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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2013

No 1938 60p

**Arran funeral
to be held for
crash victim**



Tony Collins

The funeral of tragic helicopter crash victim PC Tony Collins is to be held on Arran.

The dad of three, who had close connections to the island, was among the nine people who died when the helicopter crashed into the Clutha Vaults pub in Glasgow last Friday night.

PC Collins, who was 43, served with the Police Scotland helicopter unit and was in the aircraft when it crashed also killing colleague Kirsty Nelis, 36, and the 51-year-old pilot David Traill.

Six people in the pub also lost their lives.

Although he lived on the south side of Glasgow with his wife Lucy and their children, PC Collins was brought up on Arran and his parents, Geoff and Margaret, still live on the island.

His funeral will be held at Lamlash Cemetary on Tuesday 10 December at 11.45am. The service will be conducted by the Rev Angus Adamson and donations, in lieu of flowers, will be made to the Clutha Appeal Fund.

Businesses warned as Arran woman is hit by cash scam

**'I'm also quite upset
about the personal
nature of the scam'**

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

An Arran businesswoman has been hit by a cash scam and is warning others to be on their guard.

Jan Schofield, who runs the Craig Dhu Holiday Cottages in Lamlash, was telephoned out of the blue with a demand for payment of a £5,000 outstanding debt.

She was warned in a series of angry phone calls that if she did not pay up 'bailiffs' would be sent round to recover the debt and she would be pursued through the courts.

But despite being badly shaken by the 'aggressiveness' of the two men involved, alarm bells began to ring that all did not ring true.

This was because bailiffs do not operate in Scotland but Sheriff Officers. They also claimed they would take her to the High Court if she didn't pay. In Scotland it would be a Sheriff Court matter.

But undeterred by Jan's resistance one of the men involved in the scam started to offer her 'discounts' on the debt dropping first to half the claimed debt and then to £1,000.

Jan immediately notified her accountant, her solicitor, Police Scotland, North Ayrshire Trading Standards Department, trading standards in Preston, where she believed the phone calls were coming from and BT nuisance calls.

She wants to warn other businesses on the island to be on their guard.

The scam is exactly the same as the one to hit Mal and Julie Barker at Viewbank House in Whiting Bay a year ago.

Another Brodick business has been hit in a similar scam, and while neither lost any money, a firm on the mainland in North Ayrshire has been stung for £17,000.

Jan told The Banner: 'It was an unsettling and frightening experience and I just want to make sure businesses across



Elves from the Streetly Dance group met Santa and Mrs Claus in the big top during the Santa's Sparke event which proved another huge success in Lamlash at the weekend. After a short performance and telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas, they were each presented with a soft toy. 20_b49elf01

the island are aware of it.

'I was able to establish quite quickly it was a scam, but if it had been an older or more vulnerable person, they could have been taken in.'

'I'm also quite upset about the more personal nature of this scam. Usually I'm either abrupt or don't even take them, this one was

different. Now, I always look at the caller display on our landline phones.

'On Tuesday 23 November I got a phone call from man stating he was a High Court Sheriff, that he was about to go into a court hearing that afternoon to pursue Craig Dhu Holiday Cottages for an outstanding debt from 2011

for £4,957.98 against Business Directory.

'If I did not pay immediately, the bailiffs would come to the property and take possessions to the value of the debt.'

'Rather than slam the phone down I told him to stop right there whilst I got pen and paper and sat down. At this

Continued on Page 2

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Businesses warned as Arran woman is hit by cash scam

Continued from Page 1
point I had decided to be devil's advocate and take as much detail as I could.

'He stated I must get in touch with the Business Directory in Preston and speak to their collections manager.

'The collections manager was much more aggressive. He stated I must pay the full amount immediately and I did not, the bailiffs would come to the property. I repeated, I did not owe anything, had received no papers and that I wouldn't pay anything. After a few minutes repeating himself, he started to negotiate a payment of, first half the amount and then £1,000. At that point I put the phone down quite shaken.'

Police Scotland confirmed they had been made aware of the incident.

A spokesperson for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We would always urge businesses to stay alert and take every step they can to reduce the likelihood of being targeted by fraud. This is even more important during the run up to Christmas, when businesses are busier and scams can go undetected more easily.'



The Rowan Singers perform at the carol concert. 20_b49carol01

Grab a bargain at big shopping weekend

It's here and it's time to grab a bargain.

The ShopArran big weekend is underway and now is the time to get those Christmas gifts with big discounts available.

Whether its perfume, outdoor wear, jewellery, gifts, whisky or cheese you'll find the very best prices on Arran this weekend.

And during the Christmas shopping weekend there will be the chance to win a fabulous weekend at the Douglas Hotel.

Spend £30 in any of the shops taking part to get your entry card and first stamp, and

and just collect two more to enter the prize draw for two nights bed and breakfast at The Douglas.

You can enter as many times as you like, just keep shopping!

Arran is the perfect destination for the Christmas shopper as the island has some superb stores, boutiques and gift shops.

In all of the villages there

are shops packed with beautiful, original gifts that are a delight to give to your loved ones.

From 9am today (Friday) to closing time on Sunday a co-operative of island shops will be offering massive savings and special offers to encourage people to buy locally this Christmas.

All ShopArran members are offering fantastic reductions and it is an ideal opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done early this weekend.



The congregation in fine voice at the concert. 20_b49carol02

Carols for Christmas in Lamlash Church

Lamlash Church was packed on Monday night for the annual Arran Carol Concert.

But introducing the evening of carols, readings and music the Rev Angus Adamson said the concert was seldom known by its official title but as the John Dick Concert.

The evening features among others The Rowan Singers and the Lochranza Choir, who are to amalgamate in the new year.

There were also performances by Finlay Murchie,

Olivia Barker and the Arran Brass Band.

In the early 1980s, as head of music at Arran High School, John Dick held an annual school carol concert and when he retired in the mid 1990s he continued to organise the concert to include other island choirs and the Arran Brass Band.

It continues in that format today and is always held on the first Monday in December signalling the start of the festive season.

Keys found in Brodick

A set of keys were found outside the offices of the Arran Estate Agents in Shore Road, Brodick on Monday.

They were handed in by a member of the public. Anyone who thinks they may be owner should contact Ann or Marie at Arran Estate Agents on 302310.

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Tragic crash victim Tony was a man of dignity and selflessness

A personal tribute to Tony Collins

ONE of tragic Glasgow helicopter crash victim PC Tony Collins' best friends has told how he and other chums cried into their pints with grief and hilarity as they remembered the good times with him.

One of his close friends - who knew Tony from when they were 14-year-old schoolboys - said the empty bar-stool beside the group of close-knit mates was 'too hard to comprehend'.

PC Collins, nicknamed 'Barney' because of his resemblance to the Flintstones cartoon character, was one of the two officers in the helicopter who lost their lives along with the pilot and six others in the Clutha Vaults pub tragedy.

His friend from Glasgow and Tony forged their friendship on Arran, where he spent a large part of his early life.

The pair met in the former

Bilsland's games room, above the old Co-op in Brodick, and his close friend expressed his devastation and affection through his Facebook page:

'To write this as someone who has known this man for 30 years without crying is an impossibility.'

'Tony Collins, AKA Barney, amongst others, left this world on Friday night.'

'He did not leave voluntarily, but fighting with every

sinew in his body to survive - the odds, in this case, stacked too high against him.'

'I cannot begin to write a eulogy for this man.'

'His accomplishments were too great and my literary skills too poor.'

'What I will say is this. Dignity, loyalty, selflessness, integrity and fun loving were core attributes - no doubt inherited from his parents Geoff and Margaret.'



Tony Collins

'As a young man, his sense of mischief and fun not only got him into some interesting situations now and again, but also cemented his place in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him at that age.'

'Examples are too many to mention, but well worth discussions in weeks to come!'

'Over the last 15 years or so, his ability to be pernickety had slowly mellowed due to the fantastic life he led with his wife Lucy and their kids.'

'I and some other friends

of Tony's were crying into our pints, after we heard the news, with a combination of uncontrollable grief and hilarity, reminiscing on some of his exploits ... the empty barstool beside us too hard to comprehend.'

'If you were to think of everything you would want in a friend that you were looking forward to growing old with, then Tony ticked all the boxes and more. Life is unfair. I am heartbroken. Love and respect you. Rest in peace buddy.'

Two nights of wonderful music to be held at Corrie Church this weekend

This weekend Corrie Church puts on an amazing two nights of wonderful music by both professional and local artistes.

Firstly tonight (Friday), legendary world class piper Fred Morrison is in concert from 8pm.

Multi-instrumentalist Fred is not only one of the finest ever exponents of the Great Highland bagpipe and former Gold Medalist on the competition circuit, but a master of the uilleann pipes, low whistle and the Border/Highland reel pipes, currently so popular with folk bands.

His musical genius has seen him headline in recent years with Matthew Watson at 'Celtic Connections', at 'Piping Live' with Paddy Keenan and with Runrig.

A regular guest on BBC 2's 'Transat-

lantic Sessions' and BBC Alba, his music, both contemporary and traditional features many of his own compositions, such as 'Seonaidh's Tune', 'Aird Ranters' and blue grass influenced tune 'Kansas City Hornpipe', all very much standards with bands and groups on the traditional music scene.

Known as the Jimi Hendrix of piping, one thing can be guaranteed, however, there will be nothing standard about the way Fred will present them during the evening.

Following the huge success of his CD releases 'Sound of the Sun', 'Up South' and 'Outlands', Fred was on Arran last autumn putting together new material for a forthcoming release in the near future. There is an expectation some of that material might just make its world debut at Corrie on Friday.

Following this extravaganza of piping, Saturday hosts the return of Peter Wilson and Friends for the greatly anticipated Christmas Concert - this year they are - Graham McCusker, Heather Lowe, Katy Connor, the two girls having been here for the MacLellan Festival Summer school, and local artists Lucy Cartledge and Lorna Buchanan, Heather and Stuart Gough complete this talented group.

Old favourites and some new ones will start the Christmas celebrations.

Coffee and Mince pies will be served and it is hoped everyone will enjoy a wonderful weekend of music.

Tickets for both concerts are available from the Book and Card Shop Brodick or from the door for a reduced price for the two nights, and are reduced even further for concessions and children.

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Free TV licences for over 75s

Anyone on Arran celebrating their 75th birthday in the next 12 months will be entitled to claim a free TV licence on the landmark day.

TV Licensing and Age Scotland are reminding people that anyone aged 75 or over is eligible for a free TV licence for their main address.

There are currently almost four million free TV licences in force, including more than 560 on Arran, and with more

than 4.9 million adults more than 75 years living in the UK, TV Licensing is encouraging those eligible for the concession to apply online or by phone.

The free licence covers all the equipment in the property, meaning family or carers living in the same home will also benefit, even if they are watching on devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones. Anyone aged 74 or

more can begin planning for the concession immediately by applying for a short-term licence which will last between one and 11 months.

Age Scotland works with TV Licensing to ensure older people and community advice groups are aware of the concession. The organisation's communications and campaign officer Doug Anthony said: 'The provision of a free TV licence is

a valuable concession which is very welcome to many at a time when the cost of living continues to rise. We would encourage everyone who is eligible to ensure they enjoy the benefit.'

Stephen Farmer, spokesperson for TV Licensing, said:

'If you're approaching 75 or have already enjoyed your 75th birthday then it's quick and easy to apply for your free TV Licence at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/over75. Alternatively you can call our customer service centre on 0300 790 6073 and they will

be able to help and advise on your TV Licensing needs.

'It's also important to remember the free licence is not granted automatically so anybody who becomes eligible needs to make sure they apply by getting in touch with TV Licensing directly.'

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Sheila Gilmore at the VisitArran stand in Glasgow.

Promoting Arran in the heart of Glasgow

Arran went to the heart of Glasgow last week promoting a high quality destination and good quality products and enjoyed a very successful day.

Arran Aromatics, which has its first stand alone outlet

in Princes Square, invited a Taste of Arran to come along and promote Arran in the centre of the city.

Taking part in the Christmas extravaganza were Gordon Wilson and son Andrew from

the Island Cheese Company and Isle of Arran Distillery whisky tasting with Faye Black. Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran was also there promoting Arran and all island's winter events.

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New priest has first service at St Margaret's

A Whiting Bay church has a priest in charge at last.

St Margaret's Episcopal Church has for several years been using only lay leaders.

The Rev Simon Mackenzie was licensed by the Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, at a ceremony in Lochgilphead last month.

Attending on behalf of St Margaret's were Mary and Barry Boughton and John Roberts. Mary was chosen to present him with a bible as one of the representatives offering symbolic gifts at the service.

Fr Simon, a returning Scots, comes to the area from a parish in Birmingham. He will have charge of the Episcopal churches in Lochgilphead, Inveraray and Poltalloch as well as Arran, so he will, by no means, be able to visit the island every week, but the congregation of St Margaret's hope to see him as often as possible and are reassured to have an ordained minister in overall charge and as a mentor after so many years.

His first visit to the island will take place this weekend and is eagerly anticipated.

The congregation are putting on a meal for him at the church on Saturday afternoon, so he can get to know his new flock in an informal setting. And on Sunday the regular 11am service will be followed by a light lunch, the launch of a mission initiative, and finally a carol service at 3pm to which it would be nice to welcome all who would like to come.

The congregation of St Margaret's are looking forward to a long and happy relationship with Fr Simon.

Islanders hit by changes to 'signing on'

Arran residents claiming Jobseekers Allowance have been hit by changes in postal 'signing on' procedures that apply to the island.

Previously their postal form was sent to Saltcoats Jobcentre but the Department for Work and Pensions and now decided that all forms must be sent to Wolverhampton before being redirected to Saltcoats, the effect of which has been delayed benefit payments or missing mail.

Now North Ayrshire and Arran MP Katy Clark is taking up the issue.

'In recent weeks constituents on Arran have contacted me about changes in how they 'sign on' for Jobseekers Allowance. I am taking these issues up with the DWP on behalf of my constituents,' she said.

Ms Clark spoke about taking up the issues when she was the guest speaker at Arran Labour Party's meeting on welfare reform last Saturday.

She told the meeting how changes such as the bedroom tax and cuts to disability benefit cuts have affected her constituents. She also explained how local residents on Arran have been contacting her about a recent change in how they make their postal signing on for Jobseekers Allowance.

Speaking after the meeting Ms Clark said: 'I was pleased to have the opportunity to



Katy Clark addresses the meeting in Brodick.

speak about these important issues to constituents on Arran and I would like to thank the Arran Labour Party for organising the meeting and inviting me along to speak.

'The impact of the bedroom tax and changes to disability benefits has received some media coverage but I believe telling people some of the harrowing cases my office has to deal with on a daily basis fully illustrates how this government are treating the most vulnerable in society.

'My office has recently dealt with people who have had their benefits sanctioned for 13 weeks leaving them with no income until after Christmas, people hit by the

bedroom tax who have been refused discretionary housing payments because they haven't 'rebudgeted' since their last application and people who have severe physical and mental health problems who have been passed fit to work.

'The welfare state is meant

to be a protection for all of us that if we fall on hard times the state will provide the support we need to live a reasonable life. Under this government that protection is being ripped apart and I know that this is something that people on Arran will care deeply about and oppose.'



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All welcome to hear quality speakers

VisitArran are keen to invite all businesses on Arran to the rescheduled annual stakeholders meeting which will take place on Friday 13 December.

This is because the speakers are Marc Crothall, CEO of the Scottish Tourism Alliance and James Withers, CEO of Scotland Food and Drink.

Sheila Gilmore executive director of VisitArran said: 'Such is the quality of the speakers, I hope as many business people as possible on the island will come to the event.

It will start at 11am in the Glen Cloy Suite at the Auchrannie Hotel.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Sheila at info@visitarran.com or by telephone on 302043 by close of play on Monday 9 December.

Free transport from the pier can be provided.

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Malcolm Whitmore in a lower field on the site. 20_b49land01



Above: Malcolm on the higher slopes of the site. 20_b49land02



Left: The site stretches to the distant trees in the background. 20_b49land03

Community plan for acres of dis



David Warnock and Juliette Lewis after their presentation to Arran Community Council. 20_b49land05



The huge site stretches out across

Land initiative want the

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

The public are being urged to get involved in the first ever community land bid on the island.

Arran Community Land Initiative is moving forward with its attempt to acquire 81 acres of abandoned farmland in Whiting Bay.

And another piece of the jigsaw is in place with the appointment of Arran resident Malcolm Whitmore as the community engagement officer to explore the possibilities the site offers.

Malcolm's role will be meeting and talking to islanders to explain the aims of the project and to seek ideas on how the land can best be used. These ideas can then be incorporated into the bid.

To give the public the chance to get involved every house in Whiting Bay has been sent a leaflet giving them full details of the project.

Two open meetings are taking place next week to explain the proposals.

The first will be in the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Thursday 12 December and the second in Whiting Bay Hall on Friday 13 December. Both with a 7.30pm start.

As reported earlier in the *Ban-*



ner, consultant David Warnock has been appointed to draw up a feasibility study which will form the basis for the group's bid to the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the site.

Both he and Malcolm will be at the meetings.

Malcolm took the Banner on a guided tour of the site which is what remains of New Bank Farm, an area of disused arable land which lies on the upper slopes of Whiting Bay.

The land is bounded to the north by Whiting Bay golf course, to the south by woodland adjacent to Glenashdale Burn, to the west by a Forestry Commission plantation and timber lorry roads, and to the east by other farmland.


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in a new dawn used farmland



s the hills above Whiting Bay. 20_b49land07

public to have their say

A number of ideas for the site are being considered and these include a mountain bike trail, a community garden project, grazing land, footpaths and bridleways and camping pods for walkers. As well as wildlife conservation and possibly renewable energy generation.

However, while the project has to generate income, Malcolm stressed they were looking at low impact activities which acknowledge the limitations on vehicle access and are in harmony with the rural setting.

Malcolm said: 'It's an exciting project and I'm really pleased to be part of it. Having lived in the Whiting Bay area for 10 years, I know the project area well. It's sad to see land abandoned and deteriorating but now there's a real prospect

of seeing it put to good use and becoming an asset for the community of Arran.

'We are looking for ideas from individuals and groups on the island who see potential uses for the land which will benefit the community. We want to encourage as many folk as we can to come forward with suggestions. Then we will look at how the ideas might fit into an overall plan for the area. There is potential for lots of activities on the one site.

'Already Arran Bike Club has shown an interest in a designed mountain bike course and we are talking to other groups about the scope for a variety of conservation, education and recreational activities being held there.

'Some of the land could be brought back into agricultural

use and maybe a community garden could be set up, whilst other parts of the site have potential for wildlife and nature study.

'To be successful we need to show that the project has strong community backing so letters of support will be very welcome.'

Meanwhile, David Warnock and Juliette Walsh gave a presentation to Arran Community Council meeting in Lochranza.

Following the feasibility study an application will be made early next year to purchase the site.

Anyone interested in learning more can get in touch with Malcolm by email at malcolmonarran@hotmail.co.uk, through the ACLI site on Facebook or by calling 700367.



The community council listens to the presentation. 20_b49land06



Part of the site's windswept terrain. 20_bland04

Christmas Shopping Weekend 6th - 8th December

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Take care and have a fraud free Christmas

Everyone is gearing up for Christmas. But while most people are thinking about presents and turkey and trimmings, in the shadows lurk those whose minds turn to scams and fraud.

The extremely unpleasant experience of an Arran businesswoman this week shows just how far these scamsters are prepared to go.

This is not just phone fraud but a full blown attempt at extortion.

The woman involved is smart and switched on. She quickly smelled a rat, or two, and took decisive action.

But there are many older and more vulnerable people out there who could well have been taken in. These fraudsters are ruthless - and it seems they are still using the same scam they were a year ago. Only the numbers have changed.

They don't care if it is a little old lady saving for Christmas or a business which could be struggling to survive. They just want money, any way they can get it.

What is important is that if any business or individual is approached the authorities must be told.

There is no point turning a blind eye to these scams, even if you don't lose out - because the next person targeted might not be so lucky.

So everyone must be aware, at this busy time, to be extra vigilant on the internet or on the phone not to be caught out.

Trading standards officials urge business owners to take time to make themselves aware of the types of fraud being carried out every day.

And the website run by the National Fraud Authority - www.actionfraud.police.uk - is particularly useful in finding out about, and reporting, fraud and internet crime.

So if you have been scammed, ripped off or conned, or even an attempt has been made to do so, report it to the authorities.

There is no point in pretending it will ever be stamped out. Fraud, by its very nature, goes with the flow. Phone fraud has been about for years, but of course the internet has opened up a whole new world not just for the good, but for the those intent on criminality.

So let's have a happy and fraud-free Christmas by taking a few simple precautions that keep the fraudsters at bay.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.' (Lamentations 3:25-26)

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



Disabled forum

Sir,
Would any resident with a disability be interested in joining a forum to discuss issues relevant to their needs and concerns with living on Arran? An Arran Disability Forum could be set up as either an informal discussion group or a formal association depending on the choice of participants.

Activities could be wide ranging from social gatherings to meetings with various representatives from local councils and other relevant organisations that affect our lives here on Arran.

Should anyone be interested in participating then please contact me by email at nigelhunter1@msn.com or write to the address below this communication.

Yours,
Nigel Hunter
36 Murray Crescent
Lamlash
KA27 8NS

Charity day

Sir,
A fundraising day for Scotland's charity air ambulance will be held at Corrie Hall on Saturday 21 December. Please see posters for more detail, but the day will involve stalls and food between 2pm and 5pm and a party at night starting at 9pm.

Guest DJ Chris Jones will be flying in all the way from Wales to drive the tunes. Scotland's charity air ambulance service began in May this year to provide emergency back up to the Scottish Air Ambulance Service. It is completely dependent on donations in order to operate and you can find out more about it at <http://www.scaa.org.uk/>.

If you wish to support this service but cannot come along on the day, you can do so through their website or through a soon to be created Facebook page. Please come along for as much of the day as you can manage. We know that this is a busy time of year for people, but it should be a good night out.

Yours,
Jamie Smith and Isla Blair Brodick

Cherish the day

Sir,
I just wanted to reply to the letter printed in last week's Arran Banner, regarding the enjoyable stay which Mrs Brown had with us here at the Douglas.

What a refreshing compliment, we are delighted that Mrs Brown took the time to write to the Arran Banner and wish to let her know how appreciative we are. This letter was like a breath of fresh air.

It's been a tough few months for lots of folk and it's a good reminder to cherish the day. Thank you.

Yours,
James Reid
General Manager
The Douglas Hotel

Grateful thanks

Sir,
My grateful thanks must go to my wonderful ALGU friends who came to my assistance

when I had a 'wobbly' on the Machrie Golf Course last Saturday.

Many thanks also for tea and sandwiches quickly produced by the staff at the Machrie Bay tearoom.

Thank you all so much for your kind attention.

Yours,
Pat Reid Lamlash

Firework concern

Sir,
I would like to congratulate the Glenisla for hosting the Santas Sparkle weekend. However I felt I had to write to the banner to express my concern after what I witnessed at the fireworks display.

The fireworks were very spectacular. The last few fireworks were set off and were very smokey and seemed a little out of control. The tree looked like it was on fire with an out of control rocket.

Then the crowd was covered in smouldering hot ash which was landing on people's jackets and a wee girl next to me had to go to hospital for treatment. Her face was burnt. My own jacket was damaged and unwearable now.

I feel that the display was too close for comfort and dangerous.

Yours,
Name and address supplied
Splashing time

Sir,
Whilst crossing to Holy Isle on Saturday 28 September, I took this photo of a lad having fun on the water. Unfortunately I have no idea who the person is, but thought they may like to have a copy. I wondered if there were any way you could help through your newspaper. Thanks!

Yours,
Harry Thomson
Bridge of Allan



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Concern new wind turbines will be seen across west coast of island

Islanders have expressed their concern that a major windfarm extension on Kintyre will be seen from much of the west coast of Arran.

It was thought that the new taller turbines proposed would only be seen from the far north of the island.

But at a public meeting it has emerged that the main impact will be to Blackwaterfoot and Machrie Bay. The windfarm is also expected to be visible from Shiskine.

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

Already the 45 turbines on the site can be seen from Arran and construction work is already underway on 20 more.

Now a second area has been identified to the south for Phase 3 of the development which will see the erection of

30 or more turbines.

Arran Community Council moved their meeting to Lochranza last week and invited operators ScottishPower Renewables to the island to explain their plans.

Company representatives Catherine Walker and Kevin O'Reilly were given a hot reception.

Ms Walker showed the meeting a map which showed that the windfarm extension will be visible from much of the west coast of Arran, and she admitted that the turbines were likely to be taller and showed the impact this will have on visibility from Blackwaterfoot and Machrie Bay. However, the extension should not be visible from Lochranza.

She said they would have a 25-year operation period, although this could be extended.



Catherine Walker explains the windfarm plans to the meeting. 20_b49wind01

The meeting also heard that the construction of a subsea cable was already underway from the Kintyre peninsula to Hunterston in North Ayrshire.

One islander was concerned that this could lead to a proliferation of wind turbines down the entire Kintyre peninsula.

Ms Walker explained that the project was still in the consultation process and offered to return to the island early in the new year when the company proposed to hold public information days.

She said a planning application was likely to be submitted in the spring with construction work planned to take 18 months.

Community council chairman John Inglis had ex-

plained that it was very much an information meeting, but under pressure from the audience, he agreed to a show of hands for the development at the end of the meeting.

Nine of those present were against the proposal, 17 said they had not made up their minds and one gave it his approval.



Kevin O'Reilly outlines the proposals at the meeting. 20_b49wind02

Health checks on offer

Ka Leisure will be in Brodick with the Activator mobile health unit offering health checks to the residents of Arran on Monday 9 December.

Health checks will also be available on board the 9.40am, Ardrossan to Brodick CalMac ferry and 4.30pm ferry leaving Brodick.

A basic health check will measure blood pressure, height, weight, waist circumference, BMI and a measurement of percentage of body fat. Cholesterol and blood glucose checks are also available.

Advice

Staff can give general life-style advice and where appropriate refer to partner agencies for further advice.

While on the island, staff will be providing a chair exercise session for the residents of Glen Estate sheltered

housing unit. The class runs from 2-3pm and is open to all island residents. In addition a keep fit class will run in the Ormidale Pavillion from 12.30 – 1.30pm at a cost of

£2.50 per session. The health checks and exercise classes will also be held on 27 January, 10 and 24 February and 10 and 24 March 2014.

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New business initiative will help firms on Arran grow

Arran companies will benefit from a groundbreaking new initiative to help businesses expand and create jobs in North Ayrshire.

The ambitious new approach will see 150 progressive companies in North Ayrshire provided with dedicated account managers to work alongside owners and managers with a bespoke business assistance service.

Strong and enduring busi-

ness relationships will be created between companies and their account managers to work together in exploring all avenues for growth and development.

The launch announcement was made at an event in the new Si Restaurant in Irvine.

Alastair Dobson, managing director of Taste of Arran, was among a panel responding to questions from those in attendance. He was there

in two capacities – as a representative of the successful food and wine business co-operative on the island and as a member of North Ayrshire's Ayrshire Economic Development and Regeneration Board.

Speaking after the event, Alastair said: 'There are big benefits for companies large and small if they buy into this. This is an opportunity for us all to work together



Signing up for the Team North Ayrshire approach are members of the Economic Development and Regeneration Board with Steph McGovern, the BBC's breakfast business presenter. Alastair Dobson of Taste of Arran is fifth from the left.

and grow together by taking advantage of the new one-stop approach.

'I would like to call a meeting on the island so that we can get the message out to as many people as we can. It's been a great day here – you can feel the unity in the atmosphere.'

The event was followed by a working lunch which allowed the business people to meet and mix with members of North Ayrshire's Economic Development and Regeneration Board.

Earlier in the day the guests were told about the 'Team North Ayrshire' approach.

This casts aside the traditional notions of complex business support and offers a streamlined single point of contact – giving companies an all-important competitive edge in today's challenging marketplace.

The initiative is the result of months of work carried out by North Ayrshire Economic

Development and Regeneration Board, a partnership of public and private sector organisations committed to regenerating the area.

The board, established in late 2011, has responded to requests from the private sector for greater collaboration, a single point of contact and for more flexible support programmes. The results have given a clear insight into where efforts need to be concentrated and have helped to shape the new business approach.

North Ayrshire Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'Put simply, our number one priority for North Ayrshire is job creation, so it is important that we listen to what our companies have to say about the support they need from us.'

'Their message is clear – they want business support that's simple and easy to access.

'Our response has been to rethink the way we deliver business services in the area – a vital step if we are to give our companies the best chance of prospering in today's economic climate, and essential if we are to succeed in our broader ambitions for a vibrant economy where enterprises flourish.'

Professor Alan McGregor, chairman of the EDR Board says the vision for North Ayrshire has, from the outset, been far-reaching and ambitious. While, realistic about the challenges the area faces, the board has always maintained a positive view of what can be achieved.

'Our account managed businesses will feel the impact of this new approach immediately, by taking the stress out of sourcing information on matters such as sales advice, exporting, product development, access to markets, social media, financial planning and workforce development.'

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Corrie Film Club Christmas fun

Tomorrow (Sunday) Corrie Film Club hosts its Christmas fun film night.

This year, Dinner for One, the hilarious short from Germany and Singin' in the Rain, the exhilarating, joyously indestructible musical comedy with something for everyone.

It is set in Hollywood in the 1920s at the beginning of the making of 'talkies', starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds and featuring unforgettable song and dance classics like Singin' in the Rain,

Make 'Em Laugh, All I Do is Dream of You and Good Morning to name but four. Also starring the incomparable Cyd Charisse in a spectacular Broadway Ballet Finale.

Open to everyone, the film will be shown in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall but members and friends please note that it will begin at 6pm to allow for a Christmas supper first.

Do go along and have some fun. Bring something to share, sweet, savoury or liquid.

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Arran Brass Band perform at the community tree light switch on. 20_b49santa21



The candy floss stall does a roaring trade in the big top. 20_b49santa24



The mulled wine went down a treat with visitors. 20_b49santa14



The large crowd which followed Santa. 20_b49santa06



Heather Queen Olivia Bunyan leads Santa into the big top. 20_b49santa09

Santa's Sparkle lit up Lamlash last weekend and not just the fireworks.

biggest and

Firework spectacular sees

Santa's Sparkle lit up Lamlash last weekend and not just the fireworks.

The two-day spectacular, now billed as Arran's start to Christmas, certainly put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Thousands of people attended events over the weekend leading joint organiser Geoffrey Dalmore to declare it was the biggest and best yet.

Few who attended over the weekend would disagree.

The Christmas Market did a roaring trade, Santa had a busy time, there were games and fun all weekend, all the fun of the circus and a spectacular fireworks display.

What more could you want?

As well as most of the island it was noticed this year that more and more people are coming from the mainland to the event, such is its growing popularity.

It all began with the arrival of Santa Claus first spotted out in the bay in the Arran lifeboat.

After arriving on shore, he saddled up his reindeer - ok it was a horse with antlers and rode into town.

Hundreds lined the shore road to watch the procession led by Lamlash Heather Queen Olivia Bunyan, featuring elves from the Streetly Dancing group, circus performers and, of course, Santa and his helpers.

When he reached the big top he was escorted inside by the Heather Queen and following a performance by the dancing elves he and Mrs Claus spent the afternoon meeting children and hearing what they wanted for Christmas.

While that was going on the adults were at the Christmas Market in search of gifts and the stalls appeared to be doing a roaring trade.

The weather was dry and bright for most of the day, a welcome change from the day before when the winds, which cancelled the ferries on Friday, blew down one of the market tents.

Games and fun went on throughout the day both in the big top and at the Glenisle Hotel, which organises the event. One of the most popular proved to be 'the best pass the parcel ever' with a children's and adults' event, with loads of prizes including a Kindle.

As darkness fell, and just a little rain, it was time to move outside to see the Heather Queen

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Circus performers joined the parade. 20_b49santa04

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Santa arrives across the bay by lifeboat. 20_b49santa02



Santa makes his way from the pier along Shore Road. 20_b49santa05



Laila and Rhea Webster tell Santa and Mrs Claus what they want for Christmas. 20_b49santa11

Arran is the best yet weekend go with a bang

switch on the lights on the community Christmas tree with Arran Brass Band providing some festive tunes for the large assembled crowd.

After a welcome mulled wine, which went down a treat over the weekend, it was along to the Glenisle for a spectacular light and fireworks show and the lighting of the Glenisle tree and garden which proved a big hit with the crowds.

Then, for the first time, an evening party with music from Matt Johnson was held in the big top.

Sunday meant another day and more fun as for the first time the circus came to town.

The Charles Chipperfield Circus performed four shows during the day nearly 2,000 people and held workshops after the shows to teach children circus skills.

Geoffrey, who along with Timothy Billings from the hotel had a hectic weekend, said as he drew his breath: 'This is the fourth year we have held the event, the third with the Christmas market, and I really believe this is the biggest and best yet.'

'There certainly seems to be more people from the mainland. I met one family who had come

from the east coast, and if we can attract people to the island for the event at a quiet time it will be a real benefit.

'But the most important thing is for everyone to have fun and from the comments I have received I think it has been a fantastic weekend and we are really pleased.'



Olivia Bunyan after switching on the community tree lights. 20_b49santa20



The spectacular firework show. 20_b49santa22

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Above: Jennifer McArthur at the RNLI charity stall felt it had been worth her while coming. 20_b49santa27



Left: Shoppers at the Polka Dot stall. 20_b49santa15




The audience enjoy a acrobatic circus performer. 20_b49santa25

Day the circus came to town

Christmas Market stalls did a roaring trade

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 Published on 14th December
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The circus clown makes sure there is some audience participation. 20_b49santa26



The Christmas Market is packed with bargain hunters. 20_b49santa16



Faye Black from the Isle of Arran Distillery shows customers some of its products. 20_b49santa17



Butcher Paul Smith from Cambridgeshire comes every year to help toss the burgers. 20_b49santa12



Participants in the adult pass the parcel get torn in. 20_b49santa18



Santa is met by Heather Queen Olivia Bunyan as he arrives at the big top on 'Rudolph'. 20_b49santa07



A visitor tries to guess the name of the teddy, which was chosen as 'Sparkle' as others browse the Novelties and Treats stall. 20_b49santa13



Say cheese. Jenni Mae Fernie and Gordon Kinniburgh from the Arran Cheese Shop. 20_b49santa30

Our guide to where to stay on the mainland

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

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

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A beautiful country house hotel set amongst rolling countryside, The Dalgarven House Hotel is situated on the A737 between Kilwinning and Dalry in Ayrshire.

Arran on the map in brand new watersports website

The tourism team should be congratulated on combining information into one website

Arran features prominently on a brand new website putting the area firmly on the map as a premier watersports destination.

The region is a haven for enthusiasts who are seeking new experiences on the water within the coastal areas of Arran and Cumbrae, as well as the coastal areas of mainland Ayrshire, providing superb opportunities to access the popular waters of the Firth of Clyde.

Coastal watersports and marine leisure activities have been identified as providing opportunities to grow tourism and be economically beneficial to the area.

Now Ayrshire and Arran

Tourism Team has launched a brand new website which features the best places on Arran to take part in watersports.

Watersportscoast.com is a one-stop website with detailed information about 12 different watersport activities including yachting, dinghy sailing, kitesurfing and sea kayaking. The website provides information about more than 60 key coastal access points, beaches, slipways, marina facilities and moorings. Tide times, weather forecasts, nautical charts, nautical mile plotting and truly interactive mapping, are all available making the website ideal for those visitors seeking to immerse themselves in

new experiences both on and off shore.

This level of watersports mapping is the first of its kind for a Scottish region and was made possible as a result of the joined up approach of the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team, which worked in partnership with local providers, the Firth of Clyde Forum, Scottish Natural Heritage and RYA Scotland.

Carolyn Elder, Largs Yacht Haven Manager and Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Leadership group member said: 'This is a great development in providing information specifically for watersports enthusiasts.'

'It will really show off the amount of watersports opportunities in Ayrshire and Arran and make participation more accessible. The tourism team should be congratulated on creating this information into one website.'

Now visitors who have a passion for yacht cruising, competitive-edge dinghy sailing or who simply want to enjoy stunning scenery can get on board to discover www.watersportscoast.com and the beautiful coastal areas of Ayrshire, Arran and Cumbrae.

Find out more about the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team at <http://www.ayrshire-arran.org/>.



Team volunteers had a busy day at Asda in Ardrossan.

Make a date with calendar sale

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team were in Asda in Ardrossan recently to fund raise and sell the team's special 50th anniversary calendars. An amazing £500 was raised for essential team

funds thanks to the generosity of the public. The team will be selling calendars and fund raising again at Brodick Coop on Saturday 21 December. Pop by and say hello.

Mystery of the red squirrels solved at Friends meeting

The Friends of Brodick Castle were entertained to a polished and harmonious performance of folk and seasonal songs by Vivace, a group of nine singers with a guitarist, at their annual general meeting.

In a change to the programme, the entertainment took place at the beginning of the meeting and was well received by the 40 members present.

Jo Totty then gave everyone a presentation of the work of the Rangers who monitor the wildlife on the island. All five of Scottish Natural Heritage's top species live on the island, none more iconic to the friends than the red squirrel.

The population on Arran is particularly healthy and seems to originate from both the west of Scotland and Belgium. The mystery of why Belgium is involved was solved by Lady Jean, who explained that her family imported several pairs from Ed-

inburgh Zoo to improve the stock.

Refreshments were served so that the members could indulge themselves with tea and the delicious selection of cakes whilst the business part of the meeting took place.

Varied programme

The friends had enjoyed a varied programme of talks and visits in the last year and the finances were revealed to be healthy despite the severe curtailing of Easter activities because of snow. Mr Cameron outlined the plans for the castle under the signature project which will improve visitors' experiences.

The next meeting is on 15 January and the talk will be 'A week in Orkney' by Joy Blair.

Brodick Lights Switch On
 Sunday 8 December
 from 3pm onwards at Brodick Hall
 Come along & join us for our amazing raffle, spiced cider, tea, coffee, mince pies & of course the infamous switching on of the lights.
 It could be you!!

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Christmas Table Top Sale
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 To book a table phone 01770 870345
 Cost £5.00 per table
 Size: 6ft x 2ft-3in or 183cm x 68cm
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Brodick Castle's Christmas Carol

Sun 8 Dec, 12–3pm

Enjoy a magical Christmas with your family at Brodick Castle ... Dickensian-style! Meet Scrooge and others from A Christmas Carol and browse the Christmas Market for gift ideas as you enjoy music from the Arran Brass Band and school choir. Children can get creative with crafting fun and there'll be lots of tasty treats in our Tearoom - from soup and mince pies to home baking, mulled wine and more! Lots of family fun!

£15 family, £8 adult, £4 child/concession



For Christmas events across Scotland and the chance to win a **FAMILY HOLIDAY IN A CASTLE** visit

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Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

DECEMBER

Birds in the Holy Land

Terry Southall has just returned from a three-week trip to the Holy Land doing conservation work.

The work entails catching and ringing, counting and studying some of the 500 million birds that migrate through the region in a single year.

The trip also included doing talks and presentations to all kinds of groups of people on bird conservation. Here is his report.



A pair of Smyrna Kingfishers.

It is calculated that more than 500 million birds migrate through Israel in a single year, travelling from their wintering grounds in Africa to breed in Europe, Russia and Asia and then returning in the autumn. Some species reach staggering numbers on their migrations, one flock of Honey Buzzards contained 750,000 birds and was more than 10 miles long. This autumn 43,000 Cranes were counted in the Hula Valley as they refuelled feeding on pea-

nuts and maize left over after the harvest. Being squeezed between the Mediterranean Sea to the west and mountains and arid land to the east it is easy to see why so many birds migrate through this region.

We in Scotland think of swallows, martins and warblers in spring and geese and thrushes in winter as migrant birds but in the Holy Land a wide range of species from eagles to kingfishers and even sparrows migrate fleeing the harsh Russian winter.

For the past several years myself and a few friends have visited Israel in the bird migration periods to help catch, ring, count and study some of the many migrant birds.

This autumn we caught and ringed more than two and a half thousand birds to better understand their origins and migration routes; the rings carry a unique number and finding address. Many were warblers, wagtails and swallows the majority hatched this summer and making the migration to Africa for the first time. The birds are first identified and then ringed, the age and sex is recorded then it is measured and weighed. These measurements indicate what condition the birds are in. Many are carrying fat



Terry about to release two migrant Red-footed Falcons after ringing.

stored in the chest and lower abdomen. Fuel for the long journey they are undertaking. In some species more detailed measurements are taken to try and identify what race they belong to. Occasionally there is a surprise. Like the Bluethroat, a bird the size of a Robin that had already been ringed. The ring number indicated this was the seventh year it had made this migration from eastern Europe or Scandinavia. For a small bird this is a remarkable age.

At any time looking up to the sky are eagles, buzzards and falcons along with storks and pelicans sharing the thermals to sore making flight a lot easier. On any pools are sandpipers and plovers along with wagtails; fields have numbers of wheatears, bun-

tings and pipits all migrating. Many of the small birds wait until darkness falls before taking to the sky to migrate and use the hours of daylight to feed and rest.

Driving around are road signs for Bethlehem and Nazareth so we take a day off and join the tourists but our eyes often look to the sky to watch the migrating birds even over the centre of Jerusalem.

During our stay we do lots of talks and presentations on bird conservation and awareness to a wide variety of people from kindergarten children and students to farm workers and tourists.

In a troubled region it is easy to forget about the wildlife but birds are not aware of frontiers, politics or religion.

Boxing Day

West Ham v Arsenal & Man City v Liverpool

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New Year's Day

Southampton v Chelsea & Manchester Utd v Spurs

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Tour guide leaders attending one of the talks on bird conservation.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 11 December, 1993

Home destroyed

A family home was destroyed in Sannox as gale force winds lashed the island overnight.

In a frightening and horrific scenario the roof of the timber home of Jim and Shauna Lees and their family blew off and landed on Sannox beach, then some of the walls collapsed and within a few minutes they had lost their home.

But the community rallied round and within two or three hours Jim's many friends had got as much out of the house as possible, as the house is beyond repair.

Jim said: 'I was lying in bed one minute, next minute I was looking at the stars,' but he added: 'The people of Corrie and Sannox have been superb.'

Flight of fancy

A proposed airstrip for Arran, first mentioned five years ago, moved a step closer this week when the Shiskine Valley Trust lodged a planning application for a site at Drumadoon with the help of a £2,600 grant from Argyll and Islands Enterprise.

This has opened up an old sore between those who want an airstrip at Drumadoon and Isobel and Colin Currie whose view is that the only possible site would be at their farm at Balmichael.

Feeling on the island, apart from the Drumadoon enthusiasts and the Curries, has been lukewarm to hostile. Many people see no need for an airstrip, but Ronnie Mann, who has been in since the start of the airport debate, sees one in operation by 1995.

Farmers' Show

The Arran Farmers' Christmas Show and Sale on Thursday was not quite like any other year.

For a start the ferry had gone to Gourrock and many of the dealers did not arrive until late. So the judging went ahead in the morning followed by a long hiatus as they awaited the others' arrival.

The first ferry of the day did not arrive until 3pm and it wasn't until after then that the Brodick Market came alive.

The show champion was Rab C a 15-month-old Limousin cross steer shown by Willie Kelso of Balgowan.

Poetry pleasure

A new book of poetry from Arran was launched in the Auchrannie garden room by Christine Collins, who has had a long and distinguished career with Penguin Books.

Christine, who lives in Corrie, welcomed the 'Book of Arran Poetry' for its diversity and liveliness and for the good quality of its production.

Several of the contributors present read their works to the delight of the gathering. All proceeds are going to the Arran Theatre Trust.

Improvement plans

An unusually large number of people attended the annual meeting of the Whiting Bay Improvements Association, no doubt because of the rejection of plans for village improvements and because new ideas were to be put forward.

The committee had drawn up new plans and these were aimed principally at re-instating the shoreline behind the shops and clearly made no change to the car park which had been the main complaint to Cunninghame District Council's suggestions.

Other ideas included a new, or a better, play area. Generally, the committee's suggestions met with approval.



All that was left of Cir Mhor after the storm. b49twe01



These canoeists are being put through their paces in the Auchrannie pool as part of their SCA proficiency course. Part of the services offered by the new Arran Outdoor Education Resource the course teacher has been Nigel Marshall, right, shown here with Linda Johnston, Neil Gillies and Sally Nicholson. b49twe04



Willie Kelso and champion Rab C. Willie's prodding stick is a sawn-off number four iron. b49twe02



Alison Prince, Christine Collins and Cecily Gill at the launch of A Book of Arran Poetry. b49twe03

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery



www.arranbrewery.com

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
 Daily 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm, Sat 10-5pm Closed Sunday 2pm

Saturday 7th December

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Karate
 Family Games
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
 Junior Football
 RNLI Shop
 Christmas Market
 Christmas Concert
 Shop Arran Weekend
 Pinocchio the Panto Matinee
 Pinocchio the Panto
 Live Music, Amie Hume & James Burge

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Arran High School, 10am
 P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm
 Lamlash Pier 10.30-12.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 11am-3pm
 Corrie parish church, 7.30pm
 All over the island, all day
 Lamlash community theatre, 2pm
 Lamlash community theatre, 7.30pm
 Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Sunday 8th December

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)
 AA Meeting
 Shop Arran Weekend
 Brodick Christmas Lights Switch on
 Christmas Table Top Sale
 Brodick Castles Christmas Carol

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm
 All over the island, all day
 Brodick Hall from 3pm
 Kilmory Hall 2-4pm
 Brodick Castle, 12-3pm

Monday 9th December

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

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12noon
 Lamlash sheltered housing, 12 noon
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Beginners & improvers corrie Hall, 2-4pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm
 Shiskine Hall, 5.15 - 5.45pm

Tuesday 10th December

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Streetly Dance pre school
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm

Streetly Dancing Seniors
 Weight Watchers
 Junior Hockey Club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Lawn Bowls (weather permitting)
 Food and craft market
 Winter bowls
 Scottish Country Dancing
 SFA Early Touch Football
 Metafit

Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm
 St Molios Church Hall, 7pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
 P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm
 Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm

Wednesday 11th December

Hockey
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Sports Club
 Arran Access Trust AGM

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

Thursday 12th December

Senior Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Lochranza Craft Club
 Live music
 Weight Watchers
 Yoga
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Winter bowls
 Metafit
 Bridge Club
 Lunchbox
 Angling Association AGM
 Arran Community Land Initiative Meeting

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

Friday 13th December

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Disco
 Brodick Farmers Christmas Market
 RunArran Coaching
 Active Buggies
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
 Overeaters Anonymous
 Arran Community Land Initiative Meeting

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm
 Ormidale Park 9.30am
 Ormidale Park, 10am
 Corrie Hall, 8-10pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 11.30-1pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm



www.arranbrewery.com



Public Notices



Kenneth Gibson MSP

will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

No appointment necessary

Monday 09 December	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15-12.15
Kilmory Village Hall	13.00-14.00
Brodick Health Centre	15.00-16.00

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office:
15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL
Tel: 01294 833 687
Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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Public Open Meeting
Thursday 12th December, Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7.30pm

Public Open Meeting
Friday 13th December, Whiting Bay Village Hall, 7.30pm

Riding for the Disabled (Arran Group)
AGM
Will be held in Brodick Library on Tuesday January 14th at 7pm.
All welcome.
Charity No – SC037110

ARRAN ANGLING ASSOCIATION
AGM
Thursday 12 December 7.30pm
Forestry Offices, Brodick

ARRAN RIDING CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 10th December, 7.30pm
Arran High School
All Welcome

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 (AS AMENDED BY THE CRIMINAL LAW AND LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010), SECTION 17(4A)(B) NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TAXI FARE REVIEW

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council, having consulted with taxi operators and organisations appearing to it to be representative of operators, has reviewed the existing scales and proposes to make the new scales below. The proposed scales, and any written representations, will be considered by the Licensing Committee on 22 January 2014, and the Committee will then or later fix the new scales. These will come into force as below, subject to any Appeal to the Traffic Commissioner.

The proposed new scales increase fares slightly and simplify the existing scales; the current charge for larger vehicles will now apply where a vehicle is capable of carrying more than 4 passengers (even if the vehicle is actually carrying fewer passengers).

Any person may make written representations concerning these proposals by writing to Christine Andrew, Clerk to the Licensing Committee, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE no later than 5 January 2014. Scales proposed by Licensing Committee on 20 November 2013
Maximum Taxi Fares effective from Monday 10 March 2014

Tariff 1 (Day)
All journeys starting or ending in the period 6am to 12pm (midnight) (except where Tariff 3 applies):
Initial Charge - For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (¾ of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £2.60.
Additional Charge: Each additional 1/17 of a mile (about 104 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

Tariff 2 (Night)
All journeys starting or ending in the period 12pm (midnight) to 6am (except where Tariff 3 applies):
Initial Charge: For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (¾ of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £2.90
Additional Charge: Each additional 1/18 of a mile (about 98 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

Tariff 3 (Festive Periods)
All journeys starting or ending in the periods
Any time on 25 December until 7am on 26 December
Any time on 31 December until 7am on 1 January
Double Tariff 1 Charges (Initial and Additional).
Extra Charges
1. Large Vehicle surcharge: Where a vehicle is capable of carrying more than 4 passengers (even if the vehicle is actually carrying fewer passengers) - 50% added to the Tariff Charge.
2. Soiling Charge - £35.

Notes
1. There is no extra fare for a journey between North Ayrshire Council zones.
2. The fare scale applies only to journeys which end within North Ayrshire. Fares for journeys beyond the Council area should be agreed between the passenger and the driver before the start of the journey.
3. Luggage shall be carried free if it is of a size which can reasonably be accommodated in the car. If a vehicle capable of carrying more than 4 passengers is provided to allow more luggage to be carried, the operator is permitted to add the Large Vehicle surcharge.
4. The metered charge is the maximum which can be charged. The driver can always charge less.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

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Source: Consumers' Choice V. The Newspaper Society

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amplifier - like new - £25. phone
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£25 Tel: 07813605662 (Wbay)

LG 17" flat screen television with
digibox £30 Tel: 600654

OVER £30

Oven ready free range bronze Tur-
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disassembles/assembles without
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tric Flymo metal blade £25 Tel:
700542

Quad bike 110cc Apache mid-
sized 12-16 years old gro
£150 o.n.o. Tel 07789103964

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Peafowl - free to good home Tel:
820203

Bagged Manure at Oakbank, Lam-
lash. £1 per bag donation to Arran
RDA Tel 600752

WANTED

Vinyl records Tel Tom: 07504 739
952

Double bed, Sofa, Tumble Dryer,
Chest of Drawers Tel: 700520

Canoe/kayak wanted any condition
considered to suit a 14 year old Tel:
day 302272 or night 303505

Recruitment

Arran Haulage Services Ltd have a vacancy for a LGV Driver

Holder of a C1 licence would
be considered for this position
Tel: 01770 302777

The Brodick Bar & Brasserie

**Looking for enthusiastic,
reliable, friendly waiting staff.**

Experience required
Accommodation available
Please contact Gillian on 07803 581084
or email: gillmcf@hotmail.com

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
FIRST VISIT OF OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE, THE REV SIMON MACKENZIE

Saturday, 7th December
Meeting with Fr. Simon over a meal in church, 4.00 pm

Sunday, 8th December
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
The Rev Simon Mackenzie.

Light lunch after service, followed by first part of Year 3 of Sharing the Vision: Mission Possible.

CAROL SERVICE at 3.00 pm
Wednesday 11th December
NO SERVICE

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

The sum raised for Children 1st at Thursday's Christingle service was £166.37.

There will be Carol Singing outside Brodick Co-op from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon on **Saturday 14th December**
ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN!

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson,
Parish assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 8th December
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirmill Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship led by string group ARCO.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 8th December
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In both Churches:
Mrs Sharon Macleod
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 8th December
Worship for Advent will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 8th December
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no. 600222.
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 8th December
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev J Dusendury

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 8th December
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Wednesday 11th December
Prayer Meeting 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SALVATION ARMY House Group/Bible Study.
Mondays 2.30pm.

If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Andy. Peacefully, at Ayrshire Hospice, surrounded by his family on Saturday, 30 November 2013 after a long battle with cancer bravely fought. Andy, aged 47 years, beloved husband of Sarah and daddy to Eva, brother of Marjory and Carol. Funeral service in Shiskine Church on Friday 6 December at 12 noon and thereafter to Kilmory cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Ayrshire Hospice.

COLLINS - Tony. Wonderful husband of Lucy, loving Dad to Ryan, Innes and Gregor, beloved son of Geoff and Margaret and brother to Helen. Funeral at 11:45am on Tuesday, 10th December at Lamlash Cemetery, Isle of Arran. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired to 'Clutha Appeal Fund', Tel: 0141 287 7878.

FORREST - Helenor McFarlane Forrest (nee Mearns). 3.8.1919 - 27.11.2013

Died peacefully after some months of illness in her daughters presence at Montrose House, Isle of Arran. A private cremation will be held on the mainland at a later date. A celebration of Helenor's life as wife, mother, grand mother, great grand mother and great, great grand mother, will be held at Montrose House on Monday 9th November at 2.00pm, when all friends are very welcome to join the family in remembering Helenor with love and laughter. Notified by Mhairi Smeir.

KERR - Olwen Margaret, Co Down, and previously Brodick. Passed away November 26th, surrounded by her family following a horse-riding accident. Devoted mother of Alasdair, Euan, Ailis and Iona, and proud granny to Connor. Funeral took place on Friday 29th November at Killinchy, Co Down. Sadly missed by the entire family circle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sheena and family would like to thank everyone who attended Ians funeral, sent flowers and cards, and contributed to the Retiral fund. To reverends Angus Adamson and Jean Hunter for support and guidance through this difficult time. Thanks also to doctors and staff at Brodick medical centre, AWMH and district nurse team, whose dedication and support over the last year was invaluable. To David and Clair Hendry for funeral arrangements and Iain and Jane McFadzean and staff for a wonderful send off. Iain will be sadly missed.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

The family of Anna Logan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards and support during this sad time.

Thank you also to the Rev. Angus Adamson for his outstanding service and emotional support and to Clair and David Hendry for their sympathetic funeral arrangements.

A special thank you to Doctors Thompson and Hoelzl and all the wonderful nurses and support staff at the Arran War Memorial Hospital and to the Social Services Dept. and the care workers who looked after her at her home.

It is with regret that due to circumstances, the family did not meet the congregation immediately after the service, they were hoping to see all at Brambles, Auchrannie Hotel after the internment. A generous total amount of £170 was received at the retiring collection, which will be donated to the Motor Neuron Society, again, many thanks.



Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 27 November, 12 played on a better day and the scoring was much improved. 1 W Kroner 71-14=57, L Hartley 76-14=62, 3 B Al-lison 85-22=63. There was only one two and he cannot go home without getting one, well done Derek Roxburgh.

Sweep 1 December, 1 David Hendry [12] 65 [acb], 2 Ian McDermid [13] 65, 3 Bobby McCrae [6] 66 [acb]. Scratch Bobby McCrae 72, Iain Macmillan got the only two.

Fixtures: Sunday 8 December Brandon & Winter Cup, class draws at 9am and 12noon. Sunday 15 December Clochendichter.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 1 December. Whiting Bay notched up their second win of the campaign against Brodick at Corrie by two and a half points to one and a half points. This result keeps Whiting Bay at the top of the league with maximum points. The next round sees Whiting Bay play hosts Lamlash in January.

Fixtures: Saturday 7 December, mixed fours at 11am. Sunday 8 December, Winter Cup round three. Usual draws at 9am and 10.30am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 26 November Winter Cup. 1 John Pennycott 57, 2 Viv Parks 63, 3 Brian Sherwood 64. Scratch John Pennycott 69. Twos Brian Sherwood.

Fixtures: Saturday 7 December Lochranza Hotel Cup

tee off 12noon. Tuesday 10 December Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 28 November Yellow Medal, 1 Andy Smith 71 - 15 = 56, 2 Adam Burke 71 - 13 = 58, 3 Alan Smith 69 - 10 = 59.

There were five twos at the 4th - A. Burke, R. Burke, at the 16th C.Duncan, C. Richardson and Q J Young. Sunday 1 December Winter League @ Machrie, result - Machrie 3 Lamlash 1.

Fixtures: Sunday 8 December Glenburn Cup 09am and 12noon starts. Thursday 12 December Yellow Medal 11am ballot.

Shiskine Golf Club

The Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza Match was played on Saturday 16 November:

Brian Sherwood (25 pts), Willie Kelso (24 pts), Gator (21 pts) & Pablo (21 pts).

These top four players battled it out at Kinloch playing dominoes and Brian won the Quaich.



Brian Sherwood with the winners Quaich.

Pool singles and doubles draw

The draw for the first round of Arran singles pool competition has been made. All matches should be played by Sunday 22 December.

R Davidson 1934 v M Worthington 1934 (1934), S McMaster 1934 v D Prescott Drift (W/Bay), S Pearce Kild v N McMaster 1934 (W/Bay), J McKechnie W/Bay v A McGeady Drift (Kild), D Nicholson Kild v P McKinnon Mac's (Drift), J Sneddon Mac's v P Stewart Drift (W/Bay), P Szikora Kild v E Picken 1934 (W/Bay), R Buchan Drift v J Ainsworth W/Bay (Mac's), I McDonald Drift v K Jackson W/Bay (Mac's), R Hughes Kild v B McLaren Mac's (Drift), S Campbell Drift v G Boyce Drift (Drift), R Adams Drift v J Picken 1934 (Kild), K Gaw Mac's v I Murchie Drift (W/Bay), S Tattersfield Drift v B Lacey Kild (W/Bay). D Smith 1934 and A Picken 1934 both have byes. Winner should phone the Drift Inn with the result on 600608.

First round of Arran doubles to be played by Sunday 12 January.

R Davidson/S McMaster 1934 v M Wallbank/D Prescott Drift (W/Bay), J Simons/J Ainsworth (W/Bay) v M Worthington/A Picken 1934 (Kild), I McDonald/R Buchan Drift v G McLeon/D Hackett W/Bay (Kild), S & B Tattersfield Drift v B Lacey/S Pearce Kild (W/Bay), J McKechnie/K Turner W/Bay v J Picken/N McMaster 1934 (Kild), D Nicholson/R Hughes Kild v R Adams/E Campbell Drift (W/Bay). K Jackson/B Hamilton W/Bay and D Smith/E Picken 1934 both have byes. Winners should phone the Drift Inn with the result on 600608.

GRADUATION



John Tilbury recently graduated with an HND in Music from North Glasgow College. Now studying for a BA (Music) at Newcastle University

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Bowling trophies handed out after excellent sunny season



Ladies singles winner Ann Whattam. b49bow101

New members join

A large number of members and their partners from Brodick Bowling Club gathered last Friday for their annual dinner and prizegiving in Brodick Golf Clubhouse.

Club president John Lauder remarked that it had been an excellent season in which the wonderful weather played a great part, and the green, as a result, was in very good condition. A substantial number of new members had joined this year and had quickly become involved and taking an active part, which is very encouraging for the future.

All the club competitions were, as usual, completed in good time and the results were as follow: Ladies singles winner: Ann Whattam,

runner up: Lavinia Hendry. Gents' singles winner: John Lauder, runner up: Colin Adams.

Pairs winners: Robert Crawford and Roger Peacock, runners up: Charlie Weir and Ann Hollingworth. Triples winners: Colin Adams, Ann Hollingworth, and John McConnachie, runners up: John Lauder, Peter McCalla, and Jim Nichols.

Champion of Champions – John Lauder. President's Trophy – Winner: Charles Hendry. Stewart Cup – Winner: Charlie Weir.

Brodick Centenary Trophy (interclub competition) winners: (Brodick Reserves) Tony Wooden, Iain Hendry, and Peter Lee.



Some of the principal prizewinners at Brodick Bowling Club annual dinner and prize-giving – from left: Iain Hendry, Roger Peacock, John Lauder, Ann Whattam, Charles Hendry, Ann Hollingworth and John McConnachie. b49bow102

Uddingston come out on top but Arran are ready for their first final

Uddingston 49 Arran 11
Arran were sunk in an eight try blitz when they travelled to Uddingston last Saturday for their RBS West Division 3 rugby league encounter at Castle Policies.

The match was a curtain raiser for both teams ahead of today's (Saturday) regional final.

Despite the heavy defeat the score did not really reflect the play during the match.

Little time

Having arrived at the ground late because of ferry and traffic problems the Arran team were forced to go straight into the match with little time for a warm up.

However despite this Arran

started the stronger and after a good phase of possession and driving play were rewarded with an excellent drop goal from Jones.

Three tries

This seemed to waken the hosts who battered away at Arran's defensive line for the next 20 minutes to no avail. Eventually something had to give and three tries were conceded before half time.

With a few experienced players missing and a frail looking replacements bench Arran looked up against it but against the run of play Jones went over after a mazy run from his own half to add some much-needed points on the board.

Uddingston continued to batter towards the visitors' line and were rewarded with two rapid tries after some poor tackling.

Arran came back with a penalty and the hosts replied with another three tries and penalty before the end for a comprehensive 49-11 victory. All in all the score did not reflect the game but Arran's

performance was well below par and not having played for three weeks was certainly a major factor.

Return

However, a good training session this week and the return of missing players should bolster the squad for the club senior team's biggest match so far, the RBS West Regional Bowl, also at Castle Policies.

Free bus for regional bowl final

There are still few seats left on the free bus to see Arran Rugby Club play in their first ever final today. (Saturday).

The club will take on Uddingston in the RBS Regional Bowl Final and are running a free supporters bus to the match. It will leave on the 8.20am ferry and returning on 6pm sailing.

If you wish to book a seat text or phone Stuart 07516299138.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.