THE ARRAN 50p
BANNER

welcome
Mon-Wed 8am-6pm
Thurs-Sat 8am-8pm
Sunday 11am-5pm

Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 12 JANUARY 2008 | No 1630

Lamlash residents warn of 'accident waiting to happen'

Alarm over diversion plan for school buses

Arran's new high school opened this week amid controversy over a plan to send eight school buses along a residential street.

Residents of Park Terrace, Lamlash, have expressed alarm at the proposal, one of several temporary measures being discussed as an answer to bus parking. They say their road is not suitable and fear an accident or, at the very least, congestion.

Others say they were not consulted about the proposals.

The measures were being considered today (Friday) at a meeting in the high school.

This week, pupils alighting from school buses were directed along the path up the side of Whitehouse Woods.

Brian Cameron, of 4 Park Terrace, opposed the measure. He said: 'Three generations of our family have been to that school and if they bring school buses up here it will be a nightmare. The road isn't fit for that traffic and is congested with workmen's vehicles. I've driven school buses here and it can be chaos when the kids all jump out.'

Report by HOWARD DRIVER

Dougie and Heidi Macfarlane, at No 5, said: 'We've got two young boys and would not be happy with buses up here.

'If they are turning at Benlister, that is full of primary children and would be very dangerous. The corner at the Aldersyde would also be an accident waiting to happen.'

Lamlash community councillors Maureen Smith and Brenda Stewart said they were not consulted.

Brenda Stewart said: 'They cannot be serious about bringing buses up Park Terrace. It would be an accident waiting to happen.'

Maureen Smith said: 'I know nothing of these meetings. I heard that they were planning to bring buses up Park Terrace and got on to Dr Jim Tulips, leader of the PPP team. Park Terrace is full of family homes and Thomson's building yard. What happens if emergency services need to get through?'

Stagecoach provides six 49-seat coaches and two 25-seat minibuses each day to ferry pupils to and from the school from all over the island.

They have normally parked in the front drive of the old school, which is due to be knocked down by the middle of May with work expected to start in late January.

The site will then become parking for staff cars and school buses.

Also being considered is traffic lights at the Aldersyde corner and Lamlash fire station. Buses could park on the main road opposite the police station and the road would be closed in the morning and afternoon when children arrive and depart school.

The other proposals being considered are: buses driving along Park Terrace and turning at Benlister; the demolition of the wall at Gordon's car park for buses to park and turn; bringing 12 minibuses and drivers over on the ferry; using part of Whitehouse Woods as a bus park with agreement from owners John Thomson Construction.

Today's meeting follows one on December 20 involving North Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde police, Scottish Passenger Transport Executive, Barr Construction and the NAC Public Private Partnership team.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said all the options were being considered.

'Nothing has been decided yet,' he added. 'Buses can use the existing entrance for up to four weeks with agreement from the contractors and we are considering the options after that.'

Dr Tulips said: 'Discussions on the temporary arrangements for buses at Arran High are under way and involve police, roads and the school. When arrangements are in place the local members will be advised.'

Local NAC councillor Margie Currie confirmed that none of the four Ardrossan and Arran councillors had been involved in discussions. She said: 'I have not been approached about this. There is not going to be a big expenditure on something as temporary as four months but the safety of the children is paramount.'

Owner of the Whitehouse Woods, Ian Thomson, said: 'I have not been approached by NAC.

'In principle I think something could be done in the Whitehouse Woods. Effectively there could be a through route with buses entering through the gateway by the church and coming out opposite the medical centre. I'm waiting for NAC to contact me.'

Alternative parking arrangements will have to be made for the line-up of buses waiting to collect children from the high school. Inset, Park Terrace, Lamlash, a proposed temporary route. b02sch01/bus02

Man broke victim's nose

A Brodick man has been fined £200 for an assault which broke his victim's nose with a single punch.

Ian Ford, aged 39, admitted at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court to attacking the 36-year-old man at his home in Whiting Bay on January 2.

SWRI party night

Kilmory SWRI holds its first meeting of 2008 in Kilmory Hall at 7.30pm on Monday when it will be party night with meals to share. New members are welcome.

In the last meeting of 2007 John Rhead, 'the bird man of Kilmory', showed some spectacular slides of Arran and Scotland during an interesting facts and figures talk about resident and visiting birds to Scotland.

• Do you have a story? Call The Banner reporters on 01770-302142

Roads closed as storm gusts reach up to 105mph

Police and workmen on Arran are busy clearing up after the massive storm which hit the island on Tuesday night.

At times winds gusted up to 105mph with an average speed recorded of 89mph.

The 'violent storm 11' also resulted in many CalMac ferry disruptions and cancellations, particularly to the Western Isles.

The ferry from Brodick to Ardrossan was also disrupted on Tuesday night and spent the early hours of Wednesday taking refuge in Lamlash Bay with other vessels affected by the high winds and high tide.

By Wednesday afternoon the wind had quietened enough for the ferry to sail from Brodick at 4.40pm.

Overnight on Tuesday both the Ross and String roads were closed because of worsening weather conditions and workmen and police also had a busy night clearing fallen trees along the road at Merkland and elsewhere and dealing with a considerable amount of surface water on the island's roads.

Several 200-year-old trees in Brodick Castle grounds were also brought down and at one stage the sea spilled on to the road near the castle.

Fallen trees had to be cleared from the road at Merkland. B02sto1

Engineering graduate set for Canada

Gordon Hutchison from Lamlash graduated this year with a degree in civil engineering from Glasgow University.

He is preparing to go off to Whistler in Canada where he will spend a gap year.

He will take part in a British Association of Snowsport Instructors course to allow him to become a qualified ski trainer.

Drink drive road check to be repeated

Arran drivers should continue to be on their best behaviour and maintain a responsible approach towards drink driving.

That was the New Year message from police sergeant Bob MacKay. On Tuesday he told the *Banner*: 'I am encouraged by the more responsible attitude of the Arran public. Although a few drink drivers were apprehended over the Christmas and New Year period the majority of people are heeding our warnings.'

He confirmed that three Arran drivers provided positive breath tests over the festive period but many more were found to be within the legal limits. On Friday, December 14, local police set up a road block on Market Road, Brodick, and stopped every driver disembarking from the 6pm ferry.

Sgt MacKay said that no one provided a positive breath test on that occasion but that they would be repeating the exercise without notice.

He said: 'Everybody knows that folk tend to take a drink on the last ferry on Friday. It is only a minority but we are aware of certain individuals who are taking a chance and will be clamping down on them.'

Ardrossan could be 'gateway to Arran'

'Ardrossan is visualised as the gateway to Arran and a good place to live and relax next to the sea in a regenerated town centre.'

This was part of the vision statement for the Three Towns area given at a recent meeting of Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council (NAC).

The committee also heard that early action proposed by NAC in Ardrossan includes the promotion of Princess Street business space, headland development to provide good opportunities for housing and development of the marina area.

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Nine weeks consultation on Corrie school's fate

'The life and future of Corrie village itself as a flourishing community is at stake.'

From Friday, January 18 islanders have nine weeks to make their views known about the proposed closure of Corrie Primary School.

The full consultation period begins then and ends on Monday 17 March, says North Ayrshire Council leader David O' Neill.

He is urging people with an interest in education to make full use of the process.

Corrie Primary School is on a list of four NAC-run schools earmarked for closure by its schools review working group. The other three are on the mainland.

A campaign is already under way on the island to save the school from closure.

Many feel the end of the school, which also has a nursery, will adversely affect the life and community of the Corrie area.

Under the proposals Corrie schoolchildren could be sent to Brodick Primary School five miles away.

Councillor O' Neill was responding to a statement by MSP Kenneth Gibson (SNP) for Arran, who said that by January 18 all parents will have received an individual copy of the consultation document.

He refuted the MSP's accusation that Carol Kirk, NAC's Corporate Director of Educational Services, wanted the matter resolved in time to prepare the 2008/2009 budget, allowing only 31 days for consultation.

He said: 'I am very surprised that Kenneth Gibson is attacking the findings of the school review working group as it was a cross-party group and includes SNP members.

'For the record, the period of consultation will commence on 18 January and close on 17 March, twice as long as the required statutory period.

'The reason for wanting the matter resolved is not for budget reasons – it is to allow the time for consideration of placement requests in time for the start of the academic year.'

Kenneth Gibson added: 'There is the possibility that the closure of the nursery will be considered separately.

'I pointed out to Ms Kirk that the life and future of Corrie village itself as a flourishing community is at stake.

'Of course, this is not her remit. Nevertheless, I would expect our councillors to have a three-dimensional approach and take everything into account when deciding the future of Corrie Primary School and Corrie Nursery School, a decision, I believe, which must be to retain the school for the good of the children, Corrie and Arran itself.'

Ms Kirk was given the opportunity to respond by the *Banner*. NAC responded with the statement from Councillor O' Neill.

Arran police to address St Brides ladies

A warm welcome is extended to all ladies to the first meeting in 2008 of the St Brides Ladies group.
The speaker will be Sergeant Bob MacKay from Arran police.
The meeting is on Monday, January 14 at 7.30pm Brodick Church Hall.

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The McLaren Hotel in Brodick scheduled for demolition and redevelopment. B02mac01

McLaren coming down

Brodick seafront's McLaren Hotel could be facing imminent demolition following the lodging of an application with North Ayrshire Council (NAC).

This follows on a recent application for demolition of most of the former Douglas Hotel, also in Brodick.

The applicant is Brodick Homes Limited, of St Helens, Lancashire, and the current owner is listed as being McLaren Ventures Limited.

Billy and Janie McLaren of Lamlash bought the McLaren and after running it for six years applied to demolish it and build a block of 48 flats in October 2006.

This proposal received a cool response from local residents and from Arran Community Council as being potentially over-development and out of keeping with the area. The community council called a public meeting in Brodick Hall attended by nearly 200 people and the McLarens responded by amending their plans.

The new proposal is for the demolition of the hotel and erection of 24 flats, associated car parking and attached bistro restaurant.

When these plans were originally lodged Billy McLaren told the *Banner*: 'With these proposals Brodick will still have its bar and the likes of the British Legion and bridge club will still have their meeting place.'

The proposed new building will be three-storey but plans show the roof height to be similar to that of the existing hotel.

Pierhead Tavern to re-open with Punch

The UK's largest pub company has confirmed it hopes to re-open an Arran tavern shortly.

Punch Taverns says the Pierhead Tavern in Shore Road, Lamlash is currently undergoing a £120,000 refit and is under new management.

The pub was previously owned by Norrie and Janie MacIntyre of Blair Mor Farmhouse, Lamlash.

Janie said they gave up running the pub after the birth of their son Gordon, now two. They moved out in April last year.

'We sold up because we had the baby and it was becoming too difficult to run the pub as well,' she said.

Norrie has gone back to his former trade as a plumber and Corgi-registered heating engineer.

Punch Taverns has more than 8,400 leased, tenanted and managed outlets.

A company spokesman said: 'We are working in partnership with the new licensee to develop a thriving pub and are delighted to support the re-opening of a new pub on the island.'

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

John McNeish: wonderful neighbour and faithful friend

John McNeish and son Tom pictured in 1990. Their Friesian dairy farm was one of island farms to take advantage of European funding available under the agricultural development programme which enabled them to reseed several fields and build a new silage pit at Heathcote. B02obi02

OBITUARY

The death of John McNeish in a Glasgow hospital on December 24 has saddened the entire Southend community of Arran.

John, who was 84, was one of the oldest and most highly esteemed residents in the district, a wonderful neighbour and a faithful friend.

Born at Heathcote Farm, he was educated at Sliddery Primary School. On leaving school he stayed at home to assist his father on the family dairy farm. Like many of his generation he excelled in animal husbandry.

John was an avid reader and a keen local historian whose memories and stories of the past were fascinating to listen to. One of his enduring interests was his love of Kilmory Church where he was session clerk for many years until ill health forced him to resign. Not surprisingly, he had a great interest in education and was particularly affected by the traumatic experience of having to see children leaving the island to further their education away from home. As a result he was an enthusiastic member of a steering committee from the farming community of Kilmory, who started the battle to upgrade Lamlash Junior Secondary School to what it is today – Arran High School, a full senior secondary school and an enormous benefit to the whole island.

John's final years were not easy but he bore them with humour and unfailing stoicism in which he was helped always by the total support and devotion of his wife Betty and family. EP

John McNeish. b02obi01

New role will help festival step up a gear

An Arran festival's success has resulted in the creation of a new post to help to make it better than ever in 2008.

For the past two years Isle of Arran Wildlife Festival has proved to be an excellent showcase, giving people a chance to see birds of prey, seal colonies, rare butterflies and bumblebees, with the help of wildlife experts and enthusiasts.

This year's festival runs from May 14-21 and the organisers are looking for a festival co-ordinator to organise publicity and promotion, putting together all the input from volunteers and finalising the festival programme which this year includes new talks and walks as well as the now established boat trips to Holy Isle and minibus safaris and other events. The job is being funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.

VisitArran director Gerard Tattersfield said they were delighted SNH had decided to fund the position.

'The person who comes into the role will make a huge difference to the festival and allow us all to step up a gear in organising this year's events,' he said.

The full festival programme will be on www.arranwildlife.co.uk in February.

The organising committee says it wants to see the post filled as soon as possible and notes of interest should be submitted to zoe.clelland@rspb.org.uk by Wednesday, January 16, with the closing date for receipt of tenders being noon on Thursday, January 24.

Islanders urged to join in Homecoming festivities

It is still a year ahead but the Scottish government is asking the people of Arran to take part in Homecoming Scotland 2009 and is offering a £1 million fund for special events.

Already VisitArran has set up a sub committee to look at ways to celebrate the year in which Scotland's 'global family' is being invited to take part.

The fund will be operated on a competitive basis and is open to legally constituted organisations able to meet the festival's aims and objectives.

Organisations can receive grants ranging from £5,000 to £50,000 to enhance existing events or create new ones reflecting Homecoming Scotland's themes and objectives.

The official deadline for applications for funding is Tuesday, February 26 via www.homecoming Scotland.com or from funding and programme manager Torquil MacLeod on 0131 472 2408.

As 2009 is the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns, Homecoming Scotland will begin on Burns Night and end on St Andrew's Day.

In between it is expected that celebrations will include themed events such as Burns' life and works, golf, whisky and the Enlightenment.

Jim Mather, minister for enterprise, energy and tourism, is encouraging the folk of Arran to join in the year's festivities.

He said: 'Homecoming Scotland is an exciting, compelling initiative designed to kindle pride in Scots at home and in the many millions of people overseas who are of Scottish descent or who simply love Scotland.'

'This is the first time that we as a nation have invited Scotland's global family to come home and it is a wonderful opportunity for us all to use our connections, to spread the message and invited our extended families home in 2009.

'This year-long celebration will benefit our country in terms of additional tourism, which will contribute to our economy.

'But it is also an outstanding opportunity to reconnect with the Scottish Diaspora and provide impetus for them to visit their homeland.'

The festival is being managed by EventScotland.

Meeting of friends

Friends of Brodick Castle and Country Park meet on Wednesday, January 16, at 2.30pm in the Castle tearoom when the speaker will be head ranger Kate Sampson. Kate's talk is entitled Everything But Goats – The Wildlife Of Goatfell.

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Deer surprise for van driver

A small herd of deer looking more than a little curious after crossing the road near Lochranza last Friday afternoon in front of van driver Derek Liversidge before heading back to the hills after drinking in the Easan Biorach burn.

About 15 deer scrambled up the bank from the road, stopping only a few yards away to scrutinise both van and driver.

b02dee01

Plans to protect marine environment welcomed by Arran seabed trust

Plans recently announced to protect Scotland's marine and coastal environment have been welcomed by Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

The plans, revealed by Scottish environment secretary Richard Lochhead, include a new Sustainable Seas Task Force whose first meeting takes place on Wednesday 23 January.

The Scottish government wants to see more streamlined legislation and better planning so it can deliver better protection and ensure the sustainable management of the coast and sea.

In a statement COAST said: 'We welcome this fast track approach towards new legislative measures to protect Scotland's seas.

'Setting a deadline of three months to come up with a framework for the new Marine Bill is crucial to addressing the problems in the marine environment we have today.

'Richard Lochhead and his department, The Scottish Marine Directorate, will be judged by future generations on the solutions, or lack of them, this new task force comes up with to reverse the decline and damage done to Scotland's marine environment by man's activities.

'The situation in the Clyde with just two species of shellfish being commercially caught is just not acceptable in an area that only 20 years ago was teeming with a multitude of fish species.

'COAST looks forward to meaningful legislation to protect our important marine heritage by the end of 2008 and not more circular discussion leading nowhere.'

In announcing the new plans Richard Lochhead said: 'There is a greater and growing awareness of the importance of sound management of our marine environment.

'The aim, among other things, is to introduce a new system of planning for the sea, better nature conservation and improvements to licensing and regulation of the marine environment.'

The 26-member task force represents the main users of Scotland's seas to reflect a broad spectrum of opinion. They include SEPA, Oil and Gas UK, Scottish Fishermen's Federation, Firth of Clyde forum and British Ports Association, Scottish government and Historic Scotland.

Young woman 'lucky to be alive' after car crash

A YOUNG woman has admitted she feels 'lucky to alive' after a horrific road accident on the Lamlash to Whiting Bay road.

The 23 year old was trapped in her car for more than ten minutes after it left the road and somersaulted onto its roof at Altardoch, south of Lamlash.

She was eventually freed by police and a member of the public.

The car was a write off, but miraculously the woman escaped with only cuts and bruises.

She was taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital and released the same day.

The accident happened at 2.37pm last Thursday, January 3.

Later, the woman told *The Banner*: 'It is scary how lucky I've been. I feel lucky to be alive. My neck is still quite stiff and my knee suffered a nasty cut, but I am in no doubt it could have been much worse.

'I'm grateful to those who came to my rescue, and the hospital staff.'

Cross-party agreement over nuclear-free energy

At its monthly meeting on Monday, Arran Peace, Justice and Environment Group (JPEG) discussed details of a public meeting they have arranged featuring Arran parliamentary representatives Katy Clark MP (Labour) and Kenny Gibson MSP (SNP).

Although they may disagree about other things, they have common ground in their opposition to nuclear weapons, and their support for a nuclear-free energy policy.

JPEG members agreed that the intention of the meeting should not be to highlight party differences but to explore ways in which the concerns of so many Arran people about nuclear issues can be advanced both at Holyrood and Westminster.

The meeting is at 7.30pm on Friday 18 January, in Ormidale Pavilion.

In other business, the group discussed an event to mark Fairtrade Fortnight, details of which will be available later. If people would like to know more about JPEG meetings, please ring Gus Smith on 830622.

Talk on the magic of Iceland

At their December meeting, Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club's speaker was Stuart Blake from Lochranza Centre, who gave a beautifully power-point presentation entitled Magical Iceland backed up with his extensive knowledge of the geography and geology of the island.

The annual Christmas lunch at Sannox Bay Hotel was a wonderful prelude to the festive season.

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Festival closing date

With the closing date for entries to Arran Music Festival being February 11, parents are asked to note that while schools will enter children taking part in school group classes, individual children wishing to participate in the festival may not be entered by their school.

Schools may also not be able to give special tuition to children entered in individual classes and anyone wishing to find a tutor should contact their school or festival secretary Tony Smith on 700203.

The festival takes place on March 26, 27 and 28.

Donation buys books

The kindness of an Arran family has enabled the island's community mental health team to compile a small library of books on mental health.

The generous donation from the Redfearn family of Whiting Bay in memory of Michael Redfearn has resulted in books about depression, anxiety, self-help, addictions and obsessive compulsive disorder now being made available.

The library is a free and confidential service available to the people of Arran.

The wild campsite showing the abandoned tarpaulin and old clothing which mar the shoreline up to The King's Cave.b01kin05

Report the dumb dumpers

Island's attractions ruined by rubbish

Rubbish dumped by uncaring wild campers near famous tourist attraction on Arran is to be removed.

The island's waste awareness officer, Brodie Pearcey, said he would make every effort to ensure the shoreline near The King's Cave at Blackwaterfoot would be cleaned up as soon as possible.

He has sent a new year message to islanders – please report anything like this either to him or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

'Please be vigilant as perpetrators like this can be taken to court through SEPA,' he said.

He said if people saw anything suspicious or any vehicle that may have been involved in dumping rubbish anywhere on the island to contact SEPA at Newton Stewart on 01671 402618 or the Dumb Dumpers hotline 0845 230 4090 which operates day and night.

Last week the *Banner* highlighted the mess left behind by wild campers down at the shoreline near the cave. It included an old tarpaulin used as a groundsheet or tent, the remnants of a large bonfire, drinks cans, abandoned clothing and other rubbish.

Corrie Film Club: Film of the Month

The first film of 2008, at Corrie and Sannox Hall, on Sunday 13 January at 8pm, will be the outstanding Pan's Labyrinth (Cert.15) by visionary Mexican director Guillermo Del Toro.

Made in 2007 and winner of three BAFTA awards, the film is an intriguing mixture of dark fantasy and stark realism - a richly imagined Gothic fairy tale set against the post-war era of Franco's Spain.

It is 1944 and, officially, the civil war in Spain has been over for five years, but a small group of rebels still fights on in the northern mountains of Navarra. The man given the task of ridding the territory of rebels is Captain Vidal, the cruel and sadistic step-father of 10-year-old Ofelia, a dreamy and imaginative child who has travelled to the remote military outpost to meet her stepfather with her delicate, pregnant mother.

Ofelia, who is fascinated by fairy tales, discovers an overgrown, tumbledown labyrinth in the heart of which she meets an ancient faun, Pan, who claims to know her true identity and her secret destiny. To fulfil this she must complete three tasks before the moon grows full and no one must know: not her ailing mother or her new friend Mercedes who has links with the rebels. Time is running out for Ofelia and the rebels; both will have to battle hardship and cruelty in order to gain their freedom.

This astonishing film teaches us about how children survive the real world which they are not prepared for and how adults, having forgotten this ability, disregard it.

See Pan's Labyrinth in Corrie Hall this weekend – details in What's On.

Bring a bottle to share if you wish. Please note that this is a Certificate 15 and is not suitable for children.

Regulars will notice perhaps that this film is a change from the advertised syllabus.

Wings of Desire will now be shown in February.

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It pays to advertise in the **ARRAN BANNER**

MEP Elspeth Attwooll.

MEP attacks government over energy efficiency

Arran's MEP Elspeth Attwooll has criticised the British government for not taking energy efficiency seriously enough.

The Liberal Democrat MEP, who is this year stepping down, welcomed a unanimous European parliament vote on a report criticising member states and the EC for failing to implement and enforce existing energy efficiency directives, especially at this time of year.

She said: 'The parliament has sent out a clear reminder that there is no excuse for not taking energy efficiency seriously.

'It is all very well the government telling people to turn off Christmas lights during the night, but it is up to them to ensure that the lights on the market are energy efficient in the first place.

'More than one third of all energy consumed is done so in homes and buildings and with that figure rising at this time of year it is crucial that the recommendations of the report are given serious attention.'

The reports urges the EC to take swift action to cut CO2 emissions by bringing in minimum standards of energy efficiency for air conditioning, phasing out 'standby' modes, drawing up a full timetable for taking the least efficient type of light bulbs off the market as quickly as possible and introducing much higher energy efficiency standards in new and renovated buildings, as well as other matters.

Valentine's show at Brodick for Scottish Opera

A Scottish Opera touring company is heading to Arran in February to entertain on Valentine's Day with a mixture of musical styles ranging from opera to Cole Porter.

But there will be no posh travelling for the group of singers, known as Essential Scottish Opera, who are touring Scotland from Wick to the Scottish Borders, props and all, in a camper van! Essential Scottish Opera will perform at Brodick Hall on Thursday, 14 February, at 7.30pm in the penultimate show of its tour of 15 different venues in Scotland.

Four singers, accompanied by pianist Ian Shaw, will perform operatic highlights including arias from Rigoletto, La Traviata, L'Elisir d'Amore and Carmen along with less familiar pieces by Handel, Monteverdi, Tchaikovsky and Smetna.

The evening's entertainment ends with a flourish with songs from Barber, Cole Porter and Bernstein. The performers this year are soprano Amanda Forbes, a recent graduate of the National Opera Studio, mezzo-soprano Catriona Barr, who recently played Kate Pinkerton in SO's recent production of Madame Butterfly, tenor Blake Fischer, winner of the Royal Northern College of Music's Gold Medal in 2003, and baritone Anders Oestberg, A Swedish singer, a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Tickets are available from the Book and Card Centre, Shore Road, Brodick, telephone 302288.

• As the group is giving a Valentine's Day performance *the Banner*, with Scottish Opera, is offering two free tickets to the first person picked out of a hat who answers correctly the following question: How many venues are being covered in the tour?

Blake, Anders, Ian, Catriona and Amanda having a break during their tour.

Married at Lamlash register office on Christmas Eve were Janet Brown and Maurice Appleby, both of Lamlash. They were accompanied by Janet's daughter Elizabeth and her partner Craig Millan and two grandchildren Paige and Morgan.

Crofting plan launched

Public consultation to a plan by the Scottish government to designate Arran a crofting area has now been launched with replies invited back by March 12.

It follows a meeting in Lamlash Community Centre on October 1 about designating new areas for crofting.

Under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 and the Crofting Reform Act of 2007 the consultation seeks views on the proposal to align areas where crofting tenure applies with the area covered by Highland and Islands Enterprise.

This entails the designation of the islands of Arran, Bute, Greater and Little Cumbrae, among other areas within HIE.

Responses will be analysed and considered along with the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting which is due in April.

If ministers subsequently decided to designate new croft areas, legislation to that end will require to be laid in parliament.

Arran is an area considered to have a particular historical link with crofting.

Replies may be made by post to Phil Burns, Scottish Government: Rural Directorate, Rural Communities Division, Land Tenure, Land Reform, Area 1D, First Floor, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY or by emailing NewCroftAreas@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER Saturday 12th Jan 2008

As a new year begins Arran traditionally starts to concern itself with summer bookings. In the past, when there was a local tourist board there would be meetings and members would compare bookings and express anxiety. As the weeks passed if these did not pick up they would wring their hands and often, if things were still not looking rosy, decide to take collective action.

With the festive season over, holiday publicity is everywhere and the temptations of visiting exotic, and not so exotic, destinations are greeting us every day. In one area of publicity this will be the year of the cruise and two holiday destinations which are expected to be almost as popular are Glasgow and Liverpool.

There was an interesting scene in Coronation Street (the only seriously intellectual television programme) recently when a young couple were trying to decide on a holiday destination. She wanted to go to the Lake District, he to a sunshine package destination. When they finally decided on the Lake District this became the butt of derisory remarks from others while he felt chagrin that he would not be able to 'brag' about the place they were going.

Those who do want to brag tend not to understand that the only people whom they impress are themselves, although if it makes them feel good that might be of some value anyway. When we spent our annual holiday last year in Glasgow, and a more recent break in Liverpool, we did not expect anybody to be impressed although both were most agreeable holidays. Less expected was that we were going to fashionable destinations.

There is a concept connected with economics about inferior and superior goods. In the past, when people were less well off they would use the inferior product, say porridge, but as incomes rose, they would change to the superior product, perhaps fancy packaged breakfast cereals. Having an annual holiday in the UK puts this in the category of inferior while a foreign holiday, as incomes rise, makes this a superior product. But as incomes (and education) rise even further, people begin to reaslise that in transferring from the inferior to the superior they have often thrown out the baby with the bath water. Thus the better off learn that porridge was better all along. Likewise a whole host of other things, including a holiday closer to home.

Like digesting the over-unrefined product, a holiday in the UK may take a bit more effort and imagination, like rain or trudging up mountains instead of lying on a beach. In short Arran has all the qualities of what is an inferior good — forget the pejorative connotation of the word — which is subsequently found out to have been superior all along.

Today there are many other things which make the 'Arran product' — remember the tourist board used to call Arran a product — more attractive to the holidaymaker. There is all the talk of carbon footprints with one or two people eager to minimise theirs; there are airport delays; there is the emphasis on how much we had overlooked at home; there is the rapid rise in quality of accommodation now offered, both in hotels and self catering. There might even be a wee bit of bragging about one's more modest, but really more sophisticated, holiday.

While none of us can predict how bookings will go, or what sort of season it might turn out to be, all the trends are moving positively in Arran's direction.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Because Jesus Himself has passed through the test of suffering, He is able to help'

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.

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your letters

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E-mail editorial@arranbanner.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

McLaren Hotel

Sir,

I find it puzzling that there has been almost no publicity about a big proposed development on Shore Road in Brodick. Having read about the plans for the upgrading of the Douglas Hotel, keeping the current frontage and recapturing its highly regarded place in the community of earlier years, it seems strange that there has been little mention of the plan to demolish the McLaren Hotel (formerly the Kingsley). This is to be replaced with a block of flats three storeys high in a most prominent position on Shore Road.

I find it appalling that this will be one of the first impressions visitors to the island will see as the ferry arrives. Is this the thin end of the wedge?

I have spoken to a number of people who have expressed astonishment that they have heard nothing about the McLaren Hotel plan, and almost without exception do not approve in any way.

At a meeting in 2007, North Ayrshire Council presented a 'townscape' plan for Brodick and Lamlash, although later to be accepted as villages, and future development was to be of a sensitive nature and to be in keeping with the wishes of the community.

With regard to the McLaren development, the community council has remained strangely quiet, and does not appear to be promoting the views of the community. What is going on?

Patricia Nicholls
Belmont
Springbank
Brodick.

• See page 3

Editor's note: Proposals for McLaren Hotel were reported in detail in *The Banner* last year.

Ring return thanks

Sir,

I would like to thank the staff at Auchrannie Country House Hotel for their help in finding my eternity ring. I was swimming with my mother and sons on Hogmanay and mislaid it in the changing room. Sincere thanks to whoever found my ring and handed it in as this ring has great sentimental value. It turned out to be a better start to 2008.

Thanks again and I may return to Arran for a holiday soon.

Beth McGuffie
143 East Main Street
Darvel.

Insensitive

Sir,

As a former resident of Brodick with fond memories of both the island and its close-knit community, I was appalled to read one of the most insensitive letters I ever recall to be published in your paper.

I have not met Mr George Lyle and have absolutely no wish to, as I would have a few choice words for a man who can talk of recompense for people who were 'seriously' inconvenienced for a few measly, forgettable hours. This amounts to nothing when compared to the suffering and distress suffered by both the families of the victim and the driver. Let us remember that two families lives were torn apart on that day, at a time when the rest of the world were preparing to celebrate what should be a happy time. Mr Lyle, I call on you to apologise for your crass and insensitive letter and thank your lucky stars that it was not a member of your own family involved in this horrific tragedy.

Joanne Florence
1 Graham Ave
Stevenston
Ayrshire.

Callous

Sir,

I write in response to George Lyle's letter regarding the recent fatal accident in Brodick. I too was one of those people 'inconvenienced' as he put it, and walked into Brodick via the golf course. As I walked along I thanked God for every step I was able to take and couldn't get out of my mind the poor soul whose life had been snuffed out in the blink of an eye for no other reason than being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I, for one, am thankful that we live in a society where the authorities deem the loss of human life to be important enough to carry out thorough investigations no matter how 'inconvenient' it may be to the general public. I am sure if one of Mr Lyle's family had been killed he would have welcomed the police actions.

However, what I find most offensive is the notion that one may obtain monetary gain by claiming compensation for the 'inconvenience' resulting from a fatality of this kind.

My heart goes out to the families of the people caught up in this tragedy and I only hope that they have been spared from reading Mr Lyle's callous remarks. I don't know who you are, George Lyle, but you ought to hang your head in shame!

Marilyn Woods
Ercildoune
Shiskine.

Litter bug

Sir,

The remarks attributed to Margie Currie in your article about litter (5 Jan 2008) were as predictable as they were opportunistic. Of course, she is right to say such litter 'is not good for the image of Arran' but it has very little to do with the Land Reform Act.

'It is what we feared could arise from the changes in the legislation of the Land Reform Act,' she states. Who are the 'we' she refers to, I ask? Could some of them be the most liberal dispensers of discarded plastic sheeting in the Arran countryside?

May I respectfully remind Margie Currie that many of her constituents enjoy the privileges accorded under the Land Reform Act and treat the countryside with great respect. To blame an act of parliament for the bad behaviour of a shameful few is as ludicrous as saying all farmers leave plastic silage bags to litter the countryside. Most do not but some do and they are as disrespectful to the countryside as any other member of the public. The Land Reform Act, like most legislation, is not perfect but it cannot be blamed for the way people behave.

John Rhead
Kilmory.

Oh, what a blow!

Sir,

You have heard of the comment 'He doesn't know his a*** from his elbow' and I think this applies to my report on the Arran Brass concert in the *Arran Banner* on January 5 where I stated 'a great horn solo from Eric Borland, the highlight of the concert'. Oh dear, Harry doesn't know his horn from his euphonium, and for this I humbly confess and apologise.

Harry Ross
Ashdale Way
Whiting Bay.

Book success

Sir,

Belated thanks for the book Arran for Families that I won in your recent competition. I totally agree with your review. It is a superb book. Long time ago we were visitors to Arran's Brodick Youth Hostel (Bob Williams - warden), Lochranza Golf Club Camp Site (Ruby, Juanita & Pablo) and Lochranza Hotel (Ian MacMillan and wife and Janet, the housekeeper), where we spent our honeymoon in 1973.

Anthony (Tony) and Rose Pearson
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Bill and Elizabeth Thomson of Denny on the dance floor, followed by Ian and Ann Relf of Blackwaterfoot Lodge. b02new02

Andy and Lesley Walker during one of the dances. b02new09

Rhona Hope, Elaine Elliott and Janet Kerr enjoying the hooley. b02new15

Arran welcomes the New Year in style

A sell-out Hogmanay Hooley at Shiskine Hall proved a huge success with revellers from local villages and further away enjoying the evening.

MCs Joan Stewart and Diana Turbett kept the festivities going with a swing, directing the dances and calling out the raffle tickets, when guests packed the hall determined to have a good night out.

Guest of all ages joined in the fun, meeting friends and making new ones, dancing The Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow and other popular dances.

Guest at the ceilidh included American Lee McBride who was with Ian Relf and his wife Ann, of Blackwaterfoot Lodge. Ian met Lee, who works in Kampala, on safari in Uganda.

The dancing and singing went on after the bells, which were piped in by Andy Walker. The ceilidh was followed by a fireworks display at Blackwaterfoot.

As well as the old, familiar dances revellers also took part in some highly entertaining ones including dances where plenty of New Year kisses were exchanged whenever the music stopped.

Community Hogmanay celebrations also took place also at Lochranza, Corrie and Kilmory, and a New Year's Dance made Kildonan Hall swing on January 1.

Many villages and private houses lit bonfires and held fireworks parties as the clock struck midnight to herald in 2008.

Similar bonfires and fireworks could be seen along the Ayrshire coast as the rain stopped and cloud lifted just enough for the celebrations to go ahead.

Sheena Gordon and son Kieron step it out at the ceilidh. b02new04

Ian and Ann Relf with guests including American Lee McBride who works in Kampala, Uganda, where Ian met him and his family. b02new08

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Murray Stewart enjoys a New Year kiss during one of the dances. b02new14

Left: Hayley Smith dances through an archway of arms. b02new20

Sarah Greenwood strikes a pose in one of the dances. b02new06

Andy Walker pipes in 2008. b02new17

Lamlash hospital manager Alan Stout and his wife Kay take to the dance floor. b02new10

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Stewart Kilpatrick from Kilmory was the first to volunteer for the karaoke in the Kildonan Hotel on January 1. b02kil1

Vicky Dillon and Billy in the Kildonan Hotel before the dance in the hall later that evening. b02kil3

Left: Robin Lyon and Gemma Blythe at the ceilidh in Lochranza Village Hall. b02loc1

Kirstin Napier, Willie Cook and Rebecca Latchford heading along to the village hall in Kildonan. b02kil4

Laura Blythe and Bryan MacCallum celebrate as the clock chimes midnight. b02loc3

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Eva MacDonald at Buckingham Palace with her MBE.

MBE for former Cooriedoon nurse

An Arran nursing home has expressed delight that a former relief nurse has received an MBE in the 2008 New Year Honours List.

Eva MacDonald worked for about a year in the late 1980s at Cooriedoon Nursing Home in Whiting Bay.

She received her award from The Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace watched by husband Chris, daughter Christine and grandson Christopher.

Her MBE is for a lifetime's service in nursing and the voluntary sector.

Skye-born Eva lives in Campbeltown and travelled by ferry from Claonaig to work at Cooriedoon, staying over a few nights before heading home again.

Celia Butler, who runs Cooriedoon, remembered Eva well. 'This is a very well deserved honour,' she said. 'Eva did more than her best at the job, coming over from Campbeltown and staying over. I am delighted for her.'

Eva is one of the longest serving nurses in Scotland but retirement did not suit her and in 2002 she became a bank nurse at Campbeltown Hospital and also works for the medical practice in Carradale, on the Kintyre peninsula.

She said: 'I loved working at Cooriedoon but had to stop when the ferry stopped sailing from Claonaig. My work at Carradale takes me over to Skipness and I often stop and look over to Arran where I can see the houses on a clear day. It's lovely.'

In 2004 she was honoured by the then Scottish first minister, Jack McConnell, who is from Arran, at Edinburgh Castle for her work with the children's panel.

Grant aid for elderly homeowners welcomed

News that an extra £271,000 is being made available now to improve the homes of older and disabled homeowners in Arran and North Ayrshire has been welcomed.

The money has to be spent before April and is available as a private sector housing grant (PSHG) with the aim of ensuring people can continue to live independently.

Adaptations or practical assistance is being made through North Ayrshire Council's Care and Repair service.

North Ayrshire councillor Margie Currie, who represents Arran, said this was particularly good for the island because of the number of elderly folk living in old houses in need of repair, which might be beyond their means.

'It is also good for the older housing stock which is in the island's interest to preserve,' she added.

The funding is the result of a decision by the Scottish government to enhance the flexibility of any unspent PSHG, in that it can be used instead of returned to Holyrood.

MSP Kenneth Gibson, who also represents Arran, said: 'This will help North Ayrshire Council by giving it funding certainty, particularly where people apply for funding but the work takes place over an extended period.

'This additional private sector housing grant will help many of my vulnerable Arran constituents to adapt their homes to enable independent living and allow the council to fund new approaches to help owners to fund repairs and improvements.'

Arran's 'biggest celebrity' Murphy is pictured with Michelle.

Where did Murphy meet Michelle?

Arran visitors Barry and Michelle Dobson, of Richmond, North Yorkshire, said they spent a great Christmas and New Year on the island and were lucky enough to meet Murphy during a walk over the festive season.

Used to stardom, Murphy was happy to pose for the couple.

Barry said: 'We were disappointed with last week's *Banner* as Murphy seemed to have taken a holiday!

'As luck has it, during our visit we were lucky enough to meet Murphy, who agreed to have his picture taken with Michelle, my wife. I got the impression that he was used to this.

'Anyway we were honoured to meet Arran's biggest celebrity. I imagine, however, that his location and indeed the date of the picture should be easy to guess.'

Can you guess where Murphy was and on what occasion during the Christmas period?

Garden notes

If you want to improve your garden now is the time to make plans even if the weather is too awful to work outside.

In winter the basic form of a garden is emphasised and this is when evergreen shrubs, trees and conifers come into their own. They may pale into the background compared with the flamboyant colours of spring and summer but in the short, grey days of midwinter they provide interest and a safe roosting spot for birds.

There is a surprising range of overall shape as well as colour and texture of foliage. For dramatic shape consider the spikes of Phormium tenax which is reliably hardy and tough in windy spots or a round Ilex 'holly' tree.

There are so many plants with interesting evergreen leaves but some of the easiest to buy and grow are Buxus 'box', Griselinia — plain apple green or variegated, Taxus 'yew' — dark green or golden, Eleagnus — dark grey green or variegated, and Senecio with silver leaves.

Sadly, conifers have not been popular in recent years, probably a reaction to all those 'dwarf' conifers planted in the 1970s and 1980s eventually growing into whopping big adults!

There are times when plants outgrow their space and need to be removed, the soil improved and new plants purchased. If you choose conifers carefully they give great structure to a garden with spires, cones, columns, spheres and cascades of foliage in all shades of green from rusty to golden and variegated. Only a few conifers can be kept trimmed as a hedge or topiary so choose those carefully.

Besides adding interest with evergreens the appearance of a garden can be greatly improved by simple changes in the shape of the lawn. While it must be practical to mow, does it have to be square or oblong? As a great generalisation I find men like lawns with straight edges and women prefer curves and more artistic shapes!

If you want to alter the lawn shape use a washing line to mark the new 'edge'. Remember, any turf that might be removed from one area could be used to extend another. Whatever you choose, make it easy to keep the edge of any lawn neat and stop the grass spreading into the borders.

Make a clear gully between the lawn and the soil in the borders. Clip the lawn edges with shears or a strimmer every two or three weeks. Alternatively, spend a little time and money and put a permanent edge of slabs, setts, wood or plastic edging strip along just below the height of the turf.

This must be done carefully, so the mower can run right up to the edge without catching it. Now is the best time to service or repair machinery before the rush in March. On mild days the grass still grows and it won't be so long before we hear mowers again!

Holy Isle ferry has new business partner

The Holy Isle ferry company has a new partner who says he is looking forward to bringing the business into the 21st century.

Jim Blakey is originally from Sheffield but has lived in Whiting Bay for 13 years.

At the beginning of October he bought out Harold Kyte's share in the business to become Tom Sheldon's new business partner.

Jim said: 'All my life, boats have been a hobby and an interest. The ferry service to the Holy Isle is very important and I am looking forward to bringing it into the 21st century. I would like to maybe get a newer, more modern boat eventually.'

Holy Isle is on the east coast of Arran overlooking Lamlash bay. Officially designated a British sacred site it has spiritual significance for people of all faiths.

The Centre for World Peace and Health on the north shore can accommodate up to 60 people in search of spiritual and environmental purity.

People travel from all over the world to relax there and the ferry service is the only public transport from the mainland.

Jim explained: 'Each year the number of visitors seems to increase so it is important that the island has a good link with Arran.

'In the summer there are plans for more courses and retreats to take place and we will be needed to take the day trippers over to the island. Even over Christmas there were 18 people staying on the island.'

Jim Blakey has always been interested in boats. b01jim1

Green plea to islanders

Arran islanders are being urged to resolve to 'go green' in 2008 and can apply for a grant to help them to do so.

The Energy Saving Trust says it can give up to £4,000 per grant with funding from the Scottish government.

The grants equal 30 per cent of the costs of installing any renewable technology such as solar hot water systems, ground source heat pumps, biomass heating systems and wind power. They are limited to two per household.

The trust is keen for householders to save hundreds of pounds each year on their energy bills.

In the past four years it has approved 2,300 grants to Scottish householders to install renewable technologies.

Gill Davies of the trust, an independent organisation providing free and impartial advice, said: 'What better time of year to nail your green credentials to the mast and reduce your carbon footprint.

'We work very closely with applicants and it only takes 15 working days from grant application to knowing you will get the money.'

Between April 2006 and March 2007 grants awarded under SCHRI shot up by 1,000 per cent and since April last year 751 grants have been given.

It is expected that the trust will break the 2006-2007 figure by March 31.

Any islander interested should contact the trust on 0800 138 8858 or through www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/schri.

December bird notes

By JIM CASSELS

My thanks to those readers who have already responded to my request in the last bird notes and have sent their bird sightings for 2007 to me before Monday.

During December the unsettled weather continued that included a cold spell just before Christmas.

The bird notes for November featured, on November 17, the firecrest in Whiting Bay. Whiting Bay seems to be becoming a hotspot for winter visitors. On December 4 and again on December 6 a yellow-browed warbler appeared in a garden in Whiting Bay. This species was last recorded in Arran in Kilmory on December 11 1995.

The yellow-browed warbler breeds east of the Urals to China and migrates to south east Asia for the winter. This one obviously took a wrong turn. They are easy birds to recognise thanks to the bold yellow stripe over each eye and the prominent yellow wing bars. The stripe over each eye is so long that they can be seen even when the bird turns its head away. The wing bars usually show up as two on each wing although the upper one can be less obvious in some birds.

Other winter visitors included: three little auks in Brodick Bay on November 27; a snow bunting on Meall Breac on December 3; a goldeneye on Sannox Burn on 4th; two whooper swans in Whiting Bay on 5th and three flying over Brodick Bay on 11th; and a barnacle goose with grey lags at High Clachaig on 8th.

Other bird sightings in December included: a male merlin at Machrie on 4th; a kingfisher at the mouth of the Rosa Burn on 11th; three pairs of bullfinches on top of the hill near the Urie Loch on 13th; more than 100 curlew in the field by the fire station in Lamlash on 16th; a sparring match between a golden eagle and a peregrine falcon at Garbh Allt on 18th; and a small covey of red grouse to the west of Beinn Nuis also on 18th.

On December 25, Meleagris gallopavo with Oxycoccus palustris gave a lot of pleasure to a great many people on the island.

In January, look out for the returning gannets. These majestic birds breed on Ailsa Craig and fish in the waters around Arran.

The yellow-browed warbler appeared in Whiting Bay.

Finally, here is a date for your diary: the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, January 26-27. That weekend stock up your bird feeders spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species. This is the weekend of the 'Big Garden Birdwatch'. Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK took part in this valuable exercise. For more information or to get the form, visit the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or phone 0870 600 7108.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Heavy rain stops sheepdog trial at Brandon

The first Arran nursery dog trial due to be held at Brandon last Saturday was cancelled due to heavy rain.

Seven handlers and their dogs assembled at the Brodick farm for shelter in the barn while Kildonan and District sheepdog society secretary Willie McConnell made an executive decision. Regular competitors George Tod and Richmond Murphy were on the mainland and it was decided to postpone the trial for two weeks until January 19.

The second trial, which was originally scheduled for January 19 at Balgowan, was postponed until 26 January.

Geoff Brookes of Southbank said: 'We're not concerned about ourselves or the dogs but you wouldn't want to drive sheep in these conditions.'

Sheepdog handlers shelter from the rain at Brandon on Saturday as the first Arran dog trial is postponed. They are, from left, Geoff Brookes, Wullie Stevenson, Willie McConnell, Alec Miller, John Craig, Margie Currie, Jack Murchie and Liz Robertson. B02dog01

Feeling low? Help is available

Christmas and New Year are meant to be times of fun and happiness but it can adversely affect those with mental health problems.

Linda Boyd, interim general manager of NHS Ayrshire and Arran Mental Health Services, is urging anyone feeling depressed at this time not to feel isolated.

She said: 'The festive period can be a time when people feel low or depressed. We have several systems in place to help support people through what can be a very difficult time. I would urge anyone who is feeling depressed to contact one of our services, even if it is just for a chat.'

Linda added: 'Copeline is a free and confidential listening, support and information helpline aimed at those feeling anxious, distressed or going through an emotional crisis.'

NHS 24 is available throughout the New Year period offering support and help for people with mental health problems. Telephone numbers for those seeking help are: NHS 24 08454 24 24 24, Breathing Space 0800 83 85 87 (6pm-2am), Copeline 0800 056 8181.

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday January 16, 1988

Snakes alive

Everybody likes a few surprises in their Christmas stocking but nine-year-old Craig Sillars of Brodick got the surprise of his life when he found a real live snake waiting for him on Christmas morning.

Now three weeks later this unusual pet has fitted in with the Sillars family and is quite happy to sit around Craig's neck as he watches television.

Normally, however, it stays in a glass tank next to a heater because Celia, his mother, has been told it requires a nice warm temperature.

It is a garter snake, she told us, but was unable to tell us the sex, or age or country of origin.

Celia said: 'We're waiting for a book from the Book and Card Centre to give us more information.'

Torrential rain

Three and a half inches of rain fell on Arran during the 24 hours from Monday to Tuesday evening.

This was more rain in one day than fell during the whole of January last year.

It also represents five per cent of the total average rainfall at Brodick.

John Basford who keeps weather records told us that total rainfall for 1987 was four per cent below average.

Commenting on the nearly three weeks of continuous rain John said: 'We normally get it wet from mid October to around the New Year. Now we are compensating for the dry spell we had in the autumn.'

Willie McConnell gives Susan Currie little opportunity to read out her kissogram to him. After seven years, Willie is selling up the Rock Hotel in Blackwaterfoot. b02twe1

Earth tremor was 'super'

MP Brian Wilson was asked by an Arran constituent to explain an earth tremor on November 17.

He asked a question of the Secretary of Defence and the answer came up in the house this Monday.

The answer was as follows: 'The tremor was not an earthquake nor other seismic event in the ground or underwater, but was almost certainly a sonic boom in the air. However, on this occasion the available data is not consistent with an aircraft sonic boom, and with the possible sighting of a fireball at about 0017hours in Ross-shire the most probable interpretation is that the tremor was caused by a supersonic meteor in the atmosphere.'

Positioning of the new electricity poles at Pirnmill took place last Monday with the help of a helicopter. b02twe3

Earlier start for Claonaig ferry sought

Arran's political representatives have been active in pressing for an earlier start to the Claonaig ferry this year but with no success.

Brian Wilson has written to Cal Mac which says the service cannot commence before April 15 because of the vessel's overhaul requirements and the company adds that the level of demand in the first half of April is insufficient to warrant an early start.

Slaughter ban lifted

The ban on slaughter of green marked sheep originating in the post Chernobyl restricted areas was lifted on Monday, it was announced by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The ban had affected only two Arran hill farms and is being removed now following further testing which has revealed a substantial fall in radioactivity levels in such sheep.

Reward

Make a snappy man happy: Lost in Blackwaterfoot area a set of false teeth. Answering to Douglas. Dangerous, do not approach.

BEST FOR NEWS, VIEWS & PHOTOS

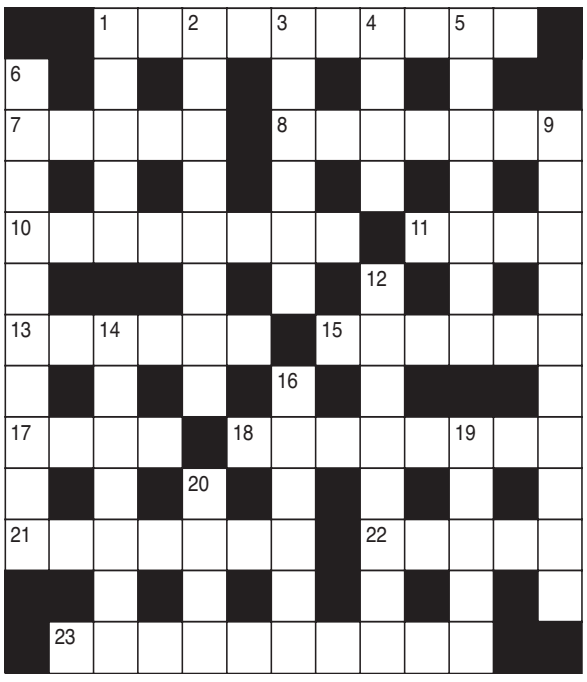
THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142

www.arranbanner.co.uk

ACROSS

1. 1948 Olympic decathlon champion (3,7)
7. Joint connecting the leg and the foot (5)
8. Silvery metallic element whose symbol is Ga (7)
10, and 19 Down. 'The —', 1958 play by Harold Pinter (8,5)
11. Tom, central character in The Grapes of Wrath (4)
13. '— Redux', 1971 novel by John Updike (6)
15. Port in S. Vietnam on the South China Sea, formerly called Tourane (2,4)
17. William, archbishop of Canterbury 1633-45 (4)
18. The duck-billed — is an egg-laying Australian mammal (8)
21. Mr. Waugh, author of The Foxglove Saga (7)
22. Federico Garcia, Spanish poet and dramatist who authored the play Blood Wedding (5)
23. 1978 Louis Malle film with Brooke Shields (6,4)



DOWN

1. Samuel, English explorer who discovered Lake Albert (5)
2. Village in Germany, site of a 1704 victory by Anglo-Austrian forces over the French and the Bavarians (8)
3. The — Sea is a branch of the Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey (6)
4. Harold, Australian prime minister believed drowned in 1967 (4)
5. American state whose capital is Phoenix (7)
6. 1968 science fiction film with Jane Fonda (10)
9. Island off the S.E. African coast whose capital is Antananarivo (10)
12. Woman's lace or silk scarf covering the head and shoulders which is worn in Spain (8)
14. Thick insulating layer of fatty tissue below the skin of a whale (7)
16. Fish with a tapering scaleless body and long raylike pelvic fins (6)
19. See 10 Across.
20. 'True —', film for which John Wayne was awarded Best Actor Oscar (4)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

1. Contemptuous (10)
7. Artless (5)
8. Room (7)
10. Impotent (8)
11. Go by (4)
13. Powerful (6)
15. Light shoe (6)
17. Too (4)
18. Taciturn (8)
21. Large tent (7)
22. Perfect (5)
23. Black magic (10)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

1. Bore (5)
2. Bulge (8)
3. Approach (6)
4. Lowest tide (4)
5. Chide (7)
6. Zeal (10)
9. Boldly (10)
12. Sorcerer (8)
14. Keep back (7)
16. Ransom (6)
19. Foe (5)
20. Cat murmur (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 6 Albania; 7 Luzon; 9 Uma; 10 Barcelona; 12 Gentileschi; 15 A Tale of a Tub; 17 Porbeagle; 19 Pax; 21 Barry; 22 Baptist.

Down: 1 Klimt; 2 Kay; 3 Niña; 4 Burlesque; 5 John the; 8 Scylla; 11 Hellebore; 13 Thorax; 14 Ottoman; 16 Balsa; 18 Lear; 20 Eta.

QUICK - Across: 6 Janitor; 7 Lurid; 9 Lie; 10 Dependent; 12 Confederate; 15 Disgraceful; 17 Abundance; 19 Vow; 21 Sneak; 22 Divulge.

Down: 1 Valid; 2 Bib; 3 Vote; 4 Murderous; 5 Dignity; 8 Meddle; 11 Congenial; 13 Fracas; 14 Disband; 16 Rough; 18 Crib; 20 Jut.

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(2 weeks a year!)

WHAT'S ON...

BANNER

EVERYDAY

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park 11am - 4pm

Trout fishing, Loch Garbad. Bank

Hawk Walks, Lamlash

SATURDAY 12th January

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football
coaching, 10.30am - noon

Arran Dancers
Brodick Primary School 11am - 4.15pm

Machrie Table Tennis & Games Club,
Machrie Hall, 7.30-9pm

Disco, Ormidale Hotel 10pm

Karate
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm

Quiz Night
Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm

SUNDAY13th January

Alcoholics Anonymous,
St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm

Family Games Kids & Adults.
Auchrannie Games Hall 2 - 3pm

Open Folk Session
Ormidale Hotel. 9pm

MONDAY 14th January

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie, 9.30am & 10.45am

Over 50s Badminton,
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm

Quiz,
Cameronia 9.30pm

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Football coaching,
Ormidale Park, 6 7.30pm (8-16yrs)

Badminton,
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm

Cardiac Rehab,
Auchrannie Gym, 12.30pm - 2pm

Circuit Training.
Auchrannie Gym 6pm - 7.15pm

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Lamlash Bridge
Golf Clubhouse, Lamlash, 7.15pm

Badminton
Auchrannie 7pm - 9pm

Weight Wise
Hospital Bungalow, 6.30pm - 7pm

St Brides Ladies
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

TUESDAY 15th January

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am

Lochranza Swimming Club,
Kinloch, 11am-noon

Legs, Bums & Tums,
Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm

Army Cadets,
Auchrannie Road, 7.30-9.30pm

Pop quiz,
Ormidale Hotel 10pm

Lochranza & Catacol Coffee morning,
Hall 10am - 12pm

Alcoholics Anonymous,
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Arran Rotary,
Auchrannie, 7.15pm

Citizens Advice
open 10am -2pm 4 - 6pm by appointment only

Pulmonary Rehab
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm

Table Tennis
Kildonan Hall, 6pm-8pm

Indoor Bowling
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2pm

Indoor Bowling
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

New Salsa Dancercise
Shiskine Hall. 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY 16th January

Mixed Hockey,
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

Aerobics class,
High School 8pm - 9pm

Jnr Rugby Training,
S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm

Aquafizz,
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am

Circuit Training.
Auchrannie 6pm

Table Tennis
Kildonan Hall, 3pm-5pm

Shiskine Beavers
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm

Yogalates
Auchrannie Studio 10am - 11am

Arran Heritage Museum,
archives and genealogy 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm

Friends of Brodick Castle, 2.30pm
Kate Sampson on Wildlife of Goatfell

Events Planning Meeting
Kildonan Hotel – 7.00pm

THURSDAY 17th January

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am

Brodick Bridge Club
McLaren Hotel 7.15pm

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Badminton,
Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm Adults 7.30 - 9pm

Lochranza Craft Club,
Hall 2pm

Outdoor run,
Auchrannie, 6pm

Pilates, Auchrannie Studio, 6pm

Belly Dancing,
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm

Aerobics,
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm

St Molios Church Coffee Morning 10.30 - noon

Youth Club
Youth Centre, Lamlash 7pm - 10pm

Brodick Embroidery Group
Brodick Library, 7.30pm

Cardiac Rehab,
Auchrannie Gym, 12.30pm - 2pm

Keep Fit
Kildonan Hall, 7pm - 9pm

Indoor Bowling
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

"Annie Get Your Gun" - Rehearsal
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Arran Junior Singers Practise
Whiting Bay School 6.45pm

FRIDAY 18th January

Arran Pipe Band practice,
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Lochranza & Catacol Coffee morning
10am - 12pm

Aquafizz,
Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am

Over 21's disco,
10pm, Ormidale Hotel

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Whiting Bay Golf Club
Quiz night 9pm

Circuit Training
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7.15pm

Senior Badminton
Auchrannie 2pm

Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Lamlash Community Centre 8pm

SATURDAY 19th January

DRIVE TIMES BANNER

36 X 20FT MOBILE HOME

Tingdene Hayden Classic yr 2000. combi gas central heating, double glazed, furnished excellent condition

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£20,000 o.n.o.

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£6135 o.n.o.

2.0L, diesel, 70,000 miles. Owner moving abroad.

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£1,550

10ft wide, 5-6 berth, new carpets & curtains, gas boiler & cooker CORGI serviced annually, good condition. Delivery can be arranged at extra cost.

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SKODA OCTAVIA TDI 110 ELEGANCE

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JAGUAR 3.2S

1994 Taxed and tested 6 months, 5 new tyres, exhaust recently done. Lovely quality drive, good condition for year.

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MITSUBISHI PAJERO SWB

£1600 o.n.o.

2.5 TD L Reg (1994) 140k miles 12 months mot and 1 months tax. Blue over silver, alloys.

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SUZUKI AUTOMATIC QUADMASTER 500

£1650 plus VAT

4x4 green 6144 miles Dec. 2000 oversized bear claw tyres road registered free road tax excellent condition

Tel: 01880 770232

JEEP CHEROKEE

N reg, 2.5TD Sport

4 new tyres - brakes

Full service, Mot & Tax

Tel: 07909 541500 / 01546 606102

£1,600 o.n.o.

SUZUKI VITARA JX 1.6 4X4

£1750 o.n.o.

1998 R , Only 44k miles. Very good condition for year. Red. 2 new tyres, new catalist, towball, no rot. 12month mot, 6month tax. Recent service, PAS Radio cassette. View in Tarbert.

Tel: 01770 850516 or 07836 743944

ESCORT 1600CC 16V

W reg, mot and tax, alloys, good condition.

Telephone: 07787123353

£1595 o.n.o.

HYUNDIA SANTA FE

2 litre CRDT Diesel, auto. 4 x 4 52 Reg. metallic blue, alloys, C. D. PAS, tow bar. 54,000 miles. One years MOT, Taxed, full service history, lovely condition throughout.

Tel: 07802188288 (Oban)

£4,995 no offers

LANDROVER LIGHTWEIGHT RAF

1980 reasonable condition, 38,000m Tax , mot

Telephone: 07768145486. Near Ft William

£900

NUMBER PLATE PA30 BAN

Telephone: 07833997065

Offers

PEUGEOT 406 DIESEL ESTATE

1998 'S' Reg, 132,000 miles Recently serviced, new brakes, front tyres, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax Bit tatty but great runner!

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FORD RANGER 3 LTR V6 PICK-UP

LHD, American, auto, yellow.1997. Mot & taxed. Outstanding condition. Very reluctant sale

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£6,595 o.n.o.

VW GOLF TDI

X reg 2001, Jazz blue, 62,000 mls.FVWSH, lady owner. Excellent condition

Telephone: 01852 314344

£5500 o.n.o.

WANTED 4 X 4 VEHICLES, LAND ROVER, TOYOTA ETC. OR DIESEL CARS

Mot or high mileage not important, any condition

Immediate cash payment

Telephone: 07703490572

WANTED

Landrover series 3 LWB diesel hardtop, with a vg or galvanised chassis.

07768145486. Near Ft William

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GLX

Hatchback

V.G.C

Mot & Tax

Tel: 07909 541500 / 01546 606102

£850 o.n.o.

PROPERTY BANNER

LONG LET REQUIRED FOR 4 WORKING BOYS.

References available. Anywhere considered. Tel 302797 – office hours 07517917587 all other times

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Timeshare for sale
Tenerife, wk 40, October
Sleeps 6
2 bathrooms, large veranda, sea views
£1,500
Fees paid for 2008
Tel 01770 303555

MATURE GENTLEMAN

Seeks Long Lease in Brodick, Lamlash Area.
References available if required.
Please reply to Box Nos 992
c/o Arran Banner

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We are currently recruiting for full time employment in the following areas:

Restaurant Mangers
We are seeking managers to work within our award winning restaurants. Proven track record and experience within a fast moving organisation is essential.

Leisure Assistants
Previous experience preferred but not essential as full training will be given.

Head Receptionist
We are seeking a head receptionist who will assist in the growth and development of the front office team. Must have ECDL or equivalent. People and management skills along with computer skills are essential.

Receptionists
Computer literacy and excellent customer service skills essential. Experience preferred however full training will be provided.

We offer competitive salary packages with attractive terms & conditions including family membership of the Leisure Club.

For general enquiries & job descriptions about all positions
Contact **Debra Kirk on 01770 30333**
or **David Johnston on 01770 303335**

Tel: 01770 302234
www.auchrannie.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

AGM / Shop Meeting
KILMORY HALL
Wednesday 30th January 7:30pm
Haggis, Neeps & Tatties

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

Arran Brass Band
AGM
Thursday 24 January
Brodick Church Hall 7.15pm
All welcome

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

Conservative & Unionist Association, Arran Branch, will hold their **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Monday, 21st January 2008, in Brodick Library, at 7.30 pm. (If desired, subscriptions due may be paid then.)

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

RECRUITMENT

ARRAN AROMATICS LTD

PRODUCTION OPERATIVES

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Interested parties should contact the Personnel Officer on 01770 303012 or at Arran Aromatics Ltd, The Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD. E-mail sharonc@arranaromatics.com

ISLE OF ARRAN HOMES

Isle of Arran Homes is a local housing agency which has been established on the Isle of Arran since 2001, to manage all of its social rented housing stock of around 270 homes, and to provide a range of other housing related services. As well as the comprehensive management of the housing stock the Association also has an ongoing new build programme.

Stand-in Sheltered Housing Co-ordinator (Ref 0688-0106)
Hourly rate £6.07

We are looking for a Stand-in Co-ordinator to provide cover for holidays, sick leave, training etc.

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For an informal discussion, please contact Mary Pritchard, Housing and Property Officer, on 01770 303 700.

For an application pack, please telephone our 24 hour recruitment line on 0131 444 4999 or email jobs@trustha.org.uk, quoting the appropriate reference. Or download from our website: www.trustha.org.uk

Alternatively write to:

Human Resources
Trust Housing Association Ltd
12 New Mart Road
Edinburgh
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The closing date for completed applications is two weeks from date of publication.

We are pursuing a policy of equal opportunities and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Enthusiastic and committed office assistant required for busy office. Good typing, organisational skills and computer literacy essential. Competitive rate of pay. Excellent career prospects for suitable candidate.

Apply in writing to John Thomson Construction Ltd. Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NB

Corrie Golf Club

Invites applications from those interested in running the tearoom.
Please write to club secretary
J. Milesi, Sunnyoakes, Whitefarland, KA27 8HP

Telephone 01770850247

Carer

Experienced Live-In Carer seeks position on Arran. Arran references available.

Contact Nigel on 07796412512

BANNER RECRUITMENT

My husband and I are relocating to Arran and we are looking for work. My husband is experienced in all aspects of forestry and I am looking for work in catering.

Tel 07983 361399 or 07971739610

BANNER RECRUITMENT

JOBBING JOINER

A position has arisen within our organisation for a **full time Maintenance/Jobbing Joiner.**
Applicants must be self-motivated and have a sound broad knowledge of their trade together with previous employment references.
Company transportation will be provided.
Applications in writing to:
John Thomson Construction Ltd. Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NB

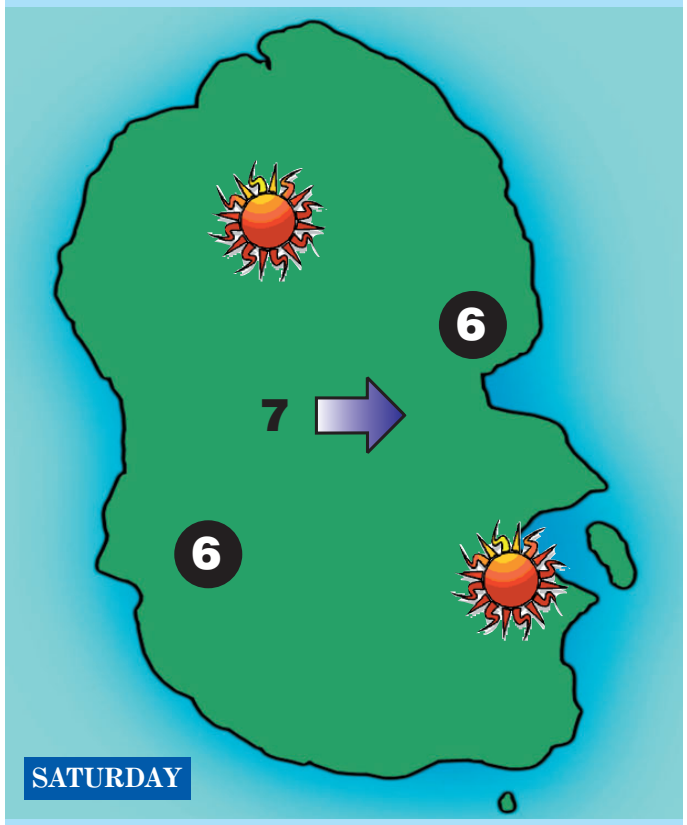
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from
Saturday, January 12 2008
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Sat	0213	3.0	0747	0.5	1422	3.3	2013	0.3
Sun	0250	3.0	0827	0.5	1459	3.3	2055	0.3
Mon	0328	3.0	0910	0.5	1538	3.2	2140	0.3
Tues	0406	2.9	0955	0.6	1620	3.1	2231	0.4
Wed	0448	2.8	1045	0.7	1709	3.0	2328	0.5
Thur	0536	2.7	1147	0.8	1813	2.8	****	**
Fri	0041	0.6	0642	2.6	1310	0.9	1947	2.7

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Lamlash)

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodick Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



Saturday, January 12
Expect sunny weather with a light westerly wind. Temperature 5ºC.
Sunday, January 13
Will turn to heavy rain with a moderate east/ north-easterly wind. Temperature around 5ºC.
Monday and Tuesday
Light rain with a light northerly wind. Temperature around 2ºC

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate
Claonaig/ Lochranza - Moderate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH NEWS

Church of Scotland
North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.

Minister Rev Angus Adamson. Parish Asst Mrs Jean Hunter. Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times.

Sunday 13 January
Brodick Church 10.30am.
Corrie Church 12pm.
Lochranza 10.15am
Shiskine Church 12pm
A service of worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

Arran Free Church of Scotland
Sunday 13 January
Shiskine 11am,
Brodick 7pm,
Rev Kenneth Cameron
All welcome.

Arran Open Gate Ministries
We are a small group of like minded Christians meeting together to minister to each other and the wider community in spiritual and practical ways. Visitor or local your are welcome to join us.
Telephone: 700424 or 600663.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Sunday Morning Mass , 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church
Sunday 13 January
Worship will be conducted by the minister Rev Elizabeth Watson, 10.30am
Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service and there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods.
All welcome.

Kilmory Parish Church
Sunday 13 January
Public worship 10am
All are invited.
Kilmory Church dates back to the mid 16th century. It is situated at the Southend of the island in a charming rural setting and is well worth finding. Look for the road side signs in Kilmory near the creamery. Holiday visitors of all faiths or none will be especially welcome.
Rev John Webster, locum.

Scottish Episcopal Church (in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 13 January
11.00 am, Holy Communion. Revd Paul Fletcher. Coffee after service, followed by Vestry meeting. Wednesday, 16 January 12.15 pm, Holy Communion.
All always welcome

Lamlash Church
Sunday 13 January
You are invited to worship in
Lamlash Church at 11 am
Mrs Nicky Smith
All welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)
Sunday 13 January
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate,Brodick
11am
Evening Service, 7pm
Rev D Macleod
5 Glen Road 7pm

Arran Baptist Church
Sunday 13 January
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick
10.45 Communion
Tea and coffee from 11.10
11.30 Worship Service
'Commissioned and Called'
Rev Jim Watson
All welcome

PERSONALS

DEATH

SMITH - MARY (nee Lammie) Peacefully at home on the Isle of Arran on the 7th January, Mary, beloved wife of Robert, loving mother of Marion, Janette, Angus and Robert and much loved granny of Cailean, Aidan, Maren, Emmeli and Markus. Funeral Service at St.Molios Church, Shiskine on Friday, 11th.January at 12 noon.

GEMMELL – John Kerr. Passed away suddenly on January 1, 2008, Kerr, a loving dad of Lesley-Anne, Graeme and Yvonne, a much loved grandpa of Nicola, Melissa, Ryan, David and Andrew. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Funeral service at Craigton Crematorium, Berryknowes Road on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, commencing at 2.30pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKYOU

Mrs Pat Ingham, daughter Josephine and son Gary wish to thank dear neighbours and friends for the beautiful cards and messages of sympathy following the untimely loss of "our brave Beth ". Your kindness was indeed a huge comfort.
Christmas cards just did not get sent this year as time ran out, but we do wish you all Good Health and Many Blessings for the New Year 2008.

THANKYOU

Charlotte Weir would like to thank most sincerely all those who sent cards, flowers, phone calls and messages of good will and prayers during her stay in hospital, also those who home visited and have been wonderfully kind in so many ways.
A very special thank you to the Medical and Nursing Staff at Lamlash and Crosshouse Hospitals for their prompt efficient care.

ENGAGEMENT

Helen and Howard Driver are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Stewart to Mary Carter of Pilling, Lancashire on Tuesday 1 January 2008

WILLIAM HUNTER

Mary Hunter would like to thank staff at Cooriedoon and Arran Memorial Hospital for their care of William. Many thanks also to David Hendry and Allan Sanderson and to everyone who has given us their support at this sad time.

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FURNITURE

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MISCELLANEOUS

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PRINTER, needs cartridge £10 Tel 600476
YAMAHA PS150 keyboard, adaptor and book £25 ono Tel 600476

WANTED

EXCERCISE BIKE in good condition, to keep New Year resolution Tel 700485

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Sport
Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Sixteen start in Cairnhouse winter points

In the Cairnhouse Riding Centre winter points, twelve went clear in the first round of the Wobblies out of the 16 starters, 11 went clear in round two and the following ten went double clear for three points on offer: Abbie MacAlister, Emma Hill, Ella Maun, Sarah McNeil, Hannah Bone, Lori Young, Taylor Smith, Nicola MacAlister and Lina Locatelli. Nicola Currie won the fastest double clear on Lilly in a time of 37.47 seconds.

Class 3 Novice: 1 Lilly, Nicola Currie, 2 Stormville City Arizona, Lynn Ramage, 3 Summerville City Arizona, Hazel Ramage, 4 Malakye, Amy Downard, 5, Brambles, Taylor Smith, 6 Brambles, Lauren MacAlister.

Class 4 Mini Challenge: 1 Summerville City Arizona, Hazel, 2 Lilly, Nicola C, 3 Corrie, Jenna Wood, equal 4 Anna, Hattie Ford and Binghams Pageboy, Nicola M, 6 Brambles, Lauren.

Class 5 Clear Round: 1 Binghams Pageboy, Nicola M, Malakye, Amy D and Lilly, Nicola C.

Class 6 Cairnhouse Challenge: 1 Summerville City Arizona, Hazel, 2 Malakye, Amy D, 3 Lilly, Nicola C, 4 Binghams Pageboy, Nicola M, 5 Corrie, Jenna, 6 Stormville City Arizona, Lynn.

Hazel Ramage on Summerville City Arizona

Mad dogs and Sannox cricketers

If mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun what does that make the members of Sannox Cricket Club playing on the second day of 2008?

The match at Ormidale Park saw a good contingent of visitors of all ages. Two full teams were picked by former captains Tim Pomeroy and Eric Dunn.

The players who braved the weather for the cricket special.

The match was played under floodlighting in various types of whites. There was 'an occasional glass of port' to keep in the festive spirit and to keep the chill wind at bay.

Around ten spectators stamped and blew their hands all the way to the end of the tussle. Tim Pomeroy's team batting first made 139; Eric's team with a larger proportion of under four foot players than the opposition just couldn't match the run rate; they finished with 127.

Unconventional it certainly was and not without humorous incidents including Eric's bottle of port being bowled out as it sat like a fourth stump behind him, wicket keeper Martin Kemp going for the bottle rather than the ball — a Keystone Cops moment.

The whole event was well in keeping with Sannox CC's wider social remit. As much to be ambassadors of the sport as to play the game Sannox continue to find interesting ways of propagating the message that cricket is fun.

The event was so much fun it is planned to do it again next year.

Indoor practice resumed in the Auchrannie games hall on Monday. For more details telephone Tim on 600287.

Pool fixtures

Fixtures for January 17: Cameronia v PT 1934, Catacol v Bar Eden, Drift Inn v Corrie, Kildonan bye. Arran singles to be played by Sunday, February 3: A Cook v G Willis (Cameronia); M Worthington v S Heaney (Cameronia); M Picken v L Girbow (Cameronia); C Black v J Copperwheat (Drift Inn); J Ainsworth v J Picken (Bar Eden); S Newall v D Prescott (Bar Eden); E Picken v D Hacket (Kildonan); E Ingram v J Smith (Kildonan).

Arran doubles to be played by Sunday, January 27. All results to be telephoned to the Cameronia, 700254. The Knockout Shield will be played on Sunday, January 20 in Kilmory Hall, 1.30pm for 2pm. Teams consist of six players, six singles, three doubles and is the first team to win five. All teams knocked out in the first round will play for the second chance salver. This competition is open to any teams of six.

Rugby fixtures

Seniors: January 12 away - Lanark 8.20 back 6 - sponsored by Albert's fish and chips; 19 January home - Renfrew 12pm ko - sponsored by Cladach sawmill. Girls: January 13 away - Cumnock 11.05 back 6 (also s1/s2/s3). January 27: away - Carrick 11.05 back 6.

Lamlash Bridge results

Monday, January 7. N/S: H Boyd and J Murchie +1740, 2 J and R McBride +900, 3 M Cumming & E Paul +810. E/W; T Martin and A Bilsland +1350, 2 McGill and C Bone -310, 3 M and V Yutz –920.

Gus MacLeod leads those blowing away New Year hangovers at Whiting Bay Golf Club

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 2 January. Fourteen took part in the annual nine-hole cross country competition and managed to blow away the New Year hangovers. The winner was Gus MacLeod with a net score of 31.5 and second was Ross Butchard with 33. Fixtures - Sunday 13, Winter Cup Round 4. Sunday 20, Texas Scramble.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 18 December Lochranza Hotel Cup: 1 Alastair McDonald 37, 2 Ian Buchanan 36, 3 Brian Sherwood 35. Thursday, 27 December, two club competition over nine holes. Ladies: 1 Mary Wilkinson 33, 2 Denise Sherwood 33.5. Gents: 1 Peter Emsley 33, 2 John Milesi 33.5. Juniors: 1 Nicky Emsley 34, 2 Mark Sherwood 40.5.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday Winter Medal (15 holes) 20 December. Non-counting for handicap 13 played: 1 Peter Smith 69-20=49, 2 Peter MacKay 68-18=50, 3 Graeme Andrew 59-8=51. Magic 2s Peter Smith at the 4th. Sunday 23 December Glenburn Cup CSS 64 - 12 played: 1 Alan Smith 78-15=63, 2 John O'Sullivan 77-13=64. Best scratch: Iain Murchie 71. No magic twos. Wednesday 26 December - Boxing Day Bottle (Stableford) CSS 37 points to Stableford 12 played: 1 Andy Pattison 40 points, 2 Jamie Murchie 39pts. Best Scratch: Jamie Murchie 63. Magic twos: Andy Pattison at 13th and Jamie Murchie at 14th. Thursday 27 December, Thursday Winter Medal (15 holes): 1 John O'Sullivan 60-11=49, 2 Russell Adams 58-8=50. Magic 2s: Russell Adams at 4th, Graeme Andrew at the 16th.

3 Club Competition 30 December, 14 played: 1 Alan Smith 75-15=60, 2 Andy Pattison 70-9 = 61, 3 Jim Stewart 75-13=62. Best Scratch: Alistair Robertson 67. Magic 2s Lee Girbow at17th and Iain Murchie at 16th. 1st Lady, Val McDougall 33 net for back 9 holes. Course backwards 2 January, 35 played, 1 Iain Murchie 65-4=61, 2 John O'Sullivan 75-13=62, 3 Alistair Crawford 76-13=65. Best Scratch Iain Murchie 65. Magic 2s Derek Robertson (3), Lee Girbow (1), Alistair Robertson (2). Thursday 27 December, 15 hole Medal, 1 John O'Sullivan 60-11=49, 2 Russell Adams 58-8=50, Magic 2s, Russell Adams at 4th, Graeme Andrew at 16th. Thursday 3 January, 1 Graeme Andrew 58-8=50, 2 Robbie Glen 61-9=52. Magic 2s Graeme Andrew at 16th and Peter MacKay at 16th. Sunday 13 January Stableford 9.30am and 11am starts.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 6 January. Sweep, 9 played: 1 Brian Smith 15 62, 2 Bert McGunnigle 9 63, Scratch Bert McGunnigle 72 (bih). There were six magic twos.

Shiskine Golf Club

Boxing Day Texas Scramble: 1 Joe, Wilma, Doreen and Sheila with a net score of 30.9, 2 Alice, Louise, Stewart and Frankie 33.9, 3 David, Donald, Lillian and Grandma 37.1. December 31 Mahogany Trophy: 1 G Martlew 52-9=43, 2 D Turner 49-4=45 (bih), 3 D Price 53-8=45. David Price won the Mahogany Trophy as only David and W Kelso were eligible to win. Best Scratch: D Turner 49, Magic Twos: D Turner and A Gray.

January 1 Alan Smith Plate, C Maxton won with a net score of 42. January 1 Colditz Quaich, Class 1, 1 A Burnet 44-4=40, 2 A Gray 46-4=42 (bih), 3 M Dale 46-4=42. Class 2, 1 D Henderson 48-10=38, 2 K Gilroy 53-14=39, 3 G Martlew 53-8=45 (bih). Best Scratch: A Burnet 44. Winner David Henderson with a net score of 38. January 2: DS Bannatyne Shield. Winners with a 42.5 were Andy Gray and Louise Macalister. Fixtures: Sunday 13 January: 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup, Thursday 17 January: Ladies 12 Hole Medal.

Corrie Golf Club

New Year's Day Shield: 1 A MacDonald 71-12=59 (bih), 2 J Milesi 82-23=59 (bih), 3 S Beardsley 66-7=59 (bih). Fixtures: Saturday 12 January, Winter Cup, tee-off at noon. Monday 14 January, Monday Cup, tee-off noon.

Arran Golf Association

Sunday 6 January Winter League played at Lamlash. These games were played in good conditions with the sun managing to shine for most of the day. The course was in excellent condition and the soup and rolls were very welcome afterwards. In the first match the host club, Lamlash v Whiting Bay, both won 2 games. The 2nd match Brodick v Corrie, both won 2 games each. In the 3rd match Shiskine v Machrie Bay, again both clubs won 2 games. This is the first time in the history of the competition that all the matches have ended as draws. Next game at Shiskine on Sunday 3 February: Shiskine v Brodick, Corrie v Lamlash, Whiting Bay v Machrie.

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