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RET ferry fares scheme finally extended to Arran

Plan to boost tourism – but not until 2014

‘Spreading the benefits of RET will be a boost to the economy’

After weeks of uncertainty and rumours that the plan had been scrapped, the Scottish Government has officially announced that Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) will be introduced on Arran – but not until 2014.

The announcement was finally made on Tuesday that RET is to be extended to cover Colonsay, Islay and Gigha ferries from October 2012.

A pilot covering passengers, cars, small commercial vehicles and coaches is to start on Arran from October 2014.

The Lochranza to Claonaig route is also included in a bid to encourage more people to visit Arran as part of the whisky trail.

Similar Price

The scheme will set ferry fares at a similar price as it would cost to travel the same distance by road.

A pilot has been running in the Western Isles, Coll and Tiree since October 2008 and is due to end in spring 2012.

Transport Minister Keith Brown said the pilot had boosted tourism and local economies.

REPORT

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

He said: ‘Tourism is just one benefit the RET pilot has brought our thriving island communities and we expect this to bring further positive results to the additional routes now being included.’

Arran’s MSP Kenneth Gibson told The Banner he was delighted with the announcement as it will boost tourism, help Arran business and increase employment. He said: ‘The lower fares have had a major impact on the Western Isles.’

‘As Arran is much closer to urban Scotland, we expect the growth in visitor numbers to be significantly greater than to the Hebrides.’

He added: ‘Spreading the benefits of RET to Arran will be a boost not only to the island economy, it will help Scotland itself become a more attractive destination to those who want to visit the island but are put off by high fares.’

At the beginning of the week

West of Scotland Labour MSP Neil Bibby had demanded that the Government ‘end the uncertainty’ over the extension of the current pilot scheme, in operation on other routes, to Arran.

Speaking at the Parliament Mr Bibby said: ‘The SNP have been promising to extend the benefits of the RET scheme that they introduced to the Western Isles to Clyde Islanders for several years.’

Promise

‘Yet when I ask them when they will fulfil their promise and extend the scheme to Arran they are unable or unwilling to say.’

In reply, Keith Brown MSP said: ‘In response to why Arran and Mull was delayed is that we face different conditions there.’

‘We’ve got capacity issues on Arran and we need to look at the infrastructure.’

Concerns have already been expressed that the increase in ferry traffic will eventually mean a second boat is needed for the Ardrossan to Brodick service.



Santa's Reindeer takes a fancy to Ben's ear

One of Santa's reindeer took a special interest in this little boy last Sunday. Ben Worthington and his brother Jamie were pleased to see Santa Claus on the front green in Lamlash as part of the ‘Santa's Sparkle on the Shore’ event. But his reindeer, disguised as Tabitha, the Arran Riding for the Disabled steed, decided to give Ben's ear a little nibble. Full coverage of the event on pages 9, 10 and 11. 02_b48san01

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Arran on flood alert after heavy rainfall

Arran was on official SEPA Floodline flood alert on Tuesday.

Following persistent heavy rain over the weekend, rivers and burns were running at unprecedented high levels with extensive surface water on all parts of the coastal roads, making driving treacherous for motorists and for cyclists.

The warning from SEPA was 'flooding is possible - be prepared'.

The Monamore Burn at Lamlash was up to the bridge by Arran Fine Foods kitchen shop, while the factory was completely cut off by floods with cars almost afloat in the car park. The McLaren Hotel in Brodick had a lake on the front lawn and the road was almost impassable outside the Lochranza Field Centre.

Further flood warnings were issued for Wednesday and Thursday.

New café and wind turbine planned

Plans for a new café in Shiskine and for another wind turbine at the Southend are among current Arran planning applications under consideration by North Ayrshire Council.

One application is for the change of use of photographic studio to encompass Class 3 use café/snack bar at a site to

the north of Southview Farm, Shiskine.

Turbine

The other application is for the erection of a 20kW wind turbine measuring 15 metres to hub and 22 metres to blade tip at Craighdu Farm, Shannochie.

Both are described as pending consideration.

Benlister housing plans are scrapped

Plans to build 57 new affordable homes in Lamlash have been scrapped following a lack of interest from potential buyers.

Trust Housing Association that incorporates Isle of Arran Homes had submitted plans for the houses in Benlister earlier this year.

Half were to be rented out as social housing and the others sold on through a shared equity scheme.

Bob McDougall, chief executive of Trust Housing Association, said: "The Benlister South proposal was based on a proportion of the houses being built for shared equity and included certain assumptions around the number of units that would be partially sold, at what proportion of the equity, and over what time frame."

"The economic environment in which we now live is

changing on a daily basis and we now believe that the original sales assumptions are much less likely given the current economic conditions."

Withdrawn

He added: "We have, therefore, withdrawn our original bid proposal and will be meeting with officials from North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government to discuss alternative options."

Non-native plants such as Japanese knotweed could be eradicated

A scheme could soon be established on the island to try and deal with invasive non-native species, such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

These invasive plants have taken over large tracts of Arran's coastline and all previous attempts to eradicate individual plants have failed.

Stuart Brabbs from the Ayrshire Rivers

Trust told the Community Council on Tuesday night that he was keen to get a project up-and running on Arran.

Funding

He said: "We can get rid of Japanese Knotweed on Arran. Funding is available and within two years we could have coordinated volunteers trained to remove these invaders."

Community owned petrol station a possibility

A community owned, unmanned petrol station, open 24 hours a day, could be the answer to Arran's over-inflated fuel prices.

At the Community Council meeting on Tuesday night, Brodick councillor Bill Calderwood said that he was investigating the possibility of setting up an over ground petrol station on the island.

"It would be automated, so all payments would be done through a machine," he said.

"I believe that we could source cheaper fuel and sell it at a much cheaper price than it is currently sold for on the island."

Councillor Margie Currie pointed out that he should 'bear in mind the effect it could have on local garages'.

She said: "We could lose our MOT services and mechanics if the garages lost money from fuel sales."

"However it is certainly something to evaluate."



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Brodick Christmas lights at risk due to costs

When one lucky young child switches on Brodick's Christmas lights next Sunday it might be last time Arran's main port is illuminated with seasonal cheer.

At its AGM last week, the directors of Brodick Improvements Committee were forced to consider the ongoing costs of lighting up the village each year.

'On top of maintenance, testing and the cost of erecting and dismantling the lights each year, we now have to pay nearly £1,000 to North Ayrshire Council for the lighting poles to be assessed every three years,' explained chairman Ian Small.

'This fee is due again next March, but with so many poles being declared unfit to carry the modest extra weight of our decorations, we question whether this is the best use of our limited funds.'

Vice chairman Harry Davidson said: 'The council will take no action to rectify the condemned poles ahead of their scheduled replacement, which may not be for many years.'

Islanders contributed over £20,000 to purchase the original lights back in 2003.

Since then, with minimal grant assistance from the council, Brodick Improvements Committee have ensured that the lights go on each year.

They now estimate that it may cost around £4,000 to comply with all the regulations next year - which would require a further fund-raising exercise.



UNISON pickets outside Lamlash council offices on Wednesday morning. 02_b48str01

Strike hits public services

The national strike by public sector workers hit services on Arran on Wednesday.

Whiting Bay Primary School was the only island school and one of only three council-run schools in North Ayrshire to be open.

Head teacher Annette Treble reported that 'some children had come to school.' Out of 2,700 schools in Scotland, only 30 were open. Parents received letters from head teachers on Friday 25 November to allow sufficient time to make arrangements for their children.

A UNISON picket line was in operation outside Lamlash council offices.

Union member Diana Turbett said: 'We won't be here all day; just while those workers who are coming in

have got into work.'

Brodick Library was closed as were the leisure facilities at KA Leisure in the High School.

A statement from North Ayrshire Council said: 'Refuse collections are likely to be severely disrupted.'

'Domestic refuse collections which are not carried out that day will be prioritised and bins will be uplifted as soon as possible thereafter. All of North Ayrshire's schools bar three will be closed to all pupils.'

'The schools which will be partially open are Skelmorlie, Lawthorn and Whiting Bay.'

Ewing Hope of UNISON Ayrshire and Arran branch said: 'Going on strike has been a last resort for us - but we've been forced into it.'

'The Government have put through changes which will mean our pensions will decrease by as much as 15 per cent.'

Two island hydro electric power plants on the cards

Plans for two new hydro-electric power plants on the island have taken a significant step forward.

Formal planning approval was sought from North Ayrshire Council last week for the two schemes that could provide electricity for 500 to 700 homes.

One scheme involves utilising water from the Allt Goblach burn at Pirmill, on land owned by Dougarie Estate. The site is described as being to the east of MacKellar's Wood, Pirmill.

Stephen Gibbs, estate owner, told the Banner in May: 'We've been trying to find ways of harnessing environmentally-friendly renewable power on the island.'

'Wind turbines are not natural. They only have a life of 25 years. This form of hydro-power is less disruptive and not visually intrusive.'

The proposed Pirmill pipeline would run for 1,700 metres on land tenanted by farmer John Logan. A meeting of the village association was reported to be generally in favour of the scheme.

The second hydro-electric power plant is proposed for the Garbh Allt burn at a site to the north-east of Monyquil Farm on the String Road.

The applicant for this proposal is listed as The Lady Jean Fforde of Arran Estates. Managed Estates, based in Stirling, is overseeing both schemes. The one at Monyquil is described as vacant land, used primarily for deer stalking.

The proposed pipeline would run for 1,300 metres from above Eas Ban waterfalls and down to a small powerhouse next to Monyquil settlement.

Bill Bateman of Managed Estates said: 'We have been involved in quite a few similar schemes in Perthshire and Argyll. People are beginning to realise what brilliant little schemes these are. There is no noise disturbance and they just tick away with a life of 60 to 100 years.'

'Compared to wind turbines, this is chalk and cheese.'

Both sites are close to overhead power cables for connection to the grid with Scottish and Southern Electricity.



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Residents move as care home closes its doors

Craigielea Care Home in Whiting Bay will close this week after seven months of uncertainty about its future.

The care home failed - by a significant margin - every inspection report carried out in recent years with no improvement at all over the three years in the areas of care, management, leadership and environment.

According to Elma Murray, chief executive of North Ayr-

shire Council, in discussions with Kenneth Gibson MSP, on not one occasion did Craigielea meet the minimum standard expected for any of the criteria by which it was measured, despite frequent changes in management and staff.

On 12 July after a further inspection, Mr Bill Duncan, Inspection Manager made it clear that, due to the severity of his concerns, the facility 'could no longer be permitted to de-

liver such a poor level of care,' which is why a moratorium on new admissions was imposed.

Ms Murray said that it was the proprietors who took the decision - on 22 July - to close after previously looking for a buyer for the business.

Brodick community councillor, Harry Davidson, who has a family member living at the facility said: 'There can be no winners in this situation.

'The owners lose their business after 22 years with never a complaint from a resident or relative...and upwards of 12 excellent staff will be out of work.'

He added: 'Relatives have had untold distress, and the residents, five of whom are well over 90, have to somehow readjust, or as we fear, succumb.'

While Ms Murray said that 'there is no way back' for Craigielea, NAC's plans for Montrose House will now change.

The capacity for the planned new build will be increased by 10.



Pictured with Provost McPhee are last year's winners, including second from the left, Sarah Hay and Jan McGregor of Arran Art in Mind - winners of the North Ayrshire Arts and Culture Award. b47civ01NO

North Ayrshire needs YOU to show your support

Community champions who enrich the lives of others will once again be recognised at the second North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards and Charity Dinner on Friday 23 March.

Hosted by Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Pat McPhee, the 2012 Awards will celebrate the area's greatest asset - its people - by recognising the significant effort of local groups and individuals.

This year Arran's Art in Mind group won the North Ayrshire Arts and Culture Award, for their dedication to helping vulnerable people through art work.

Next year's Provost's Civic Pride Awards will pay tribute to the outstanding talent, skills and success of local citizens.

Members of the public will soon be given the chance to nominate their local heroes, active community groups,

young citizens, aspiring sportsmen and women, talented local artists and inspirational volunteers. Nomination forms and further details on the awards will appear in next week's Banner.

The five Civic Pride Awards to be presented at the event on Friday, 23 March are:

Community Group Award, Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year (Under 25 years), Arts and Culture Award and Sports Award.



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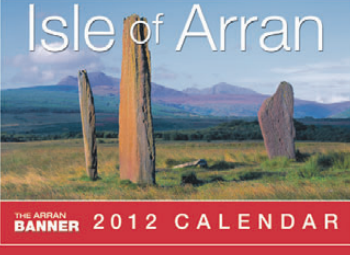
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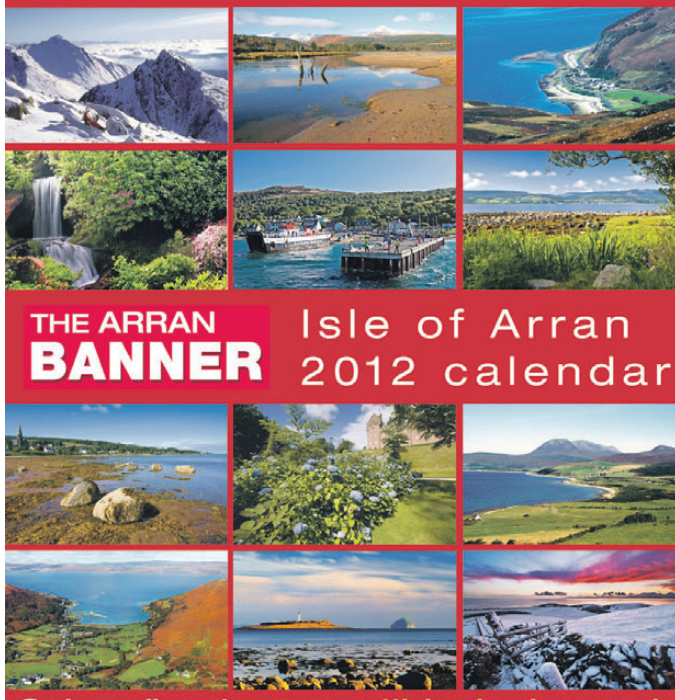


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No market stalls allowed in hotel bedrooms

The extreme weather last weekend forced considerable changes to the plans for the Santa Sparkles on the Shore event in Lamlash.

Main organisers Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings of Glenisle Hotel explained that when two of the marquees blew down on Friday they attempted to relocate some of the 20 stalls into the hotel bedrooms. 'But the Council told us we would need a brand new market traders licence,' exclaimed Geoffrey.

Ian Mackay, Solicitor for North Ayrshire Council said: 'The owners of the Glenisle Hotel applied for a temporary market trader's licence on 18 October ahead of the Santa Sparkles on the Shore event.

'Two days prior to the event, however, Mr Billings - one of the owners - contacted the Council to explain that he intended to move some market stalls into the bedrooms of the hotel.

'Licensing Staff explained that this was contrary to the hotel's alcohol licence and that he would need to apply for a major variation to the licence in order to hold the stalls inside.

'Mr Billings sent an email the day before the event to say it would go ahead as per the conditions of the temporary market trader's licence. 'He subsequently called the Licensing Department on Monday, 28 November seeking advice on how to apply for a licence for next year.'

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Glenisle Hotel lit up by one of the display fireworks. b48fire03 photo Jonathan McIntosh

Lamlash fireworks failure did not disappoint large crowd

The special light and firework show brought a huge crowd to Lamlash last Saturday.

Organised and paid for by Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings of the Glenisle Hotel, the display in the hotel garden promised to be even better than last year's spectacular inaugural event.

Unfortunately, things didn't go quite to plan, and many of the firework displays did not activate.

The display was designed to

be musically choreographed and started with the hotel itself being illuminated in time to the music. Then things began to go wrong.

Pyrotechnics

Of the 17 planned pyrotechnic cues, only four worked. The end result was still quite spectacular and the crowd applauded in appreciation.

Afterwards Geoffrey said: 'I'm speechless. After so much preparation, it all seemed to go wrong.'

'We will definitely be using a different pyrotechnic company next year!'

The village tree opposite Jimmy Gordon's was lit at 5pm, and by 6pm an expectant crowd in excess of 1,000 had assembled on the front green outside the hotel.

Geoffrey told the Banner: 'This year's firework display was disappointing to put it mildly, but next year we are determined to make it bigger and better.'

Finger saved by Sea King helicopter

Arran was featured on the Channel Five documentary Highland Emergency last Wednesday.

The programme covers the work of the emergency services in the Scottish Highlands.

Last week's episode showed a search and rescue helicopter coming to the aid of an injured man on Goatfell.

Well-known local worker Rab MacKay had been repairing paths high up Glen Rosa in springtime when a boulder slipped and trapped his index finger. Fellow workers Scott Murdoch and Simon Thorborn alerted the emergency services and a Sea King helicopter was scrambled from HMS Gannet at Prestwick.

Television viewers saw the helicopter take just five minutes to get airborne. After crossing the Clyde in 13 minutes at 120mph, pilot Lt Phil

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Gamble carefully landed the craft on a grassy ridge 2,500 feet up the hillside.

'I can see three guys on a rock there,' shouted the winchman.

Rab, Scott and Simon made their way down the ridge and a crewman attended to Rab's injury.

'It's ma' finger,' he shouted above the noise of the rotor blades. 'It's just about off!'

As the crew loaded Rab and his poorly finger on board they received another emergency call.

A 21-year-old woman was in labour with complications

and needed to be airlifted from Rothesay. So instead of taking Rab straight to the Southern General in Glasgow, the Sea King headed for Rothesay, uplifted the woman and a midwife then took both casualties the 26 miles to Paisley Hospital.

'She's more important than me,' Rab told the camera. 'I've just got a finger hanging off.'

His finger was 80 percent severed, but after expert treatment and 10 stitches, surgeons managed to save the digit.

Meanwhile the Sea King and crew were diverted to a casualty on the Isle of Mull to fly him the 48 miles to Belford Hospital in Fort William.

Community council

The system of democracy on Arran 'is not working as well as it should be'.

That was the view of the Community Council chairman, John Inglis, when he spoke at the council's AGM on Tuesday night.

He said that he was pleased with what had been achieved in the past year but that he was concerned that the island wasn't being represented properly.

Other councillors agreed that in order to be more proactive within the community they needed younger members.

John Inglis was voted in once again as the chairman of the Isle of Arran Community Council.

The appointment was made at the AGM of the council at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Tuesday night.

Vice-chairman is Jim Henderson of Lamlash, secretary is Bill Calderwood of Brodick and Harry Davidson has agreed to be the treasurer for one more year.

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St Andrew's dinner for party members at the Douglas

Local SNP members celebrated St Andrew's Night a few days early with a dinner at the Douglas Hotel last Saturday.

Despite some awful weather with the Caledonian Isles on amber alert all day, Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson and wife Patricia managed to get over to the island and enjoy the event as principal guests.

Kenneth remarked: 'Since May I have had a few opportunities to express my appreciation to the members, supporters and voters on the Isle of Arran who worked and helped to shape a historic electoral victory.'

'On this occasion I wish to thank everyone once again.'

'Last May the Scottish electorate voted for the first ever

democratically elected majority government in the Scottish Parliament at the heart of our nation's capital.

'All our SNP MSPs certainly feel the weight of expectation on our shoulders. And so they should. They recognise that the nation's trust has been lent to us.'

Nothing Greater

'And there is nothing greater. We must live up to it.'

'The people of Arran expect no less of their own elected representative.'

'I am therefore pleased to continue to promote and argue the case for increased investment over the lifetime of this parliament for a growing number of major island projects including the new ferry linkspan, investment in

new housing, road improvements and of course, Road Equivalent Tariff.

'All this is designed to develop the island's social and economic infrastructure.'

'On St Andrew's Night we celebrate the idea and meaning of Scotland. We are conscious that across the world in many countries, with diverse cultures, we can be certain that where there are numbers of Scots, working and living, there will this week be celebrations big and small, probably more than here in Scotland. Speeches will be made, songs sung and music played.'

'At some point in these celebrations there will be a pause and a toast given: 'to St Andrew and Scotland.'



Kenneth Gibson, third right, at the St Andrew's dinner in the Douglas Hotel. b48snp01

West of Scotland MPs express grave concerns at Clyde coastguard closure

West of Scotland MPs have met with the Secretary of State for Scotland to express their concerns at the proposed closure of MRCC Clyde based at Greenock.

Arran's MP Katy Clark who secured the meeting said: 'It is deeply concerning that the Government is pushing forward with these dangerous proposals.'

'There is going to be a massive reduction in the number of coastguards serving the west coast of Scotland with far greater cuts in the numbers of coastguards - more than 50 percent from the information we have been provided with - than other parts of the UK and a huge loss of local knowledge with the work be-

ing transferred to Northern Ireland. At present Ministers and the Coastguard Agency management appear unable to answer serious questions about how these changes will be implemented in a way that does not compromise maritime safety along the west coast of Scotland.'

Concerns were raised about the loss of local knowledge, the impact of reduced staff numbers on safety and a potential gap in service during the transitional arrangements. In particular serious concerns were raised that the lease at MRCC Clyde will run out before the new Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) in Fareham is operational.

Stuart Atkinson, local Public and Commercial Services union rep, said: 'PCS is very concerned for the safety of the public and seafarers on the west coast of Scotland.'

'At present neither we nor the public have been informed how the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency) plan to operate the coastguard service on the west coast in the short term. If the MCA fail to handle the transitional period properly lives will be lost.'

Elderly forum organises first Christmas lunch

The fledgling Isle of Arran Elderly Forum continues to go from strength to strength.

The group meets regularly in the Ormidale Pavilion but is currently looking for another less expensive suitable venue.

At the last meeting on 19 October it was decided to look into the possibility of holding a special first-ever Christmas lunch.

Forum secretary Janet Lacey told the Banner that the lunch had been arranged for Friday 9 December in the Glenclay Suite at Auchranerie, starting at 12 noon. Members are asked to contact Janet on 820210 and book their places.



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Fuel duty rebate confirmed for islanders

Islanders will receive a 5p per litre reduction in fuel duty from 1 March next year, the UK government confirmed on Friday morning.

Chief secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander announced that the European Union had granted final approval to the derogation scheme for all the Scottish islands and the Isles of Scilly.

Mr Alexander said: 'As well as securing EU clearance, we have produced a scheme designed to protect the cash flow of local retailers. We have also delivered on a promise to help address the persistent unfairness of some of the lowest income com-

munities in the country paying among the highest pump prices.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the decision.

He said he was pleased that HM Revenue and Customs has put in place a scheme that will be easy for retailers to manage, as they will be able to claim the rebate from January 1, as they order in supplies. Mr Gibson - who campaigned for Arran's inclusion in the scheme after it was initially excluded - said: 'Fuel is one of the main issues of concern on Arran and I welcome that we have a start date for the pilot scheme.'

Credit

'The previous UK Labour Government refused to introduce an island fuel rebate so the Coalition must take credit for doing so. The price of fuel is now at record levels, with a huge gulf in price between the Arran and the mainland.

'While this pilot will go some way to helping motorists, the Chancellor must also scrap the proposed 3p a litre fuel duty increase proposed for January.'

Christmas thanks from Lamlash Improvements

The Lamlash Improvements Group would like to say a big thank you to all who helped to put up the village Christmas tree last weekend.

In particular they would like to thank the firemen who made a great job of the tree and lights, they are fabulous.

Also thanks to the Glenisle Hotel for the Santa's Sparkle festivities and all the Lamlash businesses who donated raffle prizes which raised £313 for the Improvements Group.

The 50/50 winners for November and December were Nan Noble and Mick Cannon, both from Lamlash each receiving a cheque for £100.



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Special year rounded off with Kinloch party

Celebrations to mark the 175th Arran Show came to a climax on Saturday night with a hugely successful dinner and dance at the Kinloch Hotel.

On Wednesday 3 August, Arran Farmers Society had welcomed a return visit from HRH Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, to the 175th Arran Show at Glenkiln.

This followed on from her previous Royal visit to the 150th show 25 years earlier.

And Saturday's celebrations followed on from the 150th

dinner dance in 1986, also held at the Kinloch Hotel.

Society chairman, Kenny Bone, made a short welcoming speech outlining his thanks to the many people who helped to make this year's Show so successful. He also said that the 130 tickets had been sold out six weeks earlier with an extensive waiting list for any cancellations.

So popular was the event that he suggested that this dinner and dance could become an annual occasion. Society vice chairman Liz Kennedy said Grace, and a celebration cake was cut jointly by current secretary Christine McBride and Margaret Stewart, the oldest serving Society secretary.

A special display of memorabilia from former Arran Shows, including rosettes, photographs, catalogues and posters, was held in the Grill Room at the hotel.

The company danced into the night to the music of The Big Squeeze ceilidh band fronted by this year's sheep judge, Kenny Johnstone of Biggar.



Margaret Stewart and Christine McBride cut the 175th Farmers' Show cake at Saturday night's celebration at the Kinloch. 02_b48far01



Part of the display of Arran Show memorabilia at the Kinloch on Saturday; the Centenary Show poster from 1930. 02_b48far02



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THE ARRAN BANNER

State employees will join the rest of us in working longer

The public row between the unions and the government dramatically intensified this week resulting in Wednesday's walkout over public sector pension reforms.

The unions stood by their argument that the reforms mean their members will have to pay more, work longer and earn less.

Meanwhile the government said public sector workers must play their part in making the system more sustainable in the long-term as people are living longer - and that the reforms will still mean they have among the best pensions available. Who's right?

Even here on Arran the strike hit us hard - all the schools were closed apart from Whiting Bay and parents were forced to find alternative childcare for the day.

Some council workers could be seen dotting about in their liveried vans but the library was shut, refuse collection was disrupted and some social services were affected.

Arran has many public sector workers but as a whole the island is mainly populated by self-employed people and those with small business.

Few people working on Arran will ever have the luxury of a pension as healthy as those employed by the state.

And most will have to continue working well in to their old age while public sector workers will still be able to retire at a relatively young age.

The pension age for public servants will rise to match the state pension age of 65 - which itself is rising to 66.

For those just beginning their working lives it is a depressing thought that for many retirement may be something no one can even consider until well into their seventies.

And that is the reality. We are all living longer.

Many who have retired in the last few years can look forward to maybe 30 years of retirement unlike those who received the first state pension in the early 20th century.

The government admits that their reforms mean some people will have to work longer.

But the Unions say their members will also get less when they retire, despite working longer because the type of pension is changing along with their accrual rates.

Whatever side you are on this is the reality: Britain is currently in debt and the middle and upper classes need to take a hit sometimes to protect the very survival of our economy.

All those who went out on strike need to remember how lucky they really are.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

press policy

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

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Someone remembered

Sir,
During a visit to Lamlash Cemetery I was so pleased to see Remembrance Crosses at War Grave Commission headstones.

I wish to thank whoever puts those crosses in place since one of the headstones is to the memory of HD Frost, HMS Cardiff, who was my later mother's uncle.

Those small acts of remembrance are much appreciated by families who cannot visit as often as they would wish and on their behalf I would like to say again, thank you.

Yours,
FT Laird
Skipton
Yorkshire

Winter wonderland

Sir,
I felt it right to use The Banner on this occasion to write a letter for all on Arran to have a chance to read as it expresses the sentiments of so many people so I do hope you will print it.

During this dreadful spell of high seas and violent gusty winds that prevailed on Arran this past weekend, there was one wonderful event which almost made us forget our woes and that was 'Santa's Sparkle'.

What a superb event it turned out to be!

Thanks and congratulations are due to the two men who thought it all up, agonised whether to go ahead or not due to the weather and had the terrible sight on Saturday morning of there being only one large marquee left out of four after the ravages of the storm the night before.

Their courageous decision to go ahead was a very brave one indeed - but what a huge success it all turned out to be in the end.

On behalf of all the Arran folk and visitors who had a wonderful two days of carefully planned entertainment, shopping, a firework display (second to none) and just pure friendship and fun.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts Geoff and Tim for giving us plenty of

memories that we will remember for a very long time.

You must be exhausted by now and financially hard hit, but I hope you felt the great surge of warmth towards both of you for your tremendous work and determination to give us all a weekend such as Lamlash has never seen before.

Thank you - and thank you from us all - we deeply appreciate all you did to make not only Santa 'sparkle'.

Congratulations and well done.

Yours,
Gillean Bussell
Caorann
Lamlash

All in it together

Sir,
'We are all in this together' David Cameron said.

Why do the public sector members think that they are any different from the rest of us who don't belong to the executive classes and who can't or would not withdraw their labour?

The self-employed, the small business operators, manufacturers and trades people are as affected and concerned about the economy as are public sector workers.

Many don't have any pension at all, would get no redundancy and have very real worries about job and business sustainability.

Some will face bankruptcy through no fault of their own unless the economy picks up rapidly.

Is the lesson not to keep our heads down and work if we are fortunate to have a job? Nothing will look better until the economy improves and that includes pensions and salaries.

The strike is reputed to be costing the country £0.5 billion.

Will that make the government sympathetic to the strikers? I don't think so.

Will the greedy bankers be inconvenienced by the strike?

Not nearly as much as parents in work with children, the elderly and the vulnerable.

We all agree that the gap be-

tween rich and poor is driving more into poverty and is damaging the very way of life that wars were fought for in the not too distant past. 'Western' society as we know it is threatened with disrepute.

All we can hope is that the ugly side of capitalism will be brought down a peg, that economies will grow and then pensions and salaries will rise.

Personally I don't think strikes like this help anything including the people who, in good faith, think that striking will solve the present problems.

'From little acorns oak trees grow', we can only work our way out of the doldrums we are in.

Yours,
Margie Currie
Eastland
Shiskine

Only minority favour strike

Sir,
Did whoever transcribed Mr Turbett's dog-eared attempt to excuse the public sector strike of 30 November make an unintentional typing error?

Should the published 'overwhelming' not have been 'underwhelming ballot support'?

Overwhelming - irresistible by force of numbers.

I would contend that an overwhelming majority was 50.1 per cent or more in favour of something.

However, once again, at every turn since the strike was announced union spokespeople have spun or fudged the low numbers who voted, in some unions as few as 25 per cent of members, let alone in favour of strike action.

Even the leader of the TUC when interviewed on BBC Radio Four's 'The World At One' grudgingly admitted that there was no majority in favour of the strike.

Once again a determined minority has relied on the voting apathy of the majority to take their cause forward in the manner of 'Carry On At Your Convenience'.

But it does not have to be a minority.

Ferry workers vote not to

strike and the, highly paid, union leader sallies north from his, expensive, London office and has the vote reversed.

Democracy in action.

For balance; Underwhelming - failing to impress.

Oh, and if Mr Turbett covets another better rewarded employment then why does he not seek to gain it? Or is he just not up to the job?

Yours,
Name and address supplied

Stamp out poverty

Sir,
For several years now, a growing band of islanders have been saving the used stamps from their mail, and passing them to me to deliver to OXFAM's stamp-expert David Tennant, based in Troon's OXFAM.

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A huge thank you to all the faithful individuals and businesses on Arran who help by collecting used stamps all year round.

They are all going to a very good cause.

The more the merrier; new savers are always welcome to join in, so pass the word to your friends. Happy Christmas to you all, and here's hoping you all receive lots of letters cards and parcels despite the weather.

Yours,
Janet Baraclough
Brodick

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Santa greets his first young customers in the lounge of Glenisle Hotel on Saturday.

02_b48san07



Adele Smith of the Royal Arran Hotel serves her delicious cupcakes to Gillean Bussell.

02_b48san02

Weather fails to dampen the spirits at new Lamlash event

'We struggled to get the marquees up'

Despite some very wild weather, Santa did indeed sparkle on the shore in Lamlash last Saturday and Sunday.

This new event, masterminded and underwritten by the Glenisle Hotel and Bistro, was in association with Visit Arran, Arran Events and Isle of Arran Distillery. Much forward planning had gone into the two-day 'festive extravaganza' but as with the best-laid plans of mice and men, the weather intervened.

By Wednesday it had become clear that the forecast for the weekend was for heavy rain and high winds.

Emergency talks were held between all the organisers, and at the time Geoffrey Dalmore of Glenisle said: 'We are determined not to let the weather change our plans. There will be plenty of festive food and drink available and Santa will be flying in from the North Pole especially for the event.'

On Friday the first four marquees went up, and overnight

two of them came down. Geoffrey said: 'We struggled to get the marquees up in high winds. One was blown down and badly damaged and the other had its windows blown out so we had to dismantle it. But hundreds of people pulled together and we made alternative arrangements.'

On Saturday the two remaining marquees were packed with local stalls selling a variety of festive goodies. Other stalls were squeezed into the hotel, and the live music acts that had expected to be on an outside stage adapted to the intimate surroundings of the hotel's lounge bar. Most importantly, despite the weather people still came, enjoyed themselves and spent some money.

Geoffrey added: 'We have proved that you can do this sort of thing in winter.'

'Many of the stallholders said that people who did not live in their village hardly knew that their business ex-

isted until this weekend. For them it seemed to be a great success.'

To put the icing on the cake, around 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon Santa arrived, landed his sleigh on the hotel roof, and entertained a long line up of excited children in the hotel lounge.

Stallholder Colin Stobbs said: 'We owe Geoffrey and Timothy huge thanks for organising this weekend and overcoming the many obstacles.'

Stacey Smith, another stallholder, said: 'We would like to thank the organisers from the Glenisle Hotel who made sure the event went ahead despite the horrendous weather. Without their tireless hard work the whole community would have missed out on an excellent event.'

A Chris Atkins video of the weekend, including the fireworks display, will be available soon on the hotel's website.

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Santa still sparkles in the



Santa Claus making his entry down the stairs at Glenisle. 02_b48san08



Ain't Misbehavin' performing songs in the lounge bar of Glenisle Hotel on Sunday. 02_b48san03



Alison Garratt and Janelle Paton on their stall in one of the marquees. 02_b48san06



Timothy Billings of Glenisle Hotel with Amy Rickard and Jo Hunter dispensing Glenisle mulled wine. 02_b48san05

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high winds and heavy rain



Festive serving wenches Mandy Murray, Isla MacDonald and Jude Murray behind the bar at Glenisle. 02_b48san09



Diane Lewis and Colin Stobbs serving traditional sweets. 02_b48san10



The barbecue did a roaring trade on Sunday afternoon. 02_b48san12



Faye Black and Gerard Tattersfield on the Isle of Arran Distillery stall. 02_b48san04



Jim and Brenda Stewart made a sterling effort to sell raffle tickets for Lamplash Improvements. 02_b48san11

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Primary school youngsters enjoy afternoon of dance



Youngsters from Shiskine primary School dancing the Gay Gordons. 01_b48dan01

Youngsters from all seven of the island's primary schools had great fun at the 13th Arran primary 'Dance Scottish' Festival on Tuesday in Whiting Bay Hall.

It was attended by over 100 children from all across Arran.

Alastair Aitkenhead started the festival 13 years ago, with the vision being that all Arran Primary pupils learn and perform Scottish dance in a fun and enjoyable atmosphere.

Success

It has since grown in success each year, and is now a highlight of the primary calendar.

Organiser Liz Kennedy opened the festival and introduced young Iain Clarke to pipe in each of the school's standard bearers.

Once all the children were on the dance floor, accordionist for the day from the RSAMD Ian Muir, went straight into the Gay Gordons.

There were a further 12 dances, including a Canadian Barn Dance, the Dashing White Sergeant and the St Bernard's Waltz.

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Arran's jazz band triumph

Arran's Jazz Café band have just released their first recording, entitled *Just My Size*, and it comes as no surprise that it's a complete success.

The band was formed in 2000 after a letter was sent in to The Banner from trombonist John Gibson, bemoaning the fact that there were all sorts of musical groups on Arran except jazz.

It started as a fledgling outfit and gradually built up a loyal following over the years.

In recent times, the band's repertoire has vastly increased and a selection of their most popular items appear on this new recording, coming in at just a minute shy of an hour's entertainment.

The Jazz Café Band is a big draw on Arran and with good reason.

Their versatility and rhythmic vitality with a wide range of jazz standards is astonishing for a purely amateur group of musicians.

In recent years, one of the band's major 'discoveries' is cornet player Biff Simpson's stunning singing: exuberantly exciting in Steamroller Blues and serenadingly silky smooth in I'll Be Seeing You.

'When Biff puts a song over, you know you've been sung

to', says the sleeve notes.

The main instrumental features on clarinet (Alison Prince), trombone (John Gibson) and cornet (Biff Simpson) are slick, tastefully done and well managed, and it's underpinned by some superb work by the 'rhythm section' of Tom Buchan (guitar) John Tilbury (electric bass) and Malcolm Kerr (drums).

The success of this CD has also been assured by the painstaking efforts of Jon Hollingworth, who recorded,

mixed and produced it all.

It's wonderful to now have a permanent reminder of the band's versatility and sheer entertainment value.

This recording deserves to sell and sell, and find them even more fans.

It can be bought from selected retail outlets, Arran Events website and members of the band and it's worth every penny!

Visit www.arranevents.com for more information.

Dave Payn



Arran's Jazz Café band have released their first album, *Just My Size*.

HOSPITAL SUPPORTERS LEAGUE

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday December 4th in Whiting Bay Hall from 2 - 4pm. All the usual stalls, Tea/Coffee and mince pies included in entrance fee.

For table tops please phone Judy on 700245. Donations for home baking and tombola stalls gratefully accepted from 12 noon in the hall.

Come and enjoy the afternoon and support your hospital at the same time.

ISLE OF ARRAN ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT

LAMLASH CHURCH
7.30 pm MONDAY 5th DECEMBER

Come and join us for this concert of Carols and Songs leading into the Festive Season of Christmas.

Those taking part include:

Arran High School
The Rowan Singers
The Arran Brass Band
The Lochranza Choir
Ain't Misbehaving
And Others
Plus Yourselfes

Proceeds in aid of the CLIC Sargent Cancer Fund
Scottish Charity No SC015072

Friends of Lochranza Kirk CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sat 10th December
2pm - 4pm

Lochranza & Catacol Hall

Lots of stalls
and a delicious
Lochranza tea!

Whiting Bay Hall SC024915

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 10th
December
11am - 2.30pm

Tables -
Tel Sandy 700445

BANNER LEISURE

This year's Arran Youth Speaks team takes to the stage

Arran High School's Rotary annual Youth Speaks competition was represented by Jessica Tetlow as Chairperson, Sarah Jenkins as the main speaker, Sophie Corbett as the Vote of thanks, and most importantly, Hannah Ross who had made the preparations as reserve.

The many Rotarians and their guests, and James McEnery, the English teacher, were thoroughly entertained on the subject of National Obsessions as linked to the forthcoming Olympic games.

Rotarian Mairi Christie said: 'We were all very proud of the pupils as this was their first public attempt at giving their talk in front of an audience.'

Encouraged

'They were encouraged by attractive surroundings and a lovely meal. Efforts had been made and succeeded in dealing with allergies and other idiosyncracies produced by Rotarians and all enjoyed great food and a lovely welcoming evening.'

However, the highlight was the talks themselves.

The subject had been prepared by the pupils themselves and interesting and thorough research had been done. All individual team members seemed interested in what the rest of their team had to say.

Mairi added: 'One or two wee tips were handed on by the old hands in Rotary, ie, to speak more slowly (we all know it's good to get it over as soon as possible) and to speak as clearly as possible, remembering that some may never have heard your accent before – a couple of wee points to encourage a great team who, I'm sure will do us proud in the next round.'

'Well done, team and teacher, Mr McEnery. We are delighted to send you forth as our representative in the next round of Rotary UK's Competition.'



The 2011/12 Arran Youth Speaks team, Jessica Tetlow, Sarah Jenkins, Sophie Corbett and Hannah Ross.

b48spe01

Council tax freeze will save Arran families £1,000

Families on Arran could save more than £1,000 next year due to council tax being frozen for another year.

On Thursday 24 November, Minister for Local Government and Planning Aileen Campbell MSP told the Scottish Parliament: The average saving for a council tax band D dwelling over the current session of Parliament will be more than £1,136.

'The policy involves the Scottish National Party Government doing what it can with the powers that it has to protect hard-working families.'

'Along with policies such as the abolition of prescription charges and the provision of

free tuition, the council tax freeze provides tangible help for real people's lives, and it helps constituents of North Ayrshire.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the details about the amount families will save through having their council frozen during this parliament.

Mr Gibson said: 'At a time of rising prices and for most people, static wages, we are determined to help wherever possible.'

'The council tax freeze - fully funded by the SNP Government - is helping to relieve some of the strain at a time of great financial difficulty.'

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Products and prices correct at the time of going to print. Products may vary from illustrated images. Products are subject to availability. Offers end 24/12/11. *To enter you must visit your local Scottish Hydro store before 4pm on 24 December 2011, complete an entry form and hand it to any sales assistant. SSE employees, their families and under 16's are excluded. Other terms and conditions apply. See in store for details.

Scottish Hydro

Moderator visits Ayrshire Maternity Unit

'Working in healthcare can be stressful with staff facing difficult situations'

As part of his visit to the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock, the Right Reverend David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, visited Ayrshire Maternity Unit on Tuesday 15 November.

The hospital is used by first time mums-to-be from Arran.

During his visit, Mr Arnott and his wife, Rosemary, met with staff and patients in the labour suite, neonatal unit and inpatient ward.

Mandy Yule, director of Integrated Care and Partner Services, said: 'The Moderator took time out of his busy schedule to meet with staff, and to find out more about the work of the unit.'

'In particular, he was interested to hear about the different options available to pregnant women and new mothers.

'He was also interested to hear about the work of SANDS - the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity - in the hospital.'

The Moderator also learned more about the Staff Care House at Crosshouse Hospital. NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Staff Care Service offers a range of support services to all staff.

The Staff Care House gives staff somewhere to go if they need to talk to someone, or if they just need some quiet time.

Reverend Judith Huggett, Hospital Chaplain explained: 'Working in a healthcare environment can sometimes be stressful, with our staff often facing difficult and distressing situations.'

'The Moderator recognised the importance of having somewhere for staff to go for advice and support, or just to get away from the situation for a time.'

'On behalf of the organisation, I would like to thank the Moderator and his wife for taking time out to meet with our staff and patients, and to find out more about the work of Staff Care and the Chaplaincy Services in NHS Ayrshire & Arran.'



The Right Reverend David Arnott, centre, visited the Ayrshire Maternity Unit last Tuesday.

Living Life GUIDED SELF-HELP

Living Life Guided Self-help is a free telephone service for people who may be feeling low, depressed or anxious.



To make an appointment with a self-help coach or for further information call

0800 328 9655

Monday to Friday 1pm to 9pm.

NHS
24

Mhairi Hall Trio were 'wonderful to listen to'

The Music Society is to be congratulated on their sagacity and ability in bringing such a wide spectrum of performances to the island.

These allow us to hear many varieties of music to help stimulate our appetite for ever widening horizons and give us a greater appreciation of the world of music.

And the Mhairi Hall Trio did exactly that.

In a quite unique display of technical and emotional brilliance their entire programme was based on and around the Lochaber area with traditional and new pieces collected and composed by Mhairi Hall.

She was ably assisted by Fraser Stone on drums and Michael Bryan on guitar to such an extent that they were as much together that they were a complete unit - wonderful to listen to!

Cairngorm Dance was a lovely piece full of melodic variety, as was *Tullochgrue* first composed around 1720.

People and Places was a pot

pourri of the area and brought to an end this concert in a rousing finish - an unusual and entertaining night!

HR



The Mhairi Hall Trio provided an entertaining evening in Brodick Hall.

Whiting Bay SWRI enjoy a visit to Arran Aromatics

Whiting Bay SWRI and friends spent a very enjoyable evening at Arran Aromatics for their November meeting.

Mark, their guide, was very informative and entertaining. The factory area was much larger than expected with its mixture of up-to-date and vintage machinery.

The amount of product that could be produced in a day reflected the worldwide market for the company's toiletries and candles.

Delicious

A big thanks goes to the ladies in the shop for the delicious refreshments and the chance to do some early

Christmas shopping at a most generous discount.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 7 December at 7.30pm in the lesser hall, and the theme is Christmas.

The competition is for a home-made tree decoration. Please come along and join in.

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, December 7, 1991

New ferry – official

CalMac have this week confirmed that Arran is to get a new ferry.

After more than a year of speculation the Scottish Office officially approved the plans.

We will have a new, bigger ferry, in service by autumn 1993 and all we know is that it will be almost identical to the new MV Isle of Mull.

Library shrinks

Arran's new library is not quite on schedule.

We previously reported that it would be finished in March of next year but it now looks like mid summer before it will be completed.

At a meeting of the council on Monday a tender of £211,510 was accepted from a mainland firm to build the library.

Pool re-opens

The Auchrannie pool opens

at 7am this morning (Saturday) with all its teething problems ironed out...at least that is what is hoped.

During the two weeks it has been closed much work has been done including new tiles in the changing rooms, and the pool being emptied and retiled.

At risk?

An Eriskay pony foal that we featured in The Banner two weeks ago is not expected to survive the winter.

Born on Holy Isle, owner Willie McConnell told us: 'It'll die, you know.'

Surprised we asked why. Born too late, said Willie, when winter begins to bite the mare's milk will dry up and it will die.

Arran shop goes to Glasgow

Island Porcelain who make attractive ceramic birds in Kilmory have opened a shop

in the prestigious Sauchiehall Street Centre in Glasgow for the Christmas season.

Also selling island wares in the same chic outlet are Arran pottery and The Arran Sweetie Kitchens.

Man arrested

A man from the mainland was arrested on Sunday morning trying to break in to the Old Pier Café in Lamlash.

A rather inept thief, police arrived just as he was trying to kick the door.

Fight night

Two fights in Whiting Bay on Saturday night have resulted in two arrests and two charges of breach of the peace.

In the first, a Brodick man is alleged to have hit a Corrie man on the head with a sharp metal bar.

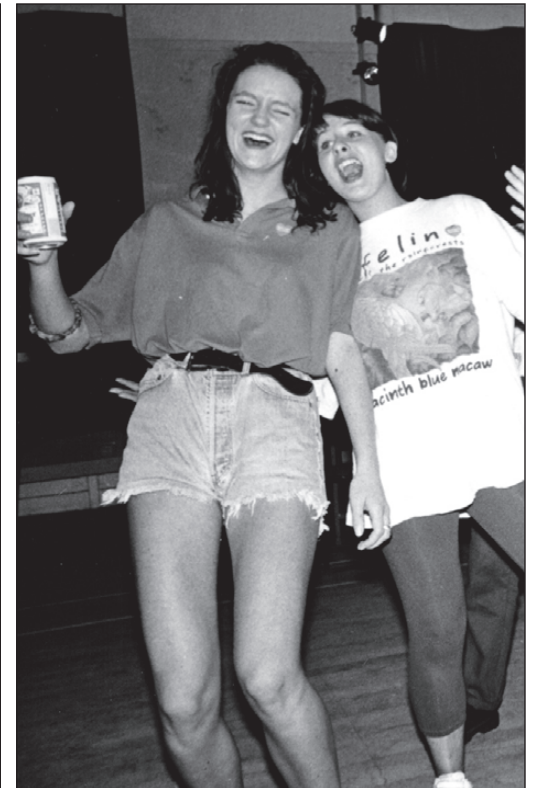
In the second, a 50-year-old man allegedly attacked a 16-year-old youth from Corrie.



Arran Challenge Golf Tournament winners at their prizegiving las Saturday with Challenge champion Robbie Crawford. b48twe02



Veronica Sillars of Lamlash is a woman doing a 'man's job'. For two years now she has been one of the team of workers at the Marine Harvest Fish Farm. b48twe05



Dancing the night away at Whiting Bay last Saturday were teenagers taking part in the 'Nags Bags Dance Marathon'. b48twe03



Douglas Bell, Tina Robertson and Luisa Wannop performed in 'False Pretences' as part of the high school's Annual House Play competition. b48twe01



George Grassie and Ewan Walls in 'Hallowe'en', the winning play at the High School's drama competition last week. b48twe04

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Last week Archie had a wet bottom, sitting in the sea on the beach at Sandbraes. First correct answers came from Fran in Troon, Alison in Perthshire and Brian and Rosie in Sowerby Bridge. This week he is on a grassy shore, but where is that headland behind him?

Burns Pet Nutrition
 The Holistic Approach to Health and Nutrition

gibbs galston

If you think you know then post your answer on the website **www.arranbanner.co.uk**
 Or email us at: **editor@arranbanner.co.uk**

Whats On

ISLE OF

ARRAN

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com Tel: 01770 302353

BREWERY

EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery
Arran Brewery Tour
Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Gardens open daily

Open Mon - Sat 10.am-4pm ,Closed Sunday
2pm
Loch Garbad,Bank
9am - dusk

SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER

Karate
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)
Teddy Bears Picnic
Kids Family Quiz
RNLI shop open
High School Art Exhibition
Christmas Fayre
Cllr Currie Surgery
Quiz Night
Alan Frew Live Music
Christmas Extravaganza in aid of Riding for Disabled
Kildonan Craft Market

Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool 4pm - 5pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Lamlash Pier 10.30am - 12.30pm
Bilslands - during opening hours
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 1pm - 5pm
Brodict Library, 1pm - 2pm
Kilmory Hall, 8pm
Douglas Hotel from 9pm
Arran High School 11.30am-3pm
Village Hall, 11am - 3.30pm

SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER

Alcoholics Anonymous
Live Music Folk / Rock / Blues
Family Games
Fun In The Pool
Teddy Bears Picnic
Open Mic Session

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Auchrannie Games Hall 3pm - 4pm
4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 2pm - 3pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm - 5pm

MONDAY 5th DECEMBER

Over 50's Badminton
Badminton
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Citizens Advice
BreathWalk Class
Table Tennis
Hatha Yoga
Lamlash Bridge
Activity Time
Come Dance with Me - LeRoc Modern Jive
Scottish Country Dancing for Beginners and Improvers
Yoga
Arran Junior Football
Circuit Training

Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10am - 2pm
Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Arran High School, 6pm - 7.30pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
The Playbarn, Auchrannie 1pm - 2pm (toddlers) 5pm - 6pm (school kids)
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
High School, 6pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Gym, 6pm - 7pm

TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Junior Hockey Club - 8 yrs up
Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up
Youth Club
Scottish Country Dancing
Winter Bowls
NFU AGM

Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall - 2pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10am - 2pm
Kildonan Hall - 7pm - 8.30pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Kinloch, 8pm

WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Selt Making Class
Senior Badminton
Museum, Archives & Geneology Service
Yogalates
Live Coutry Music
Aquafizz
Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
Kids Games
Circuit Training
Coffee Morning
Whiting Bay SWRI

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Games Hall 6pm - 7pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm
Lesser Hall, 7.30pm

THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Coffee Morning
Youth Club
General Knowledge Quiz
Brodict Embroidery Club
Brodict Bridge Club
The Wee Blether
Arran Music & Drama Rehearsals
Winter Bowls
Lunchbox

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
Kinloch Bar, 9pm
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 11.45am - 1.30pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER

Quiz
Aquafizz
Yogalates
Rock Disco
Arran Youth Foundations
Kids Party Games
Senior Badminton
Arran Ceilidh Group
Elderly Forum Christmas Lunch

Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45am to 10.30am
Auchrannie Studio 10am - 11am
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Church Hall, Brodict, 7pm - 9pm
The Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5 - 6pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 2pm
Corrie Hall. 8pm - 10pm
Glencloy Suite, 12 noon

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER

Friends of Lochranza Kirk Christmas Fayre Lochranza & Catacol Hall, 2pm - 4pm



To appear in What's On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

PUBLIC NOTICES

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



Arran Yacht Club
AGM
7.30pm
8th December
Ormidale Bar

Arran Access Trust
AGM
Tues 6th Dec
8pm at Ormidale Sports Pavilion
Speaker: Ali Hume from Mountain Rescue Team

Arran Mountain Festival
AGM
Mon 19th Dec
7pm
Eilean Mor, Brodick
All welcome

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine*, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash.

Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 23.12.11. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development


11/00777/PP; Westfield, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of sun room extension with decking area.

11/00773/PP; Site to East of MacKellars Wood, Pirnmill, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Construction of hydropower scheme including intake weir, buried penstock, turbine house with outfall, connection to the grid and new access from the public road.

11/00776/PP; Site to North of Doonhill, Harbour View, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick; Erection of 8 detached and 4 semi-detached dwelling houses and formation of associated access road.

11/00774/PP; Site to North East of Monyquil Farm, The String, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Construction of hydropower scheme including intake weir, buried penstock, turbine house with outfall and connection to the grid.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



“WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION MONYQUIL HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT GARBH ALLT MONYQUIL FARM, MONYQUIL ARRAN

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Allt Energy Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Monyquil Hydropower Development, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.2 metres in height	Garbh Allt	NR 9431 3666
Abstraction of 27,216 m3 per day of water	Garbh Allt	NR 9431 3666
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.6 km downstream from abstraction point	Garbh Allt	NR 9394 3544

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities have or are likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Other activities are included in the application that are considered not likely to have such an impact and are not listed here. Details of all the activities applied for can be seen in the application.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1098697:

Registry Department, SEPA, 5 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at North Ayrshire Council, Council Offices, Clachlands Road, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8LB, tel: (01770) 600338.

Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/consultations.aspx

A statement of the reasons for SEPA's assessment that the above controlled activity or activities is likely to have an impact on the water environment will be made available by SEPA on request by contacting the above office.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted, details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.”

“WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION PIRNMILL HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT ALLT GOBHLACH PIRNMILL ARRAN

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with regulation 13 of the above Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Allt Energy Ltd for authorisation to carry on controlled activities at, near or in connection with Pirnmill Hydropower Development, namely:

Description of controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Diversion of a watercourse	Un-named tributary of the Allt Gobhlach	NR 8881 4384
Construction and/or operation of impounding works 1.2 metres in height	Allt Gobhlach	NR 8876 4390
Abstraction of 28,512m3 per day of water	Allt Gobhlach	NR 8876 4390
Return of abstracted water approximately 1.8 km downstream from abstraction point	Allt Gobhlach	NR 8738 4406

SEPA considers that the above controlled activities have or are likely to have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment. Other activities are included in the application that are considered not likely to have such an impact and are not listed here. Details of all the activities applied for can be seen in the application.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1098695:

Registry Department, SEPA, 5 Redwood Crescent, Peel Park, East Kilbride, G74 5PP

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at North Ayrshire Council, Council Offices, Clachlands Road, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8LB, Tel: (01770) 600338

Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/consultations.aspx

A statement of the reasons for SEPA's assessment that the above controlled activity or activities is likely to have an impact on the water environment will be made available by SEPA on request by contacting the above office.

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

When ready to determine the application, SEPA will serve notice on any person who has made a representation within 28 days of this advertisement, informing them of SEPA's proposed determination and giving them the opportunity to notify the Scottish Ministers in writing that they object to SEPA's proposed determination within 21 days of the notice being served.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant an authorisation to carry on the activity or each of the activities referred to above and will make its decision available to the public together with the main reasons for it, the matters considered in making it and, if granted, details of any measures that will be taken to mitigate the impact.”

PUBLIC NOTICES



An Initiative of Trust Housing Association
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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 4 December
 Shiskine, 11am
 Sunday School in the Church Hall (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Brodick 7pm
 Dr Alan McPherson
 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 4 December
 Holy Communion, 11am.
 Revd Dr Hector Soga, Dollar.
 All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SCO15072)
 Kilmory linked with Lam-lash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 4 December
 Rev Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lam-lash 11.30am
 In both churches
 All welcome, including families; children's area.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 4 December
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 7pm
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
 Mr.G.Fraser
 Prayer Meeting
 Wednesday 7th 7pm
 5 Glen Road
 Rev D N Macleod
 All 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 4 December
 Brodick Church, 10.30am
 Corrie Church, 12 pm
 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 (SC014005)
Sunday 4 December
 Worship for Advent will be conducted by the Worship Group at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome. (There will be no service in Corriedoon at 2.30pm or in Craigielea at 3.15pm.) The Church Christmas Card, to be sent to all members, will be available to be signed, and all proceeds will go to Al Shurooq School for the Visually Handicapped in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 4 December
 Ormidale Pavilion Brodick
 11am - Morning Worship including communion
 Tea/Coffee after service
 Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.
 For details Tel 860232
 Everyone very welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Sunday 4 December
 11am
 Bheinn Ard, N. Newton, Lochranza.
 Enquiries to Tessa 830 622
 All are welcome

MEMORIALS

MACKENZIE, James - died 28.11.2004
 Treasured memories of a much loved son, brother and uncle.
 Sadly missed by all of us. Love Mum, Donald, Elizabeth, John and families.

PERSONALS

All family of the late Catherine (Kate) Murchie would like to thank all family and friends who attended her funeral. We would like to thank all medical and nursing staff, David and Clair Hendry, and the Brodick Bar for their care and help. All cards and calls of sympathy were greatly appreciated.



Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 27 November, Winter Cup. Only eight hardy soles played on a cold blustery day. 1 J McKean 34pts, 2 D McKinnie 31pts, 3 T Raeside 30pts

There was only one two, from T Raeside.

Fixtures: Sunday 4 December, AGA Winter League. There will also be a sweep at Brodick, open draws at 9am and 12pm. Sunday 11 December, Brandon and Winter Cup.

Arran Golfers Association

Winter league, Duncan Trophy second round, Whiting Bay Golf Club, Sunday 4 December. Draw: Whiting Bay v Brodick at 10am, Corrie v Shiskine at 10.50am, Machrie Bay v Lam-lash at 11.50am. Could all Club Captains leave team sheets and results for Dougie to pick up from the clubhouse please.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 27 November, only five braved the wind and rain

to play in the Gents medal, CSS 63. 1 David Morrison (10)64, 2 Graeme Crichton (12)65, 3 John Dick (12)69.

Fixtures: Saturday 3 December, Mixed Fours at 11am. Sunday 4 December, AGA Winter League at Whiting Bay. First game at 10am, Whiting Bay v Brodick.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 27 November, the Jim Allison Trophy was played on a wet and windy Sunday with the team representing the Natives captained by Gator Wild Man Kerr and the Missionaries by Joe Ernest (Coatbridge Joe). At the end of the golf the teams were tied and so adjourned to the Kinloch to decide the winners by way of a shoot-out. After much discussion it was agreed that the deciding event should be a game of cricket played on the dartboard and that is when the Natives came into their own. With some very average bowling the Missionaries allowed the Natives to score over 600 runs before they declared and the pace of bowlers Morrison, Black and Crawford supported by the unorthodox leg-spin of Gator destroyed the Missionaries and dispatched them for a total of 211.

So to the victors the spoils and the Missionaries cer-



Photo: H Bannatyne

tainly were outwitted by the canny locals.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday 28 November, Monday Cup from yellow tees, 10 played. 1 S Beardsley 67-4=63, 2 A McDonald 72-8=64 BIH over L Hartley and A Smith. There was one magic two from D Crawford.

Fixtures: Saturday 3 December, Winter Cup from Medal tees at 8.30am and 12noon. Sunday 4 December, AGA Winter League at Whiting Bay. Best of luck to the Corrie team. Monday 5 December, Monday Cup at 12noon.

Lam-lash Golf Club

Thursday 24 November, 15 hole Medal. 1 Stuart Cree 61-13=48, 2 Mark Wren 58-8=50. There were twos from Mark

Wren and Billy O'Connor. Sunday 27 November, Winter Stableford, 36 points to stableford. 1 Alan Winship 35pts, 2 Todd Jameson 35 pts, 3 Ian Bremner 34pts. Best scratch Todd Jameson 71.

Fixtures: Sunday 4 December, Winter League Team Game at Whiting Bay, Lam-lash v Machrie. Thursday 8 December, 15 hole Medal - make up own groups.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 22 November, Winter Cup. 1 Denise Sherwood 65, 2 Brian Sherwood 67, 3 Ron Woods 71. Scratch Brian Sherwood 73. Twos Alastair MacDonald.

Fixtures: Saturday 3 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final tee-off 12pm. Tuesday 6 December, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off.

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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Stewart and Gordon tee off at the golf shop

Brodick Golf Shop has a new lease of life.

The business has been taken over by PGA professional Stewart Smith who has installed Gordon Hendry as shop manager.

At the official opening last Sunday, club captain Iain MacDonald welcomed guests from all island golf clubs and introduced Stewart who said: 'Unfortunately, our special guest, Ronan Rafferty, former Ryder Cup player and European tour number one, was unable to come today because of ferry disruptions - but he has promised to come in Spring and give some golf clinics.'

'I would thank Alastair Dobson in particular for asking me to look at golf on Arran and bringing together all the clubs in an online facility. Out of that came this great opportunity to take over the shop.'

'Gordon who will manage the shop knows the local people and many visitors having worked at Brodick both on the course and in the bar, so between us we can anticipate the needs of members and

visitors alike and meet their expectations.

'The plan is to provide members, their guests and visitors, both to Brodick and to Arran in general, with a great welcome and the best of golf equipment, accessories and clothing from quality brands. There will also be excellent rental equipment for visitors and coaching for gents, ladies and juniors. We are looking to improve the experience for all golfers who stay on or visit Arran and to grow the number of both.'

Stewart has worked in the golf business for 28 years. Having begun his career as a tour player, he also worked in England, Scandinavia and the United States. He has been club professional at Prestwick St Nicholas and run retail outlets that have since been sold to American Golf.

Stewart has been Director of Golf at Southern Gailes (now Dundonald) and continues to consult to a number of businesses in Britain and Europe including the Roxburghe in Kelso, Elea in Cyprus and with VisitScotland and VisitArran.

Brodick Golf Shop had been run by professional Peter McCalla from 1987 until earlier this year.



Drift Inn leap to the top

The team from the Drift Inn are topping the Arran Pool League after a 7-3 victory over the Kilmory team PT1934 last week.

PT have been relegated to third place with Whiting Bay Golf Club in second place after another 7-3 victory over Kildonan.

The other top teams, Bar Eden and Catacol, drew 5-5 with PHT and Mac's Bar.

The full results were as follows:

Bar Eden (G) 5 PHT 5, Drift 7 PT1934 3 (G), Mac's Bar 5 Catacol 5 (G), Whiting Bay Golf Club 7 Kildonan 3 (G).

Last Games

This week (December 8) the last league games of the season will be played.

Bar Eden take on the Drift, PHT play PT1934, Whiting Bay Golf Club are up against Mac's Bar and Kildonan play Catacol.

Blackwaterfoot bowlers celebrate season's end

Blackwaterfoot Bowling club held its AGM and Celebration Dinner on November 23 at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

Steve Hope was elected captain taking over from John Robinson with Peter Harper as his deputy, and the rest of the committee will remain the same.

It was decided to open the next season on Easter weekend (April 7) and everyone is looking forward to this.

The company then moved on to an excellent dinner, followed by the prize giving.

The photograph shows the recipients of the club trophies and three Arran Federation trophies.

Arran Bridge results

Brodick Bridge Club

The results of the match point tournament on Thursday 24 November were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton; 2 Douglas Bruce and David Scobie; 3 Janie MacLure and Anne McKelvie. E/W 1 Jean Barclay and Morag Gardner; 2 Eendy McNiven and Roddie Thompson; 3 John Dick and Mary Dick.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Results for Monday 28 November were as follows: N/S 1 A Bilsland and T Martin +2,980; 2 J and J Beattie +1,220; 3 J and M Dick +670. E/W 1 E McNiven and L Paul +1,230; 2 H Boyd and J Murchie +290; 3 J Houston and M Gardner -90.

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Brodick captain Iain MacDonald, shop manager Gordon Hendry and new shop owner Stewart Smith at the opening on Sunday. 02_b48golf01

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