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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- WIN an Arran Aromatics Hamper, a pair of Joules Wellies and 2 Arran T-shirts
- The Lamlash dookers take a dip for charity
- We examine the critical acclaim for High Corrie playwright Robert McLellan

# Dental practice pulls out of weekend cover

Significant changes to Arran's emergency dental services come into effect next Saturday 4 December. From that date, about half of all islanders will be directed to Ayrshire Central in Irvine for weekend treatment.

Registered patients of the Managed Dental Service of Massimo Locatelli and Gordon Hunter who have a dental emergency at weekends will have to phone NHS 24 and be given an appointment at Ayrshire Central Hospital.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson has looked into this issue and said: 'An internal consultation was carried out looking at weekend cover on Arran. The new system will encourage people to go to the Emergency Dental Service on the mainland and sessions have been timed to meet island boats.'

'When there is a 'true' weekend emergency, the Emergency Medical Retrieval Service can airlift them off, 24/7.'

Tricia Jenkins of Bruce Jenkins Dental Practice, in Brodick, told the Banner: 'We have the bulk and remainder of Arran patients, approximately 2,000.'

'This new emergency service is not a level of patient care we could subscribe to. Up to now, we have worked two out of every four weekends with Massimo and Gordon doing the other two.'

'For patients to go to Ayrshire Central could be a seven-hour return

**REPORT**  
by HOWARD DRIVER  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

journey.

'We had a lady with a serious dental infection last weekend who would have really suffered under this new scheme. We will continue to offer our own patients emergency cover 365 days a year, including Christmas and New Year.'

'But if our life/work balance becomes untenable, we will have to leave the island.'

Councillor Margie Currie said: 'It is disappointing, but at least a service of sorts is being offered. I have used the emergency dental service on the island and found it to be excellent.'

Paul Ardin, director of primary care development, said: 'In November 2008 NHS Ayrshire and Arran set up an out-of-hours emergency dental service on Arran. The service was reviewed in October 2009 and again in September 2010. An average of 3.5 patients a month used the service at a cost of £37,000.'

He added that it had subsequently been agreed to provide the weekend service for Arran from Ayrshire Central, at a cost of just £8,000. Mr Ardin said: 'NHS 24 will arrange appointment times around ferry sailings and staff will arrange taxis if required.'

An advert on page nine of the Banner gives full details of what patients should do in an emergency.



PCs Jill Barton and Hazel Smith with their horses and batons explain their duties to Lamlash youngsters. 02\_b48hor01

## Mounted police make for an arresting sight

Two female officers of Strathclyde Police mounted division made a big impact on the island on Tuesday. Or at least their horses certainly did.

PCs Jill Barton and Hazel Smith brought their mounts over from Stewarton and were a great hit with youngsters in Lamlash and Brodick. The two horses were 16-year-old Riddrie who came from

a riding school, and 12-year-old Kilmarnock. Jill explained that there are 18 mounted police in the division and that their main duties were in searches for missing people and maintaining crowd order at events like football matches.

She said: 'We are so much higher in the saddle that we can see above the foot cops and can see trouble

starting.' She also explained to the youngsters that they hardly ever use their batons which are really to protect the horse if it is attacked.

Both Jill and Hazel were going to be on duty with their horses at Ibrox Stadium on Wednesday night for the Champions League match between Rangers and Manchester United.



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# Top award for Lochranza nurse

Julie Graham, of Lochranza, has been presented with the 2010 Gordon Nixon award.

This award is presented annually in recognition of excellence in service provision in nursing.

On Monday, Dr Gordon Nixon came to Lamlash to give Julie the silver plate in the presence of her fellow NHS workers. Dr Nixon retired at the end of January as Head of Primary Care Management, NHS Ayrshire and Arran after 43 years service.

He said: 'Julie Graham's efforts in providing vascular assessment have brought great benefits to Arran patients. This is the first time the award has been presented to an individual.'

Last year the award was given to a nursing team. Julie will keep the silver plate in pride of place in her Lochranza home for a year.

She told the Banner: 'Vascular nursing expertise is a skill I brought to Arran after spending eight years working for a vascular surgeon in London, enabling me to set up a flexible service to meet patients' needs on Arran.'

'Vascular patients on the island have access to a nurse with vascular expertise which enables complex arterial investigations to be performed outside a specialist unit.'



Julie Graham with Dr Gordon Nixon and her award for excellence presented at Arran War Memorial Hospital last Monday. 02\_b48jul01

'Patients can be referred to the service by GPs and other health professionals including podiatry, hospital, community and practice nurses.'

'Assessments are performed

in the patient's own home, hospital or GP surgery.'

'National and local guidelines are adhered to both for the assessment and management of vascular patients.'

'My colleagues support this concept and I have an average of three referrals a week.'

## Replacement on the cards for flood-hit Pirnmill bridge

It looks as though Pirnmill will be getting a new footbridge.

The old bridge was washed away in the floods on September 22 and North Ayrshire Council has confirmed that a cost estimate and report will be submitted to councillors for the new financial year seeking funding for a new footbridge.

Kenneth Gibson MSP told the Banner: 'I raised this matter with NAC on 24 September. I also met with Pirnmill Village Association at the bridge.'

'I am pleased that NAC intend to reinstate the bridge when the weather improves.'

'They will also reinstate the fire hydrant and parking, and a bid will be made to fund a new footbridge. I will remind NAC of this towards the end of March.'

Angus Bodie, head of infrastructure and design services NAC, said: 'My engineers have completed a full in-



Floods devastated the old bridge at Pirnmill in September.

spection of the bridge. The central pier suffered major damage during the flood event with over half being washed away.

'Urgent structural repairs were carried out to secure this

section of concrete pier and steel supports were added to provide a temporary pier.'

'A risk assessment may lead to a conclusion that remedial works are best left to the spring or early summer.'

## Have your say at next meeting of Arran Community Council

Members of the public are being invited to join in at the next meeting of Arran Community Council. Normally, the public is allowed to attend and observe, but not take part.

This week, chairman John Inglis said: 'Anyone who would like to attend the Community Council meeting and make a contribution to any of the agenda topics is welcome.'

'If you intend to speak, please

give notice to the chairman at the beginning of the meeting. The Community Council would like to improve local representation and involve more people in local democracy.'

The next monthly meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday

30 November in the Ormidale Pavilion. Items on the agenda are: Citizens Advice Bureau closure, funding astro-turf for Brodick, Local Housing Strategy draft, Brodick beach, Pirmill bridge, Sannox Church and possible co-opted members.

## Has anyone seen Dave?

A black cat answering to the name of Dave has been missing from his Lamlash home since Monday 22 November.

Anyone who comes across him is asked to phone Helen Thomson on 600242 or 600252.

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## WIN 'The Music of Arran' on CD

This week Banner readers have the chance to win one of six CDs of a newly issued collection called 'The Music of Arran'.

There are 13 tracks of traditional music reflecting the folklore and history of the island. Well-known Arran girl Gillian Frame performs fiddle, viola and backing vocals and is accompanied by Angus Lyon on accordion, piano, rhodes and melodia, Ali Hutton on pipes and guitar, Kathleen Graham on vocals and Ross Kennedy on vocals and guitar.

Gillian was the inaugural winner of the Young Scottish Traditional Musician Award in January 2001.

She graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with a BA (Scottish Music) Honours degree in 2002. Gillian has performed and recorded with Back of the Moon, Deaf Shepherd and The Walkabout Ceilidh Band.

Five years ago she was guest speaker at the Arran High School annual prizegiving ceremony in Lamlash.

This CD is an eclectic collection of jaunty traditional music ranging from The Arran Ceilidh to Mrs Mary Anderson of Lochranza, The Arran Boat Song and Arran Farmers' Society.

Track number 13, Shiskine Barn Dance, tells the tale



Musician Gillian Frame.

of a Mr Hutcheson, a Glasgow merchant, who took a trip round the Southend in 1783. On reaching Shiskine he stayed overnight at a farm and found himself caught up in the spontaneous dancing of peat cutters.

He related: 'After supper we heard the sprightly notes of the fiddle. Accordingly we repaired to the great barn where there were about 10 or 12 fat, blooming country lassies walloping it away to the tunes of Greig's Pipes.'

This is a great opportunity to get your hands on one of these CDs and we have six to give away.

**To enter the competition, just tell us in which year Gillian Frame won the Young Scottish Traditional Musician Award. Answers on a postcard or by email by next Saturday, December 4, to editor@arranbanner.co.uk**

Winners will be announced on Friday December 10.

# Police numbers will not be cut on Arran

## REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Any cuts in national policing levels will not impact on Arran.

That was the message from Chief Superintendent John Thomson this week.

Arran's new police chief visited the island on Monday for the first time in his capacity as Divisional Commander of Ayrshire Division, based in

Kilmarnock.

He told the Banner: 'Staffing levels on the island are vital. If I have to rationalise staff numbers, I won't do so on Arran.'

'There will also be the same level of summer secondment officers coming over.'

'Secondment to Arran is very important to me; my officers from city areas can come here and acquire new skills.'

Chief Superintendent Thomson has been a frequent visitor to the island and has considerable experience of island policing.

He said: 'For two years I was Divisional Commander of L Division in Argyll, Bute and West Dunbartonshire.'

'I had five islands such as Islay, Tiree and Mull to police. In an island situation, officers have to be flexible and use skills of conciliation and negotiation. It can place a specific level of pressure on officers.'

'I have every confidence in Sergeant MacKay and the officers serving on Arran.'



Chief Superintendent John Thomson outside Lamlash Police Station on Monday. 02\_b48sup01

## Poppy total

The Brodick Poppy Scotland collection raised £1,828.15p this year.

The sum of £505.90 was also collected in Lamlash.

Many thanks go to all who collected and contributed.

## Heartstart

A Heartstart course is being held in the dance studio at Arran High School next Monday November 29 from 7pm.

There is no charge and all are welcome. The course will deal with basic first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

## Lighting up for Christmas

Brodick will be lit up for Christmas this Sunday.

Ian Small and his son Gary have both been busy up on a cherry picker to attach all the illuminations to lampposts along the seafront. All being well, by 3.30pm on Sunday Arran Brass will be playing festive tunes in Brodick Hall and a crowd will be assembling to witness the grand switch-on.

This exciting task will be done by one lucky local youngster and there will be chances to

send a letter to Santa and decorate a cookie.

To get folk in the festive mood, there will be plenty of mince pies and mulled wine on offer.

The Lamlash Christmas tree will be at Glenisle Hotel for the first time this year, and the lighting ceremony is at 5pm on Sunday December 5.

In Blackwaterfoot, the Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4pm on Sunday December 12.

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HMS Ark Royal sailing down the Clyde for the final time last week.

## Ark slips away for final time

HMS Ark Royal, the flagship of the Royal Navy, slipped quietly down the Clyde for the final time last week.

The grand old vessel has been a regular visitor to Arran waters and featured prominently in Exercise Purple Warrior in 1987, the largest UK peacetime exercise in-

volving 20,000 men that came to a dramatic conclusion here on Arran. Ark Royal was the mother ship for a squadron of Harriers that were engaged in action over the island.

She slipped her mooring on Loch Long for the final time at 10am on Wednesday, and with a water cannon salute

from the tugs, headed south towards Bute and Arran. The aircraft carrier sailed round the north of Scotland then called at Newcastle, passing the Swan Hunter yard where she was built in 1981.

HMS Ark Royal will enter her home port of Portsmouth for the last time next Friday, December 3 before being scrapped.

## Iain takes his place at networking event

Iain Pittman, managing director of Arran Aromatics, was the guest of Kenneth Gibson MSP at last Thursday night's Business in Parliament dinner in Edinburgh.

Business in the Parliament aims to facilitate engagement between Scotland's businesses and politicians. It forms part of a regular and ongoing Parliament and Government programme of engagement with business organisations and senior business leaders across Scotland.

Mr Gibson said: 'The aim of this unique partnership event

between the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government is to engage Scottish business in continuing to grow Scotland's economy. Six conferences have taken place so far, the last on November 11-12.

'It was a great networking event, with 40 MSPs and 180 business guests present. I sat between Iain and Dr Mike Cantley, Chairman of Visit Scotland, who had a lot of very positive things to say about Arran. He particularly liked the information stall on the Caledonian Isles!'



Iain Pittman of Arran Aromatics and Kenneth Gibson MSP at the Business in Parliament dinner last Thursday.

## Costume conundrum

This year's Lamlash pantomime could be one to remember.

Producer Maureen Smith said: 'The costume company we were hiring from decided at the last minute that they couldn't provide us with the costumes. I have had a nightmare of a week trawling the internet to try and get another supplier.'

'Hopefully they will be able to help us out, otherwise it could be curtains!'

Tickets are now on sale at KA Campus office in Arran High School. They will be available from this Saturday from 10am to 4pm and again next weekend 4 and 5 December from 1pm to 6pm.

## Invite to health care meeting

Arran residents are being invited to the first of three public meetings to discuss how NHS Ayrshire and Arran offers health care on the island.

This first meeting will be held in Brodick Hall next Monday, November 29, at 7pm. The meetings are the first step in NHS Ayrshire and Arran's ongoing conversation with the public on shaping local health care. Monday's meeting will include a presentation called 'Where are we now?' and gives an opportunity for the public to discuss different issues such as care of older people and delivering more care in communities.

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# Isle's roads department aims to show true grit this winter

## REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran's local roads department is all geared up for winter weather.

A large mound of rock salt amounting to some 1,500 tonnes is sitting in the council yard on Market Road, in Brodick, and the island's three gritting lorries have already been pressed into action.

The multi-purpose lorries will also be fitted with snow ploughs as and when required. Island Officer Gus MacLeod said: 'We normally get through 800 tonnes of rock salt but last winter was particularly bad and we used nearly 2,000 tonnes. Hopefully this will be enough.'

He pointed out that North Ayrshire Council uses a mix of salt and coarse sand if there is a snowfall, and that sand was spread on any diesel spillages on the road. The weather station at the top of the String is one of five such units in North Ayrshire and is useful for monitoring the conditions.



Market Road depot with Brodie Pearcey and Stuart Paton discussing where this load of grit will be spread. 02\_b48grt02

But Gus pointed out that NAC uses MeteoGroup, Europe's largest private sector weather business, for accurate

forecasts. The council lorries are fitted with GPS monitoring systems that can show where they are, where they

have been and how much grit or salt they have spread on any road. So when Jack Frost strikes, think of the council

driver being roused from his bed just to make sure that you can get to work safely on a winter morning.

## Victims wanted

Arran Music and Drama Club are keen to recruit new members for the forthcoming production of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.

If you are interested, regardless of gender or age, pop along to Brodick Hall on Thursday nights from 7.30pm or phone Lynda Davidson on 601225 for more information. Auditions will be held on Thursday 20 January.

## Bridge results

Results for Lamlash Bridge Club on Monday, November 22: N/S 1 I McArthur and M Gardner +570, 2 M and V Iutz -430, 3 M McGill and L Trickett -630.

E/W 1 A Bilsland and T Martin +2,350, 2 J Barclay and J McArthur +1,960, 3 J and J Beattie +1,750.

## Legion dates

The social meetings of the Royal British Legion branch will be completed at the Christmas lunch at the McLaren Hotel, Brodick on Thursday, December 2, at 1.30pm for 2pm. The year will be concluded with the branch annual general meeting at 2pm on Thursday January 6, 2011 in the McLaren Hotel.

## Christmas tree on the move

The Blackwaterfoot and Shiskine Christmas tree is on the move.

This year it is hopping across the bridge and will be on display at the playpark between the Harbour Shop and butchers.

Pupils at Shiskine Primary School and Nursery Group have taken part in a Christmas card competition with the winners being Kirsty Crawford of P7, Lily Currie, Nursery group and Daisy Urquhart-Dixon, P4. The tree lights will be turned on by Kirsty at 4pm on Sunday, December 12.



Kirsty Crawford, Lily Currie and Daisy Urquhart-Dixon with their winning designs.

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# Aircraft carrier disaster off Arran remembered

They were never told.

In March 1943 the aircraft carrier HMS *Dasher* exploded and sank rapidly in the waters of the Clyde between Arran and Ardrossan. There were 149 survivors, and 379 sailors lost their lives that day as the ship took just eight minutes to sink.

But the survivors and relatives of the men were never told why the *Dasher* sank. The incident was cloaked in secrecy and the story has it that survivors were told never to talk about the sinking. There was certainly no enemy involvement and down the years a number of conspiracy theories have been advanced. It was one of Britain's worst single wartime losses of life.

One of the Arran eye witnesses, Alister McKelvie of Brodick, said: 'Saturday, March 27, 1943 was my 11th birthday.

'I was walking through a field to help my parents plant potatoes. My father shouted 'Something dreadful has happened to that aircraft carrier.' I will never forget my 11th birthday.'

Ardrossan author and historian John Steele and his wife Noreen have written three



Noreen and John Steele with 10-year-old Corrie pupils Trefor Goronwy and Oisean Gold. 02\_b48das01

books about the tragedy and last Friday Caledonian MacBrayne hosted a special event on board *MV Caledonian Isles* to mark the publishing of the final book in the trilogy that promises to reveal more startling facts about *Dasher*.

A 50-strong party of veteran sailors and NAC and CalMac

officers boarded the 12.30pm sailing at Ardrossan to join a small Arran contingent already on the vessel.

At 1pm the ship stopped over the site of the wreck and a short service was given by the Very Rev Canon Matthew McManus, of St Peter in Chains Church, Ardrossan.

Willie Thomson, an 88-year-old Swordfish fighter pilot, dropped a wreath over the side and a piper played the lament *Flowers of the Forest*.

Pat McPhee, Provost of NAC, recounted how as a young Glasgow bride in 1967 she and her husband had been in Ardrossan on holiday when her mother-in-law told the tale of her brother perishing on the *Dasher* that fateful day in 1943. She said sadly: 'This book has a lot of new revelations, but there will never be a final chapter to this story.'

Each of the seven Arran primary schools has composed songs about the *Dasher* and on Friday, Corrie head teacher Susan Kelly and two pupils were guests on board. Also in the Arran party were Jessie and Spud Taylor who had met during wartime servicemen's dances in Lamlash Community Centre.

John Steele said afterwards: 'I am overwhelmed that CalMac could host such an occasion. It is our hope that this book will keep alive the memory of the *Dasher* crew.'



Some of the Arran contingent: Robbie Brown, regional manager CalMac, Spud and Jessie Taylor, Ted Godfrey, Councillor Margie Currie and Neil Bulger. 02\_b48das03



Very Rev Canon Matthew McManus gave a service on the aft deck of the *Caledonian Isles*. 02\_b48das05

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## Mystery vessel in Kilbrannan Sound

For four days last week a strange vessel was sighted being towed up and down the Kilbrannan Sound.

Paddy Oram, of Pirmill, sent us this photo and asks if anyone has any idea what it is and what it was doing.

It did not show up on the AIS Liverpool internet shipfinder website, indicating that it was probably a military craft. It was being towed on a long line by a black and white tug and was painted in battleship grey.

Answers on a postcard please, to the Arran Banner.

## Big band serves up a night of nostalgia

**The Banner music correspondent Harry Ross was transported back to the forties by the Dundee University Big Band on Saturday night as the Northend was awash with musical nostalgia.**

I was indeed transported back in time to 1942, almost unexpectedly, as the first notes of 'Basie Blues' rang out in Lochranza Hall.

Yes, I was instantly back, at the age of 14 in Mossbank, Glasgow, listening to the first broadcasts of the American Forces Network (AFN). My mother had kindly allowed me to listen to the station, and for about two years I had my regular dates with Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Harry James, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton and many other famous orchestras of the time.

For this writer, I was in musical heaven as this big band from Dundee University played so many of my old favourites; it was as if the years had rolled back and I was not in Lochranza, but enjoying a musical tour of the USA. Brilliant!

Their programme highlights were 'American Patrol',

'Chattanooga Choo Choo', 'Muskrat Ramble', 'Moonlight Serenade', and of course, the inevitable 'In the Mood'. They were played very like the original recordings from all those years ago.

Yes, there were some rough edges, but Tony Sellars, leader and conductor, did an admirable job in controlling a very eager set of young musicians who obviously enjoyed themselves and what they were playing.

This orchestra possessed a very fine vocalist, Lana Johnson, who had a beautifully strong voice, and her singing of 'Fever', a Peggy Lee classic, and 'When I Fall in Love' were quite outstanding.

This was a refreshing concert and was a credit to Tony and his youngsters.

Please come back again as soon as possible, but try to start in time to allow the audience to get home at a reasonable hour!

## Don't be afraid to switch energy suppliers - MSP

MSP Kenneth Gibson has urged constituents to check their energy bills and see if they can save money this winter.

Mr Gibson's call came at the Scottish Parliament where he launched Consumer Focus, Scotland's new campaign to save consumers money on energy bills by encouraging them to compare suppliers and switch if necessary.

The Energy Best Deal Scotland campaign, which is supported by Ofgem, is based on research conducted by Consumer Focus Scotland which showed that about a million Scots could be missing out on an average saving of £100 a year by switching, with many

able to save much more.

Almost half (46 per cent) of people who switch energy supplier, save more than they expect to, while nearly a third save in line with their expectations.

The campaign aims to encourage thousands of Scots - especially those on low incomes - to check they are getting the best energy deal.

Mr Gibson said: 'While many islanders are happy with the service their energy company provides, they may still be able to save by changing their tariff, or paying by direct debit. I'd encourage anyone who has never switched to compare suppliers and check their bills.'



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# THE ARRAN BANNER

How did Ireland get into such a mess?

We think that things are bad here on Arran, but across the water our cousins in the emerald isle are facing an austerity almost unknown since the potato famine.

They are following in the economic footsteps of Greece, Portugal and maybe even Spain.

So much for the Eurozone.

Over on this side of the Irish Sea, council bosses in North Ayrshire are acting now, before it is too late.

Yes, there will be cutbacks in services throughout the area and maybe workers in the public sector will have more time on their hands and less money to spend in it after voluntary redundancies.

But it won't be a patch on the Irish problem.

In the space of three years the Irish Republic has gone from boom to almost bust. House values have fallen by between 50 and 60 percent.

And yet just last month we were in Ireland for a family wedding in County Mayo. This meant a ferry crossing from Troon to Larne and a 200-mile drive across the country.

This was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the forty shades of green of the Irish countryside, but more significantly to see the amazing number of new houses dotted willy-nilly all over the landscape.

Not just semis or modest properties, but nearly all were grand structures, sitting in substantial gardens. In fact it was hard to see any country property more than three years old.

How could all this new building be going on with such a crumbling economy?

One local said it all came from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Like the Irish economy, they all begin to look like a house of cards now.

As a small country, the Irish Republic depends heavily on overseas investment and found itself in an untenable position where the banks and government dare not default on overseas loans.

So the great Celtic Tiger economy has come crashing down and the government has been forced to agree to a rescue package to help tackle a huge hole in its finances. Wages, pensions and social welfare are all facing drastic austerity measures.

We are sometimes very quick to criticise our own politicians, but perhaps we should heave a sigh of relief that in the UK those in power seem to have reacted timeously to the difficulties of a recession.

We may not like the cutbacks and pay freezes here, but at least house prices haven't been slashed in half.

## 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

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

*The Arran Banner* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Arran Banner* are not necessarily those of the The Oban Times Group.

## 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



### Pilot Fuel Discount Scheme

*The following letter was held over from last week due to lack of space*

Sir,

In response to the letter from Janet Lacey and the Isle of Arran Elderly Forum, I can well understand their concern at the UK Coalition Government's failure to include Arran and other Clyde islands in a Pilot Fuel Discount Scheme which would cut duty by 5p a litre and encompasses islands from Shetland to the Scillies and virtually every other island in between.

At first I thought this was merely an oversight and so wrote to Danny Alexander MP, Secretary to the Treasury, on October 11 immediately the announcement of the scheme was made seeking the inclusion of Arran and the other Clyde islands.

I also laid down a motion to the Scottish Parliament asking for MSPs to support Arran's inclusion in the scheme and sent Mr Alexander a fuel price comparison for October 11, showing fuel prices in Brodick to be more expensive that day than in Kirkwall, Lerwick or Stornoway.

This information was conveyed to Janet Lacey when she wrote to me in late October.

Sadly, although over a month has now elapsed I have heard no word yet from Mr Alexander.

My motion was signed by

all 30 of my SNP backbench colleagues – ministers cannot sign such motions – and by the Green MSP Robin Harper.

Despite being circulated twice last month requesting their support, not a single one of the 78 Labour, Lib Dem or Tory MSPs signed the motion in support of an Arran fuel discount.

Clearly only the SNP and Greens support Arran's people gaining even modest relief from high fuel prices.

One hopes, however, for a change of heart from Labour MSPs in Holyrood - whose Westminster Government gave us the highest fuel duty in Europe - and Tory/Lib Dem MSPs, even though the UK Coalition Government has already put a penny on fuel duty and will put VAT on fuel up 2.5 per cent from January.

I will again try to elicit a response, hopefully a positive one, from Mr Alexander and will keep Arran Banner readers and the Isle of Arran Elderly Forum informed of any progress.

Yours,  
**Kenneth Gibson MSP**

### Arran roads

Sir,

Through the Arran Banner may I address the approximately 100 Arran residents who have made contact with me over the past two months since the Brodick to Lamdash and the Lamdash to Whiting Bay roads were repaired in

September last.

You have told me of your concerns about the repairs which once more are showing signs of damage.

Potholes and carriageway damage is occurring already.

To those people I ask you to write to the Chief Executive and the Head of Roads at North Ayrshire Council telling them of your complaints about the state of these roads and ask the following questions:

Who was in overall charge and signed off the repair job as being satisfactory?

What guarantee is there for this work?

Who will pay for the repairs which will be required?

When will these repairs to the roads be undertaken?

What guarantee does the Council have if and when the repairs are completed that the repairs will last for a longer period than one month?

Yours,  
**Ian Small  
Community Councillor  
Brodick  
Roads campaigner**

### Perils of Eurozone

Sir,

The 90-billion-euro bailout of Ireland is a calamity for our friends across the Irish Sea and shows the perils of eurozone membership.

Ireland's 'Celtic Tiger' economy has been left with its tail between its legs. Low interest rates designed to pep

up Germany's formerly sluggish growth acted like petrol on a fire for Ireland and the dangerous credit bubble that was allowed to develop has now well and truly burst.

By strapping itself into the straightjacket of interest rates set by the European Central Bank, Ireland lost the flexibility that could have stopped its problems becoming so severe.

Now, it will have to get approval for its budget plans from Brussels – losing its last vestiges of financial independence.

Of course, Gordon Brown's mismanagement of the British economy was also shameful.

But Britain is a large economy which can cope better with debt and the Coalition's firm action to reduce our budget deficit has restored the confidence of investors.

Ironically, non-eurozone Britain will now be forced to stump up £7.5 billion towards Ireland's bailout as the cost to us if Ireland went under would be immense.

Even the European 'President', Herman Van Rompuy, now acknowledges the danger that the dysfunctional eurozone could collapse under its debt.

Britain must heed the lesson – stay well clear of the euro wrecking-ball!

Yours,  
**Struan Stevenson  
Conservative MEP for  
Scotland  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
Brussels**

## Nursery tots turn into festive posties

The children at Whiting Bay Nursery are busy preparing their Christmas post boxes in the shape of chimneys, and, this year, as there are quite a number of children from Kildonan enrolled in the Nursery, cards will be delivered in both Whiting Bay and Kildonan.

Post boxes will be at the Table Top sale in Whiting Bay Hall this Saturday, November 27, The Wee Blether in the

hall on Thursdays December 2, 9 and 16, and in local shops.

The children will sort, stamp and deliver your cards, guaranteeing delivery by Tuesday December 21. Last posting date is Friday, December 17.

Maggie Dawson said: 'Thank you for supporting Whiting Bay Nursery and we wish everyone a Happy Christmas.'



Children of Whiting Bay Nursery group making their Christmas post boxes.

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Alex, Charlie, Sarah and Emily with Charlie the RDA pony.

## Lamlash's strangest looking Santa is a right old Charlie!

If you were anywhere near Oakbank in Lamlash last Saturday and thought you were seeing things, maybe you weren't.

Yes, there really was a pony dressed up as Santa and sporting a very fetching pair of reindeer antlers. Charlie, the Riding for Disabled Arran (RDA) pony was dressed to impress, along with some of the children from the RDA as they all look forward to their very first Christmas fundraising extravaganza.

The event takes place this Saturday, Novem-

ber 27, in Brodick Church Hall from 11.30am to 3pm. Home made crafts and Christmas decorations will be on sale, along with Christmas cards, collectables, books, Arran RDA mugs and so much more.

You could win a rocking horse, a limited edition whisky or a Christmas hamper, or why not try your luck at the tombola.

Everyone is invited to come along for some lunch, a cup of tea and a cake and to join in the festive fun.

# North Ayrshire will suffer as a result of budget, says leader

Council Leader David O'Neill has responded to the Holyrood budget statement by John Swinney MSP.

Councillor David O'Neill said: 'North Ayrshire has suffered from persistent and unacceptable levels of unemployment for decades.

'We are acutely aware that any reduction in public sector budgets is likely to compound an already worrying situation.

'A recent national report recognised that North Ayrshire's over-reliance on public sector

jobs means it is the worst placed in Scotland to recover from government cuts.

'The Council has already made representations to both the UK and Scottish Governments highlighting this vulnerability and outlining the need for extra Government support for North Ayrshire.

'Like other local authorities, we face a significant gap in our revenue budget and have been working hard to identify savings of £64 million across our services over the next three years.

'Any significant cut in our capital expenditure allocation will require a radical review of our capital programme and could affect everything from roads maintenance and street lighting to refurbishment of schools and libraries.

'In addition, any reduction in our capital programme would inevitably have a serious knock-on effect for the already fragile construction sector.'

**□ MSP welcomes extra spending on ferries - see page 13.**

## Give a gift for Salvation Army appeal

The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal is under way - and it is being co-ordinated on Arran by Lexie Andrade and Julie Newall.

Every year, The Salvation Army relies on the generosity of people to donate gifts and toys for children, teenagers and older people who other-

wise would have little or nothing on Christmas morning.

Last year more than 150,000 gifts were collected and distributed.

From now until December 14, members of the public are being asked to donate a new Christmas gift which can be left at collection points

in the PHT Lamlash and the Co-op Welcome Convenience Store (formerly Alldays) in Brodick.

The Salvation Army is an international church and charity that offers friendship, support and practical help to people of all backgrounds, ages and need.

**From Friday 3 December 2010 at 6pm the out-of-hours Emergency Dental Services on Arran are changing.**



**The out-of-hours period is:**

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Dr Massimo Locatelli and Mr Gordon Hunter please call NHS 24 on **08454 24 24 24**

If you are not registered with a dentist or visiting the island please call NHS 24 on **08454 24 24 24**

**If you are a registered patient of Mr Bruce Jenkins**

please call the practice for emergency contact details.

For all other dental enquiries please contact NHS Ayrshire & Arran's daytime advice line on **01563 578664**.

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**Come and talk to us about local health care**



**Public meeting**

**Monday 29 November 2010**

**7pm**

**Brodick Hall**

You are invited to come along and give us your views on shaping local health care.



This is the first of three local meetings. Further dates in January 2011 will be publicised shortly.

Visit our website: [www.nhsayrshireandarran.com](http://www.nhsayrshireandarran.com)  
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The ladies of Arran Save the Children committee in Brodick Hall last Saturday. 02\_b48sav01

**Event had to be moved to new date due to a mix up in bookings at Brodick Hall - but the cash still came rolling in**

# Fair raises £1,686 for Save the Children branch

The annual Christmas Fayre for Arran's branch of Save the Children Fund finally went ahead last Saturday.

It was originally scheduled for Saturday November 6, but a double booking of Brodick Hall forced a rethink.

A mix up in the booking system was to blame, and the Save the Children committee agreed to reschedule their event for later in the month.

Last Saturday a steady flow of island residents were perusing the stalls in Brodick Hall and taking advantage of tasty home-made soup and sandwiches, and all in a good cause.

During the day, Bill Kinnaid provided a pleasant musical background at the piano.

In spite of the change of date, the fayre raised the grand total of £1,686. Winners of the hamper raffles were Effie Clarke and Lisa McGill.

The popular annual quiz produced 24 correct answers from which Mrs Katrine Brown, Glen Askaig, Lochranza was drawn as the winner.

The committee wish to thank all those who by their continuing support contributed to the success of the day.

**Answers to quiz on authors, poets and composers:**

- 1 Worse than his bite, Bach;
- 2 A native to a T, Scott;
- 3 A wizard in a vehicle going backwards, Mozart;
- 4 Streams north of border, Burns;
- 5

- 6 In Brodick en suite bathrooms are usually provided, Dickens;
- 7 This sort of plant can live outdoors in winter, Hardy;
- 8 Sounds like a fellow rather than a woman is told to go away, Schumann;
- 9 In Denver dinner time is at noon, Verdi;
- 10 Sounds as if he had a problem with his foot, Bunyan;
- 11 Seven tons, seems a lot for him, Stevenson;
- 12 Sounds as if he should be turned, Handel;
- 13 A facial feature surrounds the operation, Chopin;
- 14 Sounds like Good King Wenceslas, Carroll;
- 15 Tangle? Ravel;
- 16 Seems like an untidy woman, Trollope;
- 17 Hidden among ship's whale harpoons, Lehar;
- 18 A German mug with a

- north England stream, Steinbeck;
- 19 Can plod to find the American, Copland;
- 20 Sounds like the racquet game is to be played, Tennyson;
- 21 Well behaved round one in France, Gounod;
- 22 A sword throw confused him, Wordsworth;
- 23 A stapler in confusion, Palestrina;
- 24 One has to lie to work out this answer, Eliot;
- 25 Much pink and red are needed to design this fellow, Humperdinck;
- 26 Frolickin' or playin' about, Larkin;
- 27 To be found in Hebron tennis courts, Bronte;
- 28 John Paul II, Pope;
- 29 The end of music is included in the composition of My Trance, McCartney;
- 30 An Englishman enjoys minced steak, Keats.

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Tuesday - Pop Music Quiz - 9pm  
Thursday - General Knowledge Quiz - 9pm  
Saturday - Over 21s Disco - 10pm

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# Making an impact with art

For two weeks, a comprehensive display of work by Arran High School art students has been adorning a complete wall of the first floor café at Bilsland's in Brodick.

The work displayed is from eight Higher Art and Design students of S5/6 and six Higher Photography students, also of S5/6.

A further selection of work by Intermediate two students of S4 has also been displayed at Bilsland's.

Each Art and Design stu-

dent's work consists of two folios.

For the Art Folio, students were given the choice of portraiture or still life as starting points to develop work from. For the Design Folio, they were required to develop solutions to lighting or chair design briefs.

In the photography course, students were asked to respond to themes of their own choosing.

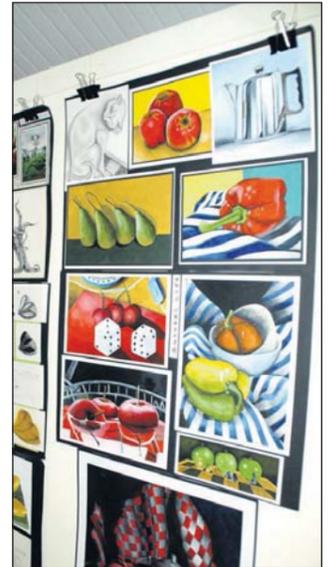
They had to produce 12 final A4 prints and a support-

ing sketchbook containing research, digital contacts and development and selection processes.

Teacher Dave Wedge said: 'In total, there is work from 25 students on show.

'It is a fantastic venue and we are indebted to Jon Hill for allowing us to use Bilsland's,' he added.

'The exhibition has quite a strong visual impact and there has been much favourable comment from the people who have seen it.'



# All the latest news from Arran's golfing scene

## Arran Golfers' Association

Winter League, Duncan trophy. The second round will be at Shiskine Golf Club on Sunday December 5.

First off, Shiskine v Corrie at 8.30am, second off, Lamlash v Machrie Bay at 9.20am, third off, Brodick v Whiting Bay at 11.50am.

### Shiskine Golf Club

Ladies 18 Hole Medal November, four played at the weekend. 1 S Brookes 92 - 23 = 69 (BIH), 2 J Turnbull 85 - 16 = 69.

Scratch Jenni Turnbull 85. Thursday was a wash out, with no ladies playing.

Fixtures: Ladies 12 hole Medal Thurs 2 December, 12noon tee off

Ladies 18 hole Medal Thurs 9 December, 12noon tee off.

Gents 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup, 21 November, 19 played and it was great to see such a good turn out.

First Class: 1 D K Henderson 43-3=40, 2 D Logan 47-5=42 (BIH), 3 H Bannatyne 45-3=42. Scratch D K with an excellent 43, despite being in the burn at the second!

Second Class: 1 Q Oliver 57-17=40 (BIH), 2 M Hesp 52-12=40, 3 N Henderson 54-10=44. Magic twos from D K Henderson at 4th, A Napier at

4th, and also a cracker at the next - 5th, D Markham at 10th.

Fixtures : Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza match Sat 27 November 1.30pm Shotgun start. Gents 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup Sat 4 December 1pm tee off.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Results: Sun 21 November. Whiting Bay scored a narrow victory by four games to three in the first of the winter friendlies against Lamlash at Lamlash. As always, the hospitality was enjoyed by all on the course and in the clubhouse afterwards, and we look forward to hosting the second match in December.

Fixtures: Sun 28 November, Gents Medal. Sat 4 December, Mixed Fours at the new time of 11am. Sun 5 December, AGA Winter League at Shiskine.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday Winter Cup. Another dry but very windy Wednesday and 10 turned out, a respectable number given the poor weather forecast, to try and win the massive roll over twos money.

The scoring was reasonable given the strong wind and there were two magic twos, Wolfie Kroner getting one and Charlie (INWA) O'Neill getting the other. Charlie had looked at one point as if he was going to scoop

the sweep as well. He shot a 34 gross on the first nine however on the back nine he came back in an hour and a half.

In the sweep in first place having no photo shoot to go to this week was Len Hartley 75-13=62 and in second place was Wolfie Kroner 78-14=64.

Brandon: Sun 14 November was a lovely sunny day following the severe storms earlier in the week and given the battering the course had taken the players were pleasantly surprised to be playing. Twenty turned out in pleasant conditions and the scoring was reasonably good; there were 10 magic twos, Ian MacDonald getting two and Matthew Keir, Gordon Hendry, Iain Sillars, John McKean, Alastair Dobson, Bert McGunnigle, Alastair Hume and John Beattie all getting one each.

In first place in the sweep was Matthew Keir with his best round at Brodick of 65-5=59, second was Jimmy Armit 68-5=63 and in third place winning on the better inward half was Bert McGunnigle 73-9=64. Matthew Keir also won the scratch and the first class Brandon. The second class Brandon winner was Bryce Walker.

### November Clochendichter at Brodick

The second round continued in a similar style to the first with

convincing wins for the Knowe Road and the Village. First on the first tee was the game between Knowe and Alma. With the captains' words ringing in their ears from a poor start to the tournament the Alma team appeared to be a bit more sober this time round.

However there was no change to the result with the Knowe taking 7 points to 1 for Alma. The Alma captain is now having to re-think his strategy for next months outing, even indicating that he is going to do some baby sitting of his team to ensure that they don't get carried away over the festive season.

Second out were leaders the Village against the Street. The Village again proved to be too good for their challengers with a convincing 7 points to 1 win. The Village captain is already preparing his acceptance speech for the March finale but with only one point separating the village and the Knowe at the top and one separating the street from bottom side Alma Decembers ties become all the more interesting.

Round three sees Knowe take on leaders Village and Alma against the Street on December 19 with Christmas meal in the clubhouse after.

Knowe v Alma. Keith Aitken/Dougie Robertson half match against Peter McCalla/Gus Robertson.

David Hendry/Gordon Robertson won 4 and 3 against Sam McCalla/Todd Jameson.

Iain Macdonald/Kenny Macmillan won one up on Brian Smith/Donald McKinnie.

Bobby McCrae/Gordon Hendry won 4 and 3 on Bert McGunnigle/Henry Tait.

Village v Street. Bruce Jenkins/John McKean won 4 and 3 against Calum McFadzean.

Jimmy Armit/Ally Hume won 3 and 2 against Nicol Hume/Ross.

Matt Keir/John Beattie won 5 and 4 against Willie Innes/Campbell Russell.

Angus Raeburn/Sid Sillars halved match with Andy Martin/John Hartley.

### Corrie Golf Club

Results: Sat 20 November. Stableford 16 played, sweep, 1 A Smith 41 pts, 2 S Wood 37 pts, 3 E McKinnon 36 pts (bih over B Sherwood). Scratch E McKinnon 61. Twos: C Pattenden, A Smith, S Wood, B Sherwood and E Cannon.

Mon 22 November Monday Cup, 16 played. Sweep 1 A McDonald 58-7=51, 2 S Wood 76-20=56, 3 J Henderson 72-15=57. Scratch A McDonald 58. Magic twos H Taylor, J Henderson, K Barclay, A McDonald 3.

Fixtures: Winter Cup, Sat 27 November 8.30am and 12noon.

Monday Cup, Mon 29 November noon. Would players playing in both competitions make sure bunkers are properly raked.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results: Tuesday 16 Nov Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Elizabeth Ross 36bih, 2 Bob Rooney 36, 3 David Price 33.

Fixtures: Tuesday 30 Nov Winter Cup, tee off noon. Sat 4 Dec Lochranza Hotel Cup and final of Freebie Competition. Names of those competing in the Freebie are posted in clubhouse.

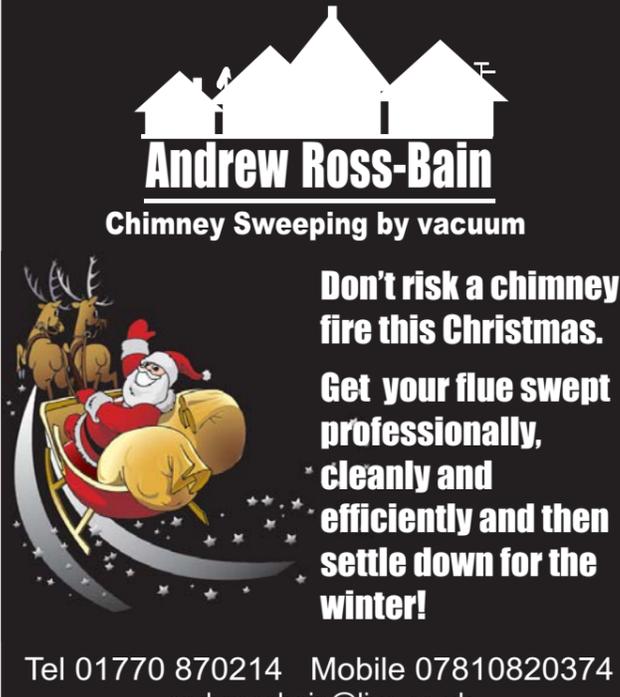
### Lamlash Golf Club

Results: Thursday 18 Nov 15 Hole Medal, eight played. 1 Derek Robertson 56-3=53 (bih), 2 Mark Wren 62-9=53. Twos sweep, D Wales, 2 at 4th and 17th, D Robertson 2 at 9th and 17th, Q J Young at 4th.

Sunday 21 Nov Lamlash v Whiting Bay, non-qualifying for h'cap. 26 played 1 Andy Smith 41pts, 2 Colin Richardson 39pts, 3 Adam Burke 36pts(bih), 4 Graeme Andrew 36 pts(bih). No twos recorded. Best Scratch, Nicol Auld 69. Match result - Lamlash 3 W/Bay 4.

Fixtures: Sunday 28 Nov Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 11am starts.

Please note- This will be a counting round for handicap -DO NOT lift ball off the fairways at 6th and 7th holes.



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*Merry Christmas*

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with Christmas Drinks and Nibbles

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# From Bangkok to Arran - in a 40-foot container

**Richard and Meilan Henderson are coming to live in Lochranza. They bought The Anchorage in the village in 1988 and have stayed there many times on holiday. Now they are coming back to the UK after a career in the Far East and are giving the Banner an account of the experiences involved in moving lock, stock and barrel to the village.**

How can there be so many niggling jobs to do in making a move?

Dealing with the moving company alone has seemed like a full-time occupation sometimes. Then there's the list of things to cancel, like the phone lines, the satellite TV service, and so on.

We have to give notice to our landlord, of course. None of it is exactly hard, but it all has to be remembered, it all has to be done.

The most alarming task at the moment, though, seems to be dealing with insurance.

Our whole lives are being packed up, taken away to be stowed in a forty-foot container, left lying around a Thai dock for a while, put on a ship, maybe transferred to other ships once or twice, taken off

again at an unknown British port, rummaged through by customs, I shouldn't wonder, repacked in a pantechicon, and brought to Lochranza.

With the best will in the world, it doesn't seem too unlikely that something will get lost, stolen or damaged along the way. So it all has to be insured. And that is where it gets really hard.

The insurance company wants to know two things. What have we got? What is it worth? Simple, it says. How on all the earth should we know?

There are probably people who lead well-organised, tidy lives in well-organised tidy homes. I seem to remember having met some of you. Well, we're not like that.

Our lives are dominated by

'Our whole lives are being packed up...it doesn't seem too unlikely that something will get lost'

clutter, and plenty of it.

A year or two ago we even lost a dining chair. We were sure there had originally been six, but we could only find five. How can you lose something like a chair, the well-organised among you

are wondering? Easy!

First you put one or two things on it. Then a few more. Then you pile a couple more beside it. And on the other side. And in front. Pretty soon, not only can you not see any trace of the chair,

but you've forgotten it was ever there - until you have to go through all the clutter, to decide what goes and what stays. We've found a lot of interesting things that way in the last few weeks, but the chair has been the most

dramatic - so far.

I'm pretty sure all our past house-guests have been accounted for. But if you are by any chance under there, please make yourselves known. You'll have to move out soon.

## Some spooky goings-on at Balmichael

Hallowe'en may seem a while ago, but we are printing a report and photo of some scary fun at Balmichael on October 30. This is one submitted by

Lucy Urquhart-Dixon that slipped through the net in the Banner filing system, and for that we apologise. But better late than never!

Lucy said: 'Although Saturday was freezing cold, more than 26 youngsters from all over the island descended on their broomsticks for all sorts of capers at Balmichael Visitor Centre.

'There was a variety of activities for the guisers to take part in, including laser shooting 'spooky spirits', pumpkin golf, toss the pumpkin, turnip bowling and apple dooking. Finally, not for the faint-hearted, 'Tragic Tam', where people had to guess fake body parts in a darkened room!

'The winners of all the fun and games were as follows:

Tragic Tam - James McCarthey, Turnip Bowling - Liam Nelson, Pumpkin Golf - Sophie Andrew, Toss the Pumpkin - Kirsty Crawford, Laser Shooting - Louie Urquhart-Dixon, Best Pumpkin - James Smith, Best Guiser (under seven years) - Freddie Lilly, Best Guiser (over seven years) - Cara Crawford.

'Thank you to all those who came, including those from over the hill.

'Also to Sheila for the fab glass medals, and everyone at Balmichael for all their support and hard work. Watch out for more weekend events!'



The group of guisers in bright sunshine at Balmichael Visitor Centre.

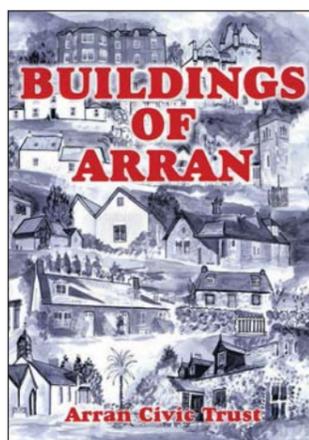
## Trust seeks help with new 'Buildings' edition

Back in March, just before Easter, Arran Civic Trust (ACT) launched their book The Buildings of Arran in the hope that it would be a welcome addition to the sources of information about the island.

Now, eight months later and with Christmas looming, its success seems assured, but the Trust is looking for any extra entries.

The book is already widely available on Arran, and it is hoped that it may soon be stocked by CalMac, and even Waterstones book shops. After all, plenty of mainlanders in places such as Glasgow and Edinburgh and even in England, have a lively interest in all that concerns the island - there are a lot of real 'Arran addicts' out there.

ACT drew on many sources in compiling the book, and tried to make it as comprehensive as possible (leaving out buildings that were not accessible from the principle roads, or the viewing of which would have involved trespassing on people's privacy).



The current Buildings of Arran book published by the Arran Civic Trust.

But, of course, it seems likely that there were omissions, and ACT would be delighted to hear from anyone who has spotted any, or who might have useful amendments for a possible second edition - though of course it will be some time before it will be clear if there is enough demand for one.

The book editors can be contacted through any ACT committee member.

John Roberts

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or call us on 01631 568000  
\*Above prices include worldwide postage & packing

# Rise in spending on ferry services

Last Wednesday, November 17, the SNP Government published its draft budget for next year.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson had this response: 'This budget demonstrates the positive agenda the SNP Government has against a climate of cuts from Westminster, which decides how much Scotland

can spend.

'The UK has cut Scotland's funding by £1.3 billion in cash next year. After inflation, this amounts to £1.856 billion (6.3 per cent) on top of the £679 million (2.3 per cent) cut by the last UK Labour Government.

'Ferry service funding will increase substantially by 21.5

per cent from £77.8 to £94.4 million which is good news for Arran and other ferry dependent communities.

'The Government will fund a £2.5 billion programme of capital investment to support jobs and economic recovery, funded from revenue.

'On top of this there will be a continuation of the small

business bonus scheme which has abolished rates completely for 63,000 Scottish businesses, including 1,838 in North Ayrshire.

'There is no doubt that this is a serious budget for tough times. It is about jobs, social justice, economic growth and making Scotland better. The health budget has been

protected, the council tax freeze continues, the extra 1,000 police officers will be maintained and public pay for those earning over £21,000 frozen.

'Finance Secretary, John Swinney MSP, made his decisions based on fiscal responsibility and creating an environment where Scotland's economy can grow and attract investment and jobs.

'Health spending in Scotland will increase by an additional £280 million (2.7 per cent) with NHS Ayrshire and Arran receiving an additional £17.7 million (3.2 per cent).

'Free personal care and concessionary travel are here to stay and will not be cut. The Government will also increase the living wage of its employees to £7.15 per hour. The UK minimum wage is currently £5.93 per hour.

'The cut to local government will be 2.6 per cent - far less than the 7.2 per cent cut imposed on councils south of the border and much less than feared by North Ayrshire Council and its employees.

'A new fleet of electric trains will begin service in Ayrshire, where rail platforms are already being extended.

'There will be an investment of £284 million through Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to attract, promote, support and expand Scottish business.

'A record 34,500 training opportunities and apprenticeships will be provided.

'Readers can judge the SNP Government's plans for themselves.'

Full details can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/11/17091127/23>

## Society delighted at treecreeper sighting

Members of the Arran Natural History Society enjoyed a stunning morning expedition on Sunday, November 7, for a bird walk round Penrioch and Pirmill.

More than 30 species of birds were enjoyed with the added bonus of hare and red squirrel.

For many the highlight was the close view of a 'treecreeper'.

The information collected on the number of each bird species seen will contribute to the growing data for the local Arran Bird Atlas.

The next indoor meeting will be on Thursday, December 2, at 8pm in the Rangers Centre when Willie McKnight of English Heritage will talk about the impact of invasive species on the Kent Coast under the title 'Invasion of the Kent Coast'. All welcome.

Next outdoor meeting Sunday, December 12, a bird walk to the Fallen Rocks.

Meet at 10am at the Fallen Rocks car park. All welcome.



Above, members of the Arran Natural History Society enjoyed an expedition around Penrioch and Pirmill. Left, The highlight of the expedition was the close view of a 'treecreeper'.



### WHAT'S ON AT CATACOL BAY HOTEL

Saturday 27th November	Quiz Night 9pm
Sunday 28th November	Buffet 12pm - 4pm
Friday 3rd December	Tournament Night 8pm
Sunday 5th December	Buffet 12pm - 4pm
Saturday 11th December	Quiz Night 9pm
Sunday 12th December	Buffet 12pm - 4pm
Sunday 19th December	Buffet 12pm - 4pm
Saturday 25th December	CLOSED ALL DAY
Sunday 26th December	Open from 11am - midnight SORRY NO BUFFET
Sunday 26th December	Festive Quiz Night 9pm
Friday 31st December	HOGMANAY PARTY 9pm ALL WELCOME
Saturday 1st January	OPEN ALL DAY FROM 11am
Bar Meals served	12 - 9pm
Fun Night	7.30pm
Sunday 2nd January	NEW YEAR BUFFET 12pm - 4pm
Saturday 8th January	Quiz Night 9pm
Sunday 9th January	Buffet 12pm - 4pm

BAR MEALS SERVED DAILY 12pm - 9pm  
TELEPHONE 830 231

## CORRIE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Corrie & Sannox Village Hall  
December 3rd  
10am - 12pm



Corrie School entertainment

### Many stalls

Christmas Cards \* Home Baking \* Decorations  
Raffle \* Coral's Crafts \* Arran Asia  
Three Dimensions \* Christmas Cakes  
Donna's Preserves \* Arran Gems \* Arran Hampers  
Aucheleffan \* Fallen Rocks Jewellery  
Bridge End Farm

Teac, coffee shortbread and mince pies.



Come and do your Christmas shopping.



## ISLE OF ARRAN ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT

Lamlash Church  
7.30pm Monday December 6th 2010

Come and join us for this concert of readings, carols and songs.

Leading into the festive season of Christmas

Those taking part include

Brodict Primary School Choir

The Rowan Singers

The Arran Brass Band

The Lochranza Choir

And Others

plus yourselves

Proceeds in aid of CLIC SARGENT Cancer Fund

Scottish Charity No SC015072

# The ups and downs of garden birds

On Arran a large number of people are interested in birds that come into their garden. They get pleasure from their feathered friends and express concern when numbers go down or species disappear for no apparent reason.

Nationally, data on garden birds has been systematically collected by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for over 40 years. The Garden Bird Feeding Survey (GBFS) started in 1970/71 to examine the increasingly popular activity of providing food for birds in gardens and is the longest-running study of its kind in the world.

Observations are made on a weekly basis from October to March, with the recording of the maximum number of each species seen using food or water provided.

The GBFS encompasses approximately 250 gardens in each year that are selected carefully from the larger year-round BTO Garden BirdWatch (GBW) survey to ensure good geographical coverage across the UK.

Recently, the BTO produced a brief report called 'Forty years of the Garden Bird Feeding Survey'. It is available from their website and clearly shows the ups and downs of garden birds. This is a selection from that report.

On the up side, an enormous expansion in the number of people feeding birds and in the types of foods available

has led to more species being supported and, in some, large increases in number. In particular, Goldfinches have shown a 25-fold increase over the past 20 winters, attracted by oil-rich food such as nyjer seed and sunflower hearts.

Long-tailed tits have shown a tenfold increase in GBFS gardens over twice as many winters. Great Spotted Woodpeckers have also become a regular sight for many an armchair birdwatcher, with four times as many flashing into gardens last winter compared with the first winter of the GBFS in 1970/71.

On the down side, the Blue Tit is a surprise addition to the list of declining garden visitors, with a 42 per cent reduction in winter numbers over the last 40 years. Other downs include Greenfinch. The GBFS data shows that numbers taking food and water in gardens has halved in the past six winters after recent and well-publicised outbreaks of the disease trichomonosis. The national GBFS data reveal a 75 per cent decline in Song Thrush, and a 70 per cent decline in House Sparrow.

I do not think that the national declines in Song Thrush and House Sparrow would be reflected on Arran. I think, but I do not know, because at present there is not enough data recorded on Arran.

Thus the appeal to the people on Arran who enjoy their

## Bird Notes by Jim Cassels

garden birds to think about joining the BTO's Garden BirdWatch.

Some 16,500 participants in the UK currently take part in the BTO's Garden BirdWatch, but there are only 10 participants in Arran, a small proportion of the people here who enjoy their garden birds.

Garden BirdWatch is all about getting involved and gathering useful information using simple recording techniques.

The forms are easy to complete and all you need to do is keep a simple note of the birds seen during the course of the week. You can note the birds

you see over your morning cup of coffee or while working in the garden. How much time you spend recording is up to you. All that is asked is that you try to be consistent from one week to the next.

The observations that are received are added to the national Garden BirdWatch database, building up a pattern, showing how bird species change their use of gardens throughout the year and from one year to the next.

To join Garden BirdWatch go on line to [http://www.bto.org/gbw/join\\_gbw/index.htm](http://www.bto.org/gbw/join_gbw/index.htm) or phone 01842 750050

Information is either submitted on paper count forms or by using Garden BirdWatch Online. Each participant also supports the project financially



On the decline - the house sparrow. Pictures: Carl Reavey



On the up - reports of the goldfinch.

through an annual contribution of £15. In return, they receive the quarterly colour magazine *Bird Table*, count forms and access to advice on feeding and attracting garden birds. All new joiners will receive a free copy of 'Garden Birds and Wildlife' or 'Gardening for Birdwatchers' or 'Garden BirdWatch Book'. Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at [james.cassels@virgin.net](mailto:james.cassels@virgin.net). I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the *Arran Bird Report 2009* and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)

## THE ARRAN BANNER - on holiday . . .

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

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

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday. It could be from Torremolinos or Timbuktu, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs. When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

Please send them to us either by email to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk) or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.



Pictured this week are Joanne Beaton of Paisley, granddaughter of David and Christine Thomson, of Kings Cross, and Paul Boyden of Glasgow, avidly reading their Arran Banner in front of the world's tallest twin towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### Kilmory Christmas Market

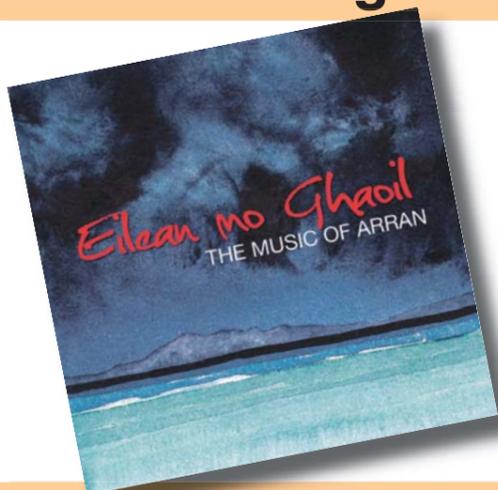
Sat 27th Nov

10.30am-2.00pm

For those one-off, locally made gorgeous gifts!

Local produce & refreshments too. New Stalls

### Discover Arran's rich musical heritage



CD available from local shops and online from: [brechin-all-records.com](http://brechin-all-records.com)

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN CORRIE

Parish Church of Scotland

on Sunday 5th December at 7pm

with Peter Alexander Wilson - Tenor  
Crawford Logan, Andrew Heggie - Baritone  
and Diana Hamilton.

Tickets £7 available from Book and Card, Brodick and 810210

Coffee Tea and Mince Pies  
SCO05030

### Christmas Extravaganza

IN AID OF ARRAN RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER  
BRODICK CHURCH HALL  
11.30AM - 3PM



Soup  
Curry  
Baking  
Tombola  
Book and gift stalls  
Xmas decorations  
...And so much more!!

**RDA**  
Riding for the Disabled Association  
Incorporating Carriage Driving

HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

### Xmas Fayre

Sunday 5th December

Whiting Bay Hall  
2pm - 4pm  
All the usual stalls.

Anyone wishing a table-top should phone Judy on 700245

**The Coffee Pot**  
Golf Course Rd, Whiting Bay  
Tel: 700393

Paintings & Prints by Shiela Findlay on display Eat alfresco in our seafront garden  
Delicious Snacks & Light Meals. Homebaking always available

Reopening Tuesday 7th december

# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, December 1, 1990

### Children in Need

Hamish Thomson, of Brodick, organised an island-wide collection for Children in Need day and amassed the sum of over £3,000.

Two Arran lads, Jamie Brass of Corrie and Ben Pomfret, of Kilmory, raised £300 themselves for the BBC charity by hitch hiking to Loch Ness and going for a short swim.

### Search for sunken fishing boat

Work began on Wednesday to salvage the fishing boat *Antares* which sank two-and-a-half miles off Corrie last week. Attempts will be made to locate the bodies of four Carradale fishermen who died.

Since the tragic sinking, there have been calls in the House of Commons for submarines to keep clear of fishing areas.

The Arran lifeboat crewed by Miller Crawford, Peter

MacKay and Crawford Duncan was involved in the search for survivors.

### Young golf champion

Sixteen-year-old David Tod, of Glenree, won the third annual Arran Challenge golf competition at Shiskine. With a handicap of nine, he scored 38, 38 and 44 in three rounds of the 12-hole course which has a par of 42. This was the best score yet in three years of the competition that attracts golfers from all over the country.

### Boxing Day duck derby

After the outstanding success of the Shiskine Hall summer duck derby, the committee has decided to hold a Boxing Day duck derby.

The finely tuned racing fowl are in training at a secret loca-

tion in preparation for action on December 26.

### HMS Pinafore performed

Twelve-year-old Euan Walls is appearing as Garry the cabin boy in *HMS Pinafore* being performed by the Arran Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Stuart Gough takes the part of Admiral Sir Joseph Porter and Sandy Sloss is Ralph Rackstraw. Jean Bowden is Dear little Buttercup and John Mansfield is Captain Corcoran.

### Superloo complaints

Lamlash Residents and Ratepayers Association have complained about the new superloo in the village. Youngsters have been opening it and



A Trivial Pursuit challenge in the Eden Lodge Hotel, in aid of funds for Whiting Bay Primary School. b48twe04

sitting inside to listen to the music. It is frequently out of order and very expensive to run at £9,000 a year.

A meeting has been called with Trevor Jones, deputy

head of cleansing, but the association was not very satisfied with his approach.

### Ladies hockey draw with Killie

Arran Ladies Hockey team drew nil-nil with Kilmarnock last Sunday. Team: Linda Johnston, Carol Tod, Sally Brookes, Janet Logan, Sandy Watt, Kirsty Partridge, Ann Bannatyne, Karen Haggarty, Liz Kerr, Helen Thomson, Susan Dobson and Susan Currie.

### Ormidale top darts league

Arran men's darts results: Cameronia 2 Shurig 10, Kiscadale 6 Kinloch 6, Andy's Place 9 Anchor 3, PHT 5 Catacol 7, Brodick Bar 3 Breadalbane 9, Ormidale 7 Rock 5. Ormidale lead the league with Andy's Place in second position.



Sixteen-year-old David Tod won the 1990 Arran Challenge golf competition at Shiskine. b48twe01



Jim Sloss, singles champion at Lamlash Bowling Club. b48twe03



Hamish Thomson and his daughter Shona with bank officers Richard Farquhar and Vivien Pringle and the £3,000 Arran Children in Need collection. b48twe02

# Where's Archie?

## Cottages & Castles



and **THE ARRAN TEAM,**

Arran's own property management specialists

Tel: 01770 303113 Email: [help@thearranteam.co.uk](mailto:help@thearranteam.co.uk) [www.thearranteam.co.uk](http://www.thearranteam.co.uk)

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

[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

Or email us at:

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

Last week Archie was waiting outside the new surgery on the Rodden in Shiskine.

Some thought he was at Montrose House, but no-one managed to guess correctly. This week he is out for a run, but where is that big gate behind him? o2\_b48arc01



Best Western  
**Kinloch  
Hotel**

## CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT

**Friday 17th December**

**£20 per person**

**Includes 3 course dinner and disco**

**Limited spaces left**

**Tel 860444**



Blackwaterfoot bowlers and their trophies.

## Blackwaterfoot bowlers celebrate successful season

The Annual General Meeting of the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club was held at the Kinloch Hotel on Wednesday, November 17.

The meeting was well attended, and followed by a convivial dinner and the presentation of trophies won during the season.

The photograph shows the winners, who were:

Opening Trophy, Vic Iutz, Ladies Singles, won by Ann

Whattam; Gents Singles John Robinson; Nominated Pairs, Lyle and Mhoira Craig; Club Pairs, Lorna Hallyburton and Vic Iutz; Champions Trophy John Robinson; Triples Trophy Jenny Harper, Sheena Murchie and Jack Murchie; Thorburn Trophy, Mhoira Craig.

In addition, the Brodick Centenary Trophy, played in June at Brodick, was presented to Ann Whattam, David

Brambles and Jack Murchie, and the Arran Federation Pairs Trophy was presented to Jenny and Peter Harper, the first married couple to win it in its 38-year history.

All concerned agreed it had been a successful season and thanks were expressed to retiring committee members for all their hard work.

Members are now looking forward to the new season starting on April 9, 2011.

## Beavers raise £280 for BBC Children in Need appeal

Lamlash Beavers held a sponsored musical statue-athon last Wednesday evening.

The event raised the grand sum of £280 for the BBC Children in Need Appeal.

If anybody has a child that they would like to be added on to the waiting list for Beavers, please contact Charlotte Hirschfield on 302331.

Charlotte said: 'Due to high demand, it is recommended that their name is put down as early as possible to guarantee a place next autumn.'



Lamlash Beavers in the High School theatre last Wednesday after their Children in Need event.

Arran Ceilidh Dance Group  
**XMAS DANCE**  
*This is an 'Open Occasion' All welcome.*  
Present members, friends and past dancers. Come and bring a friend.  
**Friday 3rd December**  
**7.30 - 11pm**  
**Corrie Village Hall**  
Music by Ian Muir (Prestwick)  
£10 per couple.

SHISKINE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
**Christmas Fayre**  
SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER  
@ 10.30 a.m. in the School  
Grand Raffle drawn at 11.30 a.m.  
Home Baking, Tombola, lot's of fun, Tea and Coffee  
Proceeds in aid of School Funds

**Xmas Market**  
Whiting Bay Village Hall  
Saturday 4th December  
11am - 2pm  
*For all your Xmas gifts!*  
Tea & Coffee

**ARRAN BRASS**  
*In an evening of stage and screen with guest artists.*  
Saturday 4th December  
Brodick Hall  
7.30pm  
Tickets £4 adults - £1 children  
Available at the door.

**CREELERS**  
Creelers the Island seafood specialist, awarded for its true dedication to local sustainable produce.  
The farmed salmon that Arran Smoked Products uses are sourced from one independent fish farm, Loch Duart, in the extreme northwest of mainland Scotland. This fish farm adopt a sustainable salmon policy.  
There is no doubt a gourmet gift is a pleasure to every recipient.  
We are now accepting Mail Orders for Christmas.  
The Home Farm, Brodick  
www.creelers.co.uk  
Tel: 01770 302797

**KILDONAN HOTEL**  
Chase the winter blues with a  
**MEDITERRANEAN NIGHT**  
AT THE KILDONAN  
**27th Nov 7 to 1 a.m.**  
Salsa dance & sangria  
**Spanish Mexican buffet**  
Only £15 each  
Stay over for £25 p.p. B&B  
Book early 01770 820 207

### Around the rurals

#### Whiting Bay SWRI

Whiting Bay Rural's guest speaker for November was Rev Elizabeth Watson.

Her subject was The Funny Side of the Ministry and she had her audience listening intently and laughing along with her.

She led the members from her schooldays and one teacher's reaction to her being a suitable candidate through to

her time as a student and the disbelief of her chosen vocation from many people she encountered on her way to being one of the first women ordained into the Ministry of the Church of Scotland.

On coming to Arran, her every move was of intense interest to many people in the community who had not had a 'lady minister' before. But now to her satisfaction and credit she is not thought of as the 'lady minister' but just the minister.

Along the way she illustrated the importance of not taking ourselves too seriously; a lesson to us all. Thank you Elizabeth.

Competition winners were Marion Devine and Janet Mair.

The next meeting at 8pm on Wednesday, December 1, is a musical evening with Diana Hamilton.

This is an open meeting, so non-members will be very welcome Members £2, non-members £3. We look forward to seeing you there.

#### Kilmory SWRI

At the meeting of Kilmory Rural in the village hall on Monday, November 8, the members enjoyed Jerry Arthur's demonstration on the making of mulled wine and canapés.

Jerry gave many ideas for savoury fillings and different items of party food. The competition for an unusual kitchen

utensil was won by Irene Fleming and the competition for petticoat tails was won by Eleanor MacKinnon.

The next meeting will be on Monday, December 13, when Elma Stevenson will demonstrate cross stitch.

The competitions will be for a Christmas card and a cake plate.

#### Kildonan SWRI

Kildonan Rural held a very successful open night on Tuesday, November 16, when a good number of members and friends enjoyed a talk and slide show on Moths by Judith Baines.

Judith has been recording and photographing moths caught in her special moth trap for a number of years.

The moths are attracted to the trap by a light after it goes dark outside.

In the morning Judith records and photographs these before returning them to her garden.

All present were amazed at the variety and colours of the moths trapped.

No more will we think of these beautiful creatures as 'plain brown things'.

Judith was warmly thanked by our President and the evening was brought to a close with a cup of tea and homebaking.

The next meeting will be our Christmas lunch on Thursday, December 16 in COAST in Whiting Bay.

# Whats on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

**www.arranbrewery.com** Tel: 01770 302353

ISLE OF **ARRAN** BREWERY

## EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery Open Mon - Fri 11am-12.30pm & 2pm - 4pm Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday  
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank  
 Hawk Walks Lamlashb  
 Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily 9am - dusk

## SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm  
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am  
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm  
 Quiz Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm  
 Open Music Session Pirmill Village Hall, 8.30pm  
 RNLI Shop Open Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
 Christmas Extravaganza in aid of Arran RDA Brodick Church Hall, 11.30am - 3pm  
 Scottish Folk Cafe Concert Loch & Catacol Village Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran Horticultural Society AGM Brodick Library, 2pm  
 Table Top Sale Whiting Bay Hall, 11am - 2pm  
 Kilmory Christmas Market Kilmory Hall, 10.30am - 2pm

## SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm  
 Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm  
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
 Folk Session Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Quiz PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 BBQ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 1pm - 7pm  
 Christmas Lights Switch On Brodick Hall, 3.30pm

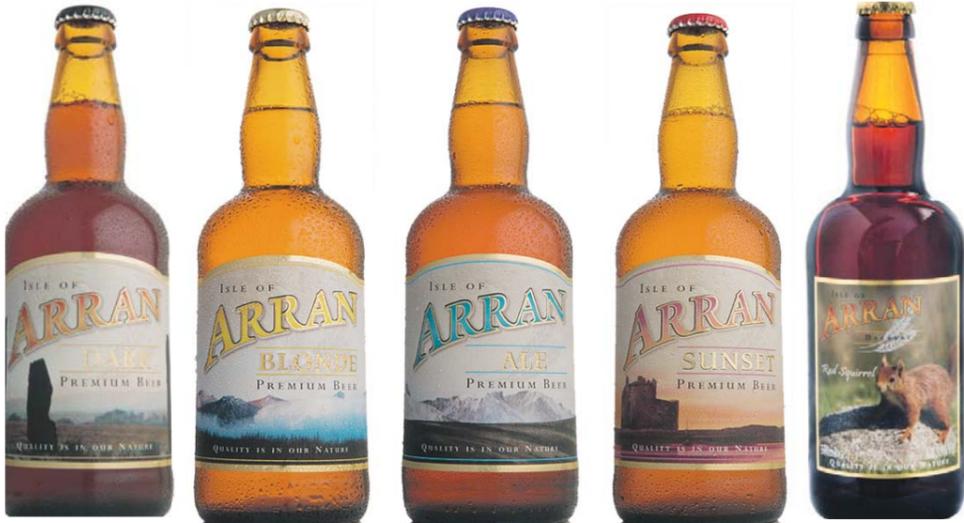
## MONDAY 29th NOVEMBER

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

## TUESDAY 30th NOVEMBER

Lochranza Swimming Club

Kinloch 11am - 12pm



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

Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall - 2pm  
 Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)  
 Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm  
 Glenclay Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm  
 Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm  
 Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm  
 Southbank Farm Track, 6pm  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm  
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Brodick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
 Arran High School, 7pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

## WEDNESDAY 1st DECEMBER

Hockey Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall  
 Tae Kwondo KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
 Country/ Blues session Ormidale, 9.30pm  
 Selt Making Class Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm  
 Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
 Yoga for Every Body 10am - 11.30am  
 Senior Badminton High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm  
 Museum, Archives & Geneology Service 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
 Yogalates 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio  
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Coffee Morning Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm  
 Learn to Salsa Cruize, 7pm - 8.15pm

## THURSDAY 2nd DECEMBER

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

## FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm  
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm  
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm  
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
 Yogalates 10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio  
 DJ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am  
 Seniors Badminton (Over 50) Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm  
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group with Ian Muir Corrie Hall, 7.30pm - 11pm  
 Ladies Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Mens Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Primary Xmas Fayre Corrie Hall, 10am - 12pm

## SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER

Annual Carol Concert Lamlash Church, 7.30pm  
 Xmas Market Whiting Bay Hall, 11am - 2pm  
 Shiskine Primary Xmas Fayre Shiskine Primary, 10.30am

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**Administration/Finance Assistant**  
Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, Lochranza, Isle of Arran  
c. £15,000

A full time permanent position has become available at Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, Lochranza, Isle of Arran.

You will responsible for provide administrative support to the Visitor Centre Manager and Production Director. Duties to include:

- Banking and cash reconciliation
- Stock System updating and stock control
- Data input for both purchase and sales ledger invoices
- Mail Order duties – recording, packing and despatching orders
- Preparation of documentation and material

This is a new role within a fast paced, forward thinking and dynamic organisation.

Applicants should offer the following:

Highly numerate with excellent organisational skills and attention to detail.

High standard of computer literacy. Must be proficient in excel and word and preferably have experience of EPOS systems.

Experience of working with stock and stock control.

Proven background within office administration, preferably within a cash environment.

Excellent communication skills

Excellent time management skills

Able to work as part of a team.

Please send CV to: **Faye Black, Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HJ**  
Or e-mail [visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com](mailto:visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com).

Closing Date Friday 3rd December 2010. Interviews will be held in December. Job commences 3rd January 2011

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 Shiskine, 11am  
 Sunday School in the Church Hall (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)  
 Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)  
 Rev Dr Frank Gibson  
 All welcome

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 Sunday Morning Mass  
 11am

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**(in full communion with the Church of England)**  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 28 November**  
**Advent Sunday**  
 Holy Communion, 11am.  
 Mrs Janis Gallagher  
 Coffee after service followed by Wednesday 1 December  
 Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 (SCO15072)  
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 Mrs Liz Clarke  
 Kilmory 10am  
 Lamlash 11.30am  
 Mr Tony Butcher  
 In both churches:  
 All welcome, including families; children's area  
 All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 Morning Service 11am  
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service 7pm  
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick  
 Rev.B. Scott  
 Prayer Meeting  
 Wednesday 1st December 7pm  
 5 Glen Road, Brodick  
 Rev.D.Macleod  
 All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
 Ormidale Pavilion  
 Brodick.  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 10.45 - Communion  
 Tea and Coffee from 11.10am  
 11.30am - For all the family  
 Speaker: Al Priestnall  
 Everyone very welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine.  
*Independent but working together.*  
**Minister**  
 Rev Angus Adamson.  
**Parish Asst**  
 Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times. to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome  
**Sunday 28 November.**  
 Brodick Church 10.30am & 7pm  
 Service of Prayers for Health & Healing  
 Corrie Church 12pm  
 Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am at Pirmill  
 Shiskine Church 12pm  
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 Worship will be conducted by the Worship Group 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 and all proceeds will go to Arran Riding for the Disabled.  
 All welcome.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**  
**Sunday 28 November**  
 11am  
 Mingulay, Middle Rd, Whiting Bay  
 Enquiries to Isobel 700346

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
**Thursday 2 December**  
 Taize worship  
 7.30pm Please note earlier time.  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**DEATHS**

**GILLESPIE - THOMAS**  
 Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Thursday 18th November. Tommy aged 84 years. Beloved husband of Margaret and loving father of Stuart, Iain, Linda and Tom. Funeral service took place on Wednesday 24th November at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium. Donations welcome to ArCaS.

**SMITH - CHARLES**  
 At Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday 19th November. Charles aged 65. Beloved husband of Sandra and father of Colin and Derek. Loving son of Charles and the late Elizabeth and grandfather to Tara. Funeral was held at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium on Thursday 22nd November

**MEMORIAMS**

**MACKENZIE JAMES**  
 Although we're not together we will never be apart because you have that special place right here within our hearts. Love you always James and June. x

**MEMORIAMS**

**PHIL CURRIE**  
 1924 - 1980  
 Cherished memories of a loving husband, father and granpa who passed away November 25th 1980.  
 Along the road of memories that lead us back to you, are the thoughts of us together and the happy times we knew.  
 Every day that passes we seem to find a way, to wander back to meet you on the road to yesterday.  
 Murdina and family.

**MACKENZIE JAMES**  
 Dearly loved son, brother and uncle. Died 28th November 2004  
 Never more than a thought away. Loved and remembered every day  
 Mum and family. Ferdean & mainland

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**WATSON - DONALD MCKENZIE**  
 Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Thursday 4th November 2010.  
 Donnie, aged 65 years, beloved husband of Christine and much loved father of Lorna, Barry and Kirsty and a loving papa.  
 Christine and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours who have sent cards, flowers and phone calls at this difficult time.  
 Thanks also to Clare and David Hendry for their professional funeral service. Rev Gillean Maclean for her outstanding service and attentive support.  
 A special thank you to all doctors, nurses and medical teams at Arran War Memorial Hospital and Beatson Oncology Department for their care and attention given to Donnie throughout his illness and treatment.  
 A total of £923.73 was received at his retiring collection, which will be divided and donated to ARCAS and Beatson Oncology Department.

**BANNER PERSONALS BANNER PERSONALS**

**BANNER PERSONALS BANNER PERSONALS**



**Caroline Kelso**  
 Graduated from Cardonald College with an HNC in Early Education and Childcare.  
 She is currently employed at Arran Aromatics and hopes to travel abroad next year.

**BANNER PERSONALS BANNER PERSONALS**

**PERSONAL**

Peggy Grundy would like to thank all her friends for the lovely cards and good wishes on her 90th. Thank you for making it such a happy day.

**THANKS**  
 Nicol would like to thank everyone who came to his 50th and for all the presents and cards.  
*It was much appreciated.*

**THANK YOU**  
 I would like to thank my family and friends for the gifts and cards received for my new house.  
 Stevie's Décor, Lee, Peter, Gordon and also Timmy  
 Special thanks to Allan - without him it would not have been possible.  
**Roselle**

**THANKS**  
 Jenny Crossley would like to thank everyone for calls, visits, cards and flowers for her birthday and for her stay to stay in ST11 Ayr and AWMH. Thanks to staff at both hospitals, ambulance staff, Dr Hamill and his staff of Shiskine for their great help.  
 A grateful thanks to all.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\* between the hours of 9am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk  
 Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the address below by 17 December 2010.  
 Any representations received will be open to public view.  
 \*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

Notice of application to be published under regulation 20(1)  
 Application No: 10/00709/PP Address: Site To North Of Doonhill, Harbour View, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle Of Arran. Proposed Development: Erection of one and a half storey detached dwellinghouse and formation of access road and footpath.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987**

Applications for Listed Building Consent.  
 Application No: 10/00702/LBC Address: Cameronia Hotel, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8PZ. Proposed Development: Demolition of former laundry; removal of gas tank and lightweight roof to rear; and external alterations to install and replace windows and doors.

**INFRASTRUCTURE & DESIGN SERVICES DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 2009**

The above Act requires North Ayrshire Council to identify all existing advisory disabled car parking places located within the Council boundary, including those provided within private car parking areas.  
 Owners of private car parking areas, who currently provide advisory disabled car parking places, are invited to indicate an interest in having any existing private advisory parking places included within a future North Ayrshire Council Disabled Parking Places Order, which would make the disabled parking places enforceable in law, by writing to:- Head of Infrastructure & Design Services, Perceton House, Irvine, KA11 2AL.

Elma Murray  
 Chief Executive  
 Cunninghame House  
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



**Arran Branch AGM**  
**Monday 6th December**  
**Kinloch Hotel at 8pm**  
 Guest Speaker - Jonnie Hall - Head of Rural Policy  
 All Members & Non Members Welcome  
 (Finger Buffet Tea and Coffee included)

**Arran Access Trust AGM**  
**ORMIDALE PAVILION**  
**Monday 6 December**  
**7.30pm**  
 Speaker from Grontmij Surveyors from proposed Brodick - Corrie Multi - User Track  
*All welcome*

**ARRAN ANGLING ASSOCIATION AGM**  
 7.30 Wed 15th Dec  
 Forestry office, Brodick  
 All catch returns to be submitted  
 Or sent to 'Rosslee'  
 Tennis Court Road  
 Lamlash

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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The victorious Arran Under 18s rugby team, which has won through to the final of the Glasgow South West U18s bowl competition.



# Arran through to bowl final

## Williamwood High 7 Arran High 33

Arran High rugby boys have won through to the final of the Glasgow South West U18s bowl competition.

The team produced the performance of the season against a strong Williamwood side, even more incredible considering their school has 1,800 pupils.

Arran maintained good possession during the first 10 minutes but Williamwood looked very dangerous on turnover ball and would have scored had it not been for fantastic cover defence from Arran. Sustained Arran pressure eventually paid off when Jack 'The Sidestep' Barbour crossed the line from good passing rugby.

Arran went from strength

to strength in the second half with Williamwood not able to get out of their own half. The team's aggression during the break down and their ability to attack gaps in the defence was key to them winning the game. The Arran High team scored a further four tries in the second half to make the final score Williamwood 7 Arran High 33.

Try scorers: Jack Barbour

(2), Charlie Boal, Stuart MacMaster and Liam Boal. Conversions: Robbie Bayne with 4 from 5.

Man of the match: Stuart 'The Man Mountain' MacMaster.

Hit of the day: Robbie 'The Bruiser' Bayne.

Team: 15 Robbie Bayne, 14 Peter Sell, 13 Matt Evans, 12 Jack Barbour, 11 Michael Jenks, 10 Donald McEachern,

9 Charlie Boal, 8 Alexander McNeil, 7 Ciaran MacMaster, 6 Beau Gray, 5 Stuart MacMaster, 4 Ian Bayne, 3 Jack McQueen, 2 Liam Boal, 1 Ryan Boal. Subs Sean Higgins and Julian Hastings.

This now means Arran High are in the Area Final v Doug-

las Ewert High for the Scottish Schools Bowl Competition on Wednesday, December 8, at Kilmarnock RFC. There will be a coach put on so family, friends and supporters would be greatly welcomed. Contact Jamie Murchie 600341 if you wish to book a seat.

## Northenders shoot their way to top of the league

Northenders will be celebrating this week as for the first time ever, Catacol Bay Hotel pool team is sitting on top of the league.

Normally used to being one of the island's Cinderella teams, the Cat Bay are currently just ahead of last season's champions Bar Eden by Gallon difference. But it is early days, and the top four teams are all on seven points, so there is everything to play for. Results for Thursday November 18:

Kildonan 5 teamGoil 5(G), PHT 3 Catacol 7(G), Bar Eden B 4(G) PT1934 6, Drift 4(G) Bar Eden 6.

Next week's league fixtures for Thursday December 2 are: PHT v Drift Inn, Bar Eden B v Bar Eden, Mac's Bar v PT 1934, Catacol v teamGoil, Kildonan bye.

### Annual singles pool competition

Draw for the preliminary round:

G McLeod (Eden) v J Ferguson (Drift) at PHT, E Ingram (Eden) v G Lowe (PHT) at Drift, C Duncan (Drift) v D Head (Eden) at PHT, J McKechnie (Goil) v T Dolan (Mac's) at Drift, S Andrew (Mac's) v M Broson (PHT) at Drift, J Picken (1934) v J Copperwheat (Drift) at Eden, D Squirrel (Drift)

v B Bambury (Kildonan) at Eden, B Tattersfield (Drift) v N Auld (Eden) at PHT, G Fullarton (PHT) v J Ainsworth (Goil) at Eden, H Driver (Kildonan) v A Furnass (Catacol) at Mac's, P McKinnon (Catacol) v D Prescott (Goil) at Mac's, L Logan (Catacol) v F Barr (Eden) at Mac's.

Games to be played on or by Sunday December 5.

Best of three games. If opponent does not turn up by 8pm unless previously notified, you claim the match.

Winners to phone result to the PHT 600418.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Catacol	3	2	0	1	7
Bar Eden	3	2	0	1	7
PT 1934	3	2	0	1	7
PHT	4	2	1	1	7
Team Goil	4	1	1	2	5
Kildonan	4	1	2	1	4
Eden B	4	1	3	0	3
Drift	4	0	1	3	3
Mac's	3	0	3	0	0



Arran in action against Williamwood.

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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 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 was 3,172. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.