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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2014

No 1991 60p

Weather bomb blasts ferries out of the water

Flooding also affected many parts of the island as the weather caused mayhem

REPORT

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran was left cut off as the 'weather bomb' wreaked havoc across Scotland's west coast.

Islanders were marooned for nearly three days with ferry services cancelled from the first boat on Tuesday because of gusting high winds.

Driving rain, sleet and snow made driving conditions treacherous and motorists had to be aware of surface water. Localised flooding also affected many parts of the island.

Met Office issued amber 'be prepared' warnings as islanders battened down the hatches for the worst storms of the winter so far. Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) also had engineers on high alert to deal with several power cuts.

The rapid cyclogenesis - known colloquially as a 'weather bomb' - is a deep, low-pressure system which has been moving slowly eastwards between Scotland and Iceland causing the freak weather. Only the first boat

sailed from Ardrossan on Tuesday and the 8.20am was able to successfully return, but winds in excess of 50mph from the south meant there were no boats for the rest of the day with the Caley Isles storm bound in port.

Caledonian MacBrayne said Gourock had been considered as a port of refuge, however the weather conditions ruled this out.

Anger

But there was anger on the island that other ferries including the Rothesay boats were using Gourock rather than Wemyss Bay.

The concerns were raised by Arran MSP Kenny Gibson. However Cal Mac's area operations manager Simon Richmond explained: 'The Bute vessels are smaller with a higher power to size ratio and also have by virtue of their size less exposure to wind which is westerly and will blow vessels off piers as the wind moves round to the west.'

An early decision was taken on Tuesday that all vessels would be cancelled for the day on Wednesday.

Continued on page 2



Bernie outside his highly decorated home. 20_b50lights02

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



A Whiting Bay resident is keeping up a tradition which is now in its 26th year.

Every year former newsagent Bernie Jackson decorates the outside of his home with hundreds of Christmas

lights to raise money for charity.

And this year is no exception with all money raised staying on Arran and being donated to the First Responders.

Bernie said: 'I'm not getting any

younger and every year I say this is going to be my last. But they will probably all be out again next year.

'The people of Arran are very generous and I can't thank them enough for the support I have had over the years.'



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Council pledge more cash for elderly but cuts of £19 million are on the way

Council bosses have set aside £6 million to fund the increased demand and more complex needs of an increasingly older population.

It is just one of the measures in the three-year budget set this week by North Ayrshire Council in which they plan to divert resources towards key priority areas, such as protecting vulnerable people, creating more jobs and tackling inequalities.

They say it will provide financial stability for the council and for the workforce while balancing a real reduction in resources with increased demand for services.

The council will deliver more than £19 million of revenue budget efficiencies over the next three years, comprising £4.421 million in the coming year 2015/16; £5.987 million in 2016/17 and £9.036 million in 2017/18.

Education and social services will be hardest hit and opposition councillors say the cuts are 'absolutely horrendous'.

However despite these 'considerable financial pressures', the council will re-direct £19.4 million over the next three years towards areas of

priority, including the £6 million for elderly services.

There will be almost £3 million to support delivery of additional early years services, over £750,000 to support waste and recycling, almost £600,000 to address the impact of welfare reform, and an additional £1.4 million to support the council's ambitious capital investment programme

In addition, the council has earmarked a further £2 million for non-recurring investment in the coming year.

Council leader, Willie Gibson, said: 'The council has already delivered almost £50 million worth of savings over the last five years so there is no doubt that it is becoming more challenging every year to deliver a balanced budget.'

'But we are resolute in our determination to target our resources at those areas of priority and helping the people who need it most. The budget sees a significant investment in health and social care with a shift in resources towards caring for people in the community.'

'We also have a particular emphasis on growing our economy in order to create

more jobs, strengthen communities and tackle inequalities.'

Councillor Ruth Maguire, cabinet member for finance and corporate support, said: 'The cumulative effect of various budget pressures – including Welfare Reform, the rising cost of our payroll and pension commitments and an anticipated real reduction in resources – means that the council faces a funding gap of £19.4 million over the next three years.'

Labour group leader Peter McNamara said: 'The cuts that we are being asked to implement, are absolutely horrendous and, if implemented, will be impossible to bear in an advanced democracy.'

The Labour opposition supported the budget 'with some small caveats'.

But councillor McNamara said: 'Given the challenges we face I am today asking that the council leadership writes to the Scottish Government seeking an urgent meeting with the new First Minister to outline to her the good work we are doing but that we could do so much more with her government's support.'



Extra ropes tie up the Caledonian Isles in Brodick.

Island hit by weather bomb

Continued from page 1

However, there was a flurry of excitement when the boat was spotted coming into Brodick at lunchtime, but Cal Mac had taken a slight break in the weather to get the boat out of Ar-



The beer garden at the former McLaren Hotel in Brodick lies completely submerged in water.

drossan where the weather conditions were in danger of damaging the vessel.

Attached

Extra berthing ropes were attached to the ship to hold her beside the pier.

All boats were cancelled

on Thursday morning with a review not taking place until later in the day.

Now snow is forecast over the weekend with the return of high winds and likely ferry disruption again at the beginning of next week.

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Three in a row for Auchrannie Resort

Auchrannie Resort has been named this year's winner of the customer service excellence award at a black-tie event celebrating the very best of family run businesses in Scotland.

It is the third time the Brodick hotel has won a prize at The Herald's Family Business Awards which recognise outstanding achievement in Scottish business, the length and breadth of the country and across all industries.

There were more than 300 guests at the event, which was held in association with Business Gateway, at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow last Thursday night.

Second time

Auchrannie has now won an award in each of the three years the awards have been in operation and it is the second time that they have collected the customer service excellence award - winning for the first time in 2012 and making the finals in 2013.

The Johnston family were represented at the ceremony by executive director Linda Johnston and speaking after collecting the award she said: 'Delivering five-star customer service is what Auchrannie has built its reputation on. This award is great recognition for every single member of the team who has played a part in that.'

Auchrannie said it had an ongoing commitment to train and develop all of its employees to deliver the highest levels of customer service and this has resulted in an increased level of repeat and referral business as well as exceptional feedback from guests.

News of this latest accolade rounds off another award winning year for Auchrannie, which was named by TripAdvisor as the number one family hotel in the UK (23rd best in the world) for the second year running. Eighteen69 was also named winner of the 2014 informal restaurant



Collecting the award from prize sponsor TL Dallas are Linda Johnston, executive director (left) and Jillian Plenderleith, recreations manger (right).

at this year's Scottish hotel awards.

Hugh Lightbody, of Business Gateway, said: 'This year's Family Business Awards recognised and celebrated the high quality of Scotland's family business community and our congratulations go to all of the

winners and finalists. Family businesses account for almost three quarters of companies in Scotland and Business Gateway supports many of them on a daily basis. The contribution this sector makes to the whole Scottish economy is significant and recognising and supporting their efforts,

while helping raise their profiles, is vitally important for their continued success.'

New lights for Brodick

New lighting is being installed in the Springbank and Alma Road area of Brodick.

The improvement works will see the erection of new lighting columns and the installation of a cable network to each lighting point.

Kilmarnock-based McGivney Construction Ltd have been awarded the contract to carry out the work by North Ayrshire Council.

Work began this week and is expected to last six weeks.

The work will involve the excavation of trenches in the footways and roadways and contractors say that some local traffic control may be needed at times.

All households in the area have received letters from the contractors warning of a possible delay in the removal of the old lighting units until the new units are connected to the power supply.

The letter states: 'We would ask for residents and road users' assistance during the works and appreciate their patience.'

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Pamela Jamieson serves up a healthy meal to Sophie Mansfield at Dreghorn Primary School.

Can I have some more? More children to get free school meals

A new free meals scheme for children on Arran starts after the Christmas holidays, with parents the big winners too.

The initiative sees children from P1 to P3 get school lunches for free, which could save parents and carers as much as £360 a year.

The Scottish Government scheme is being fully backed by North Ayrshire Council and its award-winning catering team.

Tasty treats

Top school cook Pamela Jamieson and the team are already coming up with some tasty treats for the youngsters and will be serving up a wide variety of dishes over the coming months.

The catering team across North Ayrshire has come up with a range of nutritional and healthy dinners that dis-

pel any lingering myths about school meals.

Pamela was awarded the highly commended main course prize in the Local Authorities Caterers Association's UK school chef of the year award, for her dish of ravioli with tomato sauce and a parmesan breadstick.

But there's plenty more from where that came from as she prepares a diverse menu for youngsters.

There are three courses every day and the menu is continually changing. All food served in Arran schools is prepared on the island.

Pamela, who is school cook at Cumbrae Primary School on Millport where she lives, said: 'This is a fantastic initiative and one we support whole-heartedly.'

'We take great pride in the

food we serve up to the pupils. It's not only great to see them enjoying it but really satisfying knowing that it's nutritious and helping with their development.

'We're all looking forward to the start of January and are full of ideas to make North Ayrshire's young pupils as healthy and well-fed as any across Scotland.'

North Ayrshire Council's facilities management catering team was named the local authority caterer of the year at the EDU catering awards in November.

The team has shown a commitment to using local produce, sourcing vegetables and milk from Ayrshire farms and only using meat from UK farms.

Delighted

Councillor John Bruce, cabinet member for education, attainment and achievement, said: 'We fully support this far-sighted initiative and are delighted to see it so ably implemented by our award-winning catering team.'

'Having tasted the school meals myself and, having seen the catering team at work, I know just how well prepared the meals are.'

'Everyone knows about the dietary problems in the west of Scotland.'

'So getting children used to healthy food at a young age can provide lots of long-term health benefits.'

Think before you drink

Drivers on Arran are being urged to think twice before reaching for their car keys after having a drink.

North Ayrshire Council is supporting a national campaign to remind drivers of the new lower drink-drive limit in Scotland.

From last week, Scotland's drink-drive limit has been cut from the previous limit of 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood to 50mg.

The changes in law have been brought in after figures from Road Safety Scotland show that nearly one in seven deaths on Scottish roads involve drivers who are over the legal limit.

The advice being given is that the best approach is not to drink any alcohol at all before getting behind the wheel.

Drivers found over the legal limit could lose their licence and their liberty for the offence which currently carries a six month imprisonment, a £5,000 fine and an obligatory ban.

Councillor Tony Gurney said: 'With the Christmas party season just around the corner and Hogmanay not far behind, I would urge people to think twice before reaching for their car keys after having a drink.'

'One death as a result of drink-driving is one death too many, so I hope the introduction of this new legislation will help to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on our roads.'

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Girls give up their time for tigers

Three students from Arran have been showing their love for tigers despite being more than 5,000 miles from the species' wild habitat.

Last month Iona Summer

and her friends Marsha Bain and Charli McKillop held a fundraising stall at Arran High School's Christmas Fayre to raise funds for TigerTime, the David Shepherd

Wildlife Foundation campaign which works to protect tigers and their habitat in India, Russia and Thailand.

Creating tiger themed art pieces and bookmarks, origami tiger faces and cakes to sell to Christmas shoppers, the trio's efforts raised a wonderful £75.89.

Activity sheets

'We also gave out fact and activity sheets to raise awareness of the threats facing tigers,' explained Iona. 'I think more people now are aware that tiger poaching is going on.'

'It has been fantastic to see Iona and her friends' enthusiasm for supporting the conservation of tigers in the wild,' said Vicky Flynn, TigerTime's campaign manager. 'Despite the huge distance between the Isle of Arran and the tigers' wild habitat, these



Iona and Marsha with their cup cakes and tiger themed art pieces.



Charli and Iona at their charity stall.

girls have made a massive effort to raise funds to help ensure this fantastic cat is protected.'

With as few as 3,000 tigers left in the wild, every penny counts for this threatened

species and Iona concluded: 'More people should be like me and save the tigers.'

Campaigning

TigerTime is working hard to fund conservation, education, anti-poaching, com-

munity outreach and undercover investigations in India, Thailand and Russia through a growing global social media supporter base while also campaigning to end the illegal trade in tiger parts.

Did you know that from Monday 5 January 2015

School meals will be **FREE** for every Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupil in schools across North Ayrshire.

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

This Scottish Government scheme is being fully supported by North Ayrshire Council and our multi award-winning catering team.

New postboxes for card delivery

Two new postboxes are available for anyone using the Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) Christmas card delivery service around Brodick.

With Bilstands now closed, cards can now be dropped at the Auchrannie's Playbarn and Little Rock cafe on the Brodick shorefront. The cost of delivery is 30p each.

Youth worker Graeme Johnston thanked the two businesses and said: 'Hopefully this arrangement makes it easier than ever for people to drop cards in.'

'At 30p a card, islanders can both save money and help raise funds for the work that the group does with our local young people.'

Last date for popping cards in will be Friday 19 December. AYF would like to remind everyone that young people will be delivering cards on foot and so cards should only be sent to addresses accessible on foot within Brodick.

Probe after crack appears on new String Road surface

A major crack has appeared on the new stretch of the String Road.

The surface was only laid less than six months ago during the major improvement works carried out on the road.

Now a probe is underway by roads chiefs to determine what has gone wrong.

The B880, the lifeline route between Blackwaterfoot and Brodick, was closed for eight weeks from mid-March until June to carry out the works.

But the 20ft long crack which has appeared at the start of the stretch of road nearest Brodick has led to fears it may be an early sign of subsidence.



The new String Road. 20_b50string01

The road was scheduled to be closed for 10 weeks from mid March with a three times a day convoy system operating. The road was reopened over the Easter weekend and the works were completed two weeks ahead

of schedule.

Businesses on the west coast hit by the closure said at the time that the work should have been carried out quicker with 24 hour working, seven days a week.

A spokesman for North

Ayrshire Council said: 'An investigation into why the crack has appeared is currently being arranged, however, it is our intention to have this section of road repaired as early in the new year as feasible.'

Christmas party time

The Lamlash children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday 20 December at Arran high school from 2.30pm till 4pm.

Organised, as always, by Lamlash SWRI it is open to all children from birth to primary 5 resident in Lamlash.

One of the organisers said: 'If you have any visiting children with you on that day, they are very welcome to come along as well and join in the fun. For those children please hand in a wrapped gift of approximate value £5 with their name on it.'

'Santa has already made up his shopping list for the party and would not have known they were coming.'

If you wish to check if your child is on Santa's list please phone Annie on 600590.

Rare whisky goes on sale

A rare Isle of Arran whisky has been released for sale.

Four rare and exclusive single casks from the Lochranza distillery have been bottled by Anglo-French drinks group Thompsons.

The series features bottlings from four individual casks of 1996 single malt whisky, all of which have been finished in Chateau Labouade Sauternes casks, are non-chill-filtered and individually numbered.

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Superfast fibre broadband by spring of 2016

Underwater engineering feat will bring Arran superfast broadband

Arran should have long awaited superfast broadband by the spring of 2016.

Works on a once-in-a-generation subsea telecoms project have now been completed.

As a result islanders will soon have access to broadband speeds of up to 80Mbps, around 10 times faster than the current top speeds available.

Last Thursday the £410 million Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project partners marked the successful installation of 250 miles of fibre optic cabling across a record-breaking 20 seabed crossings. It's been hailed as the most complex sub-sea engineering challenge ever undertaken in UK waters.

Arran is one of 40 island and mainland locations, stretching from Orkney to Kintyre, which form a massive fibre network being built to bring high-speed fibre broadband to 84 per cent of the Highlands and Islands by the end of 2016. Corrie and Shiskine exchanges will be linked to West Kilbride and Campbeltown respectively.

The £26.9 million subsea project is part of the £146 million Digital Highlands and Islands rollout which will make faster, more reliable services available to more than 150,000 premises for the first time.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson is delighted to see the works completed. He said: 'This is a

vital step in the completion of the most complex underwater engineering feat Scotland has seen. It is hugely impressive that work of such technical complexity has been completed in such a short timescale.

'In the coming months, the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Programme will ensure Arran benefits from superfast coverage that will allow many households to connect to fibre broadband for the first time, and give businesses the opportunity to enhance their services.'

Linking

Work will continue on land to complete the main network, linking the subsea connections together.

The subsea roll-out work started in July, with the contract carried out for BT by the 14,000-tonne Rene Descartes, with its submersible plough, remotely operated vehicles and other support vessels, has become a common sight in the Clyde as it has powered on from loca-

tion to location burying the double-armoured cable in the seabed.

The Highlands and Islands project is being led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), with funding partners the Scottish government, Broadband Delivery UK, HIE and BT.

Brendan Dick, BT Scotland director, said: 'This has been the most complex subsea project BT has tackled, as well as being the largest number of seabed cables laid in a single weather window. I'm so proud of the endeavour shown by the whole team to overcome the technical and environmental challenges.'

'This underwater spider's web of fibre optic cables is set to deliver a seismic shift in communications for Arran's residents, bringing them in closer touch with the rest of the world than ever before.'

Residents and business can keep up to date by signing up to the newsletter at: <http://www.digitalscotland.org/newsletter-signup/>



ArCas support for hospice

The Ayrshire Hospice has received more than £7,000 in the latest support from the Arran cancer care group ArCas.

During a recent visit to the hospice in Ayr, chairman Douglas Johnston and two members of the ArCas committee met and presented senior staff with a cheque for £7,220.

The visitors were shown how donated funds had been employed in new equipment, furniture and furnishings.

Our photograph shows Valerie Richmond, support services director, Elizabeth Ross, Pat Wooden, Douglas Johnston of ArCas and Susan Campbell, IPU manager.

Christmas Table Top Sale

At Kilmory Hall

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Events will get visitors to come

'Build it and they will come' may be a widely used quotation but I believe it to be apt in Arran's bid to become a year round tourist destination.

For two recent events have shown that people will come no matter the time of year if there is something to attract them.

I am talking about Santa's Sparkle and last weekend's ShopArran event. Both attracted a good number of visitors to the mainland, if the busy ferries are anything to go by.

Some visitors asked why they had come to the island said they had specifically come for the shopping and many now return each year for the Sparkle event.

So clearly there is a way to attract visitors outside the recognised summer season which should be further pursued.

The hotels already play their part. There are some great online deals for hotels including The Douglas and The Kinloch and the take-up of the latest Groupon offer - other voucher websites are available - at the Auchrannie resembles a fire sale.

And all that is without even mentioning the new RET fares.

So people are desperate to come. The trick is to give them such a good time that they want to come back - hopefully - again and again.

To do so everyone involved in the tourist industry has to play their part and if that means more businesses opening all year round. That can only be good for the feel of the island, having not closed for winter and bringing new business opportunities.

So let's not wait till Easter to get those tourist tills turning. PS: Someone tell the weather what we are trying to do!

Superfast broadband on the way

So superfast fibre broadband is on its way to Arran - pity it was brought here by snail train - but at least we have a date of the spring of 2016 for its arrival.

The vital seabed fibre optic cabling has been described as the most complex sub-sea engineering challenge ever undertaken in UK waters. The two exchanges on Arran at Corrie and Shiskine will now be linked to West Kilbride and Campbeltown respectively.

All we have to watch now is that the timetable does not slip and ensure the whole island benefits from broadband ten times faster than present speeds.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.' (Isaiah 9: 6-7)

press policy

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It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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



Malawi boost

Sir,
Jack, John and Charlie would like to say thanks to everyone who came along to our Malawi fundraising quiz and ceilidh in Lochranza. We raised almost £500 towards our trip so we are very, very grateful.

We would also like to thank those who couldn't make it but handed in food, raffle prizes and donations to the Lochranza hall committee.

Many thanks also to the musicians, Arranach Ceilidh band and Angus, who donated their time and music and to Mark Harwood for providing the sound equipment.

Finally a huge thank you to the businesses who donated such generous and plentiful raffle prizes, The Byre Showroom, Harbour Shop Confectionary, Shiskine Pro shop, Arran Cheese Company, Stags Pavillion, Kinloch Hotel and Brodick Co-op.

Yours,
**Jack Ewing, Shiskine
John Luke Stewart,
Torbeg
Charlie Weir, Machrie**

A room for the night

Sir,
I am writing on behalf of a friend of ours Richard Long who is walking around Britain with a seven-stone bag on his back to raise money and awareness for Help for Heroes and PTSD.

He is in your area over Christmas and is planning on walking round Arran in 24 hours on Christmas Day and I was wondering if there was any chance that you could help me find someone to donate a room for him for one night on Christmas Eve.

Richard has asked me to inform you he would be happy with a place to pitch his tent or a garage etc to shelter from the weather if a room isn't possible. Thank you very much for your time.

Richard is walking the 'long' way around the British Isles coast raising money for Combat Stress and Help for Heroes

Yours,
**Kathryn Howard
Holihead
Isles of Anglesey**

Lady Mary picture sought

Sir,
I reside in the village of Easton, Suffolk, which was part of the Hamilton Estate of Easton Park, comprising 4,883 acres, including five villages and 32 farms.

The estate was sold in 1919 and 1922, following the death of the 12th Duke, when the family returned to Brodick Castle and other parts of their estate in Scotland were also sold.

I am researching the three iron steamships that the 12th Duke had built at Blackwood & Gordon yards at Port Glasgow.

1. The Lady Mary, a passenger Paddle Steamer built 1868 and used on the Arran - Ardrosan service.

2. Thistle (1) built 1870, a 50.2metre long steam yacht, sold on in 1874 and renamed the Pandora subsequently op-

erating from Soller Mallorca as the Leon de Oro. Sank 1917 at Cotonou/Benin.

3. Thistle (2) built 1881, a 56.96metre long steam Yacht, subsequently sold after the Duke's death in Algeria in 1895. Various owners before being converted to a cargo ship in 1921, damaged by fire in 1922 subsequently scrapped in 1927.

I request your help regarding the paddle steamer Lady Mary. I have the full history of The Lady Mary, including use on the Ardrossan - Arran service between 1868 and 1873 and Bristol Channel service following. Broken up 1890.

However, I have been unable to trace any photographs or pictures of the Lady Mary, except for a glass plate negative at Glasgow University archives of a sea trial, but do not yet know if this can be used without damaging it.

I ask if you know of any possible source of a photograph

of this vessel. I understand that you have a near 100 per cent coverage of the population on Arran and wonder if any reader could possibly assist in tracing a picture of the Lady Mary.

Your assistance in trying to trace such a picture would be very much appreciated.

I add that the research is not for private gain, solely in respect of further understanding of the 12th Duke's time here and to further village history.

The village of Easton contains much history in respect of the Hamilton's ownership of the Easton Park Estate.

Reference to www.easton.onesuffolk.net (the information history pages) may indicate our interest in the Hamilton's ownership.

Yours,
**Brain Boon
Easton
Suffolk**



The Arran Banner on holiday

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

This week's contribution comes from the far flung shores of Cuba, where Wyllie Hume of Brodick can be seen reading *The Banner* in front of one of the many 50s style American cars which prowl the streets of Havana.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Fort William or Fiji, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs. When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

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

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Arran homes receive help to wrap up warm this winter

Energy company SSE Scottish Hydro is working with North Ayrshire Council to help homes on Arran wrap up warm this winter with fully-funded energy efficiency measures.

The project is designed to help homes which are hard to heat and rely on aging electric storage heaters, LPG or oil and have poor insulation.

The project is funded through the Scottish government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) and SSE Scottish Hydro's Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

Arran residents who can benefit include homeowners or tenants living in privately rented accommodation and are in receipt of certain benefits. Energy efficiency measures available under the scheme include new electric storage heaters, oil and LPG boilers and loft and cavity wall insulation.

Steve Storey, head of development at SSE Scottish Hydro, said: 'We're working with North Ayrshire Council

to target vulnerable households that can benefit from the new funding.

'Many people feel that the free support available can be too good to be true and therefore miss out. However, there are homes across Arran which are poorly insulated or have inefficient heating systems and this project will make improvements to help reduce energy use and heating bills.'

Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, said: 'I am delighted North Ayrshire Council has teamed up with SSE Scottish Hydro to offer some of Arran's most vulnerable residents the chance to access a number of fully funded energy efficiency measures for their homes.'

To find out more call 0800 975 8316 or visit the SSE Scottish Hydro shop in Brodick. An application is available online and an advisor will call anyone back or visit www.hydro.co.uk/Online-Form/ECO



Arran's tasty produce showcased at event in Scottish parliament

Kenneth Gibson MSP is pictured sampling some delicious Taste of Arran produce at a VisitScotland exhibition in the Scottish parliament recently as Hannah Dobson from the family-run, Brodick-based business looks on.

Warm up this winter



You may be eligible for **FREE*** energy efficient electric, oil or LPG heating and insulation improvements

North Ayrshire Council are working in partnership with Scottish Government and Scottish Hydro

Do you own your own home, have an old or inefficient heating system, and are in receipt of pension credit or child tax credit with an income below £15,860?

Then now is the time to do something about it
Offer ends 31st January 2015

If you want to know more, don't delay
call **0800 975 8316****
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** Calls to 0800 numbers are free from a UK landline but may not be free from a mobile.

Dylan is the book selfie champion

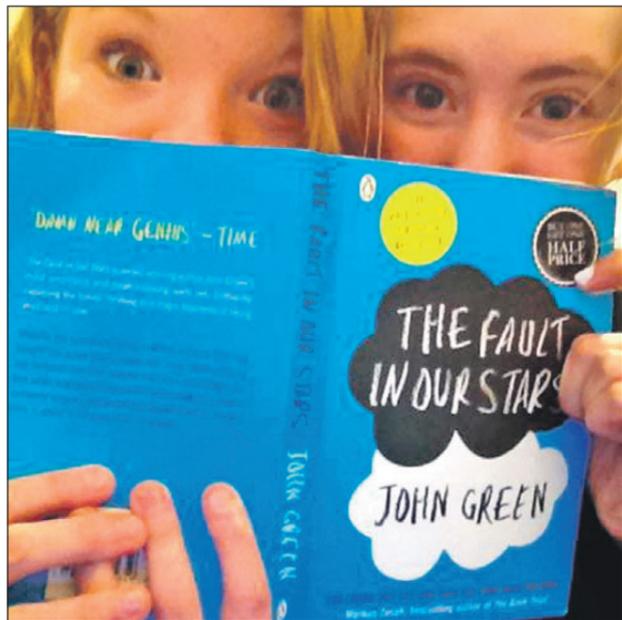
Book Week Scotland was celebrated with a number of events at Arran High School.

The popular annual event was organised by the Scottish Book Trust and involved

libraries, bookshops and schools all over Scotland. In Lamrash there were various competitions held, the most popular being the 'book selfie'.

First prizewinner was Dylan Smith, while joint second prize went to Rachel Brown and Emily Armitage.

Another popular event was the short story competition, which is still open for entries.



Left: Rachel Brown and Emily Armitage were runners up.



Right: Dylan Smith with his winning 'book selfie'.

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Arran livestock sales

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 1,016 store cattle and cast cows, and 10,622 store and prime cattle. Leading prices were as follows.

Store cattle: Limousin cross, £90, bullocks; £530, 270p Birchburn.	£945, 124p Lenamhor; Simmental cross, £655, 107p, Lenamhor; £635, 123p Birchburn; Saler bull, £755, Lenamhor.
Cast cows: Charloais cross,	Lambs: Texel cross, £90, Moor; £79, Craighdu; £72, Drumla; £65, Kilpatrick; £54, Whin.
	Suffolk cross, £87, Dun-

brea; £76, South Feorline; £70, Craigraineach; £67, Auchenhew. Cheviot cross, £67, Auchenhew. Mule, £65, Craigraineach. Blackface, £55 Glen Road; £52, Balgowan; £43.50, Ceither Gaoithe. Cast Ewes: Texel cross, £85.50, Moor; £73.50, Dunbrea; £60.50, Whin. Mule, £76.50, Drumnaghina; £76.50, Kilpatrick; £75.50, Auchenhew; £75.50, South Feorline; £60, Ceither Gaoithe. Cheviot/Mule, £83.50, Auchenhew. Cheviot, £40, Cosyden. Blackface, £54.50, West Glensheraig; £53.50, Balgowan; £53.50, Drumnaghiner; £47.50, Ceither Gaoithe. Cast Tups: Texel, £82.50, Balgowan. Blackface £64.50, Craigview; £53 Balgowan.

Christmas at the Glenisle

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Stuart Gough and some of the pupils in front of the Great War display.

Whiting Bay pupils learn from history

Pupils from Whiting Bay primary have been finding out about how the First World War affected life on Arran.

P6/7 pupils wrote to the Arran Heritage Museum asking for information and in reply received a phone call inviting them to visit, even though the museum is now closed.

On Tuesday 25 November the whole class made the trip, equipped with clipboards, ipads and a camera.

Teacher Raye Beggans: 'Stuart Gough was kind enough to open up the archive room for us and helped us to find out a lot of information. Pupils were also able to look at the detailed displays about

WWI. It really helped pupils to understand the impact the Great War had on our island. Thanks very much to museum staff for helping us with our topic.

'If there is anyone on the island with any other stories or pieces of information, please contact us at: whitingbay@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk'

Christmas cheer at Corrie Film Club

Ernest and Celestine:
76 minutes (U) and
Chimes at Midnight:
112 minutes (PG)

This weekend Corrie Film Club celebrates Christmas with two films.

The first is a charming animation from France, Ernest and Celestine.

This witty and, at times, laugh-out-loud film is about the friendship between a mouse and a bear, two solitary characters who find support and comfort in one another and, in the process, fly in the face of convention and upset the established order.

This delightful film is aimed at a younger audience but will delight all ages.

It is being shown at 6pm on Sunday 14 December and will be followed by the now traditional comedy short, Dinner for One. This is followed by supper around 7.30pm supplied by members, to which everyone is welcome.

Supper will be followed by a showing of a film which Orson Welles considered his best – Chimes at Midnight.

It is a radical Shakespeare adaptation condensing the

Henry cycle of plays into a single focused narrative.

Its international cast includes Jeanne Moreau, Fernando Rey, Margaret Rutherford, Ralph Richardson, John Gielgud as Henry IV and Orson Welles as Falstaff.

The plot follows Shakespeare: with England on the brink of civil war, Henry IV is concerned at his young son's (Hal) neglect of his royal duties.

Hal has struck up a friendship with John Falstaff as a father substitute. Both the king and Falstaff are old and tired and both rely on young Hal for comfort in their final years while the young prince, the future Henry V, nurtures his own ambitions.

Everyone is welcome to see these films – come for the whole evening including supper or for either or both of the films.

Corrie and Sannox Village Hall Sunday 14 December at 6pm for the first film.



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Doing a roaring trade at the Island Cheese Company in Brodick were Angela Robinson, owner Gordon Kinniburgh and Lucy Kerr. 20_b50shop03



Mags Bulger, Caitlin Watkins and Gillian McCrae were busy all day at Arran Aromatics. 20_b5

Cheaper ferry eager shoppe Repeat event already

The third ShopArran discount shopping event has been a resounding success, according to organisers.

For the third year shops and outlets across the island were offering big discounts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Designed to encourage people to shop locally, not only was the event once again a hit with island residents but visitors took advantage of new cheaper ferry fares to make a weekend of it.

Discounted

All the stores had discounted items and special deals, and to get everyone in the festive mood many were offering hot cider, mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy whilst browsing.

The feedback has been so positive that shopkeepers say they are already planning to repeat it again next year.

The Banner spoke to Sheila Barr at Friday's Child at Home Farm on Friday afternoon.

Despite it only being day one

she said the shop had been very busy throughout the day.

'This morning I was run off my feet, said Sheila. 'It calmed down a little at lunchtime but it's been pretty much non-stop. It's really encouraging to see so many locals and visitors taking part.'

At Buntys in Brodick, owner Laura Douglas said that on Friday morning alone she had taken more money than the previous day altogether.

'This is my first time taking part in the event as the owner and I'm loving it,' said Laura.

'It's a great event as it reminds people what is on offer right here on their doorsteps.'

'I'll definitely be taking part next year.'

At the Island Cheese Company in Brodick, staff Angela Robinson and Lucy Kerr said the shop was busy all weekend and owner Gordon Kinniburgh seemed pleased with the result.

Likewise at Arran Aromatics there were long queues as lo-

cals and tourists eagerly waited for purchases that had a 25 per cent discount.

A group of five ladies from Glasgow said it was their third visit to the island for ShopArran.

One said: 'The new ferry fares have made such a huge difference this year as well.'

Really special

'We all love coming to Arran but there's something really special about coming at this time of year and being able to do all your Christmas shopping in one place.'

'The fact that it's also snowing on Goatfell makes it even more special.'

Hotels and guest houses also noticed an increase in trade.

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran said: 'ShopArran has really taken off and it's great to see that all the shops can work together to maximise their marketing in this way. It is now a recognised weekend in the island

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0shop02



ShopArran's main organiser is Sheila Barr who owns Friday's Child at Home Farm. 20_b50shop01

...y fares bring ...rs to Arran ... planned for next year

calendar, with people saying they'll wait and do their shopping then!

'There was a real festive feel to it and this sort of thing

benefits other businesses with spin-off for accommodation and food and drink providers too, much like the party nights do - which is great. VisitAr-

ran is delighted to continue to work with ShopArran to promote their event, and congratulates all the retail partners involved.'



Laura Douglas at Buntys, centre, had help from mum and dad, Jim and Merle in her beautifully festive shop. 20_b50shop04

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Pirmill pupil Bradley's picture is a winner

Pirmill Church, Brodick Castle and Lochranza Castle were all finalist images from this year's 'My Heritage' photography competition.

My Heritage was launched in August and aimed to capture North Ayrshire's heritage from young budding photographers, enthusiastic amateurs and semi-professionals.

Bradley Lord from Pirmill was announced by Provost Joan Sturgeon, as the winner in the Under 12s category with his beautiful image of Pirmill Church.

The judging panel, which included local photographer David Devoy and North Ayrshire's artist in residence, Alex Boyd, picked Bradley's photo for its creativity.

The competition invited submissions of digital images of local built heritage from castles, churches and museums to boats, statues and ruins – or anything else that has been built and is of importance or interest in the local area.

Over 100 entries were divided into three categories:

Under 12s; Ages 12 to 18; and Over 18s.

A winner and two runners up were then selected from each of the categories.

Runners up included Megan McCartney from Corrie for her photo of Brodick Castle which came second in the Under 12s category, and Hannah McCartney from Corrie for her image of the Lochranza Castle which placed second in the Ages 12-18 category.

Giving a vote of thanks, Provost Joan Sturgeon, said: 'I would like to congratulate each and every single person that participated in 'My Heritage' photography competition.

'With so many heritage properties right on our doorstep and many other listed and beautiful old buildings around, I'm glad that the community has had the opportunity to engage with our vast heritage in this fun and informative competition.'

To see all the photo entries for the 'My Heritage' photography competition, visit www.flickr.com/groups/my-heritagephotocompetition



Bradley Lord's winning picture of Pirmill Church.



Guide leader Mairi Duff presents Rachel Brown with her award.

Guide Rachel achieves highest award

A member of the 1st Shiskine Guides has achieved the highest award in guiding.

Rachel Brown was last week presented with the Baden-Powell (BP) award which shows a real commitment to the movement.

Rachel had to complete a variety of badges, and much more and all of this was covered within five main areas of the Guiding Programme - healthy lifestyles, global awareness, discovery, skills and relationships and celebrating diversity.

One of the highlights was when the unit travelled to Glasgow last year to attend the Christmas party of games

for 2,500 screaming girls. As Rachel was nearing the end of her BP she, along with Megan Hamill, attended a BP adventure at the county campsite at the Blair Activity Centre. This was no mean feat as both girls were going to somewhere that they did not know and were meeting girls that they did not know for the very first time. This is all part of the all-round experience that this particular award and Guiding has to offer the girl in this particular session.

Rachel decided that she would receive her award at the Christmas party of games with food and nibbles - food

always appears to be involved in many of the Guide activities in Shiskine.

Although small in number on this particular night, everyone who attended had great fun.

Guide leader and division commissioner Mairi Duff said: 'In this day and age, it is to be commended that when young people 'stick at something' and show a commitment, it is only right that it is recognised, especially when it is not necessarily 'cool' to admit you are involved in Guiding.

'So, well done Rachel and congratulations from the whole unit.'



Rachel with some of the guides who attended the Christmas party.



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The Eco-Schools committee l to r: Charlotte McKillop, Andrew Sneddon and Gina Boni with their Bronze Award certificate.

Eco savvy at Corrie Primary

Pupils at Corrie Primary School have just been awarded an Eco-Schools Bronze Award.

The pupils are very excited and proud to have achieved this and worked very hard together with help from their

teacher, Mrs Kirstin Picken, to gain the award.

They have also just run a litter poster competition within the school and the winning entries by Hannah-Louise Fraser and Tenzin Gautier will be put up around Corrie

and Sannox.

The school has also written to Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson to inform him of their success and will now work towards achieving the next level which is the Silver Award.

Round the Rurals

Lamlash SWRI

The December meeting of Lamlash SWRI had an appropriate festive theme.

With the business meeting finished the members made a very enthusiastic start on the beautiful craft materials supplied by members Annie and Hilary. From the impressive display of finished cards our tutors for the evening chose their favourites. After a close vote Cath's card was chosen as winner.

Alison's Christmas ornament and Rosemary's elegantly wrapped parcel won the competitions, but nobody was a loser as the rest of the parcels were the Se-

cret Santa. Vivienne thanked the tutors for all their hard work in providing such a vast array of card materials. While a wide variety of supper treats provided by Kathleen, Toni and Janet were being enjoyed, menus were chosen for the Christmas dinner at Lamlash Golf Clubhouse. The raffle for institute funds rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

Corrie and Sannox SWRI held their November meeting on Thursday 13 November in the village hall when the president Elma Stevenson welcomed Christine

MacDonald, aka the farmer's wife. She gave them a really interesting demonstration on the beautiful soap that she makes at Auchenhew Farm.

Members had a wonderful time choosing the perfume to put into the soap which is made with mainly with olive oil, coconut oil and lye.

The members all came away with some good Christmas presents and Vicki Milne gave the vote of thanks. A good cup of tea followed with some very good baking. After the business bit of the meeting the competition was won by Morag Munro and the raffle was drawn to finish.

Protecting yourself from winter vomiting bug

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's infection prevention and control team are reminding locals that we're entering that time of year commonly known as 'winter vomiting' season.

Winter vomiting virus, Norovirus, is the most common cause of non-bacterial gastroenteritis - stomach and gut upsets - in the UK.

It is easily spread, so if you're affected, it's particularly important to stay away from work or school, and to avoid visiting relatives or friends in hospital, until you have been free of symptoms for 48 hours.

Symptoms of Norovirus begin about 15 to 50 hours after becoming infected with the virus.

Fever

They usually start with nausea followed by projectile vomiting and/or diarrhoea. Some people may have a fever, headache or aching limbs. Symptoms normally last from 12 - 60 hours and most people make a full recovery in one to two days from the start of symptoms.

Bob Wilson, infection control manager - NHS Ayrshire and Arran - leads the team which investigates outbreaks of Norovirus in the region's hospitals.

He said: 'People of any age can be affected by Norovirus, but the elderly and very young are particularly at risk. 'So if you have had symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting and have relatives in hospital or a care home, please don't visit them until you are free of symptoms for 48 hours.

'And if you have a relative in a hospital or care home where there is an outbreak of Norovirus, please only visit if it's absolutely necessary, and visit only one person. We also ask you not to bring young children to visit, to avoid eating and drinking while you're there, and to wash your hands before and after your visit.'

The team's other tips include:

If you have the virus, where possible stay away from other people until your diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped.

Wash your hands after using the toilet and before preparing food.

Make sure everyone at home has their own towel.

Ensure that all surfaces are kept clean, especially after a person has vomited.

Wash your hands after dealing with vomit or faeces.

Detergent

Clean toilet seats, flush handles, door handles and taps frequently with multi-purpose detergent, followed by disinfectant, then rinse and allow to dry.

Laundry soiled clothes on as hot a wash as possible for the type of clothing. Do not overfill your washing machine or it will not clean them properly. Do not hand wash soiled clothing as tiny droplets of water containing the virus can be dispersed in the air, contaminating you and the environment.

While you are ill, avoid preparing food for other people if you can.

Cook raw shellfish before consumption and wash all fruit if it is to be eaten raw.

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RESTAURANT
Whiting Bay
☎ 700396

Wolfi and Gege wish a
Merry Xmas and very Happy
New Year to all our family,
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The first available booking
for Trafalgar Restaurant
is at Easter

Season's
greetin
from Arran's
businesses

Lamlash Post Office
Andy, Irene & Ann wish
all their customers a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

**THE ARRAN
BANNER**
MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all the
staff at the
Arran Banner



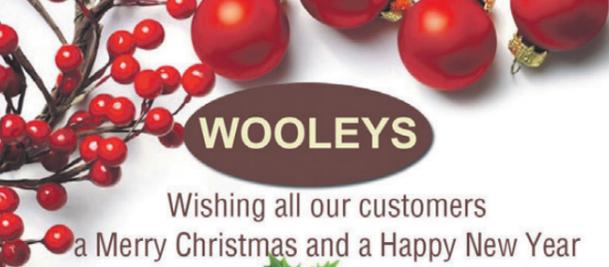
The Coffee Pot

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
everyone from all at the Coffee Pot

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would like to wish their
customers Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year.

Closed from
24th December 2014
to the 7th January 2015



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customers a very Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year

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Closed Saturday 20th Dec -
Monday 5th Jan 2015

LAMLASH GARAGE
Closed Saturday 20th Dec -
Monday 5th Jan 2015



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Double Glazing
Alex, Marion and the
boys would like to wish
all their customers past
and present a very Merry
Christmas.



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Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

To friends and neighbours, wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Pablo x



Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

to all my friends, family and carers and to all the staff here at Cooriedoon
 Jean Shaw

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Tony and Cathy Hamilton, Sliderry
 Wish all family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

To all my friends on Arran,
 From Pat Ferguson, Ayr

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all friends and relatives from John, Christine and Murdo McDonald, Auchenhew.
 Donation made to the Trussell Trust.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Margaret Hamilton would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sessions Greetings to all our Arran friends from Barbara & Alistair Black in Aberdeenshire

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

to all my friends with love and thanks
 Julie Graham, Lochranza.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all my family and friends from Bessie Sillars, Brodick.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our friends from Pat & David, Lamdash

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Graham and Barbara Tinto wish their friends on the island seasons greetings. A donation is being sent this year to Save the Children Fund.

THE ARRAN BANNER Our offices will be closed on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December and Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd January

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The issue dated Saturday 27th December will be available to buy from the 24th December all advertising must be booked in by Friday 19th December

The issue dated Saturday 3rd January will be available to buy from the 31st December all advertising must be booked in by Wednesday 24th December

Milder, wetter November

November 2014 was two degrees warmer and had more than 30 per cent more rain than the year before.

This milder, wetter November may have had an influence on a number of late records of passage migrants and lingering summer visitors.

These included: an osprey

hunting by the Machriewater between the 5th and 10th, two lesser black-backed gull by Machriewaterfoot on the 9th, a great skua off Dougarie on the 12th, a knot at Blackwaterfoot on the 21st and swallows searching for flies over the kelp on the shore at Kildonan, two on the 29th and

one on the 30th. This year may see December records of swallow even although they should be in South Africa at this time of year.

Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks.

The largest group was at Sliderry on the 3rd with 150 fieldfare and more than 300 redwing. With these wintering thrushes at Cnoc na Dail on the 11th was a waxwing and two brambling.

Records

Other records of wintering birds included: 50 rook at Sliderry on the 3rd, four purple sandpiper at Kildonan on the 16th, a snow bunting on Silver Sands on the 18th, a greenshank at Clauchlands on the 24th and 23 yellowhammer at Sliderry on the 30th.

Groups of wintering wildfowl included: 35 pink-footed geese at Shiskine on the 6th,



The over-wintering blackcap. These birds used only to be seen in summer. Photo: Brian Couper

100 teal at Kilpatrick Point on the 8th, a brent goose with 132 greylag geese at Shiskine on the 10th, 15 whooper swan flying over Whiting Bay on the 12th and 20 wigeon at Cosyden on the 21st.

Other groups included: 50 lapwing in Shiskine on the 3rd, 138 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on the 5th, 32 turnstone also at Machriewaterfoot on the 9th, 30 twite at Dougarie on the 12th and 43 curlew at Kildonan on the 19th.

Large groups of gull were also reported including at Machriewaterfoot on the 9th: 400 herring gull, 300 kittiwake, 100 common gull and 20 great black-backed gull.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months and these are some of the November reports from gardens round the island: 11 long-tailed tit at Kildonan on the 3rd, 12 blackbird in Blackwaterfoot on the 8th, 30 chaffinch in Sannox on the 9th, four robin at South Fe-

orline on the 10th and eight wren roosting overnight in a nest box in Whiting Bay on the 20th.

There was also widespread garden reports of blackcap including Whiting Bay on the 7th, High Kildonan on the 12th, Sannox on the 20th and Shiskine on the 22nd.

Highlights

Other November highlights included: nine black-throated diver off Cosyden on the 9th, eight great northern diver off Machriewaterfoot on the same day, a male goosander in Lochranza on the 20th, a moorhen at Port na Lochan on the 21st and a female merlin at the Craw on the 25th.

Finally, between the 24th and 28th there were reports of common crossbills from Dunan Mor, Benlister, Auchareoch, Dyemill, Clauchlands and Shedog; the largest group was 16.

The groups contained singing males preparing for their

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER

next breeding season. Common crossbills have one of the most protracted breeding seasons of any British bird. In parts of their range, they have been recorded breeding in every month of the year, including the winter. They breed whenever there is a good cone crop

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



The snow bunting is a regular but rare winter visitor.

Photo: Angela Cassels

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The lingering swallow. Photo: Carl Reavey.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 17 December, 1994

Earl title sold

There is a new Earl of Arran after the title was sold at an auction this week.

The title, which was sold in London, had a guide price of £350,000 to £475,000 and attracted much national media interest.

The title was put up for auction by Lady Jean Fforde and had been expected to attract interest from American, Japan and all over the world.

Despite the title, the new Earl will only be the owner of the ruin of Lochranza Castle and 1,000 acres of rough land.

At the sale it was withdrawn with the bidding at £400,000 before being sold privately. However the successful bidder will not be known until the missives are concluded, which is expected to be early next year.

The sale price has not been disclosed but it is believed to have changed hands for the reserve price of £425,000.

The rain came down

Heavy rainfall affected Arran over the weekend. Cars had to drive through water in Lamlash main street on Saturday afternoon and later in the day drains were dug up at the same spot and a fire engine had to pump excess water away. Lamlash playing field, recently reseeded, was almost completely under water.

Just south of Whiting Bay, a barrel became lodged in a conduit under the road causing water to rush over the road damaging the sides.

The total rainfall for the week was nearly eight inches, roughly the average for the entire month of December.

Lamlash playing field was badly flooded at the weekend. b20twe05



Retreat centre plans

Plans for two retreat centres on Holy Isle have gone on show at the council offices in Lamlash and will be displayed in Brodick next week.

While the design of the buildings have largely met with approval there is concern that with accommodation for more than 40 there could be an issue with people leaving their cars in Lamlash.

Already this summer cars have been parked for long periods of time and several suggestions have been made to alleviate this including urging drivers to leave their cars in Ardrossan or adapt the Whitehouse Woods into a long-term car park.

First sod cut

Brian Wilson MP cut the first sod at Lochranza Distillery yesterday, Arran's first distillery for 150 years.

In the event it was a peaceful ceremony as fears of a protest by Lochranza residents who fought against it did not materialise.

Around 20 people were there and Mr Wilson spoke of his support for the project and of the struggle the company had had with Scottish National Heritage to get to this stage.

Work began on the access roads three weeks ago and with building work now officially underway, the first stage is due to be finished around Easter and the first whisky produced by next summer.

In for a penny

A penny mile fundraiser is now a regular event on the Brodick shorefront. However it was so wet at an event on Saturday by Brodick Brownies that it was held under the balcony of Curries. They raised £54.73 and lined up 183ft of pennies.



Brian Wilson MP cuts the first sod at Lochranza Distillery. b50twe01



Above: Chookie Show '94. John Carpenter of Lamlash, right, with his pigeon which won the supreme champion prize at the Chookie Show '94 in Brodick Hall. Beside him is poultry judge Alf Robertson with a Black Orpington from Joh Dalby of Whiting Bay which was reserve champion. Inset: James Thomson of Lamlash with his rabbit entry at the show. b50twe03 and b50twe04



Right: Brownies Connie Hyndman and Danielle Whalley with their penny mile with Alison and Mandy Miller in the background. b50twe02

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
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Tue - Thur 12.30-5pm, Mon, Fri, Sat 10-5pm
 2pm
 Open all day

Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 RunArran
 Live Music
 Bridge for beginners
 Arran Access Trust AGM

Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

Saturday 13th December

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Corrie & Sannox Hall Christmas Fayre
 Christmas Concert
 Lamlash Panto

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 12noon - 4pm
 Corrie & Sannox Church, 7.30pm
 Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash, 2pm

Wednesday 17th December

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 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
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-9pm

Sunday 14th December

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 Live music
 Christmas Table Top Sale
 Carols & Lessons
 A Christmas celebration
 Lamlash Panto

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Whiting Bay & Kildonan church, 6pm
 Brodick Hall, 2.30pm
 Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash, 2pm

Thursday 18th December

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Men
 Pilates
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavillon, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie 7pm

Monday 15th December

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Live Music
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers
 10/10 Total Body workout

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 - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm

Friday 19th December

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 Ceilidh Dance
 AA 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
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall 7.30-9.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm

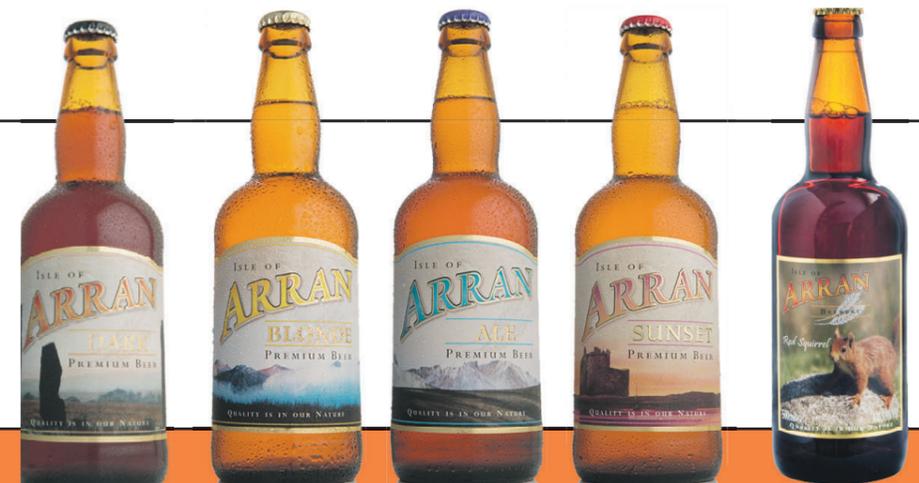
Tuesday 16th December

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre

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Public Notices

Arran Medical Group

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

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December**

**Thur 1st and Fri 2nd
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*The surgeries will close at 5pm
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Please ensure that you have enough supplies of medication for this period

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**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL:
EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT EDUCATION
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL**

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294-324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2015 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Youth Employment, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2015.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2015, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published over 3 weeks beginning the week of 22 December 2014.

JOHN BUTCHER
Executive Director
(Education and Youth Employment)



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Electric fire wall hanging coal effect rarely used immaculate condition £29.99 Tel: 601272

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Tvs x2 £20, Coffee table £15, Childs bike £5, Fridge £25, Computer table and chair £10 each, Baby equipment £10, Christmas Tree £20, Inset Cooker £25, 2 coffee makers £20 each, 2 x 2 seater sofa - fabric and conservatory set - donations Tel: Footprints 465022

Small Night Storage Heater - 70cm (H) x 33cm (w) x 18cm (d). £25 ono. Call 700508

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 14th December

Holy Communion, 11.00am.

Rev Simon Mackenzie,
Priest-in-Charge.

Coffee after service, followed by

Annual Church Meeting

ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill 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 fol-

lowing times to which

all are invited

Sunday 14th December

Lochranza and Pirnmill

Churches. 10.15am Family

Service with ARCO

String Group in Lochranza.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Family Service with ARCO

String Group.

Brodict Church, 10.30am

Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer

Meeting, 12noon Morning

Worship.

A Service of Worship will also

be held in Montrose House

at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 14th December

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Both Churches:

Mrs Liz Clarke

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 14th December

Morning Service, 11am

Trust Housing Lounge,

Glen Estate, Brodict

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodict

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 17th December

5 Glen Road, Brodict

All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

Sunday 14th December

Shiskine 11am (Church on road

between Blackwaterfoot and

Machrie)

Brodict 7pm (Church behind

post office)

Rev Marcus McCulloch

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 14th 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.

There will be the monthly sale

of Traidcraft goods available.

All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 14th December

11am Morning worship

in the Ormidale Sports

Pavilion, Brodict

Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at

11am. For meeting venue ring -

830622, 820223

DEATHS

CLINE - VERA

Wife of Stan, mother of David
sadly passed away at Ayrshire
Hospice on the 4th December.
Will be deeply missed by family
and friends.

Cremation will take place at

Holmsford Bridge Crematori-

um, Dregghorn on Monday 15th

December 2014 at 1.00pm, fol-

lowed by a memorial service in

due course.

IN MEMORY

COOPER - NANCY

Died December 17, 2007

Miss you Mum

With love from Lorna, Andy,

Bryan, Toni, Liam and Sean.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEASLEY - Alan, Jenny, Chas
and Mat would like to thank
family and friends for all the
kindness and support shown to
them during Joyce's illness and
following her death. Our thanks
to The Reverend Angus Adamson
for the beautiful, uplifting
services and to Iain and Jane Mc-
Fadzean and all the staff at the
Brodict Bar. The generous do-
nations to ARCAS and the Mary
Davis Trust amounted to £800.
Special thanks to Dr Graeme
Thompson, the district nurses
and the staff at the Brodict
Chemist for the wonderful care
shown to Joyce in recent months.



Brodict Bowling Club prizewinners with their trophies.

Ann is first among Brodict prizewinners

Members and friends of Brodict Bow-
ling Club met for their annual dinner and
presentation of prizes at Brodict Golf
Club on Friday 5 December.

Excellent evening

It was an excellent evening thanks to
Trish and her colleagues who served a
sumptuous meal amid festive surround-
ings.

Club president Ann Hollingworth pre-
sided and Ian Leader presented prizes to
the 2014 season winners: Gents Singles
John McConnachie, runner-up Colin
Haggerty; Ladies Singles Ann Holling-
worth, runner-up Lavinia Hendry.

Pairs Ann Hollingworth and Charles
Hendry, runners-up John Lauder and
Jim Nichols; Triples Charlie Weir, Paul

Milligan and Lavinia Hendry, run-
ners-up John McConnachie, Andy Mc-
Crindle and Ann Hollingworth.

Champion

Stewart Cup Charlie Weir; President's
Cup - Ann Whattam; Club Champion
of Champions - Ann Hollingworth. Ar-
ran Bowling Federation Gents Singles
Champion John Lauder.



Golf

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 3 December. An
excellent turnout of 18 brave
souls played in the Wednes-
day Stableford from the yel-
low tees, perhaps encouraged
by a misleadingly optimistic
weather forecast! Ronnie

Mann just pipped Pete Smith
with a better inward half, with
both scoring an impressive 40
points. Keeping up his recent
burst of form, Tam Young
was 3rd with 39 points.

The AGA Winter League
match at Whiting Bay on
Sunday 7 December was can-
celled due to the weather and
will now be played on Satur-
day 13 December at 10am.

Fixtures: Sunday 14 De-
cember, Winter Cup, round 3.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 2 December, Winter
Cup. 1 Willie Kelso 64, 2 Sal-

ly Brooks 66, 3 Phil Betley 67.
Scratch Willie Kelso 72.

Fixtures: Tuesday 16 Decem-
ber, Lochranza Hotel Cup,
12noon tee off.

Brodict Golf Club

Wednesday 3 December,
eight played. There was one
two by CO'Neill. 1 CO'Neill
80-18=62, 2 D Roxburgh 70-
7=63 BIH.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 6 December, medal
round (morning), six played,
18 holes. Sweep 1 B Lew-
is 33+38=71-10=61, 2 J
McGovern 38+36=74-10=64.

Best scratch B Lewis 71.
There were no magic twos.

Afternoon round rained off.
Monday 8 December, Mon-
day Cup, four played, nine
holes. 1 Len Hartley.

Fixtures: Sunday 7 Decem-
ber Winter League cancelled
due to weather. Will now
be played on Saturday 13
December at Whiting Bay.

Please note no medal round
at Corrie today (Saturday).
Monday 15 December, Mon-
day Cup, tee off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 2 December, Yel-

low Medal. 1 Ian Bremner
65-5=60, 2 Bob Hastings
74-13=61 BIH, 3 Mark Wren
70-9=61. Magic twos Ian
Bremner @ 4th, Tom Pater-
son @ 16th, Alan Smith @
7th, Mark Wren @ 2nd &
12th.

Fixtures: Sunday 14 Decem-
ber, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am
and 12 noon starts. Thursday
18 December, Yellow Medal,
draw at 11am.

Arran Golfers Association

Arran Golfers Association
Winter League/Duncan Tro-
phy 2014-2015. Second
round at Whiting Bay Golf
Club, Due to last Sunday's
snow the rescheduled match-
es will now take place on Sat-
urday 13 December.

Draw: Whiting Bay v
Machrie, Brodict v Corrie,
Lamlash v Shiskine.

Tee off time will be 10am
for all games. Can everyone
please arrive early enough
to allow time to get your re-
spective tees. Whiting Bay
will delegate tees on the day.
Please make sure fairways
are clear before teeing off at
10am.

THANKS

Kilbride Cemetery, Lamlash

Cleaning and Lettering stone

In loving memory of Margaret

Taylor, beloved wife of

'Alexander Sneddon Watt,

Whiting Bay Hotel, Mar Watt

Lodge etc.

Sandra and Ann-marie at

Cooperative Parlour, Dumbarton,

Susan Barr at Lamlash Council

Offices and the stone cutter who

made an excellent job.

Many thanks to all

Grandparents of Jim & Paul

Milligan, Great Grandparents of

Jim Dick who paid together to

make this possible.



Arran Banner Newsdesk
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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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Arran on the attack against GHK.

Arran in the wars but battle to fine victory over GHK

GHK 1 Arran 2
The Arran Ladies hockey team were in the wars when it took on a tough GHK at Anniesland on Saturday but the players came home with a famous victory.
A 15-strong squad travelled to captain Victoria McNicol's old team in Glasgow.

Anne Watts scored the opening goal after intercepting the opposition's defence with her quick skills.
Arran had numerous shots at goal with many narrow misses and remained 1-0 up at half time but knew the opponents would fight back in the second half.

And sure enough GHK came out with fight and great passing skills and scored within 10 minutes making it 1-1.
But Arran weren't going to settle for a draw as they knew they could play better.
Helen Thompson got a stick to her face resulting in

a bleeding nose and bruised face, but she bravely played on. Dawn McKinnon had to come off due to injury. And while goalie Bethany Tetlow was struggling with a bad cold, she still managed a few great saves.

Anne Watts scored a second with 10 minutes to spare, after a few nice passes up the pitch from defence to mid-field, making the final score 2-1 to Arran.

Arran played GHK in its first league game in September and lost 3-2 so it was sweet revenge this time round.

Special thanks to Pauline Reid for stepping in to umpire at the last minute therefore giving up her match position. The dame of the game award was given to Lorraine Hewie.

The team is now ready for a well-earned Christmas break. The next match is at home on Saturday 10 January.



Dame of the game Lorraine Hewie.

Arran Bridge Club results

Arran Bridge Club held the Brodick aggregate competition on Thursday 4 December. Results were as follows: 1 Jan and John Beattie; 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton; 3= Margaret and Douglas Bruce; 3= John Baraclough and Margaret McGill

Results of the Lamlash aggregate competition held on Monday 8 December were: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie; 2 Maureen Cumming and Fiona Henderson; 3 Tricia and Alison Bilsland. E/W 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce; 2 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar; 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales.



GHK defenders keep an eye on another Arran attack.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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



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



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

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.