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# Douglas and distillery do the double at top awards

## Myxy fears for pet rabbits

Rabbit owners on Arran were warned this week that there have been suspected sightings of wild rabbits with Myxomatosis.

Two sightings in Whiting Bay have been reported to Charlotte Clough who runs Arran Vets in Brodick.

She told the Banner: 'Even pet rabbits without any direct contact with wild rabbits can contract Myxy. It can be spread by bites from mites or rabbit fleas. Vaccination against this and another fatal rabbit disease Viral Haemorrhagic Disease (VHD) is strongly recommended.'

'The vaccine is currently in short supply but we have been allocated a batch. As a result I will be offering a rabbit vaccination morning from 9.30am to 12noon on Saturday November 22 for any rabbits not been vaccinated in the last 12 months or longer. One injection covers the rabbits for a year for both diseases.'

Myxomatosis is a highly infectious and usually fatal viral disease of rabbits, causing swelling of the mucous membranes and inflammation and discharge around the eyes. The disease decimated the wild rabbit population when it arrived in Britain 50 years ago.

Rangers at the Brodick Castle Country Park said they had not seen any signs of rabbits with the disease.

**REPORT**  
by **HUGH BOAG**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran organisations have been flying the flag for the island this week, winning two major tourism awards.

The Douglas Hotel was named the most hospitable hotel, while, for the second year in a row, the Isle of Arran Distillery was named best visitor centre.

But it is not just businesses who have been bringing home the trophies. Following the success of the drama group of Shiskine SWI in Selkirk at the weekend, they arrived home with two top prizes.

Add success for the Glenisle Hotel and the Auchrannie Resort in a new list of top hotels and the rout is complete.

It was at the central south west regional finals of the Scottish Thistle Awards, which took place last Wednesday at Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel, that the The Douglas Hotel was named the winner of the most hospitable hotel award.

The Douglas beat off stiff competition from The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow and the Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel in Thornhill, Dumfries and Galloway to win the prize.

The category recognises hotels that excel in giving customers the most hospitable and comfortable



Douglas Hotel staff with Elaine Campbell, marketing manager, and general manager Jim Reid. 20\_b46douglas01

experience while staying in Scotland.

VisitArran, which was shortlisted, was narrowly beaten to the new tourism is everyone's business award by Arnold Clark car and van rental in Glasgow.

Praised by judges for helping make 'amazing holidays for visitors and excelling in looking after all who visit', The Douglas Hotel opened in May 2011 after an extensive refurbishment with the aim

of offering visitors first-class relaxation and professional, attentive service.

On receiving the award, marketing manager Elaine Campbell said: 'We are delighted to receive such wonderful industry commendation.'

'We are incredibly proud of our team and could not have achieved this without each and every single person who has contributed in their own way.'

'We hope this will help

ensure that Arran remains a top visitor destination for years to come.

'We've entered the Thistles every year since we opened, so when we were nominated this year we were really excited. The Glenisle won this same award last year too, so it says an awful lot about Arran for it to go to the same destination twice - we really must be a hospitable wee island.'

The Douglas Hotel will now go on to represent

Ayrshire & Arran and the wider central south west region at the national finals at Edinburgh's EICC in March next year.

Stephen Carter OBE, VisitScotland board member and chairman of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, said: 'This has been an excellent year for both Scottish tourism and the Scottish Thistle Awards. The sheer caliber and volume of entries has been amazing.'

Continued on page 2.



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# Distillery visitor centre rises to the challenge

The Isle of Arran Distillery's visitor centre has been recognised for the second year running in the Scottish Field Whisky Challenge.

Chosen over 10 other renowned distilleries, including runners-up Glendronach and Ben Nevis, The Isle of Arran Distillery Visitor Centre retained its title as the best distillery visitor experience.

They picked up their award at a recent awards lunch at the Sheraton Grand in Edinburgh from whisky expert Charles Maclean.

Opened by The Queen in 1997, the visitor centre is a popular destination for whisky fans. It offers several packages ranging in time and cost from small scale tours to more in-depth whisky experiences, all lead by friendly and professionally trained guides who are fast gaining the reputation of being the best in the business. It also boasts



Charles Maclean presents the award to cafe supervisor Kate Hartley as managing director Euan Mitchell and sales manager Andy Bell look on.

a thriving café selling local produce and a gift shop well-stocked with core-range and limited edition Arran Single Malts.

Visitor centre manager Faye Waterlow said: 'We're incredibly proud of what we do at the visitor centre. The dis-

tillery produces whisky of an exceptional quality and our aim is always to match that with our warmth, knowledge and dedication.

'The feedback from visitors is always our marker but to be recognised by Scottish Field for the second year running

is a wonderful affirmation of our efforts.'

As the distillery approaches its 21st birthday, the visitor centre is expanding to include a new blending and tasting room which will open in March 2016. Two new stills are also being installed to meet increasing demand for the Isle of Arran single malts.

Euan Mitchell, managing director of the distillery, commented: 'Welcoming people to the distillery is very important to us.

'The quality and provenance of our whisky naturally attracts some very passionate visitors, including Roman Abramovich this summer, so it's essential that our visitor experience lives up to expectations.

'With the distillery turning 21 next year, we're looking forward to expanding and hope to welcome many more whisky fans to Lochranza.'



Elaine Campbell and Craig Lindsay collect their Thistle award from Scott Inglis of Fishers and host Stephen Jardine.

## Douglas Hotel wins top award

Continued from page one.

'On behalf of the panel, I'd like to congratulate our winners for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm over the past year. They should be incredibly proud of themselves. Tourism is at the heart of the economy, creating jobs and sustaining communities. Tonight has been an opportunity for us to celebrate those who have gone the extra mile to ensure that a trip to Scotland is an unforgettable experience.'

Annie Armstrong, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'My congratulations go to The Douglas Hotel on winning its

award at the Scottish Thistle Awards regional finals. This is a superb achievement and a fantastic recognition of the incredible success which the business has become in a very short time. The accolades it has received are very well-deserved; it is a wonderful asset to Arran's tourism industry.'

This year saw a record breaking 615 entries submitted, including hundreds of nominations from members of the public keen to recognise hotels, restaurants, B&Bs, visitor attractions and individuals who go the extra mile to provide customers with exceptional service.

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# Hat-trick of wins for Shiskine at national drama festival

## Sheila wins individual prize by a head

A team representing Arran has walked off with two top prizes at a national drama competition.

Eleven ladies from Shiskine SWI won the Anstruther-Gray Challenge Cup in Selkirk at the weekend. It represents a hat-trick of wins for the Shiskine Institute, which won the trophy in 1950 and again in 2010.

They were representing the Isle of Arran Federation in the National SWI drama competition with a one-act play called 'The Real Problem' produced by Jerry Arthur. Sheila Gilmore won the Scottish Home and Country Quach for the best individual performance of the competition for her role of Queen Anne Boleyn - well, her head



Winning Anstruther-Gray drama team, back row left to right: Ruth Betley, Alice Anderson, Deborah Robertson, Katie Murchie, and Elma Judge. Front row, left to right: Jerry Arthur, national SWI chairwoman Christine Hutton and Sheila Gilmore.



Eunie Williamson, Elspeth Macdonald, Jerry Arthur, Christine Hutton and Wilma Moreton with the Challoch Cup.



The cast of The Real Problem left to right: Deborah Robertson, Ruth Betley, Sheila Gilmore, Alice Anderson and Katie Murchie.

- beating 52 other performers to the prize.

The other entry from Shiskine was a radio play 'Ladies in Waiting', which was a new category to the competition this year, and it was overall runner up winning the Challoch Cup. The play was written and pro-

duced by Wilma Morton, who was a keen supporter of the Isle of Arran drama festival, and won it on many occasions with her Pirmill Players. Elspeth Macdonald was nominated for best individual performance in the festival, for her part in the radio play. She played Sadie Macgro-

ry, a lady who takes charge on a broken down train when a young woman goes into labour. It was a very funny play and enjoyed very much by the Selkirk audience. The adjudicator for the competition was Nat Little, who it is hoped may come to the Arran drama festival next year.

## Island hotels named among best in the west of Scotland

Two island hotels have been included in hotel search website Trivago's top 20 hotels in the west of Scotland.

The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash and the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick have been chosen as part of Trivago's inaugural Top Hotel Awards which uses 190 million ratings from more than 30 websites and aggregates it to form a ranking.

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**Citizens Advice seek Arran volunteers**

North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service is looking for volunteers on Arran. Business development manager Ian Lawrie said: 'We are attempting to recruit more volunteers, in particular from Arran.'

Volunteering changes lives – the lives of the people receiving advice and support, and the life of the person freely giving their time and effort to provide that advice and support. Being a volunteer has been shown to increase self-confidence, self-esteem, promote positive health and recovery as well as boosting your career chances. You can develop new skills and abilities and enhance your existing skills through supported development and certificated training.

If you want to be the person who makes a difference, you can if you join North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service, the charity that offers advice and support across the whole of North Ayrshire. Anyone interested should contact the volunteer recruitment team on 01294 608142, or alternatively visit our website, [www.nacasadvice.org.uk](http://www.nacasadvice.org.uk)



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# Remembrance Sunday marked across the island

Remembrance services were held across the island last Sunday in memory of those who have died in the line of duty.

At the cenotaph in Brodick torrential rain and gusting winds did not stop the proceedings as three of the island's clergy Jean Hunter, Noel Colford and Vince Jennings read a short passage from the bible and conducted a service ending with a prayer and the traditional two minute silence.

**Wreaths**

The Rev Vince Jennings read out the names of the fallen to the attendees, which included councillor John Bruce and Arran Sergeant Allen Dodds, with Bill Currie representing H.M Coastguard. Cameron Logan of the Arran Cadets, along with the other representatives, then laid wreaths at the cenotaph.



The remembrance service held at the Brodick cenotaph. 02\_b46remember01

In Corrie, Mrs Jean Hunter conducted the service at the cenotaph on the hill to a small

crowd who braved the weather conditions during which councillor John Bruce laid a

wreath. Other remembrance services were held around the island.



Mrs Jean Hunter conducted the Remembrance Sunday service in Corrie. 02\_b46remember02



Councillor John Bruce lays a wreath at the Corrie cenotaph. 02\_b46remember03

**Record price of £142 paid for Arran Monopoly game**

A limited edition game of Arran Monopoly has been sold on popular internet auction site ebay for a staggering £142.

The game, a version of Monopoly that uses Arran locations, originally sold for less than £30 when first produced in 2011 and was snapped up by buyers as far afield as South Africa, Ecuador and Alaska.

In total, 3,000 copies of the officially licensed Hasbro game were produced by Graham Chappell of Arran Graphics, but the last copies sold out more than two years ago.

The seven-day auction started off at a reasonable £29.99 and rose to £60 after bids from 25 different people were offered. On the final day of the auction a bidding war between two bidders ensued, with one finally winning with her record bid, which was £2 more than the competing bidder.

An attempt has been made to produce an additional 1,000 copies of the game through a crowdfunding project, but the high price of being associated with, and published by Hasbro, meant that the initiative never reached the numbers required for it to be reproduced.

According to Graham, the crowdfunding project was a last chance attempt and he does not foresee any more copies being produced, leaving only the original 3,000 to change hands at prices more than four times their original value.

The board game Monopoly originated in the United States in 1903 and was first commercially sold in 1930. It has since become part of popular culture, being licensed in 103 countries and printed in more than 37 languages. A standard non-Arran Monopoly can be bought online for £22.

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# New rescue helicopter makes first training visit to Arran

HM Coastguard's new Sikorsky S-92 Search and Rescue helicopter made its inaugural training flight to Arran this week with Whiting Bay as the destination.

On Monday, the aircraft took off from its purpose-built base at Prestwick Airport on a training flight and dropped in to see the Arran Coastguard Rescue Team, allowing them the chance to see round the aircraft and learn about its operational capabilities.

The aircraft is one of the most up to date search-and-rescue aircraft in the world.

Among an array of tech-

nology it is equipped with night vision, forward looking infrared and a thermal imaging camera, can cover a 250 nautical mile radius and has a flight speed of 145 knots. It also has de-icing capabilities, along with a fully-equipped paramedic suite in the rear.

The Prestwick-based S-92 will attend offshore, coastal and inland incidents.

Some of these will be coordinated by the coastguard team, whilst for other incidents authorities such as the police will be in the lead.

The aircraft may also be tasked to carry out medical

evacuations from its designated landing site at Whiting Bay, transferring patients from the care of Arran War Memorial Hospital to a mainland hospital for treatment.

The S-92, which is privately operated by the Bristow Group, will take over search-and-rescue duties from the red and grey Sea King Rescue 177 helicopter on January 1, 2016. The crew will spend the next two months training in the area, which includes training with the coastguard, lifeboat and mountain rescue teams in the area.

The Arran Coastguard are



The aircraft crew with the Arran Coastguard rescue team. 02\_b46coastguard01

presently recruiting. Anyone interested in joining the team should pop into the station in

Lamlash, next to the medical centre, on a Wednesday training evening to find out more.

In a coastal, beach or cliff emergency call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

## Pop up portraits at Bay Stores

Bay Kitchen & Stores are adding to the regular grocery store offering with different 'pop up' events.

Today (Saturday) from noon till 4pm they are running a pop up Portrait Studio with Andy Surridge.

He will be doing portraits using their recently exposed brick wall as a lovely rustic backdrop. There is no obligation to purchase however, if you do so direct from Andy, they will make super Christmas presents.

Owner of the Whiting Bay store, Stuart Fraser said it is part of their mission to help promote other island businesses and make the shop an interesting and fun hub for the community.

He said: 'So far we have run two pop-up kitchens with Robin Gray, featuring jazz music from Biff Simpson and her band. They were a great success in our cafe garden during the better weather.'

'Now we are thinking forward to Christmas.'

'We are a dog-friendly store, so any well behaved dogs are welcome to come and join in the fun.'



The Sikorsky S-92 prepares for landing in heavy rain.

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## Cameron returns to unveil coastal way monument

Writer and television presenter Cameron McNeish will be back next month to officially open the Arran Coastal Way start and finish monument.

It is a fitting return as it was Cameron who performed the opening ceremony of the coastal way 12 years ago.

The new monument, which is being created on the shore near Brodick ferry terminal, will be officially unveiled on Wednesday, December 9.

Coastal way project co-ordinator Rachel Sedman said: 'We are looking forward to welcoming Cameron back to Arran to open the official start and finish monument and to celebrate the improvements and progress the current project has made in bringing the coastal way up to the standard of a premier Scottish walking route. Cameron is the voice and recognised face of walking in Scotland, and we are indebted to him for sparing the time to visit Arran and for returning to open the monument for us.'

Cameron will also be doing a short talk at the Access Trust's annual meeting, which is in the evening of

December 9.

It was back in the 1990s that two local men, Hugh McKerrell and Dick Sim, had a dream. It was of a walk around the entire coastline of Arran, linking the villages and taking in the stunning scenery and brilliant wildlife to be seen along the way.

A supporters and volunteers group was formed and after many years of hard work, the The Arran Coastal Way was officially opened by Cameron McNeish on March 28, 2003.

### Legacy

Both Hugh and Dick have sadly died, but their legacy lives on in the form of the Arran Coastal Way. What started as a little-used route undertaken by an intrepid few has become a well-known feature of the island. It is followed by folk from all over the world and contributes significantly to the island economy.

If you would like to attend either the opening ceremony or the agm, please contact Rachel Sedman for more details on 01770 303926 or e-mail [arran@coastalway.co.uk](mailto:arran@coastalway.co.uk)

# Save The Children Fayre success at Brodick Hall

In spite of the poor weather, the annual Save The Children Fayre held in Brodick Hall last Saturday was well attended by a steady stream of customers who arrived to support the event.

There were many stalls with raffles, competitions and alluring goods for sale, while Yvonne Brothers delighted the crowd, playing piano music gently in the background.

Visitors enjoyed refreshments of tea, coffee, soup and a very large array of home-baked treats that were do-



The very well supported Save the Children Fayre held in Brodick Hall. 02\_b46save01



Jean Robertson, Irene Rollo and Margaret Bryce sold the delicious homebaking that had been donated to the fundraiser. 02\_b46save02

nated to aid the charity in its fundraising.

The winners of the hampers were Jennifer Rainey of Whiting Bay and Richard Wright of Lochranza. 'Find the Santa' was won by Elinor Kinnaird of Shiskine and the

winner of the annual quiz was Meg McNeil of Cardross.

The committee wish to thank their loyal supporters and friends for contributing to the success of the fayre, which raised £1,398.60 for Save The Children.

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# Sensational Santa's Sparkle has something for everyone

Arran's fabulous Christmas fair, Santa's Sparkle, kicks off the Christmas season with a very big bang - literally.

As well as the regular favourites such as the Christmas market, the Glenisle tree-lighting spectacular, and Santa himself, there will also be some special treats.

It all takes place on Lam-lash Green on Saturday, November 28 from 12noon to 9pm organised, as always, by Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings of the Glenisle Hotel.

Geoffrey said: 'This year we are excited to have top comedy magician Chris Dinwoodie joining us. This five

times Scottish close-up magic champion is the most popular comedy-magician on the Scottish comedy circuit.

'Having performed on TV, radio and in front of sell-out audiences all over Scotland, he's now coming to Arran to present his unique style of comedy and magic.

#### Amazed

'His show is not about pulling rabbits out of hats or cheesy jokes. It's a mixture of Kevin Bridges' humour with dynamo-style magic. It's a show that will leave you equally amazed and entertained.'

He will be performing three different sets. During the afternoon he will be performing a kids' set featuring some balloon modelling as well as magic and a family set.

During the after-fireworks party he will be performing a family-friendly set which will be aimed more at the adults in the audience.

Also joining the party this year will be Mrs Claus and her friend the

snowman. During the afternoon she will be entertaining the children with songs and stories.

The organisers are also very pleased that The Vests will again be playing at the after-fireworks party. Imagine a mix of Roxy Music, Rolling Stones, Van Morrison and Bowie mixed in with Cameo and Counting Crows and party-goers are on their way to rocking out with The Vests!

'They got a real party going in the marquee after the fireworks last year and this year should be even more fun since comedy magician Chris Dinwoodie will be joining them,' Geoffrey added.

#### Visual treat

One of the highlights of Santa's Sparkle is the show which celebrates the lighting of the mammoth Glenisle Christmas tree. Glasgow firework company Midnight Storm is working with the Glenisle to produce a very special visual treat which combines music, lights and some magical special effects culminating in the lighting of the tree and the most spectacular firework display seen anywhere on Arran.

Of course, it wouldn't be Santa's Sparkle without the perennial favourites: the Christmas market featuring the best that Arran has to offer, the lighting of the Lam-lash village tree to the accompaniment of Arran Brass and,



Santa arriving in style by lifeboat at Lam-lash pier last year 20\_b46santa01

of course, Santa himself.

Santa will be flying in from the North Pole especially for Santa's Sparkle. He will enter the village at the head of a fun parade and will then be ready to meet all the children to hear what they want for Christmas.

Add lots of fun games, great food and drink including the Glenisle barbecue and the infamous Glenisle mulled wine and this year's Santa's Sparkle should be even more fun than ever. The full schedule and lots more pictures and information is on the Glenisle website at: [www.glenislehotel.com/santa](http://www.glenislehotel.com/santa)



Chris Dinwoodie will be bringing his own brand of comedy and magic

## Brodick Castle features in new film location guide

Arran and several locations in Ayrshire, which have had starring roles on the silver screen, are being celebrated in a new film locations' guide created by VisitScotland.

Set in Scotland, A Film Fan's Odyssey contains details of more than 100 different films and television programmes shot in Scotland. It is the first Scotland-wide film locations guide produced by the national tourism organisation.

By highlighting the spectacular sites across Scotland which feature in a wealth of screen classics - from The Thirty Steps, Chariots of Fire and Gregory's Girl through Braveheart and Harry Potter to 2015 releases Macbeth and Sunset Song - Set In Scotland aims to capitalise on the growing trend of 'set jetting', in which fans of both big and

small screen productions visit filming locations to follow in the footsteps of the stars.

And with 40 per cent of visitors to the UK already inspired to visit after seeing it on film or television, VisitScotland hopes the new guide will encourage many more visitors from both the overseas and home markets to explore Scotland's great screen locations.

The spectacular scenery of Ayrshire & Arran and its stunning heritage attractions have appeared in a selection of films through the years. Period drama The Governess sees Minnie Driver at Brodick Castle, while the opulent interiors of Blairquhan Castle, near Maybole, were used to depict the Royal Family's residence at Balmoral in The Queen, starring Helen Mirren.



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Brodick, Isle of Arran KA278AJ.

#### Mrs Charlotte Clough

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3pm to 4 pm Monday and Friday  
6pm to 7pm Wednesday



Arran  
Vets

#### Calling all Rabbit Owners

Wild rabbits with myxomatosis have been seen on Arran recently.

The vaccine for Rabbit Myxomatosis and Viral Haemorrhagic Disease [VHD] is currently in short supply but we have been allocated a batch which has to be used within 4 hours once opened.

Therefore I will be offering a Rabbit vaccination morning 9.30 to 12.00 Saturday 22nd November for any rabbits that have not been vaccinated in the last 12 months or longer.

One injection covers the rabbits for a year for both fatal diseases.

Special offer on this morning only, half usual price, £12/rabbit.

# Santa's Sparkle

Arran's Christmas Fair

- Santa's Parade
- Meet Santa
- Comedy & Magic
- Mrs Claus
- Christmas Tree Spectacular
- After-Fireworks Party
- Live music from The Vests
- Christmas Market
- BBQ, Food & Drink
- and much more

All events are free of charge



Saturday 28 November  
on Lam-lash Green

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Better broadband for the many but not for the few

The news that Arran is finally to be connected to a high-speed fibre broadband network within the next six months will be welcomed by many homes and businesses.

Having been subjected to poor quality and irregular internet access, compared to our mainland compatriots, the island has been consistently overlooked as urban speeds advance and Arran continues to lag behind, trying to play catch-up.

While the news of the fibre broadband being rolled out on Arran is a move in the right direction and brings hope to many, it is important to remember that the battle has not been entirely won.

In what has become an altogether regular pattern in rural regions, improvements to services in certain areas continue to grow and grow incrementally, while those areas that are under serviced, remain under serviced. To make an analogy, it is a case of the rich getting richer, while the poor keep on getting poorer.

It is also important to be aware that the development of the fibre network does not automatically mean an improvement in speed for those fortunate enough to be in the new networked area. The fibre service is a separate network and comes at a price. Customers will have to pay an additional fee to their service provider before being able to take advantage of these faster speeds. This development does not necessarily mean faster internet, it just means that the availability is there should you wish to pay for it. And customers need to be in the right location to make use of it.

One final caveat is that while the promise may be of speeds of up to 80 Mbps, the emphasis is on the 'up to', as internet suppliers are rarely able to provide the full advertised speeds.

So while many in Arran's more populated areas can be grateful for this advancement, spare a thought for those in areas that are continually falling further and further behind, advancing the digital divide that many have fought so hard to address.

### 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 endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk); telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## 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](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# Letters to the Editor



## Get in lane

Sir,  
We were sorry to read about Mrs Gibb's experience on the Arran ferry in last week's Banner. Like her, we have been coming to the island for many years, 60 in our case! We also lived on Arran for 14 years. We still visit three times a year.

Unfortunately, David was involved in a bad cycling accident nine years ago, since then his left leg has been held together by nuts and bolts.

For a few years we sometimes struggled to extricate ourselves from the mezzanine deck but when David reached the grand old age of 80 we asked, on arrival at the terminal, if this could be avoided.

We were immediately directed into the appropriate lane - not the one we would normally have gone into. We have never been on the mezzanine deck since, and have always found the CalMac staff friendly and helpful, but we do ask every time.

So please continue to visit Arran, Patricia. It's too wonderful to miss, and perhaps tell the CalMac staff about your problem every time you check in.

By the time you are in a lane it's already too late, and it's difficult to see what other advice the crew member could have given you in your case, whether or not this was diplomatically expressed!

Yours,  
**Joyce and David Hilton**  
Edinburgh

## Lift advice

Sir,  
I write in reply to Patricia Gibb's letter (headed Ferry Ordeal) in your issue of November 7.

While I have some sympathy for Mrs Gibb, and more for the lady with the heart condition, I am surprised that neither of them, particularly Mrs Gibb as a visitor of long-standing, thought to request the use of the lift. This means that one's car will be loaded early on to the main

deck, close by the lift. One should normally request this service at the time of booking, but it is possible to ask for it on arrival at the kiosk at the ferry terminal, when one will be directed into the separate lane kept for this purpose.

One does not have to be mobility-impaired to the extent of having a blue badge to use the service.

I first requested it years ago for my mother, and latterly for a friend who could no longer clamber up the ferry stairs, and have always found the CalMac staff to be helpful.

Yours,  
**Hazel Wright**  
Glasgow

## Friendly staff

Sir,  
Re your letters of last week. Is anyone prepared to give CalMac and, more importantly, their staff, a break? Ferry disruptions, in the main, are weather dependent. Frustrating, yes, but the Skipper has to consider the level of risk - he has many lives in his hands.

As regards the mezzanine floor - I do agree that this can prove treacherous for some, particularly the elderly and this is something which should be addressed.

Perhaps the elderly, or those with a chronic condition should be given preference to the ground deck.

CalMac could determine this on booking, similar to the way they do with disabled passengers who require lift access.

Obviously if this is insurmountable, during busy crossings, then CalMac staff could suggest that the person in question board as a foot passenger.

I'm surprised that your reader found a member of CalMac to be rude. I have never come across any member of CalMac who was not kind, helpful and friendly.

Yours,  
**Yvonne Macfarlane**  
Lamlash

## Get it right

Sir,  
Following your front page story last week about the £22.2 million contract for the Brodick ferry terminal being awarded, I have just watched the video of the redevelopment ([www.cmassets.co.uk](http://www.cmassets.co.uk) > Home > Our Work > Current Projects) and while it looks impressive, I noticed a significant shortcoming.

The arrival/departure lounge and the walkway to the ferry is up a level from the main entrance hall. It appears this area can only be accessed via a relatively narrow set of stairs - with a single handrail - and a lift. Having seen the noticeable increase in passengers coming and going on the ferry this summer, I cannot see how this stair access can cater for a large number of people, including elderly, many carrying bags, with buggies, suitcases etc, not forgetting the health and safety aspect. One would presume it should be made easier to use than the existing gangway on to the ferry.

Unless there is practical alternative presently being considered, it will cause severe problems to passengers. If not, it will only be highlighted when the terminal comes in to service and a makeshift arrangement installed. Now is the time to get it right!

Yours,  
**Robin Gardner**  
Milton of Campsie and Lamlash

## Cost surprise

Sir,  
Well, what a surprise! The new ferry terminal is now projected to cost £22.5 million - and counting - an increase of £4.5 million since the project first came before the public some three years ago.

This for a terminal which will disadvantage foot passengers over the present one by requiring them to take lifts or climb a long staircase before walking 200 metres to the boat. Many elderly people and younger ones with young children will find this a severe test. For approximately

£10 million the existing pier could have been rebuilt, a new linkspan provided and the relatively new existing ferry terminal extended.

As I say, what a surprise: austerity clearly applies to some categories (people) and not others (things). Yours,

**Ian Ferguson**  
**High Corrie**

## Hallowe'en thanks

Sir,  
Through your columns I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who helped at the Brodick Hall Hallowe'en party.

The hall waived their fee as it was a community event, which I am most grateful for. Stacey Smith from Red Door donated well over 100 toys as prizes which was amazingly kind. Jenny Duncan and Kirtsy Popplewell helped me organise the event, which I can say was a great success, with more than 60 kids taking part. Thanks also to Karen Adams for her amazing treacle scones, to Lynn Raeburn for her scary biscuits and to Marie Craig for her slime!

We raised £160 towards trying to get the whole village lit up with Christmas lights.

However, Brodick Improvement Committee don't want to be involved with the project as they have enough on their plates with the beach.

After approaching North Ayrshire Council, we need £50 per lamppost to have each one tested, which is doable but we also need to put the lights up, which can cost around £2,000 unless anyone can help in this area. Sadly, we will be too late to do it this year, however, we will endeavour to run some fundraising days/nights next year and get the lights up in 2016.

It's a start and if any businesses want to help, please get in touch as the island looks amazing when the ferry comes in when its dark and the length of the promenade is lit up with sparkly lights.

**Victoria McNicol**  
Brodick

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# Superfast broadband finally reaches Arran

Almost 2,000 customers across Arran are set to benefit from high speed fibre broadband in the next six months as BT Openreach works on building the fibre network across the island.

Sub contractors have already started work in Brodick to install the new infrastructure needed to improve internet access including new fibre cabinets.

As part of a £146 million investment, funded by the Scottish Government, the UK Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and BT, engineers from BT's local network business Openreach will bring the fibre network to residential properties and businesses in Brodick, Corrie, Lamlash, Lochranza, Shiskine and the Whiting Bay area.

Stuart Robertson, HIE's director of digital, said: 'No commercial roll-out was



One of the new cabinets which has been installed in Brodick. 20\_b46box01

planned for Arran and so the project will bring a dramatic change to connectivity on the island. This first phase has been designed to deliver better broadband to the ma-

majority of premises and will be coming in stages during 2016. While the roll-out won't reach everyone it has been designed to reach as many people as possible. We

maximise coverage at every stage and we are looking at how to get the best possible service to those in harder-to-reach areas.'

'As roll-out reaches our

communities it's important to stress that people aren't upgraded automatically. If you want a fibre-based service you have to order it though an internet service

provider.'

In addition to the subsea cable, which was laid between Blackwaterfoot and Campbeltown and Corrie and West Kilbride late last year, cable has been laid across the island. Now sub-contractors are being seen working on the fibre cabinets which are being installed in villages across the island.

The speeds that can be attained by users connecting to these fibre cabinets can reach up to 80 Mbps but the actual speed depends on various factors including how far away from the cabinet the premises are located. Users who are connected directly to non fibre exchanges might also benefit as some fibre cabinets bypass the exchange.

To check availability on the Digital Scotland interactive map go to [www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen](http://www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen)

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## Nominations closing for rural awards

There is only a week to go for nominations for The Scottish Rural Awards 2016.

The awards are described as 'highlighting the true industry, innovation, dedication and aspiration of those who live and work in rural areas, their triumphs and the difficulties that they have had to overcome in order to thrive'. The closing date is Friday November 20.

There are 10 categories, one of which is for rural butcher, which was won by the Arran Butcher last year against tough opposition.

Nominations can be made by filling in a simple online form at [www.scottishruralawards.org](http://www.scottishruralawards.org) to nominate any business that fits the ethos and criteria of the awards which culminate in a gala dinner and award ceremony at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, on Saturday March 26 next year.

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# Firework fun in the rain

It was a wet night in Brodick last Thursday but the annual bonfire and fireworks at the beach on Guy Fawkes Night still attracted a big crowd.

Wood had been gathered

from all over the village to produce a splendid bonfire as fireworks lit up the night sky.

There were also displays in Lamlash, Whiting Bay and Machrie on Saturday.

Right: A youngster gets a grandstand view of the fireworks display. 20\_b46fireworks03

Below: The big crowd in Brodick watch the fireworks display. 20\_b46fireworks01



The bonfire in full glow. 20\_b46 fireworks02

## Inspirational floral art class at Lamlash SWI meeting

Lamlash SWI thoughts were turning towards Christmas at its November meeting. After welcoming a good turnout of members, Alison Thompson, president, dealt with the business section of the programme before introducing talented local florist Lucie Kerr as demonstrator for the evening.

Lucie had spent a three-year apprenticeship at college training in floral art and passed on many tips on the basic speedy preparation of the container, before touching the flowers and foliage. Taking the mystique out of preparing the base correctly will hopefully encourage more people to have a go.

### Compact arrangements

Using a Christmas-themed palette of red and green with some touches of gold and silver, Lucie prepared compact arrangements with the last one being the simplest and easiest to copy and adapt for various themes. The tall arrangement with lilies was starkly beautiful and Lucie used it to show members how foliage can be glossed, stapled and wired to stunning effect.

Members were able to ask questions as the demonstration progressed and by the time the final arrangement was completed, members felt more confident, that if they followed all the good advice they had been given, they could improve their own floral efforts at home.

Alison thanked Lucie for the very enjoyable and inspirational demonstration. Lucie very generously donated an arrangement to be included in the raffle, which was won by the lucky Nan Halliday.

During the tasty supper provided by Vivienne and Janet, the raffle was drawn and the

exhibition winner voted for using pennies for friendship. Rosemary Roberts' candle was the winner and in the flower arrangement competition judged by Lucie, Rosemary was the winner once again. Well done.

The next institute meeting will be the Christmas party on Wednesday December 2. Please remember to bring a plate and a 'Secret Santa' parcel approximately £3 in value. Members will provide the finger buffet.

New members and visitors should look for the posters around the villages for more information. You will be assured of a warm welcome.



Lucie Kerr with one of her arrangements.



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# Book launch marks a triple celebration for Arran author

An Arran author who has overcome a serious medical condition is finally well enough to launch her new book.

Lynn Gray Ross said the launch, at Auchrannie Spa last Thursday, was a triple celebration after her book, *Handweaving: the basics*, was finished while she was waiting for a liver transplant.

On the day Lynn, who lives in Brodick, cut a cake decorated like the front cover of the book.

## Collapsed

She told guests: 'The manuscript was finished in December 2012 and sent to Bloomsbury for publication. In January 2011 I collapsed and was taken to hospital and was ill for several years with liver disease. The book was finished by Bloomsbury, aided by my daughter and sons. I received my first copy in April 2014, while waiting for a transplant.'

'Today is also the 40th anniversary of me coming to Arran for three months to see whether I could establish a weaving studio and making a living from my craft. I am still here. My book tells the story of these years, along with guidance for exploring the craft based on my experience.'

## Celebration

'Most importantly, today is a celebration of a year gone by since I had a transplant operation and received the gift of a new liver, ending years of disease and illness and my overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude.'

'Thanks to Bloomsbury for completing the book in my absence. Thanks to Nigel Walker, Alexa Rutherford and Sibbie Sangster for the photographs and illustrations in the book, and my son Simon for negotiating the inclusion of the photos from Peru. 'Thanks also go to the med-

ical team at the transplant clinic in Edinburgh and our amazing medical team on the island for all their expertise and healing during a very long waiting period.'

'And, of course, thanks to my friends and family for their encouragement, especially my three wonderful offspring, Jill, Chris and Simon for their constant love and support during a very difficult time for us. Today is indeed a day of celebration of many, many things.'

Lynn added: 'I've always thought of weaving as a spiritual practice. You can't set up a loom or weave with anything less than mindfulness, concentrating on perfecting each step in the process, so that the next step can happen. I've been practicing walking meditation to aid my recovery from my transplant operation and it struck me that weaving had a similar 'one step at a time' aspect



Author Lynn Gray Ross, left, with her book, and Fiona Doubleday who helped create the weaving art installation on display at the launch. 20\_b46book01



Lynn chats to some of the guests who attended the launch. 20\_b46book02

## Funding available for youth projects

Community groups seeking money to start up local activities for young people may be able to take advantage of more than £30,000 of funding available through the Local Youth Action Fund.

Groups can apply for up to £2,000 for projects involving young people aged 12 to 25. The money can be used for an event, equipment, training, coaching and much more.

Funding is available for projects throughout North Ayrshire, including: £10,605 for distribution on Arran, but it has also to be shared with Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston.

So far this year, projects

such as the McLellan Festival workshops, Ardrossan Music Experience, Junior Bowling Tournament and Duke of Edinburgh have benefited from the fund.

However, there is still thousands of pounds worth of funding waiting to be awarded for the remainder of 2015/16.

Cabinet member for community and culture, Councillor Alan Hill, said: 'The Local Youth Action Fund has been used to great success for many years and I would encourage local community groups to once again take advantage of the offer.'

'Projects applicable for

funding are wide and varied, as long as they involve and benefit young people, meaning that there's not many applications that wouldn't be considered.'

'So if you have a project that could use a cash injection, please contact the team who will be happy to talk with you and hopefully offer you the funding you need.'

For more information and the Local Youth Action Fund application form, contact Bernadette Anderson from the council's participation and empowerment on 01294 604612 or alternatively email [banderson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:banderson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

forming a channel for my creativity with texture and mathematical precision.' *Handweaving: the basics* is available at The Book and Card centre or online at Amazon or from the publishers [www.bloomsbury.com](http://www.bloomsbury.com) price £16.99.

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University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Argyll College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

## Quirky high-heeled duo to play Brodick show

The Isle of Arran Music Society is presenting its second concert this month performed by string duo High Heels and Horse Hair on Saturday, November 21 at the Brodick Hall.

The unusual name stems

from the members' performances in vibrant footwear designed by Helen Bateman of Edinburgh and the Horse Hair refers to the material of their bows. The string duo galloped onto Scotland's chamber music scene in 2010

with their fresh, dynamic playing and engaging style that earned them the Enterprise Music Scotland Residency Award for 2013-2015.

Their Edinburgh Fringe show *Alba to Oz* was hailed as: 'Exquisite fusion music from a loveable, quirky high-heeled duo'. The duo comprises two gifted players from opposite sides of the globe: Australian-born violinist Alice Rickards and Scottish cellist Sonia Cromarty, who met whilst performing with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Two lands, rough-

ly 17,000km apart from one another, unite like brothers separated at birth – Scottish Baroque and Australian indigenous music interact in an increasingly natural and palpable harmony.

The concert begins at 7.30pm and tickets are available on the door at Inspirations of Arran in Brodick, or online from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com).

Seating will be café style and folk may bring their own bottle.

Children with an accompanying adult will be admitted free, as will students.



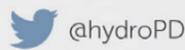
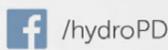
String duo Alice Rickards and Sonia Cromarty are High Heels and Horse Hair.

## Beach clean in Lamlash

A big beach clean-up is planned for Lamlash beach tomorrow (Sunday) at 2pm.

Organised by Lamlash Improvements, all those interested are asked to meet on the Green opposite Lamlash Co-op.

Pickers and rubbish sacks will be provided and everyone is asked to wear stout footwear and gloves. Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.



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sure everyone's  
electricity is on

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## Arran pupils hit the right notes with platinum award

Three pupils from Arran High School, who are members of the North Ayrshire schools concert band, have won the platinum award.

The coveted award came after they competed in the youth wind band category at the City of Edinburgh Music School event earlier this month.

### Talented

Lois Ashley, Alison Provan and Lucy Walsh are among the talented musicians from across North Ayrshire secondary schools who will now participate in the national competition which takes place at the Royal Northern

College of Music in Manchester next April.

Mae Murray, music service co-ordinator at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'This is a fantastic achievement for the concert band. Everyone has worked incredibly hard to reach the level of playing that meets the platinum award criteria.'

'I would like to congratulate all the musicians for their hard work and commitment as well as all the music service instrumental instructors and musical director Matthew Chin. Without their support and expertise this award would not be possible.'

## Horticultural society holds its AGM

The annual general meeting of the Isle of Arran Horticultural Society was held on Saturday, November 7.

It was noted that the society membership at present was 93 members.

### Dates

The dates for next year's shows have been fixed with the spring show being held on Saturday, April 2, and the summer show on Wednesday, August 10.

The garden club continues to be a success with an average attendance of 30 per meeting

and speakers and events are in place for the year ahead.

The office bearers for the society are as follows: president John Sillars, minute secretary Clive Harding, show secretary Colin Totty, treasurer Angela Cassels, membership secretary Andrew Stefanuti, garden club chairwoman Carol Vella-Boyle.

Detailed planning for the spring show will take place in early February, and will include plans for providing information and ideas for showing on-line.

## 50-50 Club winner

Congratulations to V J Jeffrey and F M D Leslie of Lamlash who won £100 each in the September and October draws of the Lamlash Improvements 50-50 Club.

The next draw is at the meeting on Thursday November 12 at Lamlash Fire Station.

New members are very welcome. Contact Stuart Turner on 808181.

# Mountain Rescue team holds joint exercise with RNLI



A 'casualty' is carried off the hillside.



The RNLI crew load a stretcher on to the lifeboat.

## Help stop the spread of norovirus this winter

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's infection prevention and control team is reminding Arran residents about spotting the signs of norovirus, also known as the winter vomiting bug.

Norovirus is the most common stomach bug in the UK.

It is estimated that between 600,000 and one million people in the UK catch norovirus. Although it can strike at any time of the year, it is most common in the winter and although it can affect people of all ages, it is more serious and more easily spread among people who are already ill.

Bob Wilson, infection control manager at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'The most

important thing to remember is that norovirus is highly contagious - if you do have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting, do not visit relatives in hospital or a care home until you are free of symptoms for 48 hours. It is best to stay at home.'

Bob adds: 'If there has been an outbreak in a hospital or care home where your relative or loved one is staying, only visit if it's absolutely necessary, and visit only one person. Do not bring young children to visit. Avoid eating and drinking while you're there and, as always, wash your hands before and after your visit.'

It can take 12 to 48 hours

after becoming infected with the virus to show symptoms. Those affected may be infectious to other people during this time. Symptoms usually start with nausea followed by violent vomiting and/or diarrhoea. Patients may also get a fever, headache or aching limbs. Although it is unpleasant and there is no cure for it, it is not usually dangerous. Sufferers will most likely feel better after it has run its course in a few days.

The only real risk is dehydration which can be avoided by drinking lots of liquid.

For more information about norovirus, visit Health Protection Scotland's website, [www.hps.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk).

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) held its first winter training day earlier this month which was a joint exercise with Arran RNLI held in the Laggan area at the north of the island.

The training scenario was a

search for four walkers who had become separated along the coast, all with unknown injuries. The team conducted a line search and with help from the RNLI the four casualties were located quickly.

Two of the four casualties

had sustained leg injuries and had to be stretchered off the hills from their different locations. AMRT said it was 'a great day's training' and thanked the casualties and Arran RNLI for their valued help.



The mountain rescue team prepares to leave base.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

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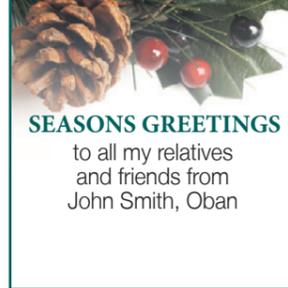
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# Winter birds feast on autumn's red berries

October, while not as dry as September, was 30 per cent drier than last October. With temperatures at least as high as September, it felt that the settled spell continued through October. During the month there were plenty of interesting

birds to enjoy. More than 100 species were recorded. October is arguably the busiest birding month, as summer breeders depart, migrants pass through, winter visitors arrive and there is always a strong chance of something unusual.

The build up of the number of winter thrushes, fieldfare and redwing, was a feature of the month. There were widespread reports of the birds feasting on the autumn berries, with flocks in the thousands being reported in the south and west of the island including 2,500 fieldfare and 1,200 redwing in Sliderry on 31 October.

In contrast, perhaps because of the mild weather, the migratory geese were later than usual in arriving, with the first greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 31st and 160 pink-footed geese flying over Auchenhew Bay on the same day.

There were some 'last sightings' of summer visitors including: a lesser black-backed gull in Lochranza on 9th, a whitethroat in Sliderry on 10th, 100 gannet in Brodick Bay on 14th, two Swallow in Blackwaterfoot on 17th, a wheatear at Drumadoon Point on 18th and two



A nuthatch by Angus Hogg, the first recorded this year



Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

OCTOBER

Thousands of fieldfare have arrived. Photo: Brian Couper

House Martin in Brodick on 21st.

There were widespread reports of our winter visitors arriving including: 15 whooper swan on Cleats Shore on 4th, a blackcap in Corrie also on 4th, a brambling in Sliderry on 17th, 14 wigeon at Machriewaterfoot also on 17th, 90 rook in Sliderry on 23rd and a yellowhammer also in Sliderry on 29th.

Other sightings that indicated that migration was in full flow included: 52 goldfinch in High Kildonan on 4th, 60 starling in Kilpatrick on 9th, a merlin in North Sannox on 11th, 122 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 14th, 132 teal at Cosyden on 17th, 35 skylark at Sliderry on 26th, 30 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 29th and seven twite on Silver Sands on 29th.

Other interesting records from a month with a plethora of birds included: all three divers - three great northern at Kilpatrick on 1st, two red-throated at Pirmill on 2nd, four black-throated at Cosyden on 7th; a male tufted duck at Sliderry on 2nd; seven common crossbill at Cnoc na Dail on 8th; 11 long-tailed tit in High Kildonan on 11th and a moorhen at Mossend Pond on 21st.

Two species were recorded for the first time this year. A nuthatch by the Auchrannie Hotel on 8th is the first report since May 2014. The species is spreading north and west across Scotland and like the great spotted woodpecker may eventually colonise Arran. The second species was the secretive water rail. A recently fledged bird was found dead by the roadside close to the red church in Shiskine on 17th.

Finally, also on 17 October there was a report of a possible dark-eyed junco by the Sannox burn. This is a North



A greenfinch Photo: Jackie Newman

American species. There are 41 accepted UK and Ireland records of this bird, 10 of which are in Scotland. The observer's report, including photographs, has been submitted to the British Birds

Rarities Committee. The BBRC is the official adjudicator of rare bird records in Britain. If accepted it would be a first for Arran and after the spotted sandpiper record in May it would be the second American bird recorded on Arran this year.

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 jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



The island was awash with redwing enjoying the red berries. Photos by Mike Rose

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**TWENTY YEARS AGO**

**Saturday 18 November, 1995**

**Water pressure**

People continue to be worried about Arran's water. Those on the public supply worry about its purity, those not on it worry that they are under pressure to join it. One of the most worried is Ron Stewart of The Lagg Hotel who has complained that the quality of the water in Kilmory has damaged his hotel linen as well as having received complaints about the taste of the tea from numerous guests. Ron said: 'You would be staggered at the amount of people that do not drink the water from here.'

Equally upset, but for slightly different reasons are the householders on private supplies that receive unannounced visits from people wanting to test their water. Recently they received a six page letter calling their houses the 'affected premises' that are to make their water supply wholesome within two months or to connect to the main supply.

**Windy weather**

Strong easterly winds on Wednesday prevented the ferry from berthing at Brodick with the result that she remained in Ardrossan from 3pm, stranding many people on the mainland. Other effects of the high winds were shopkeepers having to sandbag their premises against the possibility of flooding and a Stagecoach bus being blown off the road and through a hedge on the Rodden in Shiskine.

**Bought out**

Paterson Arran, including its Lamlash facto-

ry, now has new owners. In a deal signed at 5pm yesterday (Thursday) the foods division at Robertson and Baxter was bought for an undisclosed sum by Alan Hardie, the managing director and Ian Appleton the finance director. The feeling in the factory at Lamlash, which currently employs 23 people, is probably one of relief more than anything else.

Iain MacDonald said: 'I think everyone is quite happy actually and they are quite willing to believe that the new owners are going to take it on and run it well.'

Paterson Arran's turnover is £12 million p/a and the Arran operation accounts for 12 per cent of this. The most significant aspect of all of this is that the uncertainty that dogged the factory for so long has now been removed.

**Caterer of the year**

Each morning Jerry Arthur helps cook the school dinners for the pupils of Shiskine Primary. Next Friday however she will find out if a panel of head chefs is as appreciative of her efforts as the children are. As a finalist in this year's Caterer of the Year Award, Jerry will be attending the Catering Direct awards ceremony at the Moat House International Hotel in Glasgow.

**Ferry film studio**

The Arran ferry was used as a film studio on Wednesday. A one hour drama for children in Gaelic called De a-nis? is set in the Western Isles and includes footage from the ferry, Brodick pier and the Ardrossan harbour area. The film crew left Brodick on the 1.50pm ferry which was the last one to sail for the day.



A remembrance service was held at Pirmill war memorial last Sunday, led by the Rev John Potter, it was attended by a gathering of around 30 people. b46twe03



Cadet Barry Seymore marches from the Brodick Memorial after laying a wreath at the remembrance service, which was conducted by Rev Dr Ian Macleod. b46twe04



The president of the Chinese Rhododendron Society, Xiang Yinghia, came to Arran last Monday. Accompanied by the vice president, Chen Xun, they were officially opening a new path at Brodick Castle with head gardener Nigel Price. They were visiting at the invitation of the Royal Botanical Society in Edinburgh and visited several West Coast gardens. b46twe01



We last met Jessie James last year when he did his 12-month walk around the coast of Britain, covering more than 9,000 miles. Now, due his first holiday as a landscape gardener, he has decided to return to Arran, where he met his friend Alan Porter, who will be writing a book about Jesse's experiences called Friendship, Spirit and Freedom - Jesse's Long Walk. b46twe05



Dave Ashcroft of the Catacol Bay Hotel hands over a cheque for £600 to Alistair Hume of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team. The money was raised at Hollowe'en charity night at the hotel. b46twe02

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# What's on



in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://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  
 Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sun: 12.30 - 5pm  
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
 Open all day

## Saturday 14th November

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s Disco  
 Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Live music  
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Ceilidh Dancing  
 Plant Sale  
 Live music with Alan Frew  
 Arran Fiddle Club AGM  
 Arran Ladies Hockey Vs Dumfries  
 Tim Kliphuis Trio  
 Brodick Castle Art Exhibition

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
 9.30am - 11am  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
[arranphysiotherapy.co.uk](http://arranphysiotherapy.co.uk) 9-12noon  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm  
 Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, 11am - 3pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, 9pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Ormidale Astrotruff, 11am  
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, 11am - 3pm

## Sunday 15th November

Family Games  
 Fun in the pool  
 AA Meeting  
 Open Session - All musicians & singers welcome  
 Arran Singer winter concert  
 Brodick Castle Art Exhibition  
 Lamlash Improvements Beach Clean  
 RunArran pop up trail run

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm  
 Arran High School, 2.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, 11am - 3pm  
 Lamlash front green, 2pm  
 Check Facebook for venue, 9am

## Monday 16th November

Over 50s Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Live music  
 Morning Fitness  
 Table Tennis  
 Badminton  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Circuit Training  
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 10/10 Total Body workout  
 Citizens Advice  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 RunArran Jogscotland Beginners  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Bridge Club  
 Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers  
 Tae Kwondo

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm  
 Whiting Bay, 5pm  
 Whiting Bay, 5.30pm  
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
 Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Tuesday 17th November

Pop Quiz  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth Club  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Rotary club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 9am - 10.30am  
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm

Healthy Outdoors  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
 RunArran Run Coaching  
 Open Cricket Session  
 Non-competitive bridge  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Lamlash Drama Club  
 Winter Bowls

NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm  
 Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm

## Wednesday 18th November

Rock & Pop Bingo  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Live music  
 Drift Inn Quiz  
 Mixed Hockey  
 Dog classes  
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group  
 Friends of Brodick castle meeting and entertainment  
 Brodick church coffee morning  
 Arran Elderly Forum  
 Arran Community Council Shiskine election meeting

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 Lamlash, 9pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm  
 Castle Tearoom, 2.330pm  
 Brodick Church hall, 10.30am - 12noon  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 11am  
 Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm

## Thursday 19th November

Morning Fitness  
 General Knowledge Quiz  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Ladies Hockey  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Live music  
 Cardiac Rehab  
 QuiltArran  
 Brodick Embroidery Group  
 Burger & Quiz night  
 Winter Bowls  
 Bridge Club

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 9am - 10.30am  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Brodick, 6pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm

## Friday 20th November

Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Arran Vets - Surgery  
 Live music  
 Lochranza Kids Badminton  
 Lochranza Adults Badminton  
 Quiz  
 AA Meeting  
 Live music  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Baby & Kids Market  
 1934 Club E.G.M

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 11.30am - 3.30pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 8pm



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# Property

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# Public Notices

## 1934 Club

### E.G.M.

(to elect Club committee)

Kilmory Hall  
Friday 20th November 2015  
At 8pm

## Arran Fiddle Club

### AGM

Saturday 14th November  
Ormidale Pavilion at 5.30pm  
ALL WELCOME

### AGM

## Arran Theatre & Arts Trust Annual General Meeting

To be held in Brodick Public Hall  
At 7.30pm on Thursday 26th November  
A film of Arran art activities will be shown  
All are welcome to attend  
Scottish Charity No. SC006027

## Arran Community Council

Election of representative  
Shiskine Valley

Residents of Shiskine Valley are invited to attend a hustings style event at the Shiskine Halls on 18th November starting at 7:30pm.

The successful applicant will be chosen by the Shiskine residents attending the meeting

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 04.12.15. 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

15/00638/PP; Khartoum, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DE; Erection of detached single storey craft workshop.

15/00601/PP; Stonefield Farm, Kings Cross, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of 2 detached dwelling houses.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

# Recruitment



Forestry Commission Scotland  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

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Please quote ref: 1472596.

Closing date: 22 November 2015

No recruitment agencies please.

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[www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies)



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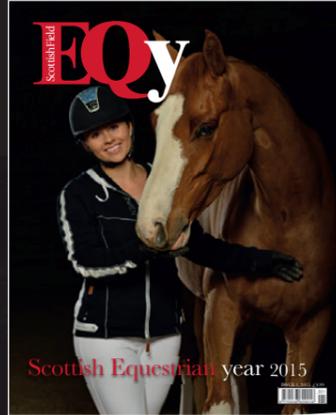
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Pine welsh dresser, Pine TV unit, pine cd-dvd stand, bookcase £70 ono good condition Tel: 700483

**UNDER £30**

Metal filing cabinet - 2 drawers. Excellent condition £20, Bow fronted chest of drawers (4) 38hx26wx20d nice condition £30, Girls bike vgc suit 5+ £20 Tel: 302659

1980s Pioneer tuner £20, 1980s Pioneer amplifier £20, Glass fronted china cabinet £30 Tel: 810620

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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 15th November**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
Coffee after service.

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine  
Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

**Sunday 15th November**  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Church. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship. Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship. There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 15th November**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev. Lily McKinnon  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 15th November**  
Morning Service. 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 18th November**  
at 7pm  
5 Glen Road  
All welcome

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 15th 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 15th 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 Mass 11am

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 15th November**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

### BIRTH

**PICKEN**  
Jamie & Kirsten are delighted to announce the arrival of Maisie Jessica Picken on 2nd November 2015

### DEATH

#### BOWDEN - BILL

Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Saturday, 7th November 2015. Bill, dear husband of Jean. Funeral service in Corrie church on Monday, 16th November at 11:30am and thereafter to Sannox cemetery, to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please, donations, if desired, to Cancer Research or Alzheimer's Scotland.



#### Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies section: Friday November 6, annual dinner and prize-giving. After an enjoyable meal at the clubhouse the prizes for season 2014/15 were presented by Club Captain, Jacqui Winship.

The Club Championship this year was won by Sheena Murchie. Sheena also won the Centenary Tray. June Richardson won the Winter Stableford, the Marella Cup and the Captain's Prize. Yvonne Brothers took the Kilbride Tray, the Thistle Brooch and the Red Cross Ecclectic. Liz Sinclair won both the Fleet Cup and the Stroke Quaich. The Silver and Bronze Medals were won by Kate McAdam and Jacqui Winship respectively. The Grace Cannon Trophy for foursomes was won by Kate McAdam and Jenny Pattenden, who also won the Flag Competition. Alison Heron won The Glenkiln Rosebowl and Progress Cup. The Ann Cook Tray was won by Jo Hastings, now living in Yorkshire. After a difficult summer of postponements and cancellations, the ladies have enjoyed a



Prize winners at the annual dinner and prizegiving for the Lamlash golf ladies.

lovely autumn enabling them to complete their season on a high note.

#### Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday November 3, Winter Cup, eight played. 1 Campbell Laing 88-17=71 BIH, 2 Piet Johnston 96-25= 71, 3 John Pennycott 81-10=71.

Saturday November 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup, Stableford. Three played in very wet conditions. 1 Campbell Laing 34pts, 2 Brian Sherwood 33pts, 3 Phil Betley 28pts.

Will all Machrie Bay Golf Club trophy winners please arrange to get their cups to match secretary David Price by the end of November, so he can get them engraved. He can collect them from Machrie Hall on competition days or at the club

dinner on Saturday November 14.

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday November 4, Wednesday Golf. Three brave hearts started off in the rain, with it turning dry as the afternoon went on. Winner was Charles O'Neill 85-18=67. There were no magic twos so the pot rolls over to next week. Tee-off every Wednesday noon. All welcome.

Sunday November 8, Brandon Medal, seven played, non counter. 1 Gordon Hendry 71-5=66, 2 Jimmy Armit 81-10=71.

Seven brave souls played in what was at the start reasonably good weather, unfortunately by the turn it had turned ugly, as did some of the golf - five gave up, the

observers were not surprised, but two battled on. Well done to Jimmy, and with a net 66 in these conditions a thoroughly deserved monthly medal win from Gordon.

#### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday November, 8, Winter Cup, rnd 2 was postponed due to the weather and course conditions. It will now take place on Sunday, November 22.

Fixture: Sunday November 15. Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay. 10am start. Hoping for better weather and a good turn out. Just turn up and play.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday November 14, Winter Cup, ballots at 08.30am and noon.

### DEATH

#### CURRIE, MARGARET (PEGGY) FLORA, NEE MACLEAN

Widow of Rev James Currie, passed away peacefully on Sunday 8th November in Cooriedoon Nursing Home, Whiting Bay, 20 days short of her 91st birthday. She will be sorely missed by her three sons, James, Charles and Iain and their families.

Funeral service and cremation will take place on Thursday 19th November at 13.00 at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn, to which family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Also, friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service, which will be held in St Molios Church of Scotland, Shiskine on Friday 20th November at 11.30am.

## Thirteen not unlucky for Arran

#### Clydesdale Western 0 Arran 13

Arran Ladies hockey team travelled to Glasgow's biggest ladies hockey club to play Clydesdale Western 7s with a 13-strong team.

The visitors started strongly scoring eight goals by half time. Arran added five in the second half to make the final score 13-0. The home side are bottom of the division 4 league but Arran

still kept trying to score as many goals as possible. Arran's goals scored by Lorraine Hewie, Anne Watts, Judith Ross and Abbie McKelvie.

The result keeps Arran top of the league. Captain Victoria McNicol said: 'We are sitting top of our league with only one loss in eight games so as captain, I'm very chuffed with the girls team performance. We welcomed back both Catherine Macbain

and Kirtsie Barton, it was great to have them playing in the team again.'

Ellie Wood was again voted man of the match by the opposition and Abbie McKelvie was voted dame of the game by our team.

Arran's next game is at the Ormidale Astroturf against Dumfries today (Saturday) at 11am and they are hoping a good crowd will come and cheer them on.



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### IN MEMORY

#### BANNATYNE

In memory of my dear husband Jimmy - who died 13th November 1992 and all my family gone before.

'A star appears in heaven, it shines there every night. The star is all my loved ones who come to say goodnight.'

Love you all Sal and family.

### BIRTHDAY



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# Arran schools battle it out in sports challenge

More than 100 Arran primary school children took part in the annual Sports Hall Athletics Festival at the Auchrannie Spa Leisure Centre last Friday.

Six teams of up to 20 pupils from the primary schools in Brodick, Corrie/Pirnmill, Kilmory, Lamlash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay, along with a combined team from Corrie and Pirnmill, took part in the athletics event which involved relay races, throwing the medicine ball for distance and standing jumps.

The winners will represent

the island in the annual KA Leisure Sports Hall Athletics Final at the Magnum Centre, Irvine, on Wednesday December 2, hoping to bring home the title for the first time in the event's 23-year history.

More than 800 primary pupils from 37 North Ayrshire schools will take part in the championship finals. A series of four heats will see the teams of 10 boys and 10 girls compete in a range of track and field events, culminating in the grand final.

Full results next week.



A Brodick pupil launches the ball for distance. 20\_b46sport15



Brodick, Whiting Bay and Shiskine go head to head in the relay. 20\_b46sport13



And they're off... Shiskine, Whiting Bay and Lamlash battle it out in the relay. 20\_b46sport07



A perfect handover for Lamlash in the relay. 20\_b46sport17



Taking part in the standing jump competition 20\_b46sport09



A Kilmory pupil throws the ball for distance. 20\_b46sport05

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.