who can go beyond the norm to create, develop, innovate and succeed in enhancing the Countryside by sustainability, protection, rescue, introduction or re-organisation.
- AQUACULTURE AND AGRICULTURE**
Open to all agricultural and aquaculture businesses, this award is about enhancing, protecting, managing and developing the Countryside's rural resources and will especially recognise those whose ultimate goal is to manage effectively and considerately the man-made and wild environment.
- ARTISAN FOOD**
Aiming squarely at food producers, retailers and outlets, this is all about specialists who take a pride in their work. Your nominee should be one that champions 'local food' and supports other local producers. Maybe it's someone who has saved a dying art or promoted a lost skill, but above all it'll be someone that has a story to tell.
- ARTISAN DRINK**
The other companion in nourishing the soul, the Artisan Drink category is again an indication of craftsmanship and aimed at food producers, retailers and outlets. This award is designed to recognise hard work, innovation and experimentation in the development of all beverages. Success is measured by the message and style of the product, company or individual, not necessarily on number of units sold.
- THE SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Specifically awarded to an individual whose impact over time has enhanced the lives or environment of others. Lifetime Achievement does not mean the individual has finished in their endeavours but does recognise that they have committed a significant proportion of their life to that work.

Nominate now at:
www.scottishruralawards.org
0131 551 7910

For further details and questions about who you can nominate or to make your nomination please go to www.scottishruralawards.org/category or call 0131 551 7910



Co-op shoppers get busy for the bees

Two Arran charities have received sizeable donations thanks to customers at the Co-operative store in Lamlash. Manager Barry Miffin, centre, presented Mike Bailey from Roots of Arran, left, and Willie McNish from the Arran Bee Group with a cheque for £353.

Mr McNish said that the Arran Bee Group was very grateful to receive the donation. **Helpful** He added that the Roots of Arran tree planting programme will be very helpful in attracting local bees and in turn the bees will help in pollinating their orchard.



Santa meets Heather Queen Olivia Bunyan at last year's event. 20_b46santa01

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Surprises at Santa's

Arran's fabulous Christmas festival will be back for its fifth year later this month. The Lamlash extravaganza that is Santa's Sparkle will take place for one day only on Saturday 29 November. One again staged by the Glenisle Hotel it will feature all the events of past years - plus one or two surprises. The event attracted people from all over the island and from the mainland, with visitors returning every year. To kick off the day Santa will be flying in from the North Pole especially to meet all the children and find out what they want for Christmas. He always makes a spectacular entrance and this year will be no exception. This year the sparkle will

have a unique guest star and organisers are convinced that Arran will never have seen an act like this. Called Doctor Diablo's Medicine Show, the doctor performs dangerous and death defying skills from the forbidden world of the circus sideshow. His amazing feats feature ancient arts including fire manipulation, escapology, the pain proof man and more. His performance is given a modern twist with more than a hint of comedy and audience participation. There is also Doctor Diablo's 'Strange But True' travelling museum of freaks and oddities, featuring weird exhibits such as a six legged lamb, a shrunken human head and implements of torture and execution.

He will be performing two shows on the day and there is expected to be another live show, yet to be announced, during the afternoon featuring local talent. Meanwhile, the best of Arran will be on sale in the Christmas Market. Local craftsmen and women and a whole variety of Arran traders come from across the island to tempt customers with treasures that they just can't find on the mainland. There will also be food and the Glenisle's famous mulled wine. All day there will be lots of fun and games, treasure hunts, competitions and lots and lots more and this year a climbing wall provided by the Arran Outdoor Education Centre (to be confirmed).



Shoppers pack the Christmas market last year. 20_b46santa02

Judges confirmed for 179th Arran Farmers Show

Judges have been secured for the 179th Arran Farmers Show in August.

The judges taking part in the event at Glenkiln, Lamlash on Wednesday 5 August are as follows: Cattle - Alistair Cook, Kinneil Mill, Linlithgow, horse showing - Sandra Morrison, Huntington Stable Cottage, Haddington, working hunter - Fiona Hillis, 38 Ballochgoy Road, Rothesay,

blackface/Leicester - Ewan McMillan, Traquair Hill, Innerleithen, Suffolk/texel/other breeds - Jimmy Warnock, Sandilands, Lanark, dogs - Ken Shearman, Murray Estate, Lamlash, sticks - Ian Crawford, 14 Chestnut Grove, Coynton, fleeces - Alex Miller, Margenaish, Kildonan and tractors - Donald Robertson, Beinnview, Blackwaterfoot.

The committee is also keen to hear from anyone that has ideas for the entertainment in the main ring on the day.

There are just a few tickets left for the dinner/dance on Saturday 6 December at the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot.

Contact Christine McBride on 820291 if you would like to join the party.

in store Sparkle

Geoffrey Dallamore of the Glenisle said: 'This year's event should be a bit more diverse with lots going on. Doctor Diablo's act is really off the wall and we have more craft people taking part in the market.'

Big turnout

'We are hoping for a big turnout from both islanders and also from the mainland, as many visitors return every year.'

Also new for this year will be the chance to try out breathtaking biking with Scotland's first off road motorbike training centre.

MotoScotland will be offering one hour taster sessions throughout the day of off road biking in the hills near Lamlash.

The Inveraray based centre is bringing six bikes to the island to give motorcyclists the chance to go off road and improve their skills.

They will also be taking part in the Santa's Sparkle parade during the day.

Those wishing to take part in the sessions will require to present both paper and plastic parts of their licence and come with suitable clothing and a helmet. The smallest bike will be a 125cc.

The centre is run by Clive and Donna Rumbold who were invited to join Santa's Sparkle after organisers heard glowing reports from islanders who have had training at the Inveraray centre.

Clive, a highly qualified instructor, says that off road

biking is very different to road riding and wants to let people on Arran who have never tried it or have only limited experience find out more.

As darkness falls there will be the lighting of the community tree and Glenisle Christmas tree with music, lights and a spectacular firework display.

It will be followed by an free after-fireworks party. The big, family-friendly bash will be held in the Glenisle marquee. There will be a barbeque serving food, soft drinks as well as a licenced bar and the The Vests will be playing live.

Pals Roy Grant, David Cooper and Graeme Carswell from Glassford, South Lanarkshire, formed the band two years ago and perform rock and pop cover music.

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Nursery lessons for new dad Tim at home and at work

Castle appoints fourth head gardener in 57 years

Brodick Castle's new head gardener certainly had a baptism of fire.

On only his second day in the job he had to deal with a 100-year-old oak tree which had collapsed across the main exit road of the castle.

'Welcome to Arran,' thought 26-year-old Tim Keyworth but despite recent storms it has so far proved to be a one off.

Temperature

Originally from Nottingham, Tim came to Arran last month from Leith Hall in Aberdeenshire where the

temperature once dropped to -21C.

'But if it was cold and crisp at Leith Hall, I have found it to be wet and windy in Brodick,' he said. And the wet conditions means honing new nursery techniques for growing plants over the winter months.

He leads a team of six full time gardeners and one seasonal employee, increasing over the summer, who he says are a 'fantastic team', keen to crack on in all weathers.

Tim is just the fourth head

gardener at Brodick Castle since it was acquired by the National Trust for Scotland in 1957 and follows John Basford, Nigel Price, who died recently, and Colin Totty.

Most days the routine for the new garden chief is a lot more straight forward than clearing fallen trees.

Team briefing

The daily work at Brodick Castle and Country Park, with its 80 acres of grounds, begins with a team briefing at 8am when the gardeners are given their jobs for the day and head off to different parts of the grounds.

Tim says his own plan is to work half a day in the office and the other half outside, but



Tim in his trademark woolly hat above the upper walled garden. 01_b46tim01

at the moment planning and preparation is taking up most of his days.

'One of the things I like

about being a gardener is that no two days are the same. There is always something going on,' he said.

And there is certainly plenty going on in Tim's world as a new job follows getting married earlier this year and becoming a dad last month. His wife, Ceilidh, and new daughter, Floraidh, live with him in Brodick.

Back in the garden Tim, who has a trademark woolly hat, also had high praise for the volunteer gardeners who help, with terrific support, with weeding, digging, clearing and other work about the garden. They have just mulched two beds at the entrance to the castle grounds at the visitor's centre.

Presently the volunteers work once a week on a Wednesday, but Tim has made a plea for more help.

'The more volunteers we can get, the more work we can get through to get the gardens looking their very best for the start of next season in April.

'While the volunteers come on a Wednesday just now there is no reason we can't have help coming on other days that may better suit groups or individuals better.

'We would be extremely grateful for any additional help we can get.'

Earlier this year top international garden designer Andy Sturgeon was brought in to design a masterplan for a complete makeover of the upper walled gardens, the first major redesign of the gardens since 1957.

But Tim would also like to see improvements underway

at the lower walled gardens, where the gardening team is based and where all the planting and growing on takes place for the castle and country park.

As well as improvements to the polytunnels and compost heaps, which Tim says are vital to get right, he would like to see workshops for the public being held.

A community garden project on the site is, says Tim, 'going from strength to strength'.

But for now Tim is taking stock of the work that needs to be done and is organising a planned programme involving contractors and in-house work.

'The paths need a lot of work and there are a lot of draining issues. I would like to see more paths opened up that were closed during the phytophthora outbreak by next spring.'

*See the full interview with Tim in Arran Life magazine next week.



Property manager David Cameron congratulates Tim on his new position. 01_b46david01

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The new head gardener beside a fern tree. 01_b46tim02



A number of pupils from Arran High School performed with the North Ayrshire Schools Band.

Schools band hits all the right notes

Musical pupils from Arran High School helped the North Ayrshire Schools Band to hit the right notes at this year's National Concert Band Festival.

The island's youngsters competed with others from the region in the Youth Wind Band category and won the platinum award.

The talented musicians will

now go on to compete at the national competition which takes place at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester in April.

Matthew Chinn, the band's musical director, is from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

He said: 'I always very much welcome the opportunity to work with the aspiring

young musicians from across North Ayrshire.

'The Platinum award is testament to the great work and commitment shown by all of the young musicians, the North Ayrshire Instrumental Music Service, led by Mae Murray, and its professional instructors and teachers.

'I am thoroughly looking forward to building on the band's recent success and working with them all over the coming months, preparing for the National Finals, where we will be showcasing and representing Scottish Youth Band music making.'

Councillor Alan Hill said: 'North Ayrshire Schools Concert Band once again receives recognition for its hard work and commitment for musical excellence.'

'I wish them all the best of luck for the forthcoming national competition next April.

'I know they will be working hard to produce a performance that will do them justice and I look forward to hearing how they fare.'

Girls encouraged to pursue science careers

Around 80 school girls from North Ayrshire have been given an insight into some exciting careers.

Last Monday pupils from the majority of the area's secondary schools attended an event aimed at encouraging them to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Understanding

Pupils were given the chance to further their understanding of the different employment opportunities in the STEM sector before they make their subject choices after the Christmas break.

The day centred around five different workshops designed to give the S3 pupils an insight into a variety of industries and the opportunities which exist.

Council leader Willie Gibson said: 'This event has shown our pupils that the

world is their oyster and that they can achieve anything they put their mind to and I hope it will convince more girls to consider pursuing a job in STEM.'

One pupil said: 'It was very inspiring and I am now going to consider engineering as a career.'

Another added: 'This made me consider my career choice, at the beginning of the day I thought I knew what I wanted to do.'

ROUND THE RURALS

Kildonan SWRI

The open meeting on 21 October was well attended, even though it was held on the day that the tail end of hurricane Gonzalo decided to pay Arran a visit.

With a very attentive audience, Gary Lewis, the station manager representing the Ambulance Service on Arran, gave a very interesting talk, supported by a presentation on actions that can be taken by the average person that will increase considerably the survival rates of people suffering life-threatening incidents.

The audience was shown how to determine whether a person was having a cardiac arrest or heart attack and how to safely clear the airway.

They were also shown how to stem blood loss in the case

of a serious cut and ease the pain of a burn or scald and protect it.

Gary then handed over to Fiona Laing, head of the First Responders and defibrillator group on Arran and Judi Worthington, one of the Southend first responders.

With the help of 'resuscitation Annie', Judi showed how to safely approach someone in need of help whilst Fiona spoke through what 'safely' meant.

A demonstration on correctly giving chest compressions and air to someone suffering from a cardiac arrest was carried out by Fiona and the correct use of the defibrillator and how easy they are to work was shown to a very attentive audience.

There were many questions raised and clearly answered

by either Gary, Fiona or Judi.

At the end of the talk audience members were invited to try their hand at chest compressions and to use the training defibrillator.

As usual the Kildonan ladies had provided a great selection of refreshments and the raffle for the evening raised £50 which was donated to the Defibrillator project.

The next meeting is in Kildonan hall on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30pm and will be a Crafty Christmas night where members and non-members can get involved in making some Christmas decorations, beaded bracelets and learning the basics of crocheting.

The competition is a decorated match box and the exhibition a favourite piece of jewellery.



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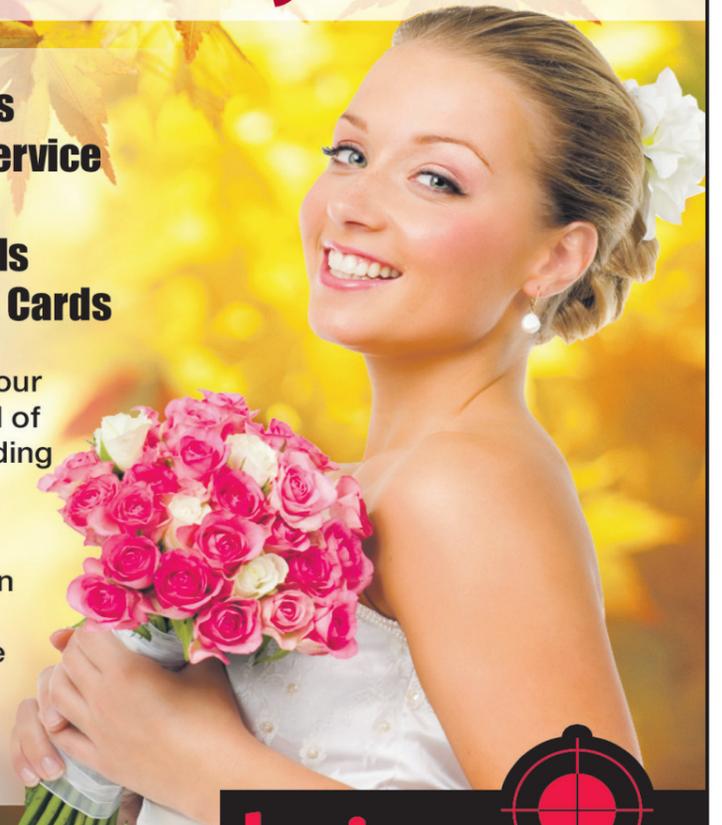
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'Birds of a feather flock together' is a well known expression which appears to have surfaced in the 16th century.

In 1545, William Turner wrote a version of the expression in the 'Rescuing of Romish Fox': 'Byrdes of on kynde and color flock and flye allwayes together'.

It is an expression used about people who have similar characteristics or interests, especially ones of which you disapprove and who often spend time with each other.

But what about the birds? Why do they flock together?

For example in October I received a large number of reports of birds flocking together including 300 chaffinch in West Bennan, 250 skylark on Cleats Shore, 100 jackdaw in Blackwaterfoot and 100 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot.

This is a time of year where birds appear to flock together. At other times of the year birds are fiercely territorial.

Even those that breed in colonies defend their own patch. Why do they then flock together? What are the advantages?

There seem to be two main advantages, both associated with improved chances of survival.

This applies to birds pre-

Birds of a Feather



A photograph of a flock of starling on the island was taken by Brian Couper.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER

paring for long migration as well as those who are more residential.

The first advantage is safety: more eyes in a flock so more eyes to watch for predators.

If a predator does come along and a bird is on its own, it is the target.

If the bird is part of a flock of 100, there are 100 targets and the chances of survival are improved.

The second advantage is in finding food.

Again there are more pairs of eyes looking for food.

In addition there is increasing evidence that birds that roost together 'share information'.

The mechanism is not clear but one possibility is that older, more experienced birds are better able to find food; hence younger birds roost with them in order to follow their elders to better foraging grounds.

Simply by watching and following other birds heading out to forage at the beginning of the day individual birds

may pick up where there is more likelihood of finding food.

The chances of survival are greatly improved in a flock

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



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North Ayrshire Council's environmental plans revealed

A new strategy aimed at making sure the island works towards building a sustainable future has been launched by North Ayrshire Council.

The Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2014 - 2017 was recently unveiled to inspire people to do more for the environment.

This is the first time the council has developed a policy like this which demonstrates its vision to achieve greater sustainability across its operations and communities. Some of the plans put forward to help deliver the strategy include developing a green economy and reducing transport and travel emissions.

The council has also committed to ensuring residents can afford to maintain a

warm home and has set aside £1.5million for external insulation, cavity and loft insulation and boiler replacement for vulnerable households in 2014/15.

In addition, a total of £5million has been budgeted for an energy efficiency retrofit programme which includes the implementation of solar panels and biomass boiler systems to selected council properties.

Around £13.5 million is expected to be saved over 20 years as a result of the cumulative measures which form the energy efficiency retrofit programme.

The Eco Schools Programme has also helped to encourage all of North Ayrshire's pupils to participate in environmentally friendly programmes, including recycling

and using organic products.

Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'The strategy is ambitious but achievable, provided that we work together with the communities, businesses and other groups that can help us make a difference in the sustainability of North Ayrshire.'

'I am particularly excited about the opportunities that exist for renewable heat within this area, and I am pleased to see that the exploration of this opportunity forms part of this strategy.'

The exciting new strategy is expected to evolve over time as new opportunities are discovered, other initiatives come forward and technology advances and will be updated annually so that progress can be monitored.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 19 November, 1994

Gaelic return

The new Co-operative in Brodick will be opening soon and with it comes the return of Gaelic to the island.

For all the signs inside it will be in that language.

But don't panic yet, for alongside the Gaelic will also be the same directions in English.

This is a decision that has been made by Scottish Co-op in direct response to a request by David Hilton, who retired to Whiting Bay, who suggested Gaelic signing in the new store.

It can't be you

The nation may be suffering from lottery fever but Arran is still in quarantine.

The only consolation for Arran flutterers is that all around the more remote parts of Scotland others are also still unable to buy lottery tickets.

When it was launched last week, Arran's only outlet at the Brodick Co-op was still not wired up.

Apparently there were quite a few disgruntled customers but the store insists it will be up and running by the end of next week.

Fake alert

A warning has been issued to be on the look out for forged bank notes.



Last Friday in two separate incidents, one in Brodick and one in Lamlash, forged £20 Bank of England notes were identified.

Jim Hill, manager of the Bank of Scotland, said one had a waxy feel and on the other the Queen's head was slightly fuzzed.

Downsizing the buses

Western Scottish buses are hoping to bring smaller vehicles to the island.

Managing director, Alan Wilson, tells us that they have reached a provisional agreement with Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive for a trial run of smaller buses on Arran.

Some of the Western Scottish coaches are thought to be too large and cumbersome, and even perhaps too old for some narrow stretches of road.

Glenartney fire

A fire was started deliberately in the small hours of Tuesday morning inside a small store adjoining the Glenartney Hotel, Brodick.

At the same time a computer was stolen from the hotel.

The fire brigade was called at 3.15am and they extinguished the fire.

Many a slip

Police were called out last Sunday morning after complaints about a large oil spillage on the road between Whiting Bay and Brodick.

A motorist had already alerted the roads department that he had apparently seen diesel fuel leaking from a bus.

Ferry late

The new winter ferry route between Tarbert and Lochranza has been delayed once again.

It was due to begin on Tuesday this week but has once again been postponed because the slipway in Tarbert is still not completed.

Debating event

Two Arran High School pupils represented the school last Monday at the first round of the Bank of Scotland's debating championships at Stewarton Academy.

Kelvin Aston of S4 and Rosalind Millar of S5 opposed the motion that 'jobs must come before the environment' in a debate which included six Ayrshire schools.

Although they acquitted themselves well, they were not chosen to go onto the next round.

Left: Celia Urquart of Brodick has been appointed the new chairman of Glasgow Caledonian University's court. b46twe04

Right: The Lamlash Golf Club lady trophy winners with club champion Sheena Murchie in the centre. b46twe03



Guides and Brownies from Shiskine and Kilmory took part in the Remembrance Service last Sunday at Kilmory Church. b46twe01



Corporal Dale Park of the Arran Cadet Force marches towards the Brodick war memorial to place a wreath last Sunday. b46twe02



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, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm,
 2pm
 Open all day

Saturday 15th November

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Comedy Hypnotist & quiz night
 Live Music with Michael Clark
 Arran High School Christmas Fete
 Total Brass
 Hospital Supporters League Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
 Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 11am-2pm
 Brodick Hall, 1.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 10am-12.30pm

Sunday 16th November

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, 5pm-6.30pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm

Monday 17th November

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Live Music
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers
 10/10 Total Body workout

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
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm

Tuesday 18th November

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 RunArran

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
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm

Live Music
 Metafit
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing

Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 19th November

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
 Arran Elderly Forum

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
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.40 for 11am

Thursday 20th November

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

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, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 6pm
 Auchrannie 7pm

Friday 21st November

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 Ceilidh Dance
 AA Meeting

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 Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall 7.30-9.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall 7.30pm



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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 05.12.14. 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

14/00594/PP; Parkhouse, Shiskine, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Change of use of agricultural land to form outdoor riding area.

14/00642/PP; The Shorehouse, Main Street, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Change of use from self catering units to 7 residential apartments including external alterations and demolition of single storey building to rear.

14/00644/PP; Bayview Cottage, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Change of use from residential to commercial (hotel), including external alterations.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

Arran Yacht Club

A.G.M.

7:30 p.m. Thursday 11th December
AYC Clubhouse

Nominations for Committee to the Secretary by 1st December

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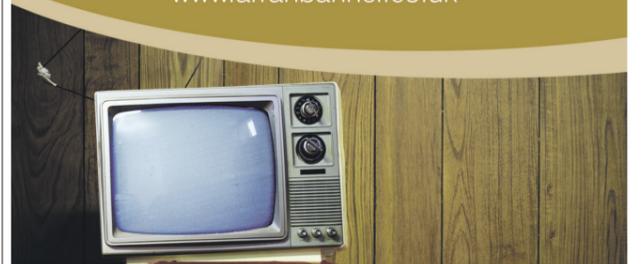
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 16th November
 Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
 Mrs Janis Gallagher.
 Coffee after service.
 ALL WELCOME

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 16th November

Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches. 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship. Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 11.50am Tea and Coffee & Fellowship, 12noon Morning Worship. A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 16th November

Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30 am
 Both Churches:
 Service of Remembrance
 Mrs Sharon Macleod
 All welcome, including families; children's area
 Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 16th November

Morning Service, 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 6-30pm
 5 Glen Road Brodick
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 16th November

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 16th November

Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
 Tea and Coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
 There will be a sale of Traidcraft goods and Traidcraft Christmas Cards.

Also, the Church Christmas Card, to be sent to all members, will be available to be signed, and all proceeds will go to the Glasgow City Mission.
 All welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 16th November

Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
 Rev David Ford

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

BINNIE - Barbara. Peacefully at Four Hills Nursing Home on 4th November 2014. Beloved wife of the late Ian, much loved mother of Shelley, Serena and Sheona, and a loving grandmother of Jessica and Jack. Committal at Sannox Cemetery, Isle of Arran on Wednesday 19th November at 11.30am followed by a service of thanksgiving at Broomhill Parish Church, Randolph Road, Glasgow on Friday 21st November at 11.30am to which all friends are respectfully invited.

HUYTON - Stan, of Brantwood Lodge, Brodick sadly passed away at Lamlash Memorial Hospital on Friday 31st October 2014. There will be a cremation service held in Derby on Friday 21st November 2014 at 11.20 am. We will hold a memorial service at a later date to be confirmed on Arran for those who cannot attend. If anyone would like to attend the service in Derby, please contact Rachel Huyton, Stan's daughter on 07964623290. Stan will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him, he loved Arran very much. Thank you to all the nursing team at the hospital for their dedication and care.



Congratulations to Jamie Murchie of Lamlash for winning the Gents 2014 Arran Challenge at Shiskine Golf Club with a superb score of 51 points. To make it a family double Jamie's Dad Iain was runner up. Very well done to you both!



Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 5 November, 11 played on a lovely day and it reflected in the scoring.

1 B Allison 77-16=61, 2 D Robertson 78-16=62 BIH. There were three twos, one each for M Holmes, D Rob-

O'REGAN - Yvonne. With deep sadness we announce the death of Yvonne O'Regan, of Branton, Doncaster, on 1st November 2014, aged 59. Best known on Arran as proprietor of the Breadalbane Hotel, Kildonan from 1989 to 2006. A memorial webpage with funeral details and for messages of condolence is available at the web address <http://bit.ly/1zfyMYC>

ertson and B Allison.

Sunday 9 November, Brandon, 18 played, CSS 64. 1 Donald McKinnie (9)61, 2 Alastair Hume (11)62, 3 Iain Sillars (15)63. Scratch Donald McKinnie 70. There were four magic twos for Donald McKinnie, Bruce Jenkins, Ian Macdonald and Kenny McMillan. 1st Class Brandon, Donald McKinnie. 2nd Class Brandon, Iain Sillars

Fixtures: Sunday 16 November, Winter Cup. Open draws at 9am and 12noon. Non handicap counter. Sunday 21 November, Clochendichter.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 9 November, 11 played in the second round of the Winter Cup, with the best three out of a possible six scores to count throughout the winter, CSS 63.

1 David Brookens (12)60, 2 Steve Fenton (16)63, 3 Jamie MacPherson (6)65. David Brookens had the only magic two of the day and Jamie

MacPherson won scratch with 71.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 November, friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash Golf Club, teeing off between 10.30am and 11am. Looking for as many players as possible!

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 8 November, Winter Cup first round, 12 played, CSS 61 from white tees.

1 Brian Lewis 71-10=61 BIH, 2 Bob Rooney 74-13=61, 3 Alan Smith 72-10=62. Best scratch from Jim McConnachie 70. Magic twos from Jim McConnachie at the 8th.

Monday 10 November, Monday Cup, seven played from yellow tees.

1 A McDonald 64-9=55, 2 R Burke 63-6=57, best scratch R Burke 63.

Magic twos from R Burke, A McDonald and J McGovern.

Fixtures: Please note Saturday medals will be a 'shotgun start' at 12.30pm starting Sat-

urday 15 November. Ordinary draw at 8.30am.

Monday 17 November, Monday Cup at 12noon from yellow tees.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 4 December, Winter Cup. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 62, 2 David Brookens 64, 3 Sally Brooks 67. Scratch and two Hamish Bannatyne 67. Fixtures: Tuesday 18 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 9 November, Glenburn Cup. 1 Iain Murchie 66-4=62, 2 Alan Smith 74-10=64. Twos from Iain Bremner at the 16th, Alan Smith at the 13th. Best Scratch Iain Murchie 66.

Fixtures: Sunday 16 November, Winter Friendly, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at 10.30am for a 11am start, a good turnout is requested!

Thursday 20 November, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

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Winning streak continues for ladies hockey team

'We kept fighting on and scored another four goals in the second half'

Eleven goals in two matches! That is the recent tally for the Arran Ladies Hockey team after they continued an incredible winning streak on Saturday.

After a 5-0 win away to Giffnock on November 1, the ladies were overjoyed with a 6-0 victory at the Ormidale Park on Saturday against Loch Lomond.

Anne Watts scored four goals in the first half against Giffnock then Kirstie Barton added another in the second half.

The ladies had travelled with 11 players and no substitutes so were glad there were no injuries or illness.

Judith Ross was voted dame of the game. On Saturday 8 November it was the turn of Loch Lomond who were sitting one position behind Arran in the league.

Captain Vicki McNicol said: 'They were quite tough

at the start but we had brilliant passing up the park and Lorraine Hewie scored two goals in the first half.

'The opponents were not impressed, rather than playing more defensively we kept fighting on and scored a further four goals in the second half, giving Lorraine Hewie as left wing and Anne Watts as centre striker both hat-tricks.'

Anne Watts was sent off for two minutes for repeatedly failing to be five metres from the opposition's free hit but she was still voted 'dame of the game'.

And then Kirstie Barton received a hit to the face and was taken off to get cleaned up before coming back on for more.

The next game is this Saturday (November 15) at the National Hockey Centre, Glasgow a Commonwealth Games venue.



Coach Laura with runners left to right: Derek Robertson, Gareth McNicol and Allan Soutter. 01_b46run01

First men complete RunArran course

Three runners have just completed RunArran's first ever beginner's course for men.

Certificates

They were awarded their certificates at the end of the 10-week course by coach Laura Aitchison.

The trio - Derek Robertson, Gareth

McNicol and Allan Soutter - will now join RunArran's mixed ability group which meets at the Auchrannie Car Park in Brodick on Wednesday nights.

Laura said: 'Well done to the guys for their amazing progression to week 10. Over the last 10 weeks they have been great fun to work with and have pro-

gressed from a 10-minute jog walk to being out for 45 minutes and still managing a sprint finish.

Get in touch

'A new men's beginners group will be starting in January, but if anyone is desperate to get fit before Christmas they can get in touch.'

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the tournament in Brodick on Thursday 6 November were as follows: 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

On Monday 10 November the second round of the match points were held in Lamlash.

The winners were as follows: 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell 67.27%, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie 60.45%, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce 56.36%.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.