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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2013 No 1936 60p

Windfarm expansion may interrupt Arran views



Iain proudly shows off his gold medal. 20_b47one01

Gold medal joy for gifted young pianist

A gifted young pianist from Arran beat off international competition at the prestigious Moray Piano Competition to win a gold medal on Sunday afternoon.

Iain Clarke, a 16-year-old accomplished musician from Torbeg, was awarded first place in the Cathedral Class for his performances of Bartók's Allegro Barbaro and Nocturne in D Major by Chopin at Elgin Town Hall.

There were four finalists in his class, one from Singapore and another from Lithuania, but the adjudicator felt Iain's 'impressive, accomplished and promising' playing merited first place.

'It's a great boost to my confidence,' the youngster told The Banner. 'I am now working towards my piano diploma after completing Grade 8 and would love to pursue a career as a professional musician when I leave school.'

Tutored

Iain, who also plays clarinet, saxophone and bagpipes, spends his weekends playing and being tutored at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) in Glasgow.

This week he will be auditioning to play clarinet with the West of Scotland School Orchestra as well as taking part in further ensemble concerts at the RCS.

Up to 50 new turbines will be visible from island

Residents on Arran are to be given the chance to hear about a major windfarm extension which will see as many as 50 new turbines visible from the island.

Arran Community Council is to meet in Lochranza next week as the new development on the Kintyre Peninsula will most affect the north and west of the island.

The council have invited the operators ScottishPower Renewables to the island to explain the development proposals at a meeting, which interested residents can attend, on Tuesday 26 November.

Two extensions to the Beinn an Tuirc windfarm will see up to 50 new turbines built on the peninsula.

The current 45 turbines on the site can be seen from the north and west of the island and construction work is already underway on 20 more.

Residents affected include all those on the coastline between Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot, but particularly, those in Lochranza, Catacol and Pirmill.

The site has been in operation since 2001 and when the extension is complete it will have a total generating capacity of up to 68 megawatts.

Now a second area has been

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

identified to the south of these windfarms as a location for further investigation for an additional Phase 3 extension to the site with up to 30 turbines.

The selection and design of this proposed development is at an early stage and initial environmental surveys of the local ecology, archaeology, hydrology, bird life, and landscape and visual effects are underway.

Welcome

Community council secretary Hazel Gardener said: 'All islanders are welcome to attend the public elements of the community council meeting as usual, but this meeting is especially open to those wishing to inform themselves of the Kintryre development.'

The meeting will begin at

7.30pm with the windfarm item the first on the agenda.

A ScottishPower Renewables spokesman said: 'We are very pleased to have arranged this meeting on Arran to discuss our early plans from Beinn an Tuirc Phase 3.

'Construction on Beinn an Tuirc Phase 2 is currently underway with tower sections from the plant at Campbeltown being delivered to site with the final turbines expected to be installed in the coming months. An area has been identified to the south of the site for a further extension.

'This proposal is in the early stages of development and SPR has started detailed environmental and technical studies. As we are in the very early stages of development, our initial studies will be very important in helping us to determine the potential scope for the project. We will keep communities informed as the project progresses.'

" Construction on Beinn an Tuirc Phase 2 is currently underway with tower sections from the plant in Campbeltown being delivered to the site "

ScottishPower Renewables spokesman

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Cottage closing order revoked

A house which was condemned six years ago is to get a new lease of life.

Rose Cottage in Auchencairn, Whiting Bay had a closing order served on it in 2007 as it failed to meet a tolerable standard.

Now, following an inspection of the property by North Ayrshire Council, officials are satisfied that the required reinstatement work is now complete and that the property fit for use. As a result at the council cabinet this week the closing order was revoked.

The property is no longer exempt from council tax.

Bothy Night at Lochranza Hall

Lochranza Hall is having an old time Bothy Night on Friday 29 November with music, songs, poetry and stories.

Encouraged

This is not a concert but how farm workers used to entertain themselves, and those attending encouraged to 'do a turn' to the accompaniment of girdle scones, cloutie dumpling and a dram or two.

Meanwhile, in the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club October draw, first prize went to Catherine McAllister and second prize to Anne Coulter.



Sibbie Sangster and Andrew Binnie hand over MPA responses to Kenneth Gibson MSP at Holyrood.

MPA receives 1,300 positive responses

Supporters of the proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA) at the southern end of Arran have sent an incredible 1,300 positive responses to the Scottish government.

Andrew Binnie, manager of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), and treasurer Sibbie Sangster visited Holyrood last week to deliver hand written responses from the island to the parliament.

Andrew said: 'There has been a massive response in favour of the Arran MPA.'

'We received over 1,300 individual and business responses via the COAST office and quite a few more were sent directly to Marine Scotland.'

'Our original target was 1,000 so this is a fantastic level of support for the Arran MPA especially given the complexity of the consultation.'

'It's also a real testament to the power and enthusiasm of local volunteers, who literally went the extra mile to get all the responses in on time.'

'We'd like to thank all the residents and visitors who responded and helped out.'

COAST has received strong cross-party backing and local MSP Kenneth Gibson accepted the responses from COAST at Holyrood and handed them over to the cabinet secretary for rural affairs, Richard Lochhead.

Local MP Katy Clark has also given her support and MSP Annabel Goldie visited the island recently and voiced her enthusiasm for COAST and local volunteers.

The Arran responses will now be collated and analysed by Marine Scotland along with the responses to the other 32 proposed Scottish MPAs which, if approved, will form the Scottish MPA network.

At the recent consultation on Arran, Marine Scotland indicated that they expected decisions to be made in the first half of next year.

COAST plan to continue to lobby the government to make sure the Arran MPA is designated.

Successful Christmas fayre for Save the Children

The impressive sum of £1,367 was raised at the Save the Children Christmas Fayre.

The dreadful weather did not deter customers from coming to Brodick Hall where a pleasant atmosphere was created by Yvonne Brothers with her delightful piano playing.

Stallholders were kept busy and many people enjoyed refreshments including soup and sandwiches.

Two hampers were raffled and the winners were Irene Rollo from Corriegills and Rachel Phillips from Corrie.

'Find Santa' on a map of Arran was won by Vivienne Haigh.

The winner of the interesting and challenging annual quiz was Mrs Watson from Edinburgh.

Once again the committee are indebted to all who helped to make this a successful event.

Poppy thanks

Contributors to two of the Poppy Scotland appeals raised an impressive

£725.60 in Skiskine and Machrie and £608.58 in Lamlash earlier this month.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to this worthy cause.

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PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING 'DROP-IN' EVENT: LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

North Ayrshire Council's Housing Services will be hosting a 'drop in anytime' event in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick on Wednesday 27 November 2013 between 11.15am and 3.45pm. The event is targeted at homeowners, landlords, tenants and anyone who is looking for advice and assistance on private sector housing issues.

The Scottish Government promotes "responsible home ownership" and encourages homeowners try to keep their property in a good state of repair.

Most landlords seek to provide a good quality service to their tenants, however there are consequences for failing to meet their legal responsibilities. For instance, all landlords are required to be registered with their local authority and are required to ensure the properties they rent meet certain quality standards. Tenants also have rights and responsibilities that they need to be aware of, including tenancy agreements, disrepair and antisocial behaviour.

Our dedicated Private Sector Team work with home-owners, landlords and tenants to provide them with housing advice and information on a wide range of private sector topics. The Private Sector Team also ensure that their customers are aware of their rights and responsibilities and offer advice on how to keep their homes in good repair.

The team can also provide you with information on new and emerging legislation. For example, a landlord's new duty to provide a Tenant Information Pack at the start of each new tenancy. They can also sign post homeowners, tenants and landlords to potential sources of funding, such as North Ayrshire Council's Empty Homes Loan Fund or Home Energy Scotland assistance.

If you are unable to attend the event, but would like to discuss a private sector housing matter, please call the Private Sector Advice Line on 01294 324644.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
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Humps softened as northend roadworks finally completed

Businesses in the north of the island have breathed a sigh of relief with the reopening of the road between Catacol and Pirmill.

The road finally reopened on Tuesday, after nearly 70 days of closure during work-

ing hours. The daily closure of the C147 seriously disrupted businesses in the north and west of the island since the end of September.

But work was completed on Monday around a week ahead of schedule.

As part of the works contractors have resurfaced sections of road to soften the severity of the famous switchback humps.

According to roads bosses: 'This has helped to both maintaining the character

of this section while ensuring it will be accessible by low-level buses as well as motorhomes and other large vehicles which had found the road difficult.'

Unstable rock has also been removed to avoid the require-

ment for rock netting while still maintaining safety and gabion basket walling installed to reinforce the existing retaining wall which was in need of improvement.

Complaints

There were complaints, reported by The Banner, of a lack of communication over the opening times as well as problems with the signage

Hazel Cranstoun at the Pirmill Village Store and Post Office said everyone in the north of the island had 'breathed a sigh of relief' that the road had finally reopened.

'It has been a real inconvenience but things could have been better if there had been a bit more thinking, organisation and consultation

before the work began.

'Latterly communication improved but if they could have worked with us, rather than against us, things would have been better from the start.'

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'All major phases of work requiring the closure of the road at Rubha Airigh Bheirg were completed on Monday.

'Further finishing touches will be completed by the sub-contractor but will not involve any closures.

'North Ayrshire Council would like to thank everyone for their co-operation and patience during the times when the road was closed and apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

Star award for Brodick's Iona

A former Arran High School pupil has lifted a major prize at the Scottish Qualification Authority's (SQA) annual Star Awards.

Iona Flewitt of Brodick, was named joint winner of the SQA Star Award for School Candidate of the Year.

She shares the award with Alexander Fyfe, a former pupil of Madras College in St Andrews.

Iona achieved five 'A' grade Highers in her fifth year at school before studying three Advanced Highers and the Scottish Baccalaureate in Science in her sixth year.

She was named joint dux during her final year at Arran High School and winner of the 'North Ayrshire Rising Star' award for academic achievement.

Iona now intends to embark upon a career in medicine.

The SQA Star Awards

recognise individuals and schools, colleges, training organisations and employers who deliver SQA qualifications and have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to learning.

SQA chief executive, Dr Janet Brown, said: 'More than ever, qualifications are an essential component of an individual's successful progress from education and training into further study and employment.'

'Our Star Awards ceremony is an opportunity to congratulate learners' on their achievements but also acknowledge the fantastic work of our centres - schools, colleges, training providers and employers who deliver our qualifications - and the people who give learners the guidance and encouragement they need to realise their potential.'



School Candidate of the Year winner Iona Flewitt collects her SQA Star Award from John Mitchell, managing director of Hodder Gibson.

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Shiskine SWRI

At the meeting in Shiskine Hall on Wednesday 6 November the ladies of Shiskine Rural were treated to a demonstration by Ian McChlery on cheese making.

Not only did he make two cheeses, one of which they had the chance to taste at the end of the evening, they also thoroughly enjoyed Ian's talk as he is very knowledgeable on the history of cheese making and the different varieties of cheeses around the world.

The cheese scones competition was won by Jerry Arthur, and Alice Anderson won the exhibition of a thimble.

Raffle winner was Lynn MacDonald and a special raffle prize of the ricotta cheese made by Ian was won by Alison Pattison.

The ladies were then entertained by four of their own members reciting their entry into the 'Variation of a Theme' national SWRI competition which took place later that same week in Peebles.

There were eight entries in the competition and Shiskine were the runners-up, beaten into first place by Dalry and District. Well done!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 December at 7.30pm in Shiskine Hall.

It will have a Christmas theme as Fiona Doubleday will be giving a demonstration of wreath making.

New members will be very welcome.



Members survey the work to be done.

Wreaths will be sold to boost funds

Roots of Arran activists have been out cutting back brambles and rhododendrons in the community woodland near Brodick.

On a recent sunny Sunday the most energetic members of the group cleared the flora circle area, where a new shelter has been built.

While lunch was cooked over the open fire, others set to making Christmas wreaths from birch cuttings and heather.

These will be for sale at a fundraising coffee morning to be held in the Ormidale Pavilion on Wednesday 4 December, from 10am. There will also be plenty of Christmas baking available and everyone is welcome to call in.

There are also plans to launch a regular group of volunteers to meet during the

day on Wednesdays in the new year and anyone who would enjoy being in the out-

doors for a couple of hours each week will be made most welcome.



Roots of Arran members discuss wild flowers.

Final push for batonbearers

The final push is on in the search for batonbearers for The Queen's Baton to be used in the starting ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next summer.

One hundred community champions are needed to carry the baton around North Ayrshire next July, but it will not visit Arran.

The baton will have been on the road for 280 days when it eventually arrives in North Ayrshire less than a week away from reaching its final destination in Glasgow.

It will travel through 70 nations en route from London to the starting ceremony and when it arrives in Scotland it will be escorted from Edinburgh to Glasgow on a circuitous route going south then north.

It arrives in North Ayrshire, which is the 32nd leg of the 40-location relay, on Tuesday, 15 July, after setting out from Buckingham Palace last month.

Next stops thereafter are Renfrewshire and Dunbartonshire en route for Glasgow where it tours the city before the Games' opening on Wednesday, July 23.

Nominations for community batonbearers, who must be 12 or over and will have made a positive contribution to their community through sport or in some other way, close on Friday 22 November.

To nominate someone to be a batonbearer in North Ayrshire log onto the Glasgow 2014 website for details. Or telephone the helpline on 0303 333 2014.

Come to church Sunday

Tomorrow (Sunday) will be a very special day for the congregations of the North Arran parishes of the Church of Scotland.

This year, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine churches have designated that day as 'Come to church Sunday', and they look forward to welcoming you to which ever church is most convenient to you.

It is so easy to get out of the habit of regular church attendance, but not always so easy to return.

It is also appreciated that not everyone can attend church regularly.

Be assured, however, that you will be welcomed in these churches whenever it is possible for you to get there.

*See church notices on page 18 for times of services in your area.

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New biomass plant will help slash heating bills

A new biomass boiler at Arran's only hospital will slash fuel bills by more than a third while generating income to improve patient care.

It also means that the Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamash is doing its bit to help the environment whilst supporting local jobs as the new biomass heat cabin runs on locally sourced timber.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran commissioned Fort William-based biomass heating specialist HWEnergy to install the new system at the hospital in July.

And it will cut the hospital's annual heating bills by an incredible 40 per cent, saving 100 tonnes of CO2 emissions, whilst generating an annual income of around £25,000 for reinvestment into patient care.

Arran Energy Ltd supply wood fuel from the island's plentiful supply. By sourcing fuel from a native business based less than two miles away, the hospital is supporting the Arran timber trade as well as reducing the carbon miles travelled by its suppliers.

Duncan Mulholland, operational manager at Arran Energy Ltd, said: 'Based on the success of other installations on Arran, the managers at NHS Ayrshire and Arran were impressed with the concept of biomass and the benefits it provides. They were particularly excited about the all-in-one Biomass Heat Cabin and the way it comes as a pre-packaged unit which can be put in place with minimum disruption.'

Committed

Alastair Kay, energy manager, said: 'NHS Ayrshire and Arran is committed to reducing its energy and carbon footprint. The Arran biomass boiler will drastically reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and will introduce a renewable fuel source to provide heat and hot water to the hospital. The project brings substantial cost savings and also an overall energy efficiency saving of 12 per cent.'

Bruno Berardelli, managing director at HWEnergy, added: 'For an island well stocked with its own supply of wood, using biomass locally makes complete sense. This is our third installation on Arran, having already completed biomass projects at the Kinloch Hotel and the Auchran-



The biomass heat cabin which has been installed at the hospital.

nie Country Club in the past three years.

'It is very encouraging to see biomass taking off in quite a big way on Arran, as it means local businesses are benefiting from cost savings as well as RHI income, whilst supporting local enterprises like Arran Energy Ltd.'

Working

'We are working with NHS boards across Scotland, so we are very pleased to be working with NHS Ayrshire and Arran.'

'By adopting more cost ef-

fective and environmentally-sound heating systems, the organisation is set to realise massive savings and generate new income streams, which is great news for healthcare services.'

HWEnergy Biomass heat cabins are part of a portfolio

which covers the entire biomass heat spectrum from initial project feasibility study through to installation and on-going fuel supply and maintenance. Since its inception in 2003 the company has completed more than 200 biomass heat projects.



HWEnergy boss Bruno Berardelli.

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Kinloch takes Arran on to national TV

The Isle of Arran has been awash with speculation and interpretation after a film crew descended last month, arriving by ferry as the sun came up one cold morning.

The focus of their filming was The Best Western Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot, local baker Phil Judge and the monthly mackerel lottery.

Phil's kneading, proving, blooming and baking were all filmed during one day in which design company The Sharpe Agency and Best Western's head office, both based in Yorkshire, were on the island to film the group's latest advertising campaign, which is bringing alive some of the stories of the people at the 278 hotels around Great Britain.

Phil's story - A Baker's Tale - is now viewable on ITV at 8pm during Off the Beaten Track, or on youtube.

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Arran residents to influence future delivery of services

A leading provider of local and community services is undertaking research to look at the availability and delivery of services across the island.

The research aims to identify the services that people use, where people look to get information and to identify gaps.

Trust Enterprises Ltd (TEL) is a subsidiary company of Trust Housing Association, which is better known on the island as Isle of Arran Homes.

TEL provides services to individuals and companies across Scotland including home help, household cleaning, garden care, handyman, laundry, shopping and other

types of domestic support services.

In addition, the island's Care and Repair service has been delivered for many years through Isle of Arran Homes on behalf of the North Ayrshire Council.

TEL's experience in delivering services to rural, urban and island communities has shown that the key is to provide flexible, affordable and high quality service.

This is most effective when working in collaboration with the community, the local authority, social services, volunteers and private sector providers.

It is part of the philosophy of TEL that residents should have access to services that

they need and get as little or as much help as they require and have access to additional services that can help make their lives easier.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'This is an excellent opportunity for the residents of Arran to have their say on what is important to them and influence the future availability of services on the island.'

'We would urge as many residents as possible to take part in the survey.'

The research is being carried out by Arneil Johnston and the first step will be to undertake a telephone survey from randomly selected residents.

A spokesman for Arneil Johnston said: 'It is appreciated that many people do not like telephone surveys; however this is the opportunity for Arran residents to have a voice and make a real impact to the future of their community.'

The telephone survey of island residents is the first part of a wider research programme which will include stakeholder workshops with community representatives and service providers.

The outcome of the research will be to identify whether there is demand for domestic services from local households which are not otherwise being met on the island.



Sarah Cowan tells of the range of flower essences.

Flower remedies explained

Sarah Cowan gave a presentation on 'Flower Essences' at the third indoor meeting of the Arran Natural History Society on Thursday 7 November in the Ranger Centre at Brodick Country Park.

Sarah, from Kildonan, explained that flower essences are the nature of the plant transferred to spring water and expressed as a positive emotion in humans and animals. The shape, colour, growth pattern, and habitat all play a part in understanding the signature of the plant.

She gave an overview of the work of Dr Edward Bach and how he developed the Bach Flower Range and how they are made - including rescue remedy which many people may have heard of and used.

Bach flower remedies are dilutions of flower material developed by Edward Bach, an English bacteriologist, pathologist and

homeopath, in the 1930s. The remedies contain a very small amount of flower material in a solution of brandy and water. Because the remedies are extremely diluted they do not have a characteristic scent or taste of the plant. It is claimed that the remedies contain 'energetic' or 'vibrational' nature of the flower and that this can be transmitted to the user.

Essences

Sarah discussed a sample of plants from the Bach range that grow freely on Arran in greater detail, and also the range of essences that she has made herself.

The next indoor meeting of the society will take place on Thursday 5 December starting at 8pm in the Ranger Centre.

At that meeting Jim Cassels, the society's bird expert, will give an illustrated talk, 'Iceland, land of geysers and gyrs'.

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Biomass debate reignited by Tory MSP

Jackson Carlaw MSP has written to every resident on the island to seek their view on the proposed biomass plant at the Dyemill.

Northern Energy Developments Ltd (NEDL) have now submitted two applications to build a wood fired power station in the forestry between Lamlash and Whiting Bay.

There has been fierce objections from many residents but the Arran Community Council took the decision to support the application which could create four jobs on the island.

Jackson Carlaw, the West Scotland MSP said: 'This proposed biomass plant is of real concern to the people

of Arran and as such I have previously objected to the development and brought the matter to attention of fellow elected members via a Scottish Parliamentary motion.

'Now I have taken the opportunity to consult residents on this important matter to ensure that I hear all views: whether in objection or support.

'I look forward to reading residents' views on this matter and will continue to fight this development unless residents say otherwise.'

John Inglis, chairman of the Arran Community Council, said he was 'baffled' by Mr Carlaw's involvement in the biomass application.

He told The Banner: 'I do not understand why Mr Carlaw is wading in on the biomass debate at this late stage.

'I would urge people to ignore the survey he has sent to everyone as I do not think it serves any purpose.'

Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club

The winners of the October Draw were first prize Catherine McAllister and second prize Anne Coulter.

Duke of Edinburgh awards for youths

Nine youngsters from Arran have received their bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Ineka Aitchison-Hogge, Adam McNicol, Imogen Downing, Gabrielle Allison, Lina Locatelli, Megan Ingham, Ben Leslie, Charity May and Bethan Remington were presented with their awards by Steve Lennon from the Ocean Youth Trust North.

Luke Cannon also received his Silver Award but was unable to attend on the night.

Section certificates were also presented to Lizzie Mowatt, Alexander Hamilton, and Courtney Taylor.

Thank

Amanda Hogg, the Duke of Edinburgh leader for Arran, said: 'I would like to thank everyone on the island who has contributed and helped the youngsters to complete their awards through various ways such as ArCaS who allowed participants to volunteer in the shop, the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), all the sports



The Duke of Edinburgh bronze award winners pictured with those who also received section certificates.

coaches that have mentored the physical sections, and all music coaches for their help with the skills sections.' The evening also included a Talent Show and acts ranged from piano players and Burns' performers to Dolly Parton. The winner on the night was

Oisean Gold who performed My Heart Will Go On by Celine Dion.

From the show, the group raised over £500 which will go towards paying for next year's expeditions. The award programme, open to those aged 14 to 25, chal-

lenges youths in the areas of community service, skill development, physical fitness and adventurous journey.

The Duke of Edinburgh group meet every Wednesday in the Youth Cabin behind the high school from 3.45pm until 6.45pm.

Advertorial

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Road lessons must be learned

Lets face it, the closure of the Catacol to Pirmill road has been a bit of a fiasco. It was open when it shouldn't have been, closed when it didn't need to be and all surrounded by a complete lack of communication.

Days before the work began businesses and residents were in the dark about just what was happening.

Then the roadworks failed to start when they were supposed to and, despite initially suggesting that the road would be shut during working hours for 10 weeks, it began opening at weekends.

Then there were the signs. Huge expensive electronic signs telling drivers of a diversion, which could only involve going the other way round the island.

And with the road now finally reopened there still appears to be questions about just what work has exactly been done. But all the frustrations could so easily have been avoided.

Could the authorities not have sat down with all those directly involved weeks before the work began and spelled out exactly what was happened, discuss their concerns and come up with a plan. Road closures on Arran are so different from the mainland because there are so few roads, and there will be more closures on the way.

There must be lessons learned from the northend road closure by the Scottish Government, North Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Stagecoach, the contractors and the other bodies involved.

In these days of instant communication there is just no excuse, not even on Arran, for any failure to draw up an action plan well in advance and keep those who need to know what is going on kept updated and informed.

Maybe then future road closures can keep disruption to businesses and communities to a minimum for the sake of islanders and visitors alike.

We are indeed fortunate to live on an island where wildlife is so bountiful and free to roam. How sad then to hear that nuisance being caused to the seals at Kildonan has resulted in a new initiative to help protect them.

People surely realise that any creature being viewed in its natural environment should not be disturbed.

And while disturbing seals is not an offence, how can anyone consider that letting their children or dogs harass them is a fair sport. So come on, by all means go and see the seals, but have some consideration - you're on their turf.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The prophet of the Most High will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, and to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.' (Luke 1: 76-77)

press policy

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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.

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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



Parking ideas

Sir,
Regarding last week's article on 'inconsiderate drivers' parking on Market Road, I think the council are missing the point if they are considering yet more yellow lines. 'Casual parking' is surely a sign that drivers lack adequate facilities in the area.

I have had first-hand experience of this for the past five years.

With retail properties, heavily staffed businesses and a lot of general traffic in this area, perhaps I could introduce the council to an idea that seems to work in other areas of the UK and beyond.

It is called a car park and, if necessary, one can add a 'pay and display' format where the costs of the car park are recouped.

If space is an issue, there is always the added possibility of a multi-storey car park which has two or more levels on which to park and can, in effect, look quite nice if done correctly.

Until then, I'm afraid many of us are guilty of parking too close to our workplaces in this part of Brodick and we do tend to take advantage of any space we can find to ensure we don't have a 20-minute walk in the rain to our offices and shops.

Yours,
Graham Chappell
Arran Graphics
Brodick

A fair hearing

Sir,
In 1914 the Arran Society of Glasgow was responsible for the publication of Volume 2 of *The Book of Arran: History and Folklore* written by WM MacKenzie.

It has since been reprinted and offers some interesting observations on Arran's past.

For example, it states 'the crofters commission of 1883 and the Act of 1885 did not comprehend Arran as a crofting district, though 281 tenants petitioned parliament for its inclusion'.

It took another 25 years and new legislation for smallholders on Arran to achieve

the same rights gained previously by those crofters in the traditional crofting counties.

Nevertheless, tenants of small landholdings covered by the 1911 Act have neither the absolute right to buy (as crofters do) nor even the pre-emptive right of purchase when a landowner decided to sell their land.

The tenants will have provided all the materials and labour required to improve their holdings during their tenancies and yet lack powers of stakeholders.

Sadly there are far fewer than 281 tenants currently farming on Arran and the smallholding tenants among them are struggling to make sense of the recent legislation aimed to help them become crofters.

However it would seem that a 'change is in the air' with articles appearing in various publications highlighting the need for a new approach to land use and ownership.

The Crofting Law Group has set up 'The Crofting Law Sump' to collate and organise the crofting law problems that exist under current legislation.

The Land Reform Review Group has recently had some injection of fresh faces and a change in its agenda to look further into issues to do with land ownership.

Richard Lochhead, rural affairs secretary, is leading a review of agricultural holdings legislation which aims to determine the legislative changes needed to deliver a sustainable Scottish farming sector.

Christopher Nicholson, chairman of the Scottish Tenant Farmers Association and Angus McCall, former chairman, recently invited tenant farmers to a meeting on Arran with the aim of collecting their views on the current legislation and other tenancy issues.

They have been raising awareness of such issues with both the Land Reform Review Group and the Rural Affairs Climate Change and Environment Committee.

One can only hope that our elected representatives in the

Scottish parliament give the current tenant farmers on Arran a fairer hearing than that experienced by the 281 tenants of 130 years ago.

Yours,
May Macdonald
Kilmory

Biomass survey

Sir,
Despite many Arran residents' assumptions (and hopes?) the NEDL application to build an industrial wood burning biomass plant in the Dyemill forest near Lamlash is still active.

You can find the application details on the NAC planning website, using reference 13/00313/PP where you can read the proposal, the 500 plus objections against, and the three plus support letters for the application.

It is still not too late to add your views to the NAC website.

However all Arran residents will hopefully have received a survey form regarding this application from Jackson Carlaw MSP.

It is rare in a democracy to get the chance to express your views on a single issue so I urge you to read Jackson's cover letter and to express your views on the survey form. And as always in any democracy, apathy is the worst response.

If you have lost the survey form, you can print off a copy from the website arranenergy.org and post it to Jackson at the Scottish parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

But please remember to include your name and address on the survey form, in order to ensure voting integrity.

Yours,
Douglas Templeton
Whiting Bay

No experience necessary!

Sir,
We're trying to perform Whisky Galore,

But we're short of men and needing some more,

You're not even needed to be rugged and fit,

Look like Sean Connery or even Brad Pitt.

If you have a pulse then come and join in,

Because without your help we cannot begin,

So if you're bored with the telly please come along,

You'll get a wee laugh, a dance and a song (eventually!).

Please put the date on your kitchen wall,

28th of November in the Brodick Hall,

We start at 7.30 - that's when we begin,

Come to our rescue or the play's in the bin.

You can meet other members, some old and some new,

And it gives us a chance to get to know you,

It's a brainstorming session, nothing is cast,

So please come along, we need to start fast.

Yours,
Jenny Williams,
Arran Music and Drama Club

Dedication and courage

Sir,
I would like to pay tribute to those dedicated men and women who showed great courage and fortitude beyond the call of duty by facing torrential rain, hail, thunder and lightning, to serve the people of Lamlash by building up the bonfire two weeks ago.

May the village remember this deed and honour them.

Yours,
Hazel McCully
Lamlash



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Manager David Cameron welcomes guests to the opening of the exhibition. 20_b47exhib05



Some of the artists exhibiting at the winter show. 20_b47exhib07

Castle is the perfect setting for art show

Exhibition just gets bigger and better

More than 150 art lovers enjoyed the opening night of the Winter Art Exhibition at Brodick Castle.

With works spread throughout the castle invited guests spent the evening meandering through the castle viewing the works of more than 70 local artists both professional and amateur.

And visitors not only get to enjoy the work on show but also see the castle's own wealth of treasures as they pass through the sumptuous rooms.

Now in its 16th year, the exhibition has become the biggest event of its kind on the island, but in a blow was unable to open to the public as planned last Thursday, as the castle was closed because of the strong winds.

However, the exhibition more than made up for this over the weekend with strong visitor numbers.

Castle manager David Cameron welcomed guests to the

show, and with most of the art work on show for sale, jokingly urged them to 'get spending' as the castle gets a commission for their funds on all of the works sold.

Guests on the night not only viewed hundreds of paintings, as many artists had as many as five or six works on show, but also woodwork, modelling, tapestry and photography.

Chris Mills, senior assistant at the castle, who organises the exhibition, said he was

delighted with the turnout, but said numbers could have been higher had the weather not put some people off travelling.

He said: 'The show just gets bigger and better and every year surpasses expectations in both the quantity and quality of work being displayed.'

'It is a lot of work, with a large number of volunteers and staff involved, but it has now become part of our year and it is great fun as well as a boost to our funds.'



Guests listen to the welcome by Mr Cameron. 20_b47exhib06



One visitor takes a keen interest in a portrait. 20_b47exhib09



Guests viewed paintings throughout the castle. 20_b47exhib10



Guests view paintings in the dining room. 20_b47exhib17

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6th - 8th December

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Homestyles
Inspirations of Arran
Jolly Molly
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Old Byre Showroom
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Red Door
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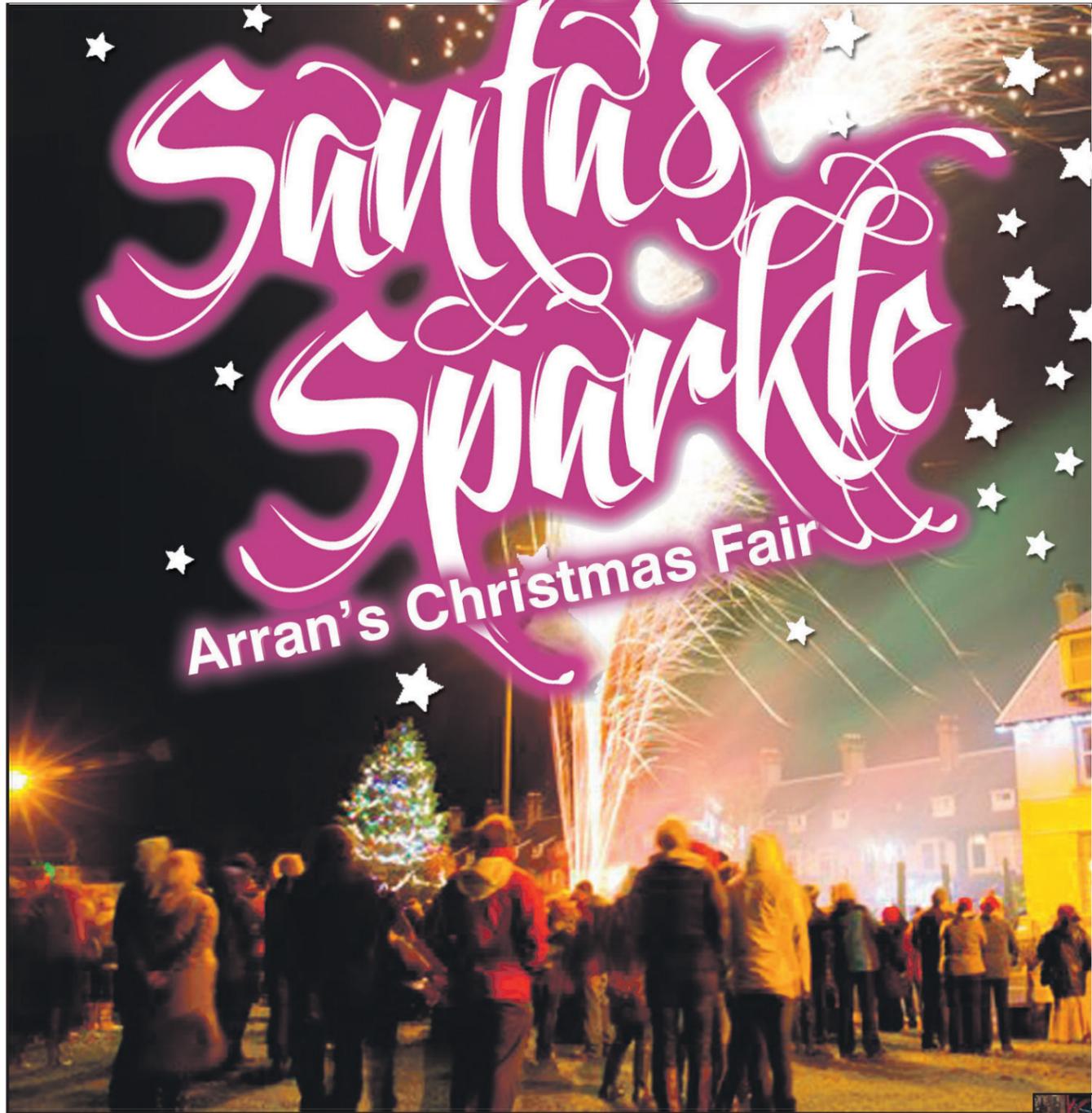
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Many new exciting gifts for Christmas now in stock

The island is a wonderful place to be over the festive season with lots of exciting things happening all over Arran. And this year's Santa's Sparkle is shaping up to be a wonderful weekend-long party for both children and adults. There is a whole host of games, competitions, quizzes, treasure hunts, prizes and activities all weekend on November 30 and December

1 on Lamlash Green. Just a few of the highlights will be apple bobbing, a three-legged race and pin the nose on Rudolf. There will also be 'the best pass-the parcel ever' with both children's and adult prizes including a brand new Kindle! There will also be the chance to win a fabulous, hand-made teddy and a spectacular gingerbread house made by the chefs at the Glenisle

Bistro. And there will be hundreds of other fun prizes and so much more and the list is still growing. All this is an addition to the fabulous highlights for which Santa's Sparkle is known including Santa's Parade and the amazing light and firework show that accompanies the lighting of the mammoth Glenisle Christmas tree. There will be an even larger Christmas market with more stalls than ever as well as great food and drink throughout the event. New this year will be the after-fireworks party featuring

music by Matt Johnston which will take place in the Big Top on Lamlash Green and, of course, the first ever performances on Arran of the acclaimed Charles Chipperfield Circus. Circus tickets are going fast but seats are still available online or at the Glenisle Hotel. There are so many exciting things happening on Arran in the coming weeks and Santa's Sparkle is the perfect place to get into the Christmas spirit!

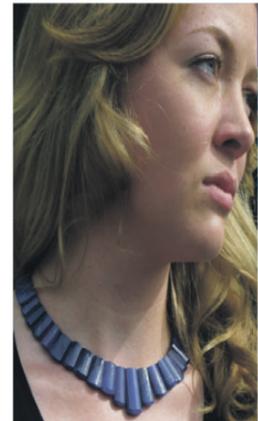
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Santa's Sparkle

Arran's Christmas Fair
timetable of events

Saturday 30 November

- 1pm - 3-Legged Race
- 2pm - Santa arrives with a Parade
- 2.15pm to 4pm - Come and Meet Santa, Mrs Claus and Santa's reindeer
- 4pm - The Best 'Pass the Parcel' Ever
- 5pm - Lighting the Lamlash Christmas Tree
- 5.30pm - The winner of the 'Name the Teddy' Competition
- 6pm - Glenisle Christmas Tree Spectacular
- 6.15pm - After-fireworks Party

Sunday 1 December

- 12 noon - Pin the Nose on Rudolf
- 12.30pm - Santa's Circus
- 1pm - Egg and Spoon Race
- 1pm to 3pm - Pamper Yourself with taster sessions from TLC Therapies
- 2pm - Santa's Circus
- 2pm - Meet the Kirkend Owls
- 3pm - Dog Scurry
- 3.30pm - Santa's Circus
- 4pm - Apple Bobbing
- 5pm - Santa's Circus
- 5pm - Guess the Weight of the Christmas Pudding

Times and details are subject to change. All outdoor activities are dependent on the weather.

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Santa's Sparkle

Arran's Christmas Fair

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- Meet Santa
- Christmas Tree Spectacular
- After-Fireworks Party
- Santa's Circus
- Christmas Market
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Neil Gillies, Neil Bulger, Robbie Mallinson, Henry Murdo and Neil McArthur of AMRT remove one of the casualties from the hillside. 20_b47res07



Sadly Susie Mowatt didn't make it. 20_b47res04



Access to the casualties required ropes and a lot of man power. 20_b47res10



The aim of the exercise was for all teams to work together.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
 Published on 14th December
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Arran Resilience part in Exercise

'Two cars collided on the Ross across the hillside to the bottom



NHS nurse Jo Earle and fire fighters Peter Holmes and Neil Young attend to the casualty. 20_b47res03



The exercise simulated two cars crashing on the Ross Road. 20_b47res09

Two cars collided on the Ross Road early on Sunday morning and were catapulted across the hillside to the bottom of a deep ravine in a simulation exercise organised by Arran Resilience.

Exercise Dauntless brought together Arran Resilience teams from Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Coastguard, Arran Mountain Rescue and NHS staff to respond to a simulated traffic collision on the Ross Road.

It was quickly ascertained that access to the casualties would require rope rescue, and this was set up by the fire fighters, Coastguard and mountain rescue teams with this capability. Casualty assessment skills were practised by all teams to treat eight crash victims, all of whom were budding actors from the Duke of Edinburgh's award group on the island.

Ruby, the mountain rescue search dog, and her handler Darryl Urquhart-Dixon were kept busy looking for two casualties who had

Arran has a fantas dedicated emerge



20_b47res08



Fiona Laing, deputy leader of Arran Coastguard, attends to Ben Leslie, one of the injured passengers.

20_b47res05



The evacuation skills of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team were out to good use.

20_b47res06

ce teams take e Dauntless

Road and were catapulted
m of a deep ravine'

become confused and wandered off. Most casualties needed to be stretchered off from the crash scene and then moved up a steep slope using rope rescue techniques. Teamwork across all the rescue teams was essential, and there were great examples of responders working together.

A new set of Airwave radios allowed for more robust communication between team leaders.

Direct result

The provision of these radios for Arran was a direct result of lessons learned in the March snow incident. Dr David Hogg, coordinator for Arran Resilience, said: 'The exercise succeeded in bringing teams together to respond to a challenging incident.'

'Arran has a fantastic range of dedicated emergency responders and exercises like Dauntless are vital to allow the teams to train together.'

'Thanks to all involved, and all residents who helpfully kept clear of the Ross Road on the day.'



Lamlash fire brigade evacuate a dangerously ill Susie Mowatt from one of the vehicles.



Bill Currie, leader of the Arran Coastguard, surveys the scene with other team members.

stic range of
ncy responders

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Arran seal population facing a menace from land and sea

Go and see the seals but please do not disturb

The Arran seal population is 'holding its own' despite increasing pressure on its environment from both the land and the sea.

The island's largest colony of common seals at Kildonan is being pushed increasingly away from the village because of the number of visitors disturbing them.

While in the sea they continue to face the menace of inshore trawling disrupting their natural feeding grounds. Now an initiative is being launched to try to educate visitors not to go too close to the seals when they are basking on the rocks.

And Arran Natural History Society is planning to erect signs at Kildonan urging visitors not to get too close as the seals are being forced west along the coast due to the interference from adults, children and dogs.

Dr Alan Bellamy from the society said: 'Disturbance is

a problem we have identified and we are planning to erect signs and try to educate people not to go too close.

'Seals need to come out of the water to help their digestion and also to help their skin condition, so it can be a real problem if they don't have a quiet place to rest.'

Widespread

In the late 1980s seals on Arran were hit by a widespread UK outbreak of a deadly virus, which attacked the seal's immune system, and the population has taken a long time to recover.

Most of the seals in the seas around Arran are common seals, although there are some grey seals as well. Common seals pup in June, while grey seals pup in the autumn.

The biggest colony is at Kildonan where there is estimated to be more than 90 seals.

Seal car park at Merkland Point near Brodick Castle, Newton Shore in the north of

the island and Lochranza are the other best places to spot them. There are also a small number in Blackwaterfoot.

One man who has studied Arran's seals for many years is retired shopkeeper Vic Iutz.

He used to record the seal population, and today he still keeps a regular watch on the Blackwaterfoot colony from his home in the village, who bask on the rocks in the bay at low tide.

Before the virus of the late 80's there were 47 common seals which dropped to just six to eight after the outbreak. Over the summer this year that had increased to 14.

Mr Iutz said: 'I think the smaller numbers can be put down to fewer fish in the sea. Some of the trawlers fish so close, I am surprised they don't run aground. The seabed has been ploughed dry.'

Mr Iutz has no doubt that the proposed South Arran Marine



This months-old seal pup has been spotted recently in Lamlash Bay.

Protection Area which will limit inshore fishing to creel pots and line fishing will benefit both the seal population and other inshore marine life.

'It will be a huge improvement and I am sure we will see the seal population creep up again, but it will take a few years.'

Last summer Mr Iutz counted between 80 to 90 seals at Kildonan, which was the highest number he had ever seen.

'I don't know if the seal population is thriving but it is certainly holding its own,' he added.

While it not an offence to

disturb common or grey seals it is an offence to kill or injure them under the Conservation of Seals Order of 2004.

Kate Samson of the Brodick Castle Ranger Service supports the move by the society to help prevent the seals being disturbed.

Digest

She said: 'People don't realise that the seals pull themselves out of the water to help them digest their food. If people get too close and frighten them back into the water it is disturbing their digestive pattern.'

Based on only anecdotal evidence Kate believes the seal

population has probably declined a little in recent years but agrees the marine protection area will help if, as expected, it goes ahead.

While there are some grey seals on Arran, Kate doubts any of them breed here as they like remote isolated beaches to give birth to their pups.

Kate and her team are involved once or twice a year in the rescue of stranded seal pups on the shoreline at high tide. Any injured animal on the island is sent to the Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue Centre in Beith, but are always returned to the island if they make a full recovery.

Our guide to where to stay on the mainland

Winter is here and as we have already found at the weekend the season of cancelled ferries is already underway. There is nothing more frustrating than being stuck on the mainland when the boat fails to sail and nowhere to stay.

But now help is at hand with our guide to some of the best places to stay on the mainland. But why wait till the boat fails to sail. Why not treat yourself to a days Christmas shopping on the mainland and make a day of it with an overnight stay.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 23 November, 1993

Machrie Postbox

An island builder has started work rebuilding the Machrie Postbox which was demolished in a road accident last June.

And Shiskine builder Ian Stewart said he considers a recent suggestion that the post box should be reassembled outside Brodick Castle 'total nonsense'.

'How could it be Machrie Postbox if it was in Brodick?' he asked.

The pillar box was built in the mid 1800s by stonemason David Wilson and paid for by Lord Overton to replace a white painted box which had frightened his young daughter's pony.

Mr Stewart rescued the stones after the accident and along with James Kelso and Charles Murchie has started the complex job of rebuilding it.

Regional Council have still to agree on who should pay for it.

All Blacks ball

Arran High School's New Zealand connection has secured a unique souvenir of the record breaking All Blacks victory over Scotland at Murrayfield.

Music teacher Sara Brown got in touch with the All Blacks former captain Mike Brewer and asked if he would be able to get the squad to sign a rugby ball for the school. This they did and Sara collected it while in Edinburgh at the weekend.

Sara, a New Zealander herself, seemed more than happy with the match result which saw the All Blacks win 51-15 and has presented the ball to the school where it is now proudly displayed at the entrance.



Ian Stewart at the demolished Machie Postbox. b47twe01

Building demolished

It's the end of an era as the John James Burnett ticket office at Brodick Pier is demolished.

There were suggestions earlier in the year that it should be preserved as a building of exceptional architectural merit, but this week to clear the way for the new pier building the old ticket office and waiting room were razed to the ground.

At the pier only the bus terminal has yet to be completed as CalMac and Strathclyde

Cow rescued

Lamlash fire brigade had an unusual call out on Sunday morning when they rushed to rescue a cow which had fallen into a slurry pit at Glenkiln Farm.

So deep was the stricken cow that further help had to be called in and a crane from John Thomson Construction was rushed to the site joined by the vet.

The cow was rescued and seemed none the worse for its ordeal.

No swimming

During this week's public inquiry on the Local Plan a water expert was asked about untreated sewage going into Brodick Bay and whether it was a danger to bathers and sailors. He replied: 'Bacteria levels exceed those that would apply to designated swimming water.'



Brodick Pier ticket office being demolished. b47twe02

November means it is time for the Arran High School house plays which were performed in Lamlash Community Centre. Here Joanne Craig, Robin Hay, Dylan Lawson and Louise McAlister from Iorsa perform in Twilight and Roses. b47twe03



Clare Wilson, Ewen McNeice and Jennifer Gourlay from Rosa House in A Fishy Business. b47twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery



www.arranbrewery.com

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Garden Open
Arran Brewery

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
Daily 9am-Dusk
Open Mon & Wed 12.30pm-5pm Tues, Thurs,
Fri & Sat 10am-5pm Sun 12.30pm-4.30pm
2pm

Winter bowls
Scottish Country Dancing
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall AGM
SFA Early Touch Football
Metafit
Christmas Food & Craft Market

Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Village Hall, 7pm
P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm
Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 10.30am-3pm

Arran Brewery tour

Saturday 23rd November

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Junior Football
RNLI Shop
Arran's Gaelic Heritage

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm
Lamlash Pier 10.30-12.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion 7.30pm

Wednesday 27th November

Hockey
Tae Kwon-do
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
JogScotland beginners group
Mixed ability running group
Yoga-Arran
Sports Club
Arran Elderly Forum
Open Music Session

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Auchrannie Spa car park, 5.15pm
Auchrannie Spa car park, 6pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict 11am
Drift Inn, Lamlash

Sunday 24th November

Family Games
Fun in the pool
Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)
AA Meeting

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm

Monday 25th November

Quiz
Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Citizens Advice
Senior Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Arran Junior Football Club
Yoga
Lunch club
Yoga - Arran
Shirley & Sarah fitness class
Wee Blether cafe
Scottish Country Dancing
Bridge Club
Metafit
Aerobics

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
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 - 12noon
Lamlash Sheltered Housing, 12.00 noon
Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm
Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30-1.30pm
Beginners & improvers corrie Hall, 2-4pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm
Shiskine Hall, 5.15 - 5.45pm
Shiskine Hall, 6-7pm

Thursday 28th November

Senior Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Live music
Weight Watchers
Yoga
Shirley & Sarah fitness class
Brodict Embroidery Group
Winter bowls
Metafit
Bridge Club
Arran Drama & Music Rehearsal
Lunchbox

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Lochranza Hall, 2pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
Brodict Library, 7.30pm
Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
Auchrannie sports hall, 6pm - 6.30pm
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict 12.30-2.30pm

Tuesday 26th November

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary club
Streetly Dance pre school
Streetly Dancing minis P1-3
Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7
Streetly Dancing Seniors
Weight Watchers
Junior Hockey Club
Healthy Outdoors
Lawn Bowls (weather permitting)
Food and craft market

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm
St Molios Church Hall, 7pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm

Friday 29th November

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Brodict Farmers Christmas Market
Active Buggies
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Overeaters anonymous
Coffee morning
AuldTime Bothy Nicht
Disco

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm
Ormidale Park, 10am
Lamlash Church Hall, 8-10pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict 11.30-1pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 10.15am-12pm
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall, 7pm
Drift Inn, 9pm



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Isle of Arran Mountain Festival

Notice of Annual General Meeting
 AGM will take place at 6.30 pm on Monday 2 December in the Rangers' Centre at Brodick Castle.
 All are welcome.
 Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2013 Festival a success either by sponsoring us or giving time and expertise.
 Please come along on 2 December to find out about the 2013 Festival and help us plan for 2014.

Katy Clark MP SURGERY NOTICE

Katy Clark MP will hold a surgery on Saturday 30th November 2013

Ormidale Pavilion at 12noon

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AGM

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 24th November
 Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
 Mr John Roberts.
 Coffee after service.
Wednesday 27th November
 Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
 ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
Thursday, 28th November
 at 7.00 pm
 in St Molios Church, Shiskine (NB. Children assemble to make Christingles at 6.30)
 Offering to Children 1st
 ALL WELCOME
 ESPECIALLY CHILDREN!

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 24th November
 Brodick Church, 10.30am,
 Come to Church Sunday service Corrie Church, 12noon,
 Come to Church Sunday service A Service of worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.
 Lochranza Church, 9.30am,
 Come to Church Sunday service Pirmill Church, 10.45am,
 Come to Church Sunday service Shiskine Church, 12noon,
 Come to Church Sunday service

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 24th November
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30 am
 In both Churches:
 Mrs. Mairi Duff
 All welcome, including amilies; children's area
 Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 24th November
 11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
 Tea & coffee after the service.
 Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
 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 24th November
 Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
 All welcome.
 Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
 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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 24th November
 11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
 Tea & coffee after the service.
 Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
 Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
 Contact phone no. 600222.
 Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 24th November
 Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
 Rev David Randall

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 24th November
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge
 Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 6-30 pm
 5 Glen Road, Brodick
Wednesday 27th November
 Prayer Meeting 7pm
 5 Glen Road
 All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SALVATION ARMY

House Group/Bible Study
 Mondays 2.30pm.
 If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

IN MEMORY

MACKENZIE - James.
 Died 28 November 2004.
 Loved and remembered every day, by his mum and all his family on Arran and the mainland.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER



Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 16 November Winter Cup 16 played. 1 A Smith 73-10=63 BIH, 2 R Logan 68-5=63, 3 J McGovern 76-10=66 BIH. Scratch R Logan 68. Magic twos R Logan, D Crawford, J McConnachie, J Adams and M Elliott. Monday 18 November, 1 P Bremner 66-5=61 BIH, 2nd J Adams 67-6=61, 3rd W Paul 85-21=64. Scratch P Bremner 66. Magic twos A Macdonald, R Burke, D Price, and A Smith

Fixtures: Saturday 23 November Winter Cup, tee times 8.30am & 12noon. Monday 25 November tee time 12noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 13 November, 1 C O'Neill 76-16=61, 2 J Green 83-19=64 BIH. There were three twos, one each for D Robertson, Wolfi and J Hartley. Once again we all got wet - some worse than others.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 7 November, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 13 played, CSS 70. Silver 1 and Scratch J Turnbull 85-15=70, 2 K Genda 87-12=75. Bronze 1 E Henderson 97-31=66, 2 S Brookes 99-23=76. Congratulations Esther on winning and getting that handicap cut!

Sunday 10 November, Gents Sunday Stableford, 16 played. A great turnout and the weather was lovely. 1 Jimmy Morrison 26 pts, 2 Gator 23 pts BIH. Nearest the pin at the 4th Donald Logan, and at the 10th Willie Kelso.

Sunday 17 November, 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup, 17 played. First Class 1 W Kelso 42-5=37 also Best Scratch, 2 W Paton 43-4=39



Whiting Bay Golf Club.

BIH, 3 R Crawford 44-5=39. Second Class 1 A Bannatyne 57-13=44, 2 C Rutterford 56-9=47, 3 D Johnston 61-13=48. Magic twos from B Sherwood and W Paton.

Fixtures: Sunday 24 November, Jim Allison Trophy.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 17 November, there was a good turnout of 26 players played in the first of the Winter friendlies with Lamlash at Whiting Bay.

The score in the match ended up with 4 wins to Whiting Bay and 2 to Lamlash. Nicol Auld won the stableford with an impressive 41 points, second was Gus MacLeod with 38 points, third Sandy Pringle with 36 points (acb), and fourth Andy Smith with 36 points.

Nicol also won scratch with 61 and scooped three magic twos at the 2nd, 1th and 17th. Bob Hastings was the only other player to get a magic two at the 17th. Hospitality was enjoyed afterwards in the clubhouse.

Fixtures: In a change to the fixture list, the Taylor Trophy will now be played on Sunday 24 November.

This competition was postponed due to the weather in October. One draw for partners at 10am.

poned due to the weather in October. One draw for partners at 10am.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 14 November Yellow Medal 1 I Bremner 65 - 5 = 60, 2 R Burke 72 - 10 = 62 [BIH], 3 Q J Young 74 - 12 = 62. Best scratch I Bremner 65. Result of W/Bay v Lamlash friendly at W/Bay on 17 November - W/Bay 4 Lamlash 2.

Fixtures: Sun 24 November Winter Stableford [counting round] 09.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday 28 November Yellow Medal 11am ballot.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 12 November Winter Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 65, 2 Hamish Bannatyne 71, 3 Campbell Laing 73. Scratch & two Brian Sherwood 72. Fixtures: Tuesday 26 November Winter Cup, tee off 12noon.

Arran Golfers Association

Winter League/Duncan Trophy Second round, Sunday 1 December at Corrie Golf Club. Corrie v Shiskine @ 8:30am, Machrie v Lamlash @ 9:20am, Whiting Bay v Brodick @ 11:50am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

KNOX - Alexander (Sandy). Peacefully with family at Montrose House on Tuesday 12 November. Much loved father and grandfather. Our sincere thanks to Montrose House staff for their devoted care. Also to Arran GPs, district nurses and staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital. Thanks also to Clair and David Hendry for their help and guidance.

COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY
 this year in the North Arran Parishes is on
SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER

YOU are invited to come along on this special day whether or not you have any church connection.

Services will be for ALL ages at the following:

St Bride's Church, Brodick at 10.30am

Corrie Parish Church at 12noon

St Bride's Church, Lochranza at 9.30am

Pirmill Parish Church 10.45am

St Molio's Church, Shiskine at 12noon

COME TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

GRADUATION



Catherine Ann Keir (Nee McAllister)
 Congratulations and well done Catherine on Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Adult Nursing with distinction.
 Love Mum, Dad and the rest of the family.

BIRTHDAY



Happy 50th!

Love from all the family here and in Oz.

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Whiting Bay bowlers toast the season's end

Whiting Bay Bowling Club held their annual dinner and presentation of trophies at the Eden Lodge Hotel on Saturday night.

The warm, sunny summer days this year resulted in a very successful bowling season for all of the club's members and friends.

The trophy winners for 2013 are as follows:

Ladies Singles Champion: C Steed. Gents Singles Champion: R Frame. Co-op Salver: M Pringle and I Davidson. Angus Cook Memorial Trophy: L Hendry, C Hendry and D Hendry. Royal Bank Triples: R Frame, W Wilson, J McGovern. Anniversary triples: N Pringle, S Allen and K Irving. Fun Week Shield: A McMinn, D Kirk, S Kirk and D Bland. Shurig Shield: S McArthur, R Crawford, C Adams and C Weir. Kiscadale Shield: R Crawford and C Weir. Gordon McDonald Memorial Trophy: (nominated pairs) M Pringle and N Pringle. Tom and Jennie Robison Memorial Trophy: (drawn pairs) M Pringle and K Kellsall. Whiting Bay Bowling Club (Jim's Trophy) Sets: M and N Pringle. Best 10 Scores: J Douglas.



The prize-winners at Whiting Bay Bowling Club's annual dinner on Saturday night.

Arran misses out on hero award

Arran missed out on winning a real hero prize during a TV awards ceremony.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team had been nominated for the courage award in the RBS - Finding Scotland's Real Heroes series for their work during the snowstorms earlier this year.

But they missed out on the award, televised on STV last Friday, to Tarbert fishermen Mark Sheldrick and Darroch Fulton, who saved a colleague from drowning after he plunged 50 feet into the sea.

Personal best for swimmer Glen

Local swimmer Glen Sloss achieved a new personal best at the Scottish Gas National Masters last weekend.

The 29-year-old from Sannox came second in the 1,500m race in the new pool at Tollcross in Glasgow, beating his previous time by just over 17 seconds.



Golfers tee-up in 1969 picture

There are some recognisable faces in this old photograph - can you name any of them?

This lovely picture was handed in to us by Hugh McKinnon of Lochranza and it shows a group of golfers taking part in a competition at the village course in 1969.

Please feel free to contact The Banner if you know any of the men in the photo.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.