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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 28th JANUARY, 2006

No 1528

## Arran's oldest celebrates 105th birthday

On Saturday the village of Whiting Bay celebrated a very special birthday when Arran's oldest resident, James Stead, had his 105th birthday.

James' daughter, Moria Starks of Whiting Bay organised a special party and family-get-together in the village's Cooriedoon Care Home where James now resides.

### One hundred

One hundred family and friends turned out to share James' special event with four generations of the same family gathered in the dining room; James being the oldest and his three-year old great granddaughter Jenna the youngest. This visit by Jenna was the real highlight of the day for James and it really seemed to make his day.

Another big part of the day for him was receiving a card from HRH The Queen and this was presented to him by Doctor Grassie of Shiskine Medical Cen-

tre. Born in Glasgow in 1901 James was too young to serve in the First World War and too old for the Second, however this laid the way to him having a very interesting career choice.

During the early forties he was on guard duty in the Egyptian room at the British Museum looking after various mummies and tombs.

Moria had prepared an itinerary for the day to help organise the large group of merry revellers who were gathered in the lounge of Corriedoon.

They listened to the life history of James which Moria had managed to condense into a few pages of manuscript and then watched as James blew out the candles on his cake and then it was on with the party.

James provided everyone with plenty of good humour and raised a few laughs. While Moria was reading out the script about her

father, James was reading through it much slower and would call out when he read something of interest to him.

Moria described her father as 'having the constitution of an ox and by the age of sixty-five had never visited a doctor.' To which Doctor Grassie toasted in good nature.

James re-married in 1961 to Audrey and three years later they moved to Arran.

### Key figure

He was a key figure in the Whiting Bay Drama Club and one of the founders of the Arran Arts Society.

Following Audrey's death in 1970 James moved to Murray Estate in Lamlash and in 1983 he moved in with his daughter Moria in Whiting Bay at Kilpatrick.

He lived there until the age of 103 before moving into his current residency of Cooriedoon Care Home.



James Stead celebrates his 105th birthday at Cooriedoon Care Home. Among the guests were his daughter Moira Starks and great great granddaughter Jenna Fleming

b04bir02

## Power cut hits Island

A reported 554 people on Arran were without electrical power when homes at the Southend of the island experienced faults last Thursday.

Whiting Bay, Kilmory and Kildonan were affected after a trans-

former developed a fault. A further five homes were without electricity overnight.

The Breadalbane Hotel in Kildonan was amongst those affected and as a result the Arran Pool League fixture taking place

in the hotel had to be played by candlelight.

A spokeswoman for Scottish Hydro Electric said: 'There was an unfortunate loss of power at 8.30pm in the Whiting Bay area.

'In these events our system automatically notifies us of any faults on the high voltage network and advises us of any triggers.'

### Fault

'Initially there were 554 notifications of the fault and the vast majority of customers were without power for 25 minutes.

'The incident occurred after a transformer at Largiebeg sub-station developed a fault.'

'I'd like to assure those affected that the work was carried out as quickly as possible and the faulty transformer has now been replaced. We would like to apologise to our customers for the inconvenience caused.'

## Oil delivery alters ferry sailings

Four timetabled ferry sailings will be cancelled next weekend because of oil deliveries from a BP tanker at Brodict pier.

The 12.30pm sailing from Ardrossan and the 1.50pm from Brodict will not take place on Saturday 4 January or on Monday 6 January. This will allow a fuel tanker to berth at the pier and discharge oil into the storage tanks at Market Road.

The Caledonian MacBrayne timetable warns travellers that certain sailings may be cancelled during winter when oil deliveries are scheduled.

During summer no difficulties arise because the ferry berths overnight in Ardrossan. Thus for the seven months of the summer timetable the tanker can dis-

charge oil at Brodict overnight.

This weekend is the end of the scheduled three-week relief by

the MV Clansman. The MV Caledonian Isles should return next week.

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## Brodick man's *Daring* invite

Alan Milligan of Brodick has been invited to the launch of a new Royal Navy warship.

*HMS Daring* will be officially named and launched by the Countess of Wessex at 2.45pm on Wednesday 1 February.

She has been built by BAE Systems Naval Ships at its Scotstoun shipyard on the upper Clyde.

The reason for Alan's presence is that he served on the last *HMS Daring* in the early 1950s and all former crew members have been invited to the ceremony.

'We keep in touch with reunions of former crew,' said Alan, 'but I never expected to be invited to the launch.'

Alan Milligan joined the Navy as a 15-year-old seaman in 1951.

'It was not long after the war,' he said. 'My uncle had served in the Navy during the war and we used to come from our Belshill, Lanarkshire home and holiday in Whiting Bay.'

'In those days there were lots of warships up and down the Clyde. It gave me the notion to go to sea.'

He started training at *HMS Ganges* in Suffolk and was then posted onto the type 42 destroyer *HMS Daring*. Much of his service was in the Mediterranean. Alan said: 'I saw King Farouk, President Tito and Gracie Fields all come aboard in that time.'

'We were the first ship on scene after the earthquake in



Alan Milligan, pictured in his Navy attire, will attend the launch of *HMS Daring*. b04aln01

Cephalonia, which is now better known for the book *'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'*. There is even an *HMS Daring Street* there

named after us. Our ship was also the first to find the remains of the two De Havilland Comet airplane crashes off the Italian coast in January and April 1954.

'We picked up bodies but no survivors. It was a hair-raising commission.'

Alan left the sea in 1960 as an able seaman and after a 33-year career in the civil service he and his wife retired to Arran.

# Arran sewerage work ending

The £14million Scottish Water sewerage improvement scheme is almost complete in some communities.

The completion date for the scheme was to have been the end of December 2005. Despite bad weather and set-backs, most of the Galliford Morgan Joint Venture (GMJV) workers left the Island before Christmas.

The new treatment works in Market Road, Brodick has been commissioned and landscaping works are ongoing there.

New facilities at Blackwaterfoot, Catacol and Corrie are also up and running. The Lamlash works are currently being commissioned, with anticipated completion for the end of January.

Villagers will have noticed renewed disruption in Lamlash as large holes have been dug in the front green again, opposite the Glenisle Hotel.

A Scottish Water spokesman explained: 'Contractors are carrying out the final connections to divert existing waste water flows in Lamlash from the old system

to the newly installed outfall pipework.'

'This work could only be carried out when the final paperwork in relation to our discharge consent had been received from Scottish Environment Protection Agency.' Land negotiations are still in process at the south end of Whiting Bay for the site of the new waste water treatment works.

Arran project manager Allan Crozier explained: 'Much of the major engineering works are now complete, with the major project work at Whiting Bay as the last of the ones to get underway.'

Scottish Water Customer Service Director Cheryl Black said: 'We would like to thank our customers on Arran for their continued patience and co-operation while these important works have been carried out. The new infrastructure will provide a very robust system which will serve our customers well for many years to come.' During the course of the works a number of community support initiatives have also been generated through the project and

backed by both Scottish Water Solutions, who have managed delivery of the work, and contract partners GMJV.

Work is being carried out to assist Arran Mountain Rescue Team to extend an access track to Goatfell for their rescue vehicle and night vision goggles are being donated to the local Coastguard team. Lamlash Improvements Committee is to benefit from the installation of a disabled access ramp to the beach.

Excess quarry stone which was not needed as part of the project is being donated to Brodick Improvements Committee for use in their Coastal Footway Project which is due to begin next spring.

As well as offering improved waste water treatment, the new infrastructure should also provide extra storage to cope with increased rainwater during storms.

A Scottish Water spokesman said that together with combined storm overflows, this will mean any storm discharges will be very dilute and infrequent.

## Island to have south end wind farm?

There are two consultation meetings next weekend for the Arran Wind Farm proposal.

The meetings are in Lamlash Community Centre on Friday 27 January and Whiting Bay Hall on Saturday 28 January, both from 11am to 8pm.

The proposal by Arran Wind Power Ltd is being led by Lam-

lash farmer Kenny Bone. Kenny has spent over seven years negotiating a modest development of five turbines on the hills above Glenkiln.

Through this time he has encountered great difficulty in satisfying Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) that wind turbines above Glenkiln would not adversely affect the habitat of hen harriers.

Arran Wind Power project manager Craig Potter confirmed that this new proposal was for five or six turbines in Forestry Commission land to the north of Auchenhew Hill at the south end of the Island.

Such a site would apparently not be a problem with hen harriers.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend these public consultations to gather information and find out more about the proposal.

Mr Potter said that they were keen for people to come along in groups on the hour but would welcome individuals at any time.

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# Arran to pay up for gravestones

Owners of gravestones and memorials in Clachan cemetery, Shiskine, may have to fork out at least £150 after an unannounced safety inspection by North Ayrshire Council (NAC).

NAC carried out the inspection at Clachan after floods damaged a cemetery wall and a number of memorials.

However, lair owners were not informed of the inspection which involved gravestones being pushed to check if they were stable and, if they were loose, were left lying on the ground.

Now the owners have three options: pay council staff £150 to have the stones lifted again; hire a private contractor to repair the stones; or be forced to leave the stones lying flat. The work is part of a national safety inspection of cemeteries instituted by the government. Stones at risk of falling over must be laid flat.

Inspections have already been carried out on some of the 7,000 North Ayrshire memorials.

Although there is not a date for further island cemetery inspections, all cemeteries on Arran will be checked.

A Lamplash resident, who has family members buried in Lamplash cemetery, said: '£150 seems really excessive considering what you pay to have the stones erected in the first place. I understand the safety issue but surely the government or council could provide subsidies for some of these repairs. These people deserve to rest with dignity, not have their stone lying flat in the ground.'

Councillor for Arran Margie Currie said: '£150 is very reasonable compared to what a stonemason will charge because there

are regulations on how repairs should be done.

'It seemed quite a lot of money to me at first but I have learnt that compared with other prices it is not.

'A lot of people were indignant because they discovered the stones lying flat and they were naturally aggrieved.'

If owners cannot be found within three or four weeks, the stones will not be pulled up again and will instead be put in the ground lying flat.

Councillor Currie has helped to set up a local voluntary sub-group which is liaising with NAC on the matter.

A spokesperson for NAC said: 'Following floods in Arran last year considerable damage was done to a number of memorials at Shiskine cemetery. Due to the immediate nature of the risk some memorials had to be made safe by 'sinking in' where possible or else laid flat. At that time notices were placed on and around the cemetery as plainly advance notice was not possible.

'It is not usual practice for the council to re-erect memorials. However, because of the number of requests received by lairholders and the remote location of the cemetery, an exception was made in this instance. The figure quoted covers a foundation fee plus a fixing charge.'



Maire and Ross Rintoul with son Liath who holds the jar with the 'scary spider'. b04spd01

## Scary spider swings into town

A large, scary and mysterious spider was found in Brodick on Monday morning.

Ross Rintoul, owner of Arran Asia, had just found the spider attached to the outside of a consignment of boxes from India and naturally felt a little unsure as to its exact origin. Thoughts were of a tropical spider who had hitched a lift aboard the boxes.

Ross said: 'I don't suffer from arachnophobia so I was quite excited to find it attached to the box.'

The *Banner* emailed a photograph of the spider to the Butterfly and Insect World in Edinburgh to find out more information.

Kevin Thom has worked at the centre for eight years. He said: 'From looking at the photographs this female spider is a cracking specimen of the *tegenaria gigantea* variety - the scientific name given to a house spider.'

However Kevin presents these spiders to people with phobias as they are regarded as scarier than

tarantulas. Kevin said: 'We have a programme called 'phobia busting' where we gradually introduce creepy crawlies to people who are scared of them.

'Tarantulas are just big teddie bears with eight legs, but when we show people these house spiders

they're really scared of them. If anyone comes across an insect or spider they feel is unusual or extra large then it is worth checking it is not harmful.'

Upon hearing the news Ross said: 'I may as well release the poor beastie and let it get on with things.'

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THE ARRAN

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Saturday 28 JAN, 2006

All newspapers tell lies, so the cliché goes. Yet, would it not be more accurate to say that, while all people and organisations tell lies, newspapers tell many fewer than most.

Steve Garraway, in last week's Banner, takes us to task for attributing the head teacher of Arran High with words he did not use. All credit to him, for he has perused some North Ayrshire pamphlets about the new high school and identified that, coincidence beyond belief, the head teacher had expressed exactly the same sentiments, in precisely the same words, as three mainland head teachers. The very reasonable conclusion he takes from this is that somebody else had put these words together and presented them as the head teachers' words.

It does not need saying that The Banner took these in good faith. The only error was in believing that North Ayrshire might be telling the truth. Sadly North Ayrshire is not alone in this disingenuous practice. I have written about it in the past although this is the first time a reader has picked it up. The Royal Bank used to send fatuous press releases about savings and investments. They would then make a recommendation in quotation marks, followed by, 'says . . . , manager of the Royal Bank's Brodick, Isle of Arran, branch.' Naturally we never used these but I always wondered if they had had the courtesy to tell the manager what he was publicly recommending, or even if he would know anything about that investment were somebody to ask him about it.

These are but two examples of a widespread practise. Even quite humble local organisations prefer to concoct bland statements for publication which, they believe, put just the right gloss on their activities. So common is it that most never even think of it as dishonest.

One also wonders whether those people whose names are being taken in vain are actually consulted beforehand. Whether they are or not, it seems unlikely that they do not become aware of their 'quoted statements' during the lifetime of the publicity. So why do they not object? Here, I never said that, or at least, please allow me to speak for myself. Or are people too concerned about watching their backs? In an open society it should be perfectly possible to either demand that anything false be taken out or to offer to say something that can, truthfully, be put under your own name.

Even more questionable is how people who present themselves as upright and honest, can produce such stuff? They may even believe themselves to be honest but, in the case of the new high school in particular, there is still a memory of very cogent arguments against it being ignored and rudely brushed aside. This may still leave a sense of guilt, and an inclination to gloat and, if twisting the truth is necessary for that, so be it. Yet, if we are to judge by this, how can we trust them in anything they say? Is not a quotation sacrosanct? Do not quotation marks indicate a person's exact words? Mr Garraway may have blamed the wrong people, but all credit to him for identifying this all too common practice of gulling the public.

As for all newspapers telling lies, they are about the only people who tell the truth.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

*Romans 13:10***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.

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**your letters**

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

**Letters to the Editor****Thanks for assistance**

Sir,  
I would like to thank the people of Arran via your newspaper for assisting me after my fall on Brodick beach.

In particular, thanks go to the bike man from Brodick, DG Weir for his assistance, Jo the nurse, and the CalMac staff at the pier and on board the *Clansman*.

Yours,  
Douglas Inglis  
13 Achray Place

**Progressing well**

Sir,  
I would like to thank all those who visited, phoned, sent cards, gifts and flowers to me during my recent stay in Crosshouse Hospital.

I'm progressing well thanks mainly to my in-house nurse, cook and bottlewasher.

Yours,  
Mary McNicol,  
Brodick

**Christmas lights**

Sir,  
I would like to say thank you to all the people who came to have a look at the lights during the festive period and passed some very nice comments.

About two weeks before Christmas my wife Maureen and myself were stopped and asked if the lights would be going up as they had heard reports that someone had been complaining about them. I can assure you that is not so - or no-one has complained to me.

Most people I met stopped and asked me when the lights were going up, especially the children. I like to see all their smiling faces when they see them. My wife says she thinks I am the biggest kid.

All being well come this time next Christmas the lights will be shining again along with my neighbour Frank and hopefully one or two new ones.

Finally thank you for the dona-

tion of £36.50 that was given to the Hospital Supporters League.

Yours,  
Bernie Jackson,  
16 Montrose Terrace  
Whiting Bay

**Arran's ferry service**

Sir,  
I read the letter in *The Banner* edition 1526 from SSP member Colin Turbett when he calls me a 'would-be shipping magnate' and casts doubt on my abilities.

I can assure Colin that I am certainly not a magnate, but an ordinary person from the west coast of Scotland who gets so utterly fed up with things that are patently wrong, that I actually put my money where my mouth is and do something about it.

For would-be politicians like Colin it is easy to open his mouth and let rumble in advance of his own political agenda.

However has Colin ever actually coughed up any of his own hard-earned dough and put his money where his mouth is, or does he just expect the long suffering taxpayer to pay for his ideas and demands?

Here in Kintyre I can escort him around two closed hotels, 12 closed shops and one closed restaurant that have all been reopened with 60 jobs created, because contrary to the doubts about my ability expressed by comrade Colin, I can visibly and evidently prove that I do put my money where my mouth is.

The RMT has a strong and very good case to make. Tommy Sheridan is one of the most eloquent of speakers in Scotland. However CalMac needs competition just as competition needs CalMac.

Arran islanders deserve a taste of the choice that Dunoon-Gourock folk have enjoyed for years.

Unlike Colin, I have no political dogma or agenda to bring to this debate.

Just sheer frustration shared with 30 years of letter writers to the *Arran Banner* who, whilst they have a huge place in their hearts for CalMac, are also crying out for service improvements that lower fares, later sailings and fair competition will

bring.  
Yours,  
Russ McLean  
The Old Cooperage  
Coopers Lane  
Campbeltown, PA28 6DD

**Arran Healers**

Sir,  
I am compiling a guide to healing practices available on Arran for both islanders and visitors, with a view to publishing for the coming season.

If you would like to be included, then please, initially, write to me at the address below giving contact and business details including your location, a brief description of your style of healing and your charges.

Yours,  
Amanda Cree,  
Crawfordlea, Whiting Bay,  
Isle of Arran, KA27 8QW

**Climbing for charity**

Sir,  
Dear people of Arran, now that Christmas and New Year are behind us I hope you will consider this appeal.

I have always believed Arran folk can rise to a challenge at any time. My task is to try and persuade you to do something with your spare cash, other than spend it on the January sales; by providing you with two excellent alternatives.

My name is Willie Logan. I was born on Arran and raised in Pirmill. Some of you will know me.

The purpose of my letter to *The Banner* is to appeal to the good will of the people on Arran to sponsor me as I attempt a difficult challenge to raise some money for two very worthy causes.

In June this summer, I plan to climb Ben Nevis, (Scotland), Scafell (England) and Snowdon, (Wales) all within a 24-hour period. The challenge also involves driving for more than nine hours between mountains.

All driving will be undertaken by my friend of many years, Leo Wheelan from Alexandria. Leo served in the Royal Navy as a trained diver and in bomb dis-

posal. Leo and I met at IBM in Greenock where we both worked for more than 20 years.

The money raised will go towards the Arran war memorial hospital to buy essential emergency hospital equipment and also to the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

As some readers will know, there are two children's hospices in Scotland. Rachel House located in Kinross, and Robin House located in Balloch near Loch Lomond.

Rachel house has been open for several years, Robin house was opened in the spring of 2005. CHAS, as it is affectionately known, cares for children who have life limiting conditions such as cancer, and other serious illnesses. They are very special places for very special children and their families.

I hope together we can make a real difference to our local hospital and the children's hospice association. I have talked with some of the Island's doctors and hospital staff, who will ultimately decide what to spend the money on.

The money we raise for the hospital will stay on Arran and benefit the people on Arran.

The money raised for CHAS will be paid directly to CHAS providing hospice services for the children of Scotland. I have no doubt with your help we can make a real difference to people's lives both here on Arran and beyond.

Your donation:- Please send all donations to the address listed:

Your donations can either go towards the hospital supporter's league or to Children's Hospice Association Scotland. You decide where your money goes. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to either: Dr Sheila McLeod - Hospital supporters league. Or Children's Hospice Association Scotland.

Later in the year when the challenge is complete, I will notify you all through *The Banner* as to how it all goes. Please do your best to support this appeal as I am counting on the people of Arran to rise to the challenge. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Willie Logan,  
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# BBC journalist visits Banner group

Pupils at Arran High School had a crash course in journalism last week when a BBC journalist dropped in on them.

BBC News Home Assignment Editor John Curran visited the school last Wednesday as part of a competition which pupils from Arran High School News team applied to last year.

As reported in *The Banner* edition 1515 the BBC were running a schools *Question Time* challenge based on the popular television programme hosted by David Dimbleby.

The jewel in the crown of this competition is the chance for four lucky secondary schools to

work with David Dimbleby and produce a real question time programme.

As a result of their early entry to the competition they won a session with journalist John Curran.

He provided the students with his own personal insight into a career in journalism and demonstrated how modern technology is used in the gathering and almost instantaneous transmission of news. A key area highlighted was the need to work quickly and accurately in the event of breaking news.

John has a long history in journalism starting out at the Govan Press in 1971, eventually transfer-

ring to ITN where he remained until 1995. In that same year he moved to the BBC where he has worked ever since. He is no stranger to covering breaking news stories and has worked on an exhaustive list of main headline stories including the Selby rail crash, death of the Pope, collapse of Rover cars and London tube bombings and arrests.

The High School News Group are still in the running for the main prize and should they progress, the next stage will be for them to join 12 other finalist schools in running their own *Question Time* workshop for which they will each receive a £500 grant. A travelling



Arran High School students from left: Kelly Donnelly, Calum Johnston, Liam Turbett and Claire Johnstone seen with John Curran, the BBC's News Home Assignment

Editor: bo4bbe1 panel of judges will assess each individual schools performance

and the lucky four will be working with David Dimbleby on an

edition of *Question Time* that will be broadcast on July 6.

## High school news

### Breaking News with BBC's John Curran

Back in November the Banner Group decided to enter the Schools Question Time Challenge.

Because of our prompt entry we received an early bird bonus of a visit from a bona-fide BBC journalist. We are still waiting to hear the results of our entry but in the mean time all that rushing was certainly worth it for the experience of having top journalist, John Curran, visit the school. John Curran, an important figure in the BBC, organises the deployment of resources to cover breaking news stories.

Some of the prominent stories he has worked on include: the resignation of Margaret Thatcher, the Braer tanker disaster, the London tube bombings and the deaths of Princess Diana, the Pope and the Queen Mother to name a few. Fifth and sixth year English pupils had the opportunity to join the *Banner Group* in attending the workshop with John on Wednesday the

18th. In the jam packed workshop, 'Breaking News', we were given an insight into some of the pressures journalists undergo as they cover a breaking news story and we heard fascinating accounts of Mr Curran's experiences reporting news both at home and abroad. The workshop encouraged us to think as journalists by putting us in a position where we had to make a crucial decision, similar to one Mr Curran had to make at the Potters Bar rail crash. We realised the stress and difficulties involved keeping a clear head amidst such disasters.

John being the 'Ringmaster' (assignment editor to the location, showman if you will) he encouraged us to ask as many questions as our hearts desired. Many pupils seized this opportunity, asking such things as: 'How do I become a BBC journalist?', 'What has bwwn your most bizarre experience as a journalist?' and 'Do you struggle with your conscience at all?'

Everyone received extremely well thought out and detailed replies and a few even left with a new career plan! We can't thank Mr Curran enough for coming to such a small island and giving us

the opportunity of such an eventful afternoon. And all on his day off...

**Kelly Donnelly S4 and Gemma MacDonald S5**

### Arran Girls Go Down Fighting To Garnock

Last Tuesday, despite their best efforts, Arran under-15s girls' football team were defeated in the Ayrshire Girls Cup game against Garnock Academy.

Arran bounded into the lead in the first half, with a superb goal from Kirsty Clarke. However, the team eventually lost out 2-1 in the dying minutes of an exhilarating match.

Credit must be given to Bethany Tetlow of Kilmory Primary School, whose tremendous goalkeeping skills kept the Garnock strikers at bay. Credit must also be given to the rest of the team for their heroic efforts and to new coach, Catherine McBain. Although Arran put up an impressive fight, the better team won. Active Schools Co-ordinator, Mrs Hart puts this

down to a lack of matches recently, with the girls playing their last match in September. While the result was against them, the Arran team can rest assured that they have improved dramatically since last year, where they lost the same tie by a much greater margin to Irvine Royal. With the team constantly improving, the future of the under-15s team is looking bright!

**Calum Johnston and Liam Turbett, S4**

### It's Show Time!

It's that time again and students are preparing for our next school show, *West Side Story*.

*Les Miserables* was a huge challenge and we are sure that *West Side Story* will be just as demanding. Auditions are being held on Thursday the 26th. Rehearsals have not begun as such, but as soon as the positions of leading roles have been allocated, serious work can get under way. We hope to live up to expectations and perhaps even out do our previous performance!

Mhairi Beggans and Sabrina Beatan S5

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# Independent Schools

Your guide to choosing the right school for your children

**ALTHOUGH important, it is often not just the academic qualities of an independent school which attracts parents to send their children there.**

As well as a commitment to encouraging and helping pupils to achieve the best examination results, it is the combination of this and extra-curricular activities that brings out the best in children attending independent schools. It is now widely recognised that music, art, sports and other extra-curricular activities play an important part in a child's education and many independent schools have taken this on board for a number of years. Most offer a wide range of activities and sports and pupils are encouraged to take up something and although it is recognised that not every youngster will be good at hockey or netball, perhaps they will find their niche in clay pigeon shooting or swimming. The choice and type activities in an independent school can be a factor parents might want to take into account when thinking of which school to send their children to.

The schools often have their own swimming pools, squash and tennis courts, gymnasiums and all-weather pitches. Some have access to their own golf courses while others allow pupils to bring their own horses to the school, where they are stabled along side the school's own.

Children are encouraged to take part in competitive events both inter-house and at regional and national levels. One school even encourages competition in clay pigeon shooting with an eye on future Olympic and Commonwealth Games teams.

One of the major advantages of independent boarding schools is the chance for pupils to get together with others in their leisure time and take part in clubs and societies.

They can include art, film, fitness, chess, cadets, debating, piping, sailing and many more.

These are usually available in the

evenings and at weekends and children have the added advantage of support from their tutors.

Some will be related to academic departments, like music or drama while others are purely recreational. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a scheme which is often taken on board by independent schools and offers pupils a series of challenges in physical, community and skills activities and allows them to take what they have learned in other parts of their schooling and adapt them to the scheme.

Extra-curricular activities can also be the door through which parents and the wider community can glimpse what the children have been up and learned throughout the academic year out side the usual parent-teacher-pupil relationship.

Drama clubs will work towards end-of-term plays, musicals, and recitals while choirs and those who play instruments will entertain at charity events and art and design exhibitions let pupils show off their talents.

Independent schools do not live in isolation and pupils are encouraged to work with their local community and can raise thousands of pounds for charities at home and abroad by hosting events.

Sending your child to an independent school is not something that is the preserve of the very well off with a number of independent schools have scholarships and bursaries based on financial circumstances.

But there is no doubt parents turn to independent schools to look for an all-round education for their child or children.

They offer a high standard of education with small classes and the kind of individual attention that gets the best out of each pupil.

The schools offer a broad curriculum and an ethos of good discipline, with clearly defined values which are centred round courtesy, respect and integrity.

## KILGRASTON CONTINUES TO BUCKS THE TREND IN BOARDING SUCCESS WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PUPILS IN MORE THAN TEN YEARS

**Celebrating its Position as joint second in the Scottish League Tables**

Since the arrival of its first male Principal, Michael Farmer, two year's ago, Kilgraston, now the only independent boarding school for girls in Scotland, located at Bridge of Earn by Perth, has continued to buck the trend with a further 10% increase in its boarding enrolments over the past year. Going from strength to strength the school has been able to implement an exciting development plan which has included the building of a new sports pavilion, the creation of a state of the art theatre, and a contemporary and bright bistro-style new dining room as well as the refurbishment of the Learning Resource Centre, boarding facilities and Prep School.

Plans are now underway to build a new swimming pool.

First and foremost however Kilgraston is a place of learning and last year the school celebrated for the

first time its position as joint number two in the Scottish League Tables, with 58% of pupils achieving grade A Highers, 79% A-B grade results and 100% Advanced Higher A - C grades, an overall achievement that was only bettered only by Glasgow High School and equalled by Hutcheson's Grammar School. The school not only provides a sound education to all of its pupils but also encourages strengths of individuals, giving comfort, support and friendship to the girls whenever it is needed and recognises and nurture the uniqueness of every girl.

Evidence clearly shows that single sex education is more effective for girls and allows them to excel at all areas of the curriculum. Recognising that girls mature differently from boys, Kilgraston is one of the few schools in Scotland that provides an education geared specifically to the needs of girls. Appreciating that today's girls

will be tomorrow's leaders, Kilgraston offers no limitations on their academic and personal ambitions, and understanding that women are expected to balance many roles during their lives, their paths to future success will require leadership, confidence, independence, integrity and an instinct to achieve, all of which are provided at Kilgraston.

Academic success is balanced by an extensive range of extra-curricula activities allowing the girls to achieve the highest standards in sport, drama and music. The school has a particularly good reputation at encouraging its girls to be creative and many of the 235 students learn a musical instrument, participate in choir and become involved in drama. Kilgraston also has a legendary reputation for art with many past pupils gaining national recognition. The school also offers an enviable range of sporting facilities including floodlit all-weather tennis courts, riding school with livery (girls are welcome to bring their own horse, or pony with them to the school) extensive playing fields and a superb sports hall and fitness room.

There is also a thriving outdoor education curriculum with many girls each year achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award. The school has also a dedicated Director of Weekend and Outdoor Activities whose ensures that all of the girls are fully able benefit from a wide range of additional extra activities such as white water rafting, rock climbing, kayaking and abseiling.

Kilgraston is an educational success story. This year two of its Sixth Form pupils have been offered places at Oxbridge and several others have received unconditional offers of places at other leading Universities. In recent years Kilgraston girls have progressed to study degrees in: engineering, medicine, law, veterinary science, art, geo-geography, English, music, chemistry and many other subjects.

Where else can our daughters achieve maturity and independence as well as academic success?

Further Details from:  
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Art classes at Kilgraston



Pupils from Ardvreck School at the top of Buachaille Etive Beag



Two pupils of Ardvreck School

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# Rotary's Bard night

Robert Burns was honoured in high spirits on Wednesday night by Arran Rotary Club.

Around 40 members and guests gathered in the McLaren Hotel to enjoy a night of traditional Scot-

tish fayre and prose.

President of the Rotary Club Jim Lees made a lively address to the haggis.

George McCormack in his capacity as chairman for the evening

gave the *Immortal Memory* and also the *Selkirk Grace*.

George is something of an authority on the Bard and is described by the club as 'a man who will always be able to add something to your knowledge of the legendary Scot in spite of what you already know.'

Always conscious of not wishing to talk for too long George had set an egg timer but commented afterwards that by the time he had finished the timer still had some sand in.

Rotary club member Mairi Christie said: 'George is Burns through and through and his delivery of the *Immortal Memory* was brilliant.'

Alan Nicol gave an animated presentation of *Tam 'O' Shanter*.

Fellow club member Ted Godfrey gave the Toast to the lassies, he said: 'Alan's recital of *Tam 'O' Shanter* was the best I've ever heard at any Burns supper.'

Isobel Thomson provided song for the evening including the famous *Ae Fond Kiss*.

*Reply to the lassies* came from Margaret Godfrey and vote of thanks was presented by David Gray. After four hours, Burns had been suitably celebrated.



Jim Lees cuts the haggis. b04rab02



Guests tuck into cock'a leekie soup at the Whiting Bay Golf Club Burns Supper. b04bur1

## Golf club remembers Burns

Whiting Bay Golf Club held its annual Burns Supper last Saturday with chairman on the night, Bill McLaughlin, hailing it as the best he has been to in years.

Around 60 club members and friends met last Saturday, January 14, to celebrate Burns.

Bill, also a golf club member, said: 'It was one of the best nights I have been to.'

'I've been to hundreds of Burns Suppers nights but this one was absolutely outstanding, the best one I have been to in a long time.'

Main speaker Robbie Glenn is regarded by his peers as the top after-dinner speaker in Scotland.

He gave *The Immortal Memory* to Burns. Shiela Gilmour made the *Address to the Haggis* before reciting *Tam O' Shanter*.

She also responded to Bill's *Toast to the Lassies* with a rendition of *Kate O' Shanter*. John Pennycott gave the vote of thanks. Singer Ile Morrison, formerly of the group *Alibi* and the Kilmory singers was

greeted well by the audience who clearly appreciated her talent.

Piper for the evening was Angus Adamson, who is from Corrie cravie.

Angus, a former pipe major with Isle of Arran Pipe Band, played to an appreciative audience.

Bill added: 'Ile Morrison sang beautifully.' The haggis was kindly donated by Donald Galbraith of Blackwaterfoot.



Piper Robbie Adamson. b04rab01

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# Arran farmer's nature nomination

Arran's own Charlie McAllister is one of five finalists nominated for this year's NFU Scotland Biodiversity award.

Along with his brother Willie, Charlie farms the 298 hectares of Braehead farm, Sliderry in the south end of the island.

If he wins, the prize will be £500 plus a Biodiversity Farm

Audit. This would entail specialists from the RSPB visiting the winner's farm and conducting a number of surveys. They would look at various rare plant and animal species on the farm and advise best how to maintain and develop these. This would prove to be a very valuable prize for the winner.

The awards scheme was established six years ago and is jointly run by RSPB Scotland and National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland. It aims to recognise and reward farmers whose contributions have benefited priority species or habitats as defined by RSPB Scotland and the Scottish biodiversity strategy.

In 2004 Charlie scooped second place in Scotland as part of the Silver Lapwing awards. They go to farmers who can best demonstrate a commitment to conservation and environmental management as an integral part of their farming activities.

Charlie's success with biodiversity projects has much to

do with the Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS) which provides grants to encourage farmers to adopt environmentally friendly practices and maintain habitats and landscape.

RSS payment plans for management of water margin currently runs at £300 per hectare while management of species rich grassland can net £85 per hectare. Management of coastal heath can bring in a further £80 per hectare to the farm.

Within his own farm much work and effort has been put in by Charlie in opening up areas of the farm to wildlife.

To date he has created four ponds and maintains existing habitats such as water margins, species rich grassland, coastal heath and hedges to maximise food and shelter for wildlife. The farm currently plays host to hen harriers and short-eared owls.

Charlie said: I am very pleased to be nominated for this award.

'People I've spoken to are quite hopeful that I can win but we will just have to wait and see. I don't know the other finalists.'

'We currently have four RSS conservation schemes which is one of the most of anyone on the island.'

'We have been in one of the schemes for seven years.'

Perhaps as an indicator of the valued and safe habitats that Charlie and Jimmy's farm pro-



Charlie McAllister. b04cha1

vides, Charlie said that he can't remember ever seeing a Corncrake on the island until last year, when one was spotted on the farm. This is the first time one has been seen in thirty years.

According to the RSPB these moorhen related birds are globally threatened and have been red listed since figures showed a decline greater than 50% in both their breeding range and population over the last 25 years.

Despite his individual achievements Charlie recognises the importance of his fellow farmers on Arran's environment.

He added: 'The other farmers on the island have really taken these schemes on board and there is a lot of interest on the island.'

'There is a strong interest here in conservation and wildlife.'

'The fact there have been grants available has been a catalyst for

Continued on next page



In 2004 Charlie was second in the Scottish section of the UK-wide competition, the Silver Lapwing Award. The award recognises farmers who demonstrate a commitment to conservation and environmental management as part of their farming activities within their farmland. The competition was run by Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). To be successful farmers have to demonstrate a track record of conservation. Charlie, second from right, is pictured showing the judges around his farm.

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# Farm advisor tells islanders to 'advertise or fossilise'

Continued from page 8  
the good environmental work. They are another source of income for us but we are all very aware of the environment.'

For the future Charlie indicated that, as he has already done so much on his farm, there is no real scope for further conservation.

Charlie will find out in the next few weeks if he has been successful. The winner and runner-up will receive an all expenses paid night at the St Andrews Bay Hotel where they will be presented with their prizes.

QRSS which has helped Charlie and other farmers improve the environment around them will end this year and all new applications must be in by March 2006.

However, those with existing schemes will be able to extend them for a further five years.

A number of North Ayrshire and Arran farmers have been denied entry to the scheme this year and many argue it has been oversubscribed in the past.

Arran's farm conservation advisor told the island's farmers 'advertise or fossilise' at a meeting in Brodick on Tuesday.

Tommy Loudon of Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) in North Ayrshire and Arran was speaking at a meeting in Auchrannie Spa and a good number of Arran farmers attended to hear his talk on the future of the industry.

But he did praise the island for being ahead of the game with the formation of the umbrella group Taste of Arran.

### Blair

Mr Loudon told the meeting: 'Farmers need to raise their profile and get into the faces of Tony Blair and supermarkets to make them aware how important farming in the countryside is.'

'Agricultural aid is going to be there in the future but farmers may have to jump through a lot

of hoops to get it. I was in a supermarket the other day and I didn't see one Scottish dairy product.

'Scottish agriculture is under selling itself.'

'Why we can't raise our profile is beyond belief.'

'Why can't Scottish farmers advertise because we are sitting on the most spectacular landscape in the world.'

### 'Scared'

'South African, South American and New Zealand products are nothing to be scared of.'

'It's like playing the New Zealanders at rugby, if you put your mind to it you can beat them!'

'Arran is already one step ahead with Taste of Arran.'

'You're miles ahead of anyone else because you have the label and you've got the name.'

Mr Loudon showed the meeting slides from visits to Orkney

and the Small Isles. He spoke of Orkney as a model other communities could follow.

Islanders agreed Orkney had sold its product well and raised a number of issues with Mr Loudon on organic farming, consumers who prefer cheap food and the



Tommy Loudon. b04lou01

prospect of a farmers market.

Islanders said it was no longer viable to produce organic meat and there were no longer any incentives to do so.

### Market

The prospect of opening a farmers market on the island seemed to appeal to most at the meeting. Mr Loudon said: 'Farmer's markets have been done on mainland Ayrshire.'

'They seem to have really taken off in the towns.'

'The markets cut out the middle man that takes your money but you have to be organised to do it.'

Mr Loudon said a 40-strong team from FWAG will soon be visiting Arran.

The group will be staying for a week to conduct farm visits.

## 2,700 homes get compost bins

Approximately 2,700 home compost bins were provided free of charge to Arran householders earlier last year.

They were provided by Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

Both North Ayrshire Council and The Arran Recycling Community Organisation (ARCO) assisted WRAP in the distribution of these bins from the rear of the high school.

Brodick Nursery Gardens are now stocking rodent-proof bases made by the compost bin manufacturer and designed to be fitted under these bins.

## Legion meeting

The Royal British Legion Scotland will be holding a meeting at 2pm on Thursday 2 February in the McLaren Hotel. Yachtswoman Sally Hunter will give the group a talk. Everyone welcome.

## Lamlash meeting

The next meeting of Lamlash Improvements Association is Monday 30 January at 7.30pm in the ACVS Room.

# AQUACULTURE TODAY 2006 EDINBURGH

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Aquaculture Today 2006 is being held at Edinburgh's five star Sheraton Hotel & Spa from March 28-30 and is set to be one of the most influential events of its kind held in the UK.

The 2006 conference builds on the achievement of last year's pioneering event with speakers from the UK, Europe and beyond already lined up to participate.

The conference addresses key issues facing the fish farming sector in a useful and varied programme comprising formal presentations, discussion sessions, networking, exhibits and a special awards dinner. Delegates will hear from leading industry figures on:

- o Markets
- o Fish Health
- o Innovation
- o Species Development.

The conference will be officially opened with a keynote speech from Lord Lindsay of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) on March 29.

### Fish Farmer

At the Aquaculture Today Gala Dinner, the first Fish Farmer "Fit for the Future" award will be presented for outstanding achievement in the fish-farming sector. In addition, finalists in a new industry-backed awards scheme from the Crown Estate, which recognises innovation and best practice in salmon farming, will be announced.

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## BETTER BAR MEALS



## ORMIDALE HOTEL

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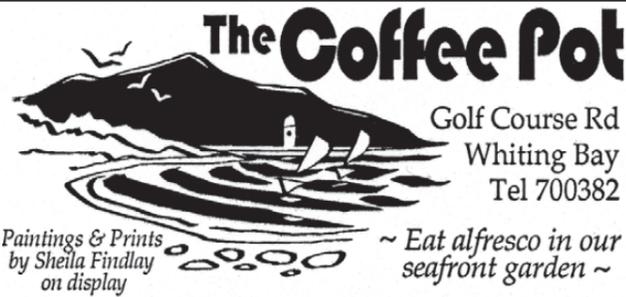
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Licensed Bar

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**Tourist Information Centre**  
or telephone Kilmory Hall 870345

**BANNER BANNER**  
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# The decline of an industry

## A former *Campbeltown Courier* journalist reflects on the glory days of the Firth of Clyde

Have you ever wondered what the world would look like from inside the head of a fishing boat skipper from the Clyde?

A new book by Freddy Gillies aims to do just that, titled 'Silver from the sea' and sub titled 'How life was for Firth of Clyde fisher folk before the decline of a once mighty industry'.

Freddy hails from a fishing background and worked as a journalist at the *Banner's* sister paper *The Campbeltown Courier* before returning to fishing.

He is currently skipper for the *Caledonian MacBrayne* ferry on the Tayinloan to Gigha run.

In his book the Gigha man charts the decline of the Clyde fishing fleet from the 1950's to the fraction of boats that remain working in the present day and the disappearance of many commercial fish stocks over that period.

Don MacNeish of COAST thoroughly enjoyed reading the book, he said: 'This salt spray saturated and misty eyed look at the big moneyed heyday and beyond is full of colourful reminiscences of mainly ex fishermen, with lots of beautiful photographs and illus-



Freddy Gillies at the wheel of his ferry. b04bok1

trations. While the author has little doubt that the constant bottom trawling and scallop dredging for fifty years has contributed to the destruction of the fish breeding cycle in the Clyde, he lambastes the only people who attempted to draw a halt to the sad and inevitable process, the people of Arran.'

He refers to an incident where old cars were placed on the seabed in Lamlash Bay in an attempt to halt the scallop dredg-

ing. While the author makes many references to the deep superstition of fishermen, it is curious that he makes no connection between a sudden gale which sprang up from nowhere which almost wrecked his fishing boat berthed overnight at the end of Lamlash Old Pier. Even after three weeks in a boat yard he admitted 'she was never the same boat again following the hammering she took at Lamlash'. Don

concluded: 'If you are interested in what has happened to the fish in the Clyde and what has been going on around our coast in the last 50 years, if you read only one book this year, read this one, read and laugh, read and weep, but read and learn for the future and for the future generations yet to come.'

The book is published by Ardmish Press on the Isle of Gigha.

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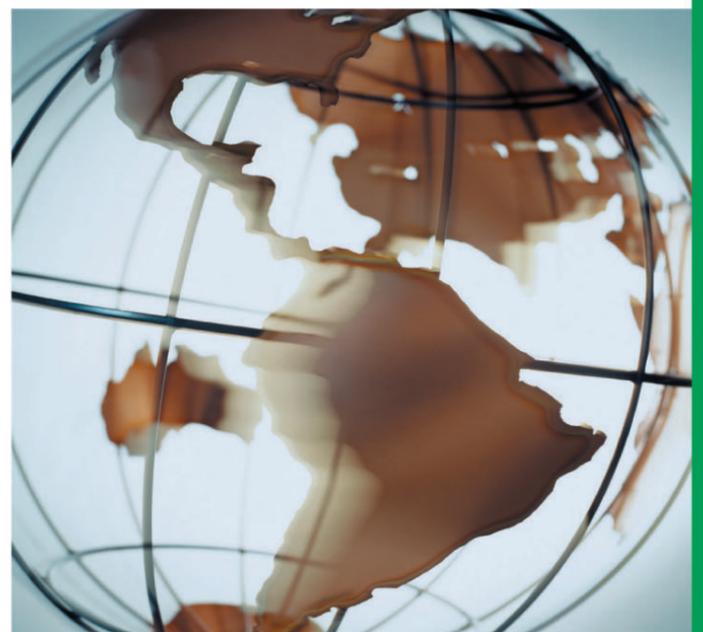
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Open Saturdays and Sundays - For no obligation private viewing please do not hesitate to call Nick Giles 07850 189747

# What's On . . . What's On . . . What's On . . .

## EVERYDAY

Brodick Country Park, 10 am-dusk  
Arran Brewery, Cladach, 10am-5pm Mon- Sat, Sun 12.30-5pm  
Ardsheil Gallery, W. Bay 1.30-5pm (Wed - Sun)  
Pony Trekking, North Sannox (Closed Sunday)  
Paintings by Bob & Bill Lees, Bilslands, Bro & Corrie Craft  
Trout Fly Fishing, Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank.  
Power Boat round Holy Isle.

## SATURDAY 28th January

Gymnastics, Auchrannie Games Hall 5yrs plus, 10am  
Blackwaterfoot Junior Football coaching, 10.30am- noon  
Football coaching, Ormidale park, boys & girls 5-15, 10-11.30am  
Arran Dancers Brodick Primary School 11am - 4.15pm.  
Machrie Table Tennis & Games Club, Machrie Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Karate Club Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am  
Indoor bowls, Auchrannie Hall 2-4pm  
Arran Art Gallery Whiting Bay 11am-6pm  
Crafts Exhibition Lamlash Church hall 2-4pm  
Karaoke/Disco, Drift Inn, Lamlash 9.30pm  
Family Quiz, Kilmory Hall 7.00pm

## SUNDAY 29th January

Family Games Session, Auchrannie, 2-3pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous, St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm  
Mixed Hockey, Ormidale Pavilion 12.30pm  
Childrens Art Class, Burnside Gallery, 10.30 - 1pm  
Arran Art Gallery Whiting Bay 11am-6pm  
Lochranza Choir, village hall 2.30pm  
Open Folk session night, Ormidale, 9pm  
Roots of Arran Tree planting 12pm Lag a'Bheith, Brodick

## MONDAY 30th January

Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am to 12.05pm  
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie, 9.30-10.30am  
Citizens Advice Office, Park Terrace, Lamlash 10am-2pm  
Over 50s Badminton, Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Football coaching, Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm (8-15yrs)  
Lamlash Tennis Club, Lamlash Pavilion, 6pm  
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6-7.15pm  
Badminton, Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Dancercise, Auchrannie, 6.30-7.30pm  
Scottish Country Dancing, W. Bay School, 7.30pm  
Pilates, Auchrannie 7.30 - 8.15pm  
Adult Art Classes, Burnside Gallery, 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30pm

Childrens Art Class, Burnside Gallery 4.00-5.30pm  
Scottish Country Dance class, Corrie Hall, 2pm  
Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm  
Quiz, Cameronia 9.30pm  
Weightwise, Hospital bungalow 6.30pm-7pm  
Arran Parents support group, Brodick church hall, 11am  
Carers Support Group Cruize Bar 11am  
Indoor Cricket Auchrannie Games Hall 7-9pm

## TUESDAY 31st January

Shiskine Brownies, shiskine primary 6.45-8.15pm  
Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am-12.05pm  
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30-10.30am & 10.45-11.45am  
Citizens Advice Bureau, Park Ter, Lamlash 10am-2pm & 4-6pm  
Brodick Toddler Group, Church Hall, 10.30am-noon  
Lochranza Swimming Club, Kinloch, 11am-noon  
Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm  
Jnr Rugby Training, S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm  
Indoor bowls, Auchrannie, 7-9pm  
Arran Rotary Club, Auchrannie Spa Resort, 7.15 for 7.30pm  
Army Cadets, Auchrannie Road, 7.30-9.30pm  
Open Darts night, Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot, 8pm  
Scottish Country Dancing, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Bowling Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2pm  
Citizens Advice open 10am -2pm  
Indoor bowls, Auchrannie Hall 7-9pm  
Carpet Bowls, Kilmory Hall 2.30pm and 7pm  
Art Group, Kilmory hall 2 - 4pm  
Pop quiz, Ormidale Hotel 10pm  
Indoor bowling Corrie & Sannox Hall 2pm  
Quiz, Drift Inn, Lamlash 8.30pm  
Coffee morning, Loch & Catacol Hall 10am - 12pm

## WEDNESDAY 1st February

Advocacy service, drop in session, ACVS office, Lamlash 11am-1pm  
Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am-12.05pm  
W Bay Parents & Toddlers Grp, Church Hall, 10.30am-noon  
Coffee morning 10.30 to noon, Lamlash Church Hall, usual stalls  
Circuit Training, Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 6-7.15pm  
Mini rugby training, Ormidale Pk, 6-7pm  
Mixed Indoor Hockey, Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-8pm  
Arran Runners, meet NTS Castle Car Park, 7.15pm  
Life drawing workshop, Ranger Centre, Brodick Castle, 7-9pm  
NAL Gymnastics Coaching High school gym 10am - noon  
NAL Hockey Coaching Ormidale Park 1-3pm

Gymnastics Auchrannie 6pm and 7.30pm 5yrs plus  
Youth Club, youth centre Lamlash 7-9pm  
Heritage Museum, Archives & Geneology, 10.30 - 12.30pm and 1.30pm -4.30pm  
Aerobics class, Brodick Hall 8pm - 9pm  
Shiskine Beavers, shiskine hall 6-7pm  
Lochranza & Pirmill Toddlers group 10am -11.40am Loch village hall

## THURSDAY 2nd February

Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am-12.05pm  
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30-10.30am & 10.45-11.45am  
Citizen's Advice Office, Park Ter, Lamlash 10am-2pm  
Brodick Toddler Group, Church Hall, 10.30am  
Pilates, Auchrannie, 5.45pm & 6.30pm 6.45-7.30pm  
General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale, Brodick, 10pm  
Pub Quiz, Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot, 9pm  
Power Boat Tarbet and return  
Spinning Demonstration Whiting Bay Hall 11am-2pm  
Gymnastics Auchrannie 1pm pre-school  
Rock School, youth centre Lamlash 7-9pm  
Brodick Embroidery Group, Brodick library, 7.30-9.30pm  
Lamlash Beavers 6-7pm Cubs 6.15 -8pm, Scouts 7.30 - 9pm  
Brodick Bridge Club, McLaren Hotel 7.15pm  
Coffee Morning St Molios church, Shiskine 10.30 - noon  
Citizens Advice open 10am -2pm  
Indoor bowls, Auchrannie Hall 7-9pm  
Badminton, Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm Adults 7.30 - 9pm  
Arran Junior Singers choir practice, W/Bay school 6.45pm  
Shiskine Cubs, shiskine hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
Shiskine Scouts, shiskine hall 8-9.30pm  
Arran Music & Drama, Brodick hall 7.30pm

## FRIDAY 3rd February

Citizens Advice Bureau, Park Ter, Lamlash, 10am-2pm  
Shiskine Toddlers, Shiskine Hall, 10am-noon  
Arran Pipe Band practice, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Quiz night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9.30pm  
Citizens Advice open 10am - 2pm  
Seniors Badminton Club, Auchrannie 2-4pm  
Mothers & Toddlers, Kilmory Hall 10.30 - 12pm  
Ceilidh Dance Group Corrie Hall 8pm - 10pm  
Coffee morning, Loch & Catacol Hall 10am - 12pm

## SATURDAY 4th February (non regulars)

Lochranza Ladies lunch, Catacol Bay Hotel 12.30pm  
Arabian Hafla, Kinloch Hotel 7.30pm

## BANNER BANNER LEISURE LEISURE

### Shiskine Playgroup DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Saturday 11th February

Disco with the News Band and DJ Stevie G  
Shiskine Hall 9pm - 1am Licensed

#### Tuesday 14th February

St Valentines Disco  
Shiskine Hall  
Playgroup thru to Primary 7  
6pm - 7.30pm £2 entry (includes juice and crisps)

#### Thursday 2nd March

Basket Whist Drive  
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7pm start  
Book your table with Fiona on 860312  
Please bring a raffle prize

#### Friday 17th March

Annual Auction  
Shiskine Hall  
7pm start (viewing from 6pm) Cheese and Wine  
For uplift of goods phone  
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### Kilmory Hall Family Quiz

Saturday 28th  
January  
7.00pm

Bring your own  
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10.30am every Monday  
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**ISLE OF ARRAN**

**A Little  
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Saturday 28th January  
From 9.30pm

**Cathy's  
Quiz night**  
Tuesday 31st Jan  
From 8.30pm

Shore Road, Lamlash (next to Bowling Green)  
TEL: 01770 600270

## Lamlash Church

Exhibition of Crafts by members  
of the congregation  
Saturday 28th January. 2pm - 4pm in the  
Church Hall  
Admission £2.00 (including tea and biscuits)

### Arran Music & Drama Club

## Jumble Sale

Saturday 4th February  
in Brodick Hall at  
12 noon until 3pm

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## North Ayrshire Branch UNISON AGM

For all Arran Members  
Wednesday 1st February  
5.00pm  
Council Offices, Lamlash

## GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Armitage Groundworks Ltd  
of The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU  
is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers at the operating centre at The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use of enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic area, J Floor, Argyle House, Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\* between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays. Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below within the specified time from the date of publication of this notice. Any representations received will be open to public view.

\*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992

Applications for planning permission - Notice to be published in accordance with Article 12(5) Written comments to be made within 14 days.

Application No N/06/00029/OPP Address Site To The West of Lilybank Cottage, Montrose Terrace, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development Erection of detached dwelling house

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

Application No N/05/01102/PP Address Greenbank, Corrie, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8JP Proposed Development Installation of new windows

Ian Snodgrass  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES** **BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**

## CHANGE TO GP SURGERY TIMES

INGLEWOOD SURGERY, SHISKINE  
BRODICK HEALTH CENTRE  
LAMLASH MEDICAL CENTRE

**ON FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY ALL THE GP PRACTICES WILL BE CLOSED  
FROM 12 MIDDAY FOR JOINT TRAINING**

**AN EMERGENCY SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE HOSPITAL  
DURING THIS TIME AND CAN BE ACCESSED ON 600777**

## Kildonan Village Hall AGM

Monday 6th  
February  
7.30pm  
All welcome

## DON'T BE LEFT OUT OF YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD



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Sails, fenders, anchors, outboard.  
On cradle/ road trailer. Various bits  
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MOT to end of  
Jan 2006. Taxed  
to May 2006

Telephone  
01770 302551  
07786 242159

**£1000 o.n.o.**

## FIAT COUPE 20V TURBO

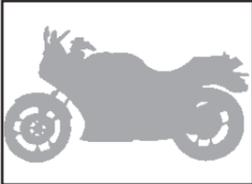


1998, Metallic Black. 83,000  
Miles, Full Leather Interior, 220  
bhp Engine. Tax Apr 2006,  
MOT Oct 2006. Full Service Nov  
2005, plus new tyres

Telephone  
Alastair  
01546  
606544

**£3400 o.n.o.**

## YAMAHA FAZER 600CC



2003, Taxed  
October 2006, low  
mileage, excellent  
condition (with  
restriction kit)

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**£4000 no offers**

## FORD MONDEO 2 LITRE SALOON



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Service History, Air Con,  
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/ immobiliser, economical  
beautiful condition

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**£1895 o.n.o.**

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'93, ABS Brakes,  
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133,000 miles

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07799 504790

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December '95, Taxed  
and Mot until  
December 2006

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long mot, no tax, alloys, nice condition

**£3750**

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01586 552283 or 07789 034353

## NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.2 TD SPORT EDITION

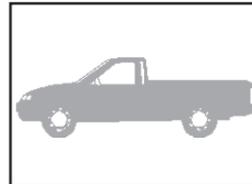


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Metallic Green, FSH,  
35,000 miles, 6 CD  
player, sunroof, air-  
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Sept 2006

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01546  
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Lying Oban. Mooring available in Oban if required

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base, drop side pick-up  
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scarce vehicle, no rust, any  
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07799 164311

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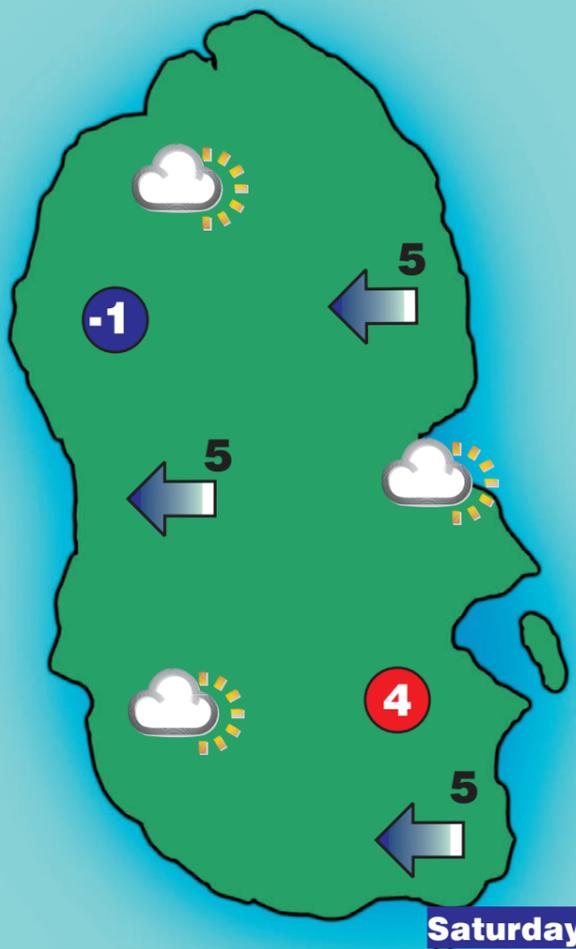
## Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, January 28 2006** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am    |     |       |     | pm    |     |       |      |  |
|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------|--|
| Sat  | 04.17 | 0.7 | 11.18 | 3.0 | 17.00 | 0.3 | 23.37 | 2.9  |  |
| Sun  | 05.11 | 0.5 | 12.03 | 3.2 | 17.48 | 0.1 | **.** | **   |  |
| Mon  | 00.29 | 2.9 | 06.00 | 0.4 | 12.47 | 3.3 | 18.31 | -0.1 |  |
| Tue  | 01.16 | 3.0 | 06.43 | 0.3 | 13.28 | 3.5 | 19.14 | -0.1 |  |
| Wed  | 02.02 | 3.0 | 07.27 | 0.3 | 14.09 | 3.5 | 19.56 | -0.1 |  |
| Thur | 02.43 | 3.1 | 08.10 | 0.3 | 14.49 | 3.6 | 20.40 | 0.0  |  |
| Fri  | 03.21 | 3.1 | 08.54 | 0.4 | 15.29 | 3.5 | 21.26 | 0.1  |  |

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

|                |              |             |              |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Blackwaterfoot | <b>+0.25</b> | Machrie     | <b>+0.25</b> |
| Corrie         | <b>+0.20</b> | Lochranza   | <b>+0.15</b> |
| Whiting Bay    | <b>-0.02</b> | Brodick Bay | <b>+0.25</b> |
| Kildonan       | <b>-0.05</b> |             |              |



**Saturday**

## the weather

**Saturday, January 28**

Dry and cold with clear spells.  
Light easterly winds.

A cold day with temperatures between -1°C and 4°C.

**Sunday, January 29**

A clear day with good sunny spells.  
Light north easterly winds.  
Temperatures between -1°C and 4°C.

**Monday and Tuesday**

Becoming cloudier but mainly dry.  
Temperatures between -1°C and 5°C.  
Light easterly or north easterly winds.

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHURCH NEWS

### Arran Free Church of Scotland

Sunday 29 January  
Shiskine 11am.  
Brodick 7pm.  
Reverend David Karoon.  
All welcome.

### Lamlash, Shiskine, Lochranza and Pirnmill

Sunday 29 January  
Lamlash Church; 11.45am,  
St Molios, Shiskine, 10.00am.  
Both services by  
Mrs Jean Hunter.  
St Brides, Lochranza (Sacrament of the Lord's Supper) 10.30am.  
Service by Rev Kenneth Fisher.  
All welcome.

Note - No service at Pirnmill this Sunday.

### Brodick and Corrie Churches

Worship will be conducted in Brodick Church on Sunday 29 January at 10.45am and in Corrie Church at noon. In each place, the Interim Moderator, Mr Ron Lavalette will declare the churches vacant.

### Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 29 January 2006  
Worship will be conducted by the Worship Group and members of the congregation 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All welcome.

### Arran Open Gate Church (Pentecostal, linked with New Life Church Prestwick)

We are a small group of people meeting in a warm, friendly environment, enjoying lively and meaningful worship in God's presence. New to Arran, or just curious you are most welcome.  
Telephone: 700424

### Kilmory Church

'A faith to proclaim, a fellowship to share'.  
Sunday 29 January  
Public worship and Sunday school at 10am

Visitors especially invited

### Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

### Scottish Episcopal Church (in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
Sunday 29 January: 11.00 am,  
Holy Communion. Mr John Roberts.

Coffee after service.  
Wednesday 1 February: noon  
Holy Communion.  
All Welcome.

### Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 29 January, 11 a.m.  
in the Free Church building,  
Brodick  
(Beside the Post Office)  
Reverend Jack Paterson  
'Quality welcome and

hospitality'  
Discover the meaning of life at ALPHA (Phone 302028 for details)

McLaren Hotel, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday  
All welcome

### Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 29 January  
Trust housing lounge,  
Brodick, 11am.

Evening service, 5 Glen Road, 7pm

Wednesday 01 February,  
prayer meeting, 7pm.

Rev D Macleod.  
All welcome.

### Reverend honoured by joint service

On Sunday 15 January a joint service held in Brodick and Corrie Church to honour Rev Ian MacLeod and was conducted by elders of both congregations.

It consisted of Rev MacLeod's favourite hymns and bible readings from his school days onwards, with reasons given for each choice.

All played their parts well but a special mention must be made of Elma Stevenson who although admitting to being nervous gave the children's address and did it to the manner born. No one was brave enough to preach a sermon.

By the time you read this Rev Ian will perhaps have preached for the last time - his last service officially was held on Sunday 22 January. He and Nancy have planned a trip of a lifetime to Australia and both congregations wish them well for that and for a very happy retirement back home in Corrie.



Married in Kitzbuhel, Austria on Monday 9 January was Valerie, younger daughter of James and Jean Murchie of Alma Park Brodick to Neil son of John and Grace Slater of Burton-On-Trent. *The Banner* featured the wedding of Valerie's sister, Margaret, at Lamlash Register Office in edition 1525. b04wed1

# PERSONALS

## BIRTHDAY



**Happy 21st Ruth**  
Love from Mum, Dad,  
Hannah, Sophie, Claire,  
Robert and Patrick

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Auchrannie**

### Congratulations!!!

Well done to all Auchrannie Leisure staff & school teachers on passing their NARS Pool Lifeguard exam.

All those weeks of training paid off!  
Knew you could do it!

Jillian  
NARS Teacher / Examiner

auchrannie  
Brodick Tel 302234

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**BANNER LEISURE**

BEST WESTERN  
**Kinloch Hotel**

**Kinloch Hotel**  
**Saturday 04th February**  
**Arabian hafla**  
**£15 per person 7.30pm**  
**Middle Eastern Buffet**  
**Dance Demonstration**  
**Catwalk & Souk**  
**To Reserve a Table Call**  
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If so, please call our recruitment advisors, **work** on 0870 243 6021 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) to request an application form. Lines close 3rd February 2006.

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**BRODICK CASTLE SEASONAL STAFF**

The Castle is open from April 1st - October 26th  
Applications are invited for the following Full or Part time posts:  
Room Guides, Reception/Shop Supervisor  
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Applicants should be available to work weekends and bank holidays.  
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# CLASSIFIED

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NIKON FE Camera with various lenses/telephoto, wide angle etc. Offers. Tel 600764  
PACKARD BELL 17" monitor and primary scanner. Tel 07899903737  
LG ELECTRONIC COMPUTER, 1998 with tower, keyboard, mouse, epon stylus printer, speakers and computer desk. £400 ono Tel 860470  
3 PIECE BATHROOM SUITE excellent condition. Pale grey. £75 ono.  
Sofa Bed £30 ono Tel: 01770 860517  
ERCOL WINDSOR dining table with four matching chairs £75. Large Reid two seater sofa. Light green loose covers and feather cushions. Good condition £50 Tel 01770 860463  
HYUNDAI LANTRA 1.6LSI R Reg tax 3/06, mot 11/06 75,000 miles £600 Tel 600547

## Under £30

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SHELVING UNIT with drawers and cupboards, some glass fronted. Tel 850228  
SINGLE DIVAN bed. Good condition £25 Tel 302282  
14" COLOUR TV. Colour printer. 17" CRT monitor. Monks seat. 4 outlet UPS. Tel 302351  
3 PIECE SUITE. Fawn. In good condition. Any reasonable offer. Tel 860344

## Wanted

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## Miscellaneous

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## 'Robbie' to play Kilmory Hall

'Robbie Williams' is coming to Kilmory Hall on Saturday 11 February.

Not the real superstar performer of course, but a lookalike called *Supreme Robbie* with a Robbie Williams tribute band.

Hall manager Ann Rhead said that tickets will be going on sale soon and music-lovers should look out for details in the *Banner*.

Right: Supreme Robbie



## Four nights for drama festival

The 2006 Isle of Arran one-act Drama Festival will run for four nights. This will be the first time for some years that it has extended beyond three nights. There are 14 entries as opposed to eight plays last year. This includes four youth plays, one on each night.

As well as the usual drama clubs there are entries from the Arran Torch Players, Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church Players, a group called Clamjamfrie and a production of 'The Carlin Moth' by Brodick Players.

The festival will run in Lamlash Community Centre from Wednesday 22 February to Saturday 25 February.

## Building new or altering old on Arran?

With so much new building nowadays on Arran it is perhaps a good time to stop and think about the design of houses in rural Scotland.

What can be learnt from traditional buildings and from good modern ones that could help to improve the general quality of today's housing?

A healthy discussion on this

important topic is hoped to be prompted by a double forthcoming initiative of the Arran Civic Trust.

In early February the trust will be holding an exhibition of photographs and publishing its new illustrated pamphlet entitled 'Houses on Arran: Building new or altering old?'

The trust has chosen a wide

range of images from traditional cottages to modern bungalows, in villages and in the open countryside, on Arran and elsewhere in Scotland. The scope embraces not only the siting of buildings but also the finer points of windows, chimneys, cladding, decoration, and many other elements that contribute to the design of a building.

The forthcoming February event

aims to show a variety of ways which could all help to stem the present steady decline in the quality of our environment.

Arran is a unique place, and the trust believes they could do a better job in helping to look after it. The exhibition and pamphlet will be launched at the Burnside Gallery on Sunday 5 February at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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## Arran's future football stars

Boyd Sneddon is perhaps best known as mine-host at the Light-house Tearoom in Pirmill.

However, he is also a keen football fan and a qualified SFA coach. It is these footballing skills that he has been teaching the youngsters of Arran recently.

Under a joint North Ayrshire Leisure and Sports Development and Scottish Football Association scheme he has been training children from three years old up to Primary 5.

The sessions for three to five-year-olds are called Mini-Kickers and the accent is on fun. Some of the ball-playing aspects that Boyd and his team try to get across to the children are patience, rhythm, attention-span, fun and realistic expectations.

The older children are having four one-hour-long sessions called McDonald's Schools Project and sponsored by the burger chain.

Boyd's programme for these youngsters starts with a warm-up and fun game, followed by skills practice, small-sided games, and finally a cool-down.

He pointed out that these small beginnings can lead to a bright future. One current international footballer started out as a three-year-old with Mini-Kickers.

SFA Development Officer Barry Scott said of the camp: 'It is very encouraging to see children from the island taking part.

'The camps benefit the children by providing physical activity while at the same time helping them learn more about the game.'



SFA coach Boyd Sneddon with Primary 5 boys and girls in Brodick Primary School. b04boy2

## Sannox SOS to cricket umpires

SANNOX Cricket Club is sending out an SOS (Save Our Season) to anyone who can take up the position of umpire.

As it stands, Sannox will go into the 2006 season, which will begin in May, with no umpire meaning one of the batting line-up will have to take his place at one end of the crease.

Last season the team played 10 of their 12 matches on the island so the club only expects to travel twice next season.

Matches are played on Sundays and the season will finish in late August/early September.

Arran cricketer Tim Pomeroy said: 'We had an umpire two years ago but he has since moved to Ardrossan and finds it difficult to get to games.

'We're looking for someone to officiate so the batsmen can concentrate on playing the game and you want someone who can remain impartial.

'The umpire would be a committed member of the club.

'Anyone who has an up-to-date knowledge of the rules would be welcomed with open batting gloves.'

Sannox are an ever improving side after finishing joint second last season.

Team training sessions take place in the Auchrannie games hall between 7pm and 9pm.

## Arran teams to contest *Coca-Cola 7s*

ARRAN High School will send a boys and girls team to compete in the first round of the *Coca-Cola 7s* football tournament.

Teams will play for a place in the national finals at Hampden Park. Arran pupils kick-off their

bid to play at Scotland's field of dreams when they travel to Whitletts, Ayr on February 6.

Each team will also receive coaching from former professionals Murdo MacLeod, Gary MacKay and Chic Charnley.



Primary nursery children at Corrie school enjoy a mini-kickers session with Scottish Football Association (SFA) coach Boyd Sneddon of Pirmill. They are: Marcus Fforde, Oisean Gold, Shannon Galbraith, Trefor Goronwy, Hannah Milne and Ross Traill. b04boy1

## Bridge club results

### Brodict

Thursday 19 January  
NS 1 A. McKelvie, J. Maclure +790, 2 I. MacArthur, E. McKellar +430, 3 M. Alexander, M. McGill -1450.

EW 1 J. and J. Murchie +2830, 2 J. and J. Beattie +1750, 3 A. Bilsland, E. Duncan +320

### Lamlash

Monday 23 January: N/S - 1 H.

Boyd & M. Alexander + 730, 2 E. Paul & M. Cumming + 30, 3 J. & J. Murchie - 60. E/W: 1 J. McClure & A. McKelvie + 1710, 2 E. McKellar & I. McArthur + 920, 3 J. & J. Beattie + 750.



## Golf...Golf...Golf...Golf...

### Shiskine Golf Club

Fixtures  
Saturday 28 January - Gents 18 hole medal

Sunday 29 January Ryder cup  
Thursday 2 February ladies 18 hole medal

Sunday 5 February AGA winter league  
Saturday 11 February 18 hole medal

### Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 15 January, Stableford  
1 Jim Henderson 42points, 2 Euan Evans 39points  
CSS 36 points

Sunday 22 January, Glenburn Cup  
1 John O'Sullivan 73-10=63, 2 Ian Bremner 70-5=65. Best scratch Ian Bremner 70

Fixtures  
Sunday 29 January, Winter

Stableford 9.30am and noon starts.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Fixtures - Sunday 29 - medal.  
Draws at 9.30am and 11am.

### Corrie Golf Club

January 21 - Winter Cup Medal.  
1 J Rae 71-14=57, 2 E McKinnon 62-4=58 (bih).

One Magic Two. Fixtures January 28 - Sweep - draw at noon.

### Brodick Golf Club

Clochendichter  
Sunday, January 22 was the first round of singles. Knowe and Street drew 4-4.

Alma had a barrow victory over the Village 4.5-3.5.

League points:  
Street 25; Knowe 22; Village 17; Alma 16.

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