

auchrannie
resort

Christmas Gift Vouchers
for use in **eighteen69**,
Brambles, **Cruise**, **The ASPA**
and throughout the resort.

purchase in person, online or by phone

Auchrannie Resort, Brodick
01770 302 234

www.auchrannie.co.uk/giftvouchers

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran
ESTATE AGENTS

See all our properties on

s1homes.com

Zoopla.co.uk
Smarter property search



www.arranestateagents.co.uk

Tel: 01770 302310

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2014

No 1993 60p



Merry Christmas to all our readers and advertisers

Dashing Santas hit the streets

'The runners were given encouragement along the way with car horns, friendly waves and shouts of support'



The runners all ready for the Santa Dash.
Photograph Chris Hogge

There was a blaze of red spotted in Brodick this week, add a couple of elves and a snowman and it could only be the annual Santa Dash.

Despite the unseasonably wet weather, 12 hardy members of local running group RunArran donned their Santa

suits and costumes before pounding the five-kilometre route through the village.

The runners were given encouragement along the way with car horns, friendly waves and shouts of support.

While it was all a bit of fun, prizes were handed out by

coach Laura Aitchison to mark the end of the year at the Christmas get together, held afterwards at the Auchrannie.

Gillian Webb won the gold medal for running the course in exactly the time she said she would.



JTC John Thomson
Construction Ltd

New Homes on Arran

We have several properties
nearing completion, and
land also available for
bespoke development

John Thomson Construction, Lamlash, Isle of Arran www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk Telephone: 01770 600242 Fax: 01770 600714

Cameron visits Arran on his trek along the Western Way

The Western Way – an Adventure Show Special to be shown on BBC2 Scotland

Arran will feature on a television favourite over the festive period.

Scots wilderness hiker and author Cameron McNeish takes a long walk through Scotland in a new two-part series called The Western Way.

During the first show Cameron visits Arran where he climbs Goatfell in ideal conditions before finding out about the work of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) and meeting manager Andrew Binnie.

The programme makers, Tripple Echo Productions, also used underwater footage supplied by COAST.

Favourite

Cameron's long walks are now a favourite part of the festive fare and this year he celebrates the best of Scotland with a spectacular new 250-mile route from the most southerly point of the country at the Mull of Galloway, to the busy ferry port of Oban.

In the first of the two pro-

grammes Cameron completes an ascent of the highest mountain in the Southern Uplands, the Merrick.

On this part of the route countryside ranger Keith Kirk argues that Dumfries and Galloway is every bit as good - if not better - than the better known parts of the country, whilst writer Keith Fergus says the shoreline south west of Glasgow is more wild and remote than most people realise.

Further along the trail Cameron sets foot on an island that reminds him of trekking in Tibet and meets a Buddhist nun who was born in Fort William and once worked as a computer programmer. Later, after his visit to Arran, he fulfils a long-held ambition to visit the ancient seat of the Lords of the Isles on Islay, where the former of Keeper of Scotland and Europe at the National Museums, David Caldwell, explains the European significance of this ancient site.

In the second programme, on Jura, he meets a fell running crofter and investigates a celebrated local history project. Back on the mainland he hears from retired army officer, James McLuckie, who co-founded a new walk along the underrated Cowal Peninsula.

Award-winning

Further north there's a short section on the familiar ground of the West Highland Way which Cameron walks in the company of award-winning writer Andrew Greig. Finally he heads west through the wild, remote scenery of the Black Mount hills in Argyll and meets Llinos Proctor, an ecologist who lives with her family in one of the most remote houses in Scotland, before journey's end in Oban.

The Western Way – an Adventure Show Special is on BBC2 Scotland at 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Monday 29 December (Mull of Galloway to Islay) and Tuesday 30 December (Jura to Oban).



20_b52concert01

Pupils on song at Christmas concert

Pupils from Corrie Primary School entertained residents of Montrose House with a selection of songs during a Christmas concert organised by Corrie and Sannox SWRI last week.

Following the entertainment the residents enjoyed an excellent spread of home baking provided by the ladies of the rural.



20_b52concert02

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES LTD

Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
Tel: 01770 302777 Fax: 01770 302500
Email: info@arranhaulage.co.uk

 PARCELS	 Daily mainland collections and deliveries
 CALOR Gas GAS DEALER FOR THE ISLAND	 ANIMAL FEED
 GLASGOW DEPOT	 Competitive rates for all building materials
 Coal merchant	 TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED

NFU Mutual
Campbeltown call Chris Haran on 01586 552 428 for your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

DIRECT TAXIS
01294
60-2005
8-seater taxis available

Androssan Harbour to:

Glasgow Airport	£35.00
Prestwick Airport	£25.00

Return bookings and other prices on request.

like us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

ANDREW GRAY & CO. (FUELS) LTD

PORTLAND DEPOT • LONDON ROAD
KILMARNOCK • KA3 7DD

TEL: 01563 525215 FAX: 01563 541146

Email: andrew@graysfuels.co.uk
www.graysfuels.org.uk

Heating Oil Gas Oil Farm Fuels Derv

'Due to popular demand, we are offering a regular fuel delivery service to Arran'

HENDRY

FUNERAL SERVICES LTD

15 Glen Avenue, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DQ
Tel: 01770 302233 Fax: 01770 302883

Independent Funeral Directors • All Funeral arrangements
Agents for Golden charter Funeral Plans, Robertson and MacIntyre Memorials
A member of S.A.I.F

Telephone David or Clair Tel: 01770 302233

It pays to advertise in the Banner

New homes bid for Auchenhew

A planning application has been made for the building of two new detached houses on the south coast of the island.

Farmer John McDonald of Auchenhew Farm has applied for permission to build on a site to the west of the group of houses known as Northern Heights on land currently used for agriculture.

It was originally planned to site one house each side of Northern Heights, however, there were concerns in pre-application discussions with North Ayrshire Council planners that this could lead to ribbon development, which is discouraged in the Rural Design Guidance. As a result it was agreed to site both houses to the west of the existing houses.

The site is one mile west of Kildonan and is said to offer spectacular and uninterrupted views over Pladda, Ailsa Craig and the Firth of Clyde.

The design statement in support of the development states: 'The houses have been designed to reflect the rural nature of the adjacent properties, particularly from the road, while maximising the outlook to the south and the west.'

'The finishes are traditional with a wet cast finish to the walls with smooth render banding to the openings and a natural grey slate roof finished. The design incorporates a masonry chimney.'

It says the new houses will have 'little affect' on the rural character of the area added they 'will enhance the existing group of houses being fully integrated into the existing settlement'.

The application is currently under consideration by planning officials and a decision is expected early next year.



Mel Nicholls with the first year pupils who heard her inspirational talk.

Mel tells pupils to dream big

Pupils at Arran High School were given an inspirational talk by a paralympian last week who told them to 'dream big'.

Wheelchair racer Mel Nicholls represented Great Britain at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Mel, who lives in Gloucestershire, first came to Arran last year and now she has fallen in love with the island and comes regularly to train.

She took the opportunity to visit the island last week after attending the BBC Sports Personality of Year Awards in Glasgow where she was a VIP guest.

And she was invited to speak to the first year pupils after head teacher Barry Smith found out she had been training at the KA Leisure gym in the school.

The pupils heard that Mel had been a competitive, able-bodied sportswoman who suffered a series of strokes which left her with balance and co-ordination problems.

She is unable to walk unaided and needs to use a wheelchair.

During her first year post stroke, which included heart

surgery and months of hospitalised rehabilitation, one poignant memory was watching the Beijing Paralympics.

'I watched those athletes with great admiration. I saw them as superhuman,' she said.

She took up wheelchair racing in 2012 and 15 months later was representing Team GB at the London Olympic Games competing in the T34 100m and the T34 200m, where she qualified for her first Paralympic final and finished in seventh place.

She told the Arran pupils that it had been an incredible experience and that during the games she had felt treated like a pop star.

She competed in the World Championships last year, finishing fifth over 100m and 200m and along the way she broke the 1,500m World Record.

Now she has her sights set on Rio and is hard in training

in the hope of making Team GB again.

After recounting her experiences, the pupils took part in a question and answer session with Mel.

She told the Banner: 'I had never been to Arran until October last year, now I have fallen in love with the place and aim to come back as often as I can.'

Mr Smith said: 'We are indeed fortunate to have had the opportunity for the school to hear from such an inspirational athlete.'

Luxury flats get the go ahead

Plans for new luxury apartments to be built in Brodick have been approved.

The owners of The Shorehouse have been granted permission to convert the former hotel to seven residential flats.

As reported in the Banner last month owners Tom and Sheila Tracey, who have run The Shorehouse as self catering accommodation since 1986, will now consider their next move.

Originally built as a seafront hotel in the 1930s, known as Gwyder Lodge, it presently has 10 self-contained one and two-bedroom apartments, including an adjoining cottage as well as living accommodation for the owners and offices.

The change of use planning permission would allow the building to be converted

into seven apartments which would involve extensive internal renovation along with some external alterations and the demolition of part of a single-storey building to the rear.

The only condition imposed by North Ayrshire Council planners was that an existing unauthorised caravan had to be removed from the site when the conversion, if it went ahead, was completed.

This is YOUR paper...

Send your photos and stories to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Got a story for The Banner? telephone 01770 302142

neil young Joinery and Building Ltd
Tel: 01770 600500 Mob: 07855 758978

New Builds, Renovations, Garages, Conservatories, UPVC & Timber Windows, Kitchens, All roof work

www.neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk

24-hour Service. Free Quotations. Friendly Reliable Service
Email:- yneilly@aol.com - Lamlash, Isle of Arran

ARDROSSAN HARBOUR
TO YOUR DESTINATION

Mainland Taxis
07921 998457
01294 463556

Glasgow City Centre	£42
Glasgow Airport	£35
Prestwick Airport	£25
Irvine Central Hospital	£14
Crosshouse Hospital	£20
Ayr Hospital	£32
Troon Harbour	£22
Kilmarnock	£23
Ayr	£28

For other quotes just ask!
Friendly Reliable Service
www.mainland-taxis.co.uk

7 SEATER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE AVAILABLE

Altachorvie Island Retreat

Celebrate Hogmanay at Altachorvie
31st December 2014
10pm till 2am
Tickets **£10**
Fireworks at the bells
Supper served after the bells

Altachorvie Lamlash Isle of Arran KA27 8LQ
www.altachorvie.com
01770 600 468

Arran Active Outdoor Shop

WINTER SALE STARTS 27 DEC

Rab
MEINDL
icebreaker MERINO
Craghoppers World Travel Clothing
berghaus LIVE FOR ADVENTURE
THE NORTH FACE
MERRELL

Closed New Year's Day

OPEN 7 DAYS
Mon - Sat: 9.30 - 5.00
Sun: 11.00 - 5.00
Cladach, Brodick KA27 8DE
Tel 01770 302416
andrew@arranactive.co.uk

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

THE DOUGLAS Hotel - Bistro - Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302968

Please book now on 01770 302968 for Christmas Day Lunch & Boxing Day Buffet

Bar open until 9pm on Christmas Day

SCOTT MACDONALD
PLAYING IN THE BAR
FRI 26TH & SAT 27TH DECEMBER FROM 8PM

Delicious BAR and BISTRO MEALS
Speciality Coffees & Teas, delicious HOME BAKING
Cocktails, Wines & Whiskies
NIBBLES, SHARING PLATTERS & SNACKS

Shiskine's jumpers pull in the funds

Arran seems to have gone Christmas jumper crazy during this festive season.

And on Friday 12 December, Shiskine Primary School was not to be left out as it held a 'Children's Christmas Jumper Day' with a mini bake-off incorporated into the event.

On the day children, who wanted to, came to school wearing a Christmas Jumper either homemade or one that they already had and

there was a super selection of jumpers on show.

In the mini 'bake off' there were delicious Yule logs, mince pies, cup-cakes and even decorated Christmas Cakes.

Decorate

The children in the infant class also had the chance to decorate their own Yule logs.

Headteacher Irene Markham said: 'We were delighted to welcome Jenny Harper and Adele, from The Kinloch Ho-



Shiskine's youngsters proudly show off their Christmas jumpers.



Rachel Brown - a former pupil - won two prizes for her decorated Christmas Cake and Yule log.



Little Sophie Turner proudly shows off her winning Yule log.

tel, to come along and judge the event for us and this they found very difficult.

'However, we had some

very worthy winners and they were as follows, Sophie Turner - decorated Yule log, Euan Kinniburgh - cup-cakes, Mar-

go Kinniburgh - mince pies and Rachel Brown - a former pupil, decorated Christmas Cake and Yule Log.

'Great fun was had by everyone who took part and on the day we raised £105 for Save the Children.'

Campbell Fuel Oils DISTRIBUTOR
Your local, family run, oil distributor for prompt and efficient service

We are now operating a weekly top-up service on the Isle of Arran supplying Heating Oil, Tractor Diesel, Derv and a wide range of Lubricants.

Call us on 01563 521925

Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

"SHORTIES"
Arran Shortbread Ltd.

Arrans Shortbread & Coffee Shop

AUCHRANNIE ROAD

We are now open for business from 10am-5pm

We look forward to welcoming you all to taste the ultimate Shortbread experience

FIDDLERS' **Shore Road, Brodick**
01770 302579
Open 10am 'til late

MUSIC BAR & BISTRO

FIDDLERS' FESTIVE FAYRE
Breakfast, Lunch & Evening Meals
Festive Menu 12 - 9pm - 2 Courses £16.50, 3 Courses £19.50
Lunchtime Soup & Toasted Ciabatta - £5.95
2 for 1 Pizza 4 - 7pm from £6.95

Free Live Music most nights
Hogmanay & the Bells
Arran Ceilidh Band

www.fiddlersmusicbar.com www.facebook.com/fiddlersmusicbar

MBS BUILDING AND TIMBER SUPPLIES

Gas, Coal, Portable Gas and Electric Heaters

SCAFFOLD
Haki quick form scaffold CITB registered

WISING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS

TOOL HIRE
per day, weekend or weekly
Hand Power Tools • Dumper • Loadal • Ladders
Power Barrow • Cement Mixer • Floor Sander • Carpet Cleaner

Petrol, Diesel, JGAS and Key Cutting Service

JOHNSTONE'S PROFESSIONAL PAINTS
Interior/Exterior
Designer colour mixing service

Whiting Bay
Tel: 700202 Fax: 700711
mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk
Open: Mon - Sat
8am - 5pm
CLOSED 25TH, 26TH

The co-operative
here for you for life

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers, from Liz & team at the main Brodick Co-op
Thank you for your custom

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE WHY NOT TRY OUR DELICIOUS 3 FOR 2 PARTY RANGE - HUGE CHOICE AVAILABLE

New markers for Coastal Way

New way-markers have been appearing around the island to make the Arran Coastal Way footpaths and inland diversions easier to follow.

The new way-marker has been created by local artist, Chloe Shaw, and the footpath team will be marking the whole of the 65-mile coastal

way route over the next few months.

The design is very practical with a large arrow pointing walkers in the correct direction, and it is the bright yellow colour of previous way-marking, carried out by Dick Sim and his team of coastal way volunteers.

Chloe said: 'Gannets are a familiar sight when walking round the coast of Arran and I hope the way-markers remind people to look out and notice all the wonderful animals and bird life that can be seen.'

Coastal way project co-ordinator, Rachel Sedman added: 'New way-markers with a noticeable design are key to our project and we think Chloe has done a great job.'

'We hope that having the route clearly marked will enhance people's enjoyment of walking the Arran Coastal Way.'

The Arran Coastal Way project, which is mainly funded by the Coastal Communities Fund, has a two-year plan of upgrade works from which it is hoped the footpath will gain recognition as one of 'Scotland's Great Trails', as designated by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Any comments or suggestions for the coastal way project are gratefully received so please contact them with any views on where new markers are needed.

Contact Rachel on 303926 or at arran@coastalway.co.uk



The coastal way team - Scott Murdoch, Stuart Mahony and Sean Bain with artist Chloe Shaw - putting up the first waymarker near Strathwhillan.



Chloe Shaw and Stuart Mahony putting up the first waymarker near Strathwhillan.

SEASON'S GREETINGS from Waste Services

North Ayrshire recycled 56.1% of household waste last year and we were the third highest performing area in Scotland! Thank you for your efforts and let's keep up the good work.

The actual time of your bin collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area, we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

If you have a real Christmas tree we will uplift it alongside your grey bin, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January 2015.

Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection



Yes Please!
Cardboard
Paper and cards
Plastic bottles/trays
Aluminium cans
and many more items

No Thanks!
Polystyrene
Electrical items
Black bin bags
Nappies
Textiles



Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Thursday 25 & Friday 26 December 2014** and **Thursday 1 & Friday 2 January 2015**, but will open as normal every other day.

For more information on recycling visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

t: 01294 310000



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

A land of opportunity for the whole community

Historic deal is a first for the island

As American folk singer Woodie Guthrie sang more than 70 years ago: 'This land is your land ... land made for you and me.'

And how good that should sound to the collective behind the first community land purchase on Arran.

A historic deal has been finalised and the sale concluded of a disused farm in Whiting Bay after nearly two years.

As previously reported by the Banner, The Arran Community Land Initiative secured funding of just more than £180,000 from the Scottish Land Fund in September to buy the land, but the deal was only finalised in the last few days.

Benefit

Ambitious plans are already being made to bring the 80-acre area back into use which will be of benefit to both

residents and visitors to the island.

These provisionally include establishing multi-use paths, a community garden area, grazing lets, and creating an area near the top of the site dedicated to mountain biking technical skills.

The group also has ambitions to create a community orchard and plans to roll out outdoor learning opportunities for schoolchildren and land-based skills courses for students and adult learners.

However, one of the first tasks will be to clear the site of several disused caravans and other debris which litters the area, before the task begins of fencing the site into useable plots.

Improve access

Already volunteer work parties are being planned for the start of next year, which, as well as clearing the site,

will also cut back gorse, bracken and ferns to help improve access around the site which is largely untended and overgrown.

Treasurer Juliette Walsh said: 'It is with huge excitement that the trustees on the board of the Arran Community Land Initiative are able to confirm that the acquisition of 80 acres of farmland above Whiting Bay has now been concluded by means of a grant from the Scottish Land Fund.'

'It is thanks to overwhelming support from Arran residents, schools, groups, charities and businesses that this project attracted government funding when it submitted its application in March as well as the persistence of the trustees who worked with lottery administrators and solicitors throughout the autumn to follow through with the sale.'

The group insists that throughout the project it will endeavour to find a balance between access and protection of the land's biodiversity.

Currently, volunteer Malcolm Whitmore is carrying out a year-long wildlife survey. In early autumn he noted a rich variety of flora, birdlife and native trees which included hazel groves and birds which are not seen as often such as goldcrest and mistle thrush.

The total grant from the Big Lottery managed Scottish Land Fund was for £181,500.

This included money for the purchase of the land as well as a farm track and also a £20,000 revenue grant to spend getting the project up and running in the first year.

Juliette said: 'The project is already attracting interest from education providers because of its multi-stranded ambitions. Starting from scratch on land which hasn't been farmed for a number of years means that there will be a myriad of subject matter to

study even to postgraduate level.'

Volunteer party

She added: 'Being able to walk across the land without getting lost is of course the first priority. We hope to start up a working volunteer party very soon which will meet on a regular basis to help uncover old access points and enable young and old to get to know the land better and call it their own.'

'We welcome any help with any of the group's tasks - from sending out emails, designing and putting up posters to helping to dismantle some of the decaying caravans on the land or helping cut back gorse or ferns during volunteer work party days. There are many ways in which to help ACLI, make new friends and have fun and feel fitter. Just get in touch.'

Anyone can join for just a £10 annual subscription fee and they will be kept informed of the project's progress and ways in which they can contribute.



Initiative chairwoman Nikki Harr Isle in the background. 20_b52land01



Juliette chats with David about the deer antler she has just found. 20_b52land05



Juliette discusses a point with th

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux

Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Scottish Field JANUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

Daniela Nardini

MY DAYS AS A WILD CHILD IN LARGS

Bafta winning film director David Mackenzie

Perthshire's ballet dancing shepherd Buzzards: Time to cull them?

The Maverick Duchess of Gordon Shetland's Up Helly Aa in pictures

10

of the best celebrity New Year resolutions

WIN A LUXURY BORDERS BREAK

Juliette discusses a point with th



is, Richard Fletcher, Juliette Walsh, Janice Miller and Brodie Pearcey on the land with Holy



The group has a chat outside the disused caravans which will have to be cleared. 20_b52land04



Nikki, Janice, David and Juliette outside the barn on the land which they plan to convert into a tool store. 20_b52land06



The committee members on the land with Whiting Bay in the background. 20_b52land02

County Carpets (Arran) Ltd

Since 1970

♦ FLOORING ♦

KARDEAN INTERNATIONAL
DESIGN FLOORCOVERINGS

All leading makes of carpets and flooring supplied and fitted.
All contract and domestic work undertaken

♦ BEDS ♦

Sofa Beds - Divans
Bunk Beds - Futons
Metal/Pine Bedsteads - Pillows
Headboards - Duvets

♦ FURNITURE ♦

Bedroom - Dining
Upholstery - Leather
Occasional - Conservatory

♦ BLINDS ♦

VELUX®

Rollers - Roman
Vertical - Pleated
Wooden - Venetian

♦ RUGS ♦

www.countycarpetsarran.co.uk

Tel: 01770 700480 Fax: 01770 700455

Email: admin@countycarpetsarran.co.uk
Whiting Bay Open 6 Days, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.



the rest of the committee. 20_b52land03

Best Western

BEST WESTERN KINLOCH HOTEL

Best Western

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Christmas Eve</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Public Bar 12pm until 11pm Bar Lunches 12pm until 2.30pm Evening Meals 5pm until 8pm Leisure Club 10am until 1pm <i>Evening meals by reservation only</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NORMAL HOURS WILL APPLY ON</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Saturday 27th December Sunday 28th December Monday 29th December Friday 2nd January Saturday 3rd January Sunday 4th January</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Bar Lunches 12pm until 2.30pm Evening Meals 5pm until 8pm Leisure Club 10am until 8pm Public Bar 12pm until 11pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Tuesday 30th December</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Public Bar 12pm until 11pm Bar Lunches 12pm until 2.30pm Evening Meals 5pm until 7pm Leisure Club 10am until 5pm <i>Annual charity end of year quiz 9pm</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Christmas Day</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Christmas Lunch Reservation Only 1pm until 5pm <i>Merry Christmas</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">January closure</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The Hotel and Leisure Club will be closed for refurbishment from Monday 5th January Re-Opening on Monday 2nd February The public bar will remain open throughout Monday - Thursday 5pm until 9pm Friday 4pm until 11pm Saturday mid-day until 11pm Sunday mid-day until 9pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Hogmanay</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Public Bar 12pm until 10.30pm Bar Lunches 12pm until 2.30pm Leisure Club 10am until 5pm The hotel will be closed to the public from 4pm <i>Fireworks display weather permitting 1am at the harbour</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Boxing Day</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Public Bar open today serving drinks from 2pm until 8pm <i>No lunch or evening meals Leisure Club closed</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">New Years Day</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Public Bar 12pm until 11pm Bar Lunches 12pm until 2.30pm Evening Meals 5pm until 6.45pm (reservation only) Leisure Club 10am until 5pm <i>Happy New Year</i></p>	

THE ARRAN BANNER

Unforgettable Christmas gifts are the best

My brother once brought me back a can of fresh air from Prague - an unusual holiday souvenir, but a memorable one.

And one which still sits in a box somewhere in my house, unopened.

In fact he's always brought interesting things back from his travels, I think the joy of sourcing strange gifts is part of the fun.

But my best ever keepsake has to be the real grass skirt my grandparents bought for me in Honolulu - I was only nine and it seemed like the most exotic thing in the world.

Most of the time holiday souvenirs are strange things.

Why do we feel the need to remember the places we've been with bits and pieces of useless memorabilia?

My nana's fridge was always covered in magnets from far away places - Australia, Austria, Germany and many other places near and far from home.

It was a pleasant reminder of the places she'd been - not many 79 year olds go to Las Vegas on holiday!

This week Arran Graphics has released a special souvenir coin.

As owner Graham Chappell points out, tourists are always after that something a little bit more unusual.

And a coin collection is a great idea for those who visit regularly and want a reminder of each year's visit.

At Christmastime I always strive to get my family unusual presents but I often end up just going for the mediocre books and toiletries, slippers and jumpers, as it's easier and often cheaper.

This year I decided I wasn't going to do that.

I wanted gifts that would stand the test of time.

If I'm honest I wanted gifts which every time my loved ones looked at them, they would remind them of me.

Because isn't that the reason we give gifts at this time of year?

We want to show our family and friends that we love them but we also want them to love us in return.

Holiday souvenirs do exactly the same.

They are there to show people that we thought of them while we were gone, and that we perhaps wished they could have been with us to share the experience.

So what did I get my brother for his Christmas you may ask...ah, that would be telling!

Merry Christmas to you all - and may all your gifts be unforgettable - *Jennifer Lyon, senior reporter*

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His love endures forever.' (Psalm 106, verse 1)

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



Dramatic thanks

Sir,
On December 16 we attended a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at The King's Theatre in Glasgow to benefit our drama education.

We would like to thank, first, the Arran Outdoor Education Centre for supplying a bus and driver to transport us from Arran to Glasgow.

Secondly we would like to thank the Arran Rotary Society for funding our trip to the theatre for which we are very grateful.

Lastly we would like to thank our amazing teacher, Miss Cook, for arranging this excellent trip and having the determination to put up with us on a near daily basis.

Yours,
**Arran High School
Drama Class and Argyll
College**

Connectivity rights

Sir,
As regular visitors to the island one of the things we look forward to the most is our complete disconnection to the outside world.

This is usually easily achieved by renting a house on the west of the island, one without internet connection and about as far away from a decent mobile signal as you can get.

In fact, there are lots of places on Arran which don't have decent mobile coverage - the centre of Lamlash being one of the most puzzling.

However, we are just visitors to the island and are there for 10 days at most.

I cannot imagine what it is like to live somewhere that has no access to fast broadband or indeed even a mobile signal.

It seems to me, as a resident of Glasgow, that the government should have been doing what the Norwegians did, rolling out 3G connections to our most rural areas before tackling 4G in the cities.

Yes, some may argue that if you choose to live in a rural location then you reap what you sow, but I'd argue that in the 21st century, access to superfast broadband and

a 3G connection are basic human rights - if indeed you want them!

Kind regards,
**Douglas Cartwright
Bearsden
Glasgow**

Beach fiasco

Sir,
It would seem that the fiasco with Brodick Beach is set to get even more complicated.

In last week's Banner you state that, 'The proposals would cost £450,000 but North Ayrshire Council say it would be the most cost-effective solution to the long running saga'.

The article then goes on: 'However, because the beach is owned by Arran Estates, the council will not fund all the costs of the project and it will be up to the owners and the local community to seek alternative funding.'

Therein lies the problem.

Yours,
**R McKinnon
Saltcoats**

Generous coffee drinkers

Sir,
We are pleased to write that the net figure for the Hospital Supporters' League November coffee morning was £279.90. This, of course, is the result of the efforts of our team and the generosity of our donors of home baking and tombola prizes and we thank these people.

Thanks are also due to everyone who supported us on the day.

The Arran War Memorial Hospital really appreciates the support that it receives from the people of this island.

We are also pleased to report that a little less than half the coffee morning income has already been spent on some equipment for the physiotherapy department.

Thank you all for your support.

Yours,
**Sheila MacLeod,
secretary;
Jim Arnold,
treasurer;
Arran Hospital
Supporters' League**

Shiskine shining bright

Sir,
It was my privilege to be one of the judges for the Christmas lights competition in the Shiskine Valley.

This turned out to be an extremely difficult task as the amount of lights in the valley were amazing.

After a lot of deliberation we had narrowed it down to six houses, any one of which could arguably have won.

First prize went to Jock and Eileen Kelso, well done and

congratulations to them.

The booby prize went to Stuart Black for the house that most resembled an Amsterdam establishment of ill repute.

I would like to thank everyone who had Christmas lights up. The valley looks fantastic and is putting smiles on a lot of faces this Christmas.

Keep up the good work for next year.

Yours,
**Gordon Kinniburgh
Salen
Blackwaterfoot**



The Arran Banner on holiday

'The Banner on Holiday' feature has been running for seven years now and we are still amazed by the number of fantastic photographs our readers keep sending us.

As it is Christmas time it seemed only right that we use a snowy picture.

And this is one of the chilliest looking places we could find in our files.

This fantastic snap of John Hartley from Lochranza sitting reading his Banner was taken in the grounds of West Point Military Academy in New York State with the frozen Hudson River behind.

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

It could be from Aberdeen or Aumont, 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.

Arran Deliveries

**Arran Deliveries
The Parcel Point
Harbour Road,
Ardrossan
North Ayrshire
KA22 8BZ**

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
Daily collection throughout Ayrshire,
Glasgow and surrounding districts

**Tel: 01475 676 255
Fax: 01294 469 492**

**Glasgow Depot
Arran Deliveries
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow G14 0HB**

Open Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Accepting goods destined
for the island

*We deliver the goods
not excuses*

A look back at 2014 in pictures

As 2014 draws to a close, The Banner takes its customary look-back at the news that has dominated the pages of The Arran Banner over the past year.



January to June

Head greenkeeper Keith Aitken surveys the damage after Brodick Golf Course is submerged for the second time in a week. 20_b02green01



A major clear up operation began in early January after Arran was hit by the worst flooding in more than 20 years. 20_b02flood16



The children at Corrie Primary School were given an insight into the world of journalism in February with help from The Arran Banner. 20_b05cor01



Young Arran actor Megan McGill won her first acting role in a cult children's spy-fi adventure on TV in early 2014. 20_b03high01



Dairy technician Willie McNally with the award-winning Arran Blue from Bellevue Creamery which won a silver medal certificate at the World Cheese Awards in January. 20_b03cheese01



Sarah Jenkins, Ceile Swinton-Boyle and Sophie Corbett represented Arran in the national Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition in February. 20_b04rotary01



The Arctic Arran group won an enterprise contest at the high school in February with their idea for an Arctic Festival on the island, complete with real snow ski slope. 20_b06school05



Jennifer Earle of Kilmory launched her nappy library in February in a bid to push the cloth revolution on Arran. 20_b07nappy04

PUBLIC HELP LINES

ACTION ON DEPRESSION www.actionondepression.org	0808 802 2020
BREATHING SPACE www.breathingspacescotland.co.uk	0800 83 85 87
CHILDLINE www.childline.org.uk	0800 11 11
CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE SCOTLAND www.crusescotland.org.uk	0845 600 2227
SAMARITANS www.samaritans.org	08457 90 90 90
TOUCHED BY SUICIDE www.touchedbysuicidescotland.org	01294 229087
YOUNGMINDS www.youngminds.org.uk	020 7336 8445

SLIDDERY SUPPLIES
Stockists and Suppliers of
Agricultural and General Hardware

Phil and Helen wish all customers and friends on Arran and further a field, a peaceful and successful 2015. Thank you for your custom and support throughout 2014.

Tel: 870 225

GLENMAREE CONTRACTS LTD

- DRIVEWAYS • TARMAC
- MONOBLOCK • SLABBING
- LIGHTING

FREE QUOTES

Joe.glenmaree@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 01292 282228 or
07801 847005

REMOVALS
REMOVALS : STORAGE : DISTRIBUTION
Local - Long Distance - Continental - Estimates Free
Contact Hugh McClelland on **840272**

HUGH McCLELLAND & SON Estd. 1886

UNIT 7, CADZOW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
HAMILTON, ML3 7QU
Tel: (01698) 283314 - 283555.
Fax (01698) 286677

The Arran Banner takes its cust that has dominated the pages of



Olivia Barker from Whiting Bay, front row left, just missed out on winning the prestigious title of 'North Ayrshire Young Singer of the Year 2014' in February.



Young Arran singer Emily Divine was given the thumbs up by judges after auditioning for the nationwide TeenStar singing competition in March. 20_b11em01



Emergency services across the island took part in a simulated



Head forester Andy Walker oversaw preparation work at North Sannox in March which will eventually lead to an entire forest being cleared. 20_b08rock01



Douglas Auld celebrated his retirement as headteacher of Arran High School in February. Sharon Gregg was appointed acting head until a new headteacher was found. 20_b08ahs01



Arran residents branded Brodick NAC repairs to halt erosion cause



Staff at Brodick Castle undertook year when they carried out their 20_b10clean01



Designs for the new Brodick ferry terminal were revealed by CMAL in March.



The Auchrannie Resort introduced a revolutionary new way to cope with demand for staff accommodation in March - ready built modules. 20_b11staff01

subscribe to
THE ARRAN BANNER
 DIGITAL OR PRINT
 And receive a
FREE GIFT

ARRAN AROMATICS SCOTLAND

WORTH £22.00

tel: 01371 851868
 or visit: www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscribe
 QUOTE AB1214

ARRAN AROMATICS SCOTLAND

celebrating 25 years of gifting
www.arranaromatics.com

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription costing £42. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. Fragrances in this free gift may vary.

tomary look-back at the news f the paper over the past year



bus crash exercise near Shiskine in late March. 20_b13bus03



John Sillars of Brodick shows off his beautiful 'iced follies' which won him the best in show prize at the Arran Horticultural Society's spring bulb show in April. 20_b14daf01



The community gathered on the beach in March to watch the famous Corrie seal sculpture be reinstated on its rock after it was discovered washed-up on a beach near Turnberry. 20_b12sea02



Beach a disgrace in March after d even more problems. 20_b10beach02



Charley Weir, centre, showcased her winning design for the Kinloch Hotel's 60th anniversary in March with hotel owners Barbara and Robbie Crawford. 20_b12kin01



The famous Corrie seal sculpture by Marvin Elliott was washed away during stormy weather in February. 20_b08sea01

one of the biggest jobs of the annual spring clean in April.



Team work helped to restore power to Holy Isle in late February when the Scottish Salmon Company offered their services to get engineers from SSE onto the island.



Burgoyne Carey
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

The partners and staff wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We have been serving the business community on Arran for over 20 years and are happy to speak to businesses that feel they may benefit from our expertise and competitive fee structure.

Pavilion 2, 3 Dava Street
Glasgow
G51 2JA

Tel: 0141 445 2244
Fax: 0141 445 2247
Email: mail@burgoyne-carey.co.uk



A look back at 2014 in pictures



Tenants reacted with anger to a proposed closure of the Isle of Arran Homes office in April. Despite petitions the office closed its doors at the end of July. 20_b16tenant01

Shiskine almost swept the boards at the 2014 One Act Drama Festival held in March. 20_b09dra09



In May Brodick Castle brought home a clutch of trophies from the Scottish National Rhododendron Show for the first time in several years. 20_b19hod02



Arran stone-carver and sculptor Tim Pomeroy was honoured with a special exhibition at the Paisley Art Institute in June. 20_b19tim01



The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash was named 'Small Country Hotel of the Year 2014' at the Scottish Hotel Awards in Edinburgh in early May. 20_b18gih01



A new shop where unwanted goods are given a second chance opened in Whiting Bay in April. The Eco Savvy Community opened the Waste Not Want Not Shop in the former village post office. 20_b17eco01



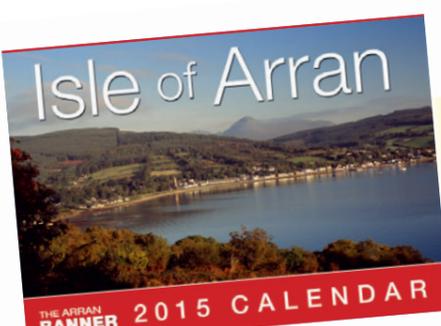
The new Arran Outdoor Centre supervisor Ian Staples and long serving employee Elizabeth Faulkner invited the Banner along to see what the education resource centre in Lamlash has to offer in May. 20_b19out08



Brighton-based landscape garden designer Andy Sturgeon was appointed to begin making plans to transform the Brodick Castle gardens in June. 20_b20andy03

A new beginning

2015 Calendars



Arran Banner
Isle of Arran
£7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call **01371 851 868**

NEW YEAR CEILIDH

Scottish Entertainment for all the family
Starring the "STRING ROAD POTHLES" band

BRODICK HALL NEW YEARS DANCE

8pm – 11pm 1 January 2015

Join in with the Scottish dancing and music.
Lots of fun and enjoyment for all ages.....

Tickets available at the Brodick Hall entrance
£20 – Family Ticket £7 – Adults £4 – Children

BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE

Organised and Presented by the Brodick Improvements Committee

Linda Armit, a tenant at Red Quarry Road in Corrie, launched a petition in April which gathered more than 200 signatures, to keep the Isle of Arran Homes office open. 20_b17pet01

The Silent Man

A DCI Daley short story by Denzil Meyrick

It had been almost 12 hours since the silent man had gathered together his few belongings, made his bed, and prepared to leave the place he had called home for nearly five years. The security camera had followed him as he slipped out of the care home and into the cold dark of early morning, just as the first fat flakes began to fall. It was the day before Christmas Eve.

Now, thick snow clothed Kinloch in its cold smothering blanket, tinged orange under the glow of the street lamps. DCI Jim Daley stood at an arched window of the town hall, looking down at the scene from one floor up.

The cold breath of last-minute shoppers billowed into the air and around the decorations and fairy lights that adorned the street and illuminated a bright path from each shop doorway. Festive cheer, warm and welcoming, was palpable; an enticement to one and all, as the good people of Kinloch prepared for Christmas Day.

Daley turned his attention away from thoughts of Christmas and back to the hall. Stark white striplights picked out faces etched with worry and fatigue. This was the impromptu incident room from where the search for John Sweeney had been coordinated for most of the day. Darkness had descended more than two hours ago and with it the realistic hope that the old man would be found alive; this, though, remained unspoken.

Sweeney's family – daughter, husband and their little boy – sat at a table. The daughter wrung her hands, face red and blotchy from the tears that had spilled down it all day, while her husband fussed over the six-year-old who was working busily with thick crayons, stopping occasionally to glance up at his mother with big sad blue eyes.

'Don't worry, Mummy,' he said, reaching his hand out to pat hers. 'Grampa will be out looking for Santa. He said he would ask him to get me a bike. He told me he would.'

'Calum,' scolded his father, 'what have we told you about this? Grampa doesn't speak. You know he doesn't. I want you to be a big boy for Mummy and be good, OK?'

'He speaks to me,' replied the little boy, nodding furiously to underline what he'd just said. 'He does!'

'Stop it, Calum! Just stop it!' shouted his mother. 'I'm fed up listening to you tell me



*'Come with me,' the voice insists.
He rolls onto one side, trying to
shake the dream and go back to sleep.
'Come with me.'
He opens his eyes.
'Come with me.'*

what Grampa said to you.

He doesn't say anything! He hasn't done since you were a baby. You'll go to the bad place for telling tales. How many times have I got to tell you? Just... be quiet!

Calum looked on as his mother buried her head in her hands and his father put his arm around her shoulder. He sighed and quietly went back to his drawing.

Daley was surprised at the boy's self-possession. Most children of his age would have burst into tears had they been at the sharp end of a tongue lashing from a distraught mother threatening hell and damnation. Calum, however, seemed unperturbed, resigned almost, as though he was no stranger to such outbursts.

A murmur of voices heralded movement at the table at the head of the room, where the rotund Fire and Rescue officer was getting stiffly on his feet.

'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm

afraid to say that the weather is closing in again, and now that darkness has fallen we have to suspend full operations until the morning.

'If the snow stops, the Royal Navy and Police helicopters will carry on their work with searchlights and heat-seeking devices overnight.' He paused and cleared his throat as the woman's sobs filled the hall. 'We'll gather here again tomorrow morning at five o'clock. Myself and Sergeant Shaw will coordinate efforts until midnight, followed by DS Scott and my deputy thereafter. Where is DS Scott, incidentally?' he asked, looking at Daley.

'Just taking a break,' replied Daley, knowing full well where DS Scott was.

As Daley walked into the vestibule of the County Hotel, he noticed that the tables and chairs where customers normally had coffee, cake and a gossip had been cleared, and the space was transformed into a gaudy Santa's

Grotto; all tinsel, fairy lights and crushed baking foil. A long line of children and bored-looking parents snaked towards a rather moth-eaten Santa, who leaned forward and spoke to a little boy in an accent definitely not from the North Pole.

'And whoot wid you like fir Christmas, young fella?' asked Santa in a very familiar voice.

The child took a step backward, wary of the slanted eyes in the crinkled face, and the exceptionally unconvincing cotton-wool beard. Despite his disguise, Hamish wasn't hard to spot.

'Excuse me, Inspector Daley,' said a voice from behind. Andrew Duncan, John Sweeney's son-in-law, had Calum by the hand. 'Thank you so much for all your efforts today. I really appreciate it; we both do.' He tried to smile.

'I'm sorry we haven't turned anything up yet, Mr Duncan. But don't worry,' said Daley, kneeling down stiffly on one knee to talk to the boy, who

stared back at him, his face pale under a mop of red hair.

'We'll be out looking for your grampa first thing tomorrow.'

The little boy fished around in the pocket of his anorak. 'This is for you, Mr Policeman,' he said, handing Daley a piece of crumpled paper. 'Can you give it to Grampa when you find him? It's his special place. He told me.'

'Sorry, Inspector Daley, my son has a rather vivid imagination. As you know, my father-in-law hasn't spoken for a long time. Not since the death of my mother-in-law, before Calum was born, in fact. Partly because of his condition, they reckon.'

Daley nodded and turned his attention back to the boy.

He smoothed out the crude drawing of what looked like a cliff above a little slash of yellow, presumably a beach, bordered by blue squiggles representing the sea.

'This is very good. What's that?' He pointed to a shape picked out in black crayon on the yellow beach.

'It's a cross. My grampa told me about it. There's a dead man buried there,' said Calum cheerfully. He grinned, showing a big gap in his front teeth.

'Noo, hold on, children,' shouted Santa, his voice muffled by cotton wool. 'We've got a special little boy wae us.

'Come on ower here, Calum, an' tell Santa whoot ye want for Christmas.' It was clear that Hamish, having spotted Calum and knowing the circumstances, was keen to make a fuss of him.

The red-haired boy made his way past the line of parents and children and stood in front of Father Christmas.

'Noo, whoot present wid ye most like, Calum?' said Hamish in a gentle voice, leaning down and taking the boy by the hand.

Calum looked back at his father. 'I wanted a bike... but I'd rather have Grampa back. Please, Santa?'

Don't miss part two of The Silent Man in next week's Banner.



SCOTTISH
COUNTRYSIDE
ALLIANCE
The voice of the countryside

ScottishField
Chiene-Tait
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
STRATHALLAN
Organisation for all to reach

www.scottishruralawards.org

TICKETS ARE
NOW ON SALE
FOR THE AWARDS GALA DINNER

Thursday 26th March 2015
held at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

BUY
YOUR TICKETS
NOW



FREE LUXURY
GOODIE BAG
FOR EVERY GUEST

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT:
www.scottishruralawards.org

or Tel: 0131 551 7933 email: info@scottishruralawards.org

All attendees will be featured in Scottish Field or online at scottishfield.co.uk and scottishruralawards.org

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

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

Saturday 27th December

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Texas Scramble
 Live Music with Scott MacDonald
 Mid Holiday Disco with DJ Tony

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Shiskine Golf Club, 10am - 2pm
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 8-10pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 1am

Sunday 28th December

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 Live music
 Folk Session
 Ormidale King of sports competition

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 2pm

Monday 29th December

Morning Fitness
 Badminton
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Live Music
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Darts & Doms Tournament

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick 8pm

Tuesday 30th December

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 Live Music
 Bridge for beginners
 Charity end of year quiz

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Kinloch Hotel, 9pm

Wednesday 31st December

Christmas Rock & Pop Bingo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Arran Ceilidh Band - Free entry
 Afternoon Hogmanay Quiz
 Hogmanay Party with live music
 Hogmanay Party
 Hogmanay Party
 Hogmanay Hoolie
 Hogmanay Party (Tickets Only)
 Hogmanay Dance (Tickets)

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 9.30pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 3pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 2am
 Corrie & Sannox village hall, 9.30pm-1.30am
 Altachovie, Lamlash, 10pm - 2am
 Shiskine Hall, 10pm - 1am
 Ormidale Hotel, from 9pm
 The Douglas Hotel, From 10pm

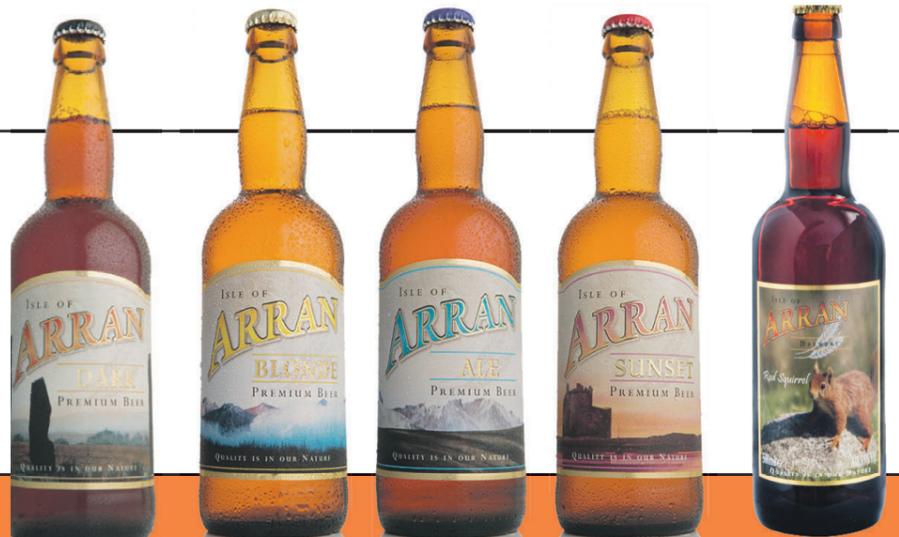
Thursday 1st January

Quiz of the year
 New Year Ceilidh
 Live Music from Amie Hume

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Hall, 8pm - 11pm
 The Douglas Hotel, afternoon

ISLE OF
ARRAN
 BREWERY

www.arranbrewery.com



Relax
 and enjoy Your local news
 from wherever you are.



www.arranbanner.co.uk/digital

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 31 December, 1994

Castle wedding

Brodick Castle was the scene of the most splendid wedding celebrated for a long time on Arran.

It is possibly the first wedding in modern times to be held in the castle as even Lady Jean Fforde was married in Brodick Church just after the war before guests went up to the castle.

The bride was Caroline Raymond, the only daughter of Charles and Olive Raymond, who is the castle administrator and the groom was Lloyd Glyn Partridge.

Although it rained all day this did nothing to diminish the grandeur of the setting, especially as it would have been seen by the many foreign visitors.

With the castle floodlit, a chamber orchestra playing in the drawing room, the Arran Pipe Band playing outside, plus two further bands, in the marquee for the evening dance, it was an event without equal.

Pier back in use

Brodick Pier, which has been out of action for foot passengers for many weeks, has been brought back into use over the festive season.

While understanding the need to board and disembark by the car deck while the pier level is being raised, foot passengers have not been enjoying the experience.

Since the contractors are going to be on holiday for two weeks pier master Robbie Brown felt that, with no obvious work in progress, it would be even more annoying for passengers to have to walk on to the car deck.

As a result he asked the contractors to make the pier safe using the old gangway to return the pier to temporary normality.

Texas Scramble

An established part of the Shiskine Christmas calendar is the Texas Scramble held on Boxing Day.

The organising committee take great de-



Christmas carols by candlelight at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash on Christmas Eve. b52twe05



The Rev Ian MacLeod conducts the wedding service in the magnificent Drawing Room of Brodick Castle. b52twe01

light in literally putting their competitors through hoops with such diverse ordeals as driving from a bench at the 1st and playing with tennis balls at the last.

With this less than serious attitude to the game many players have adopted a less serious mode of dress.

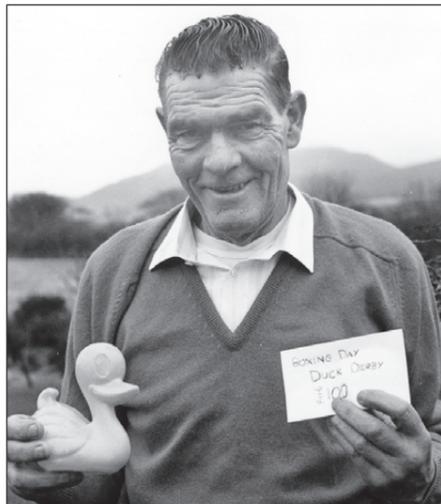
One team regularly plays in kilts - both sexes and whatever the weather - and given the weather the team with the most appropriate dress this year played the entire round dressed in wet suits and snorkel masks.

Festival of Music

There will be an Arran Festival of Music next year to be held in May.

Arran already has a musical festival and a folk festival, but this will be different from both. It would be too narrow to call it a classical music festival as the BT Scottish Ensemble aims to make the five-day festival as widely appealing as possible.

There will also be educational projects in schools, participation from the Arran Chorus, lectures and other musical activities.



The winner of the £100 prize at the Shiskine Duck Derby was Alastair Hyndman. and b52twe04



Sheila McDowall prepares to tee off in the Texas Scramble watched by Mac MacAleavy, David McClelland and Stevie Crawford dressed in wet suits and snorkel masks. b52twe02



It would not be Boxing Day without the Shiskine Duck Derby and volunteers prepare the ducks for the event. b52twe03

Trade Classified

PAINTER AND DECORATOR



FULTON
decorators

LAMLASH
TEL/FAX 01770 600705
Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

TREES

Tree & hedge cutting and clearing
Brush Cutting and strimming.
All types of fencing

Call Jamie McKinnon:
01770 810 222 or 07760 247201

FURNITURE RESTORATION

JOHN DIVINE
FURNITURE
RESTORATION & REPAIR
FRENCH POLISHING
UPHOLSTERY

Blackwaterfoot –
Isle Of Arran
Telephone:
01770 860878
Mobile
07733 738127
Email: john@
thornbankwoodcraft.co.uk

COMPUTING SERVICES

**Arran
Computer Shop**

Speedy computer repairs and upgrades

- Virus removal
- Laptop screen and keyboard replacement
- Operating system reinstallation
- Hard disk replacement
- Data transfer to new PC or hard disk
- Home networking
- Advice on backing up your data
- One-to-one tuition

Located in
Brodick Post Office
01770 303623
www.arrancomputershop.co.uk

SAWMILL



Standard and Made-to-measure Pressure Treated Heavy Duty Timber, Sheds and Garages.

Sawn Pressure Treated Timber in most sizes and lengths, Fencing Stobs & Posts Garden Gates, Field Gates, Tool Stores, Coal Bunkers, Fence Panels & Trellising Firewood, Kindling, Sawdust and Bark Chippings.

Cladach Sawmill
Brodick, Tel/Fax: 01770 302471
Mobile: 07803 625248

**INCIDENTALS
ARRAN**

Happy computers on
Arran since 1983

Bill Stewart
T. 830343

**BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS**

**SERVICE TO
PROMOTE?**

**THE ARRAN
BANNER**

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Classifieds

UNDER £30

Gents evening suit 40chest, as new £20, snooker table 6ft wood frame and folding legs - set of balls plus cues £30
Tel: 700582

**BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS**

**UNWANTED ITEM
TO SELL?**

**THE ARRAN
BANNER**

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk





**CALLING ALL
ARRAN BANNER
SUBSCRIBERS**

Contact details for the subscription department have changed!

www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/subscribe

You can now manage your subscription on-line by registering at the above web address.

In some cases your subscription account number may have changed. If you have difficulty accessing your subscription on-line contact the helpline number below

01371 851868

Open 9am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday

Wyvex Media Ltd

**Freeport RTEY-YUBG-TYUB, Trinity House, Sculpins Lane,
Wethersfield, Braintree CM7 4AY**

If you have recently received a renewal reminder, please use the details above to renew

Recruitment



WOOLEYS OF ARRAN
require a fulltime
Manager or Manageress
for our shop in LAMLASH

To arrange an interview please call:
302280 or email: info@wooleys.co.uk

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



Public Notices

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ARRAN

Domestic collections will be unaffected over the festive period. Please put your grey and blue bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection. The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible. The Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed 25 and 26 December 2014 and 1 and 2 January 2015. The last special uplift collection for 2014 will be on 19 December 2014. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on 5 January 2015. Large items of cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period. Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your grey bin for 7am, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January 2015. Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less. The contact telephone number of North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the festive period is 01770 600338 or visit our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 - SESSION 2015/2016

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2016 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 12 January 2015. As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live. The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration. Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages). If you wish your child to attend a school outwith your catchment area then you must submit a placing request which you will be able to submit online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages). Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000. Registration at your catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school.

John Butcher
Executive Director
(Education and Youth Employment)



Property

LOOKING FOR a new home?

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: (01770) 302142
Fax: (01770) 302021



The New Instant

THE ARRAN BANNER

Digital Edition

AVAILABLE NOW

Our new E-Edition is delivered direct to your inbox on the day of publication. Receive it even when you're away from home - anywhere where you have internet access.

- User friendly, professional page viewer
- 'Flip' through pages
- Zoom in and out
- Print pages
- Search



The co-operative memorials



- Traditional and modern styles
- Free quotations
- Additional inscriptions
- Home visits

Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554



CHURCH NOTICES

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 28th December Lochranza and Pirmill Churches. 10.15am Morning Worship in Pirmill. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. Brodick 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 28th December Kilmory 10am Lamlash 11.30 am Both Churches: Rev. John Webster All welcome, including families; children's area Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing) **Sunday 28th December** Morning Service, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SVCOALND

(Charity Number: SC014005) **Sunday 28th December** A service of praise and readings 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

First Mass of Christmas 9pm Christmas Morning Mass 11am Sunday Mass 11am New Years Day Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 28th December Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie) Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings **Sunday 28th December** 11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick Tea & 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

Lamlash bowlers celebrate season's end

The members of Lamlash Bowling Club have celebrated the success of another season with their annual prize-giving this week.

The 2014 prizewinners are as follows: Gents Singles - Jim Gibson; runner up - Colin Haggarty. Ladies Singles - Patricia Spence; runner up - Marion Spence. Triples - John Sloss, Colin Haggarty, Marion Spence. Drift Inn Quaich - John Sloss, Colin Haggarty, Marion Spence. Arran Federation: Ladies Singles - Marion Spence; Gents Pairs - Charlie Weir, Colin Haggarty. Laidler Gardner - Lamlash.



More than 70 men and women have now complete RunArran beginner course on the island.

New running courses are under starters orders

There is no excuse not to get out and get active in the new year.

RunArran is launching two new JogScotland beginner courses starting next month.

For the first time one of the courses will be in Whiting Bay, so there is no excuse for people in the south end, and absolute beginners are welcome.

A second course is starting in Brodick.

More than 70 men and women have now complete RunArran beginner course on the

island. The courses are being run by qualified JogScotland coach Laura Aitcheson. She said: 'I am really looking forward to starting in Whiting Bay. I would urge everyone, regardless of their fitness to come along and join us, get fit, have fun and meet new friends. Nobody is too slow to join JogScotland.'

Beginner sessions include a combination of gentle walking and jogging, with a gradual increase in jogging as fitness and confidence begin to build. Within 20

weeks of starting as a complete beginner, participants will probably be able to run 5K (3.1 miles). The emphasis at every JogScotland group is on enjoying exercise and supporting one another in a friendly atmosphere.

JogScotland is Scotland's recreational running network and is part of Scottish Athletics.

It has around 30,000 members running in supportive, sociable groups all over the country.

Courses are suitable for

healthy adults of all ages and nationally members include joggers in their 80s, and more than 100 who are in their 70s.

The Whiting Bay beginners course starts on Monday 8 January at 5.30pm. Meet at Sandbraes. The Brodick beginners courses starts on Thursday 11 January at 5.30pm. Meet at the Auchrannie car park.

To take part or find out more, visit www.runarran.com or www.jogscotland.org.uk or call Laura on 07522866779.

XMAS PERSONALS

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year
To all our friends and family.
Best wishes Iain Murchie and family at Blairmore



Golf

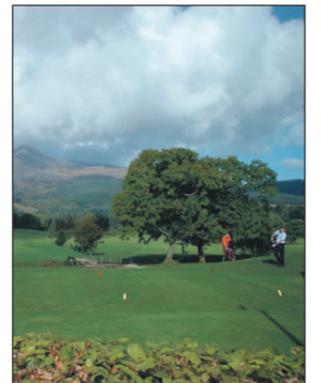
Machrie Bay Golf Club Tuesday 16 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 1 Phil Betley 37 BIH, 2 Brian Sherwood 37, 3 Viv Parks 32. Scratch Brian Sherwood 76. Fixtures: Tuesday 30 December, two club competition (putter and one other club), played over 9 holes tee off 12.00noon. Saturday

3 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final tee off 12.00noon. Tuesday 6 January, Winter Cup, tee off 12.00noon.

Brodick Golf Club Wednesday 17 December, eight played. 1 D Robertson 76-16=60, 2 B Walker 82-19=63. There was one magic two by C O'Neill.

Whiting Bay Golf Club The Winter friendly with Lamlash was cancelled on Sunday 21 December due to the wet weather and will now be played on Sunday 18 January at Whiting Bay. Fixtures: Friday 26 December, Christmas Bottle, Yellow

Tees strokeplay. Sunday 28 December, Winter Cup round 3 (rearranged from earlier in the month).



The first tee at Brodick Golf Club

IN MEMORY

CRAIG - Kenny
19 February 1973 - 27 December 2009
Deeply loved, sorely missed,
forever in our thoughts.
Mum, Dad, Bryan and family

BANNER PERSONALS BANNER PERSONALS BANNER

A look back at the sporting achievements of 2014

January to June



John Murchie and his dog Midge proudly show off the Drumadon Trophy which they won after a very successful series of nursery sheep dog trials which ended in February. 20_b09dog03



Wullie Stevenson with his trusty dog Birch and his haul of six trophies won over the season. 20_b09dog05



A muddy and very wet pitch at the Ormidale Park didn't stop Arran RFC beating Lanark 34-0 in February. 20_b04rugby06



Liusaidh McMaster presents the Arran Sevens Trophy to the victorious Carrick team in April. 20_b17win01



Just five women took part in the ladies pool competition at the Drift Inn in February. 20_b09pool01



Catherine Divine presents Adrian Cannon of Brodick with his well-earned Tae Kwon-do black belt in February.



At just 17, Luisaidh McMaster from Shannochie was selected to play rugby for the Scotland Under 20s team in February.



Six Arran runners Kirstie Smith, Iain Keen, Elliot Sedman, Jamie Sillars, Paul Hewie and Michael Jackson completed the Goatfell race in the middle of May. 20_b21goat02

SKIP HIRE

John Thomson Construction Ltd

Telephone: (01770) 600242

Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

LAMLASH GARAGE

MOT DISCOUNT

Car MOT Fee - £50

24 HOUR RECOVERY

4 WHEEL LASER ALIGNMENT

- ✓ MOTs, repairs, servicing
- ✓ Full body repair service available
- ✓ Panel beating, spray painting

All your vehicle requirements under one roof
Contact Lamlash Garage on 01770 600328

A look back at the sporting achievements of 2014

January to June



Robert Davidson, Stuart McMaster, Niall McMaster, Tommy Mulholland, Eddie Picken, Vicki Sturgeon, Alan Picken, Max Worthington and Dennis Smith show off PT1934's amazing haul of trophies after the pool season ended in March.



The ladies winners of Shiskine Golf Club's Rock Plate in May were Carole Stewart, left, Mary Jo Tod.



In March Brian Sherwood was congratulated after winning the Shiskine Golf Club 'Winter Cup' after a season of great golf.



Iain Murchie, right, accepted Arran's version of the Ryder Cup in March while George Tod was given the wooden spoon for his Kilpatrick team.



This group of ladies were jumping for joy in April having just completed their jogscotland 10-week beginners' course arranged by Run Arran.



In May the winning Lamlash team of James Reid, James Currie, captain Dylan Smith, Louis Urquhart-Dixon and Ian McAdam won the Lochranza junior football tournament.



Thomas Gilmore on his 65cc motorbike with the trophy he won at Drumclog in May - little brother Alfie is a big fan.



In April Whiting Bay runner Jennifer Emsley completed the London Marathon in an impressive two hours and 46 minutes and was 22nd out of 13,000 women.



Craig Black, an American-football player from Lamlash, was part of the Stirling Clansmen team which won the British Championship in April.



AGA president Donald Logan, right, congratulates Ian Murchie of Lamlash in an impressive clean sweep of the major prizes at the spring meeting at Brodick Golf Club in May.

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.