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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 31 JANUARY, 2009

No 1685



Ian Small with one of his road signs warning of Arran Roads Slowly Eroding Down.  
 b05roa01

## I'll risk arrest says sign man

Arran Community Councillor Ian Small expects to be arrested for putting these special signs around the island today warning of the appalling state of Arran roads.

Roads have been a cause for complaint for many years. Despite the best efforts of North Ayrshire Council, the condition of the roads has deteriorated and potholes seem to appear everywhere. Now one Brodick resident has had enough. Ian Small recently had an accident in his van after hitting a pothole in Lamlash. He said: 'It cost me over £1,000 in repairs. Andy Pattison

of Pirnmill and John Adams have had similar nasty experiences. We've had enough.'

Ian has had these signs specially made in the same style as the BEAR signs that warn of defects on mainland roads. They should be appearing in various spots around the island today (Friday). 'I want people to ring the two numbers if they think the roads are bad,' he said. 'Maybe then the politicians will put some proper money into Arran roads. I don't care if I get arrested; it will be worth it.' The two telephone numbers are the local council offices and police station.

# 14 day lifeline for Aromatics

'Window of opportunity to attract additional new investment and ensure survival' - MSP Kenneth Gibson

Arran Aromatics was offered a lifeline this week and given a further two weeks to pay a huge tax bill.

According to Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has given Arran Aromatics until February 13 to stabilise the company and resolve outstanding difficulties.

Last week the Arran Banner reported that the island based toiletries and candle manufacturer was expected to pay a £180,000 unpaid tax bill by last Friday.

On Tuesday Mr Gibson MSP said: 'I have again been in touch directly with HMRC. In consultation with Minister for Enterprise Jim Mather MSP and Halifax Bank of Scotland, HMRC has given Arran Aromatics an extended period of grace up until Friday February 13 to stabilise the company and resolve outstanding difficulties.'

'This window of opportunity gives the company a chance to attract additional new investment and ensure survival.'

Mr Gibson said that while he is confident that the Arran Aromatics brand will survive, the issue now is ensuring that



MSP Kenneth Gibson

it survives and thrives on Arran and continues to manufacture on the island.

'I have provided Strategy Consultants, who are assisting with the implementation of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, with phone numbers and email addresses of the relevant Arran Aromatics, HBOS and HMRC contacts,' said the MSP.

This week, Arran Aromatics managing director Alastair Rennick was unavailable for comment however, a person claiming to be an employee of the company wrote a lengthy piece on The Banner community forum concerning the company's recent actions.

The employee wrote: 'Arran Aromatics is in no imminent threat to all jobs on the island.'

Having worked for them for some considerable period, I am more than comfortable with that statement.

'The situation concerning the banks was due to the economic climate and the issue with HMRC. The bank decided, as all banks have with small companies in the economic downturn, that they could not offer Aromatics the same line of credit facility as previously held.'

'The bank wrongly held the company to ransom, thus freezing their accounts and putting the livelihood and families of employees at risk. However, the company have paid off most of the credit facility at the bank's request, not that there was much doubt that they could, and have continued to promote a strong outcome to their work force.'

'Admittedly, there were mistakes made and the bank panicked in light of the frightener put in a national newspaper, and taking the matter to court.'

Mr Gibson added: 'A modest stay of execution from HMRC has been won, however there is a long hard road ahead before the company is out of the woods.'



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## Cally Isles back in record time

Arran's own ferry, *MV Caledonian Isles* came back into service last Sunday after one of the quickest annual services on record.

Caledonian MacBrayne regional manager Robbie Brown said: 'It's the fastest service turnaround I can ever recall. She was away for just two weeks up in the Garvel dock at Port Glasgow.'

### Mechanical problems

As reported in the Banner, the *Cally Isles* was in need of repair work to the gearbox after mechanical problems in the weeks running up to Christmas.

Robbie said: 'It was mostly engine work this time, including fitting a new clutch.'

'In the passenger areas there is a new carpet in the lobby and new coverings on some bulkheads, a few additional lights and some upholstery work in the front Goatfell lounge.'

'Her sea trials were quite satisfactory but the crew worked exceptionally hard to clean her up on Friday and Saturday to come back in service for the first sailing on Sunday.'

Relief ferry *MV Clansman* left the Arran run at 8.45pm on Saturday and headed off to Barra.

She called in at Coll and Castlebay to drop off the passenger ramps used for the two weeks at Ardrrossan and Brodick.

The *Clansman* arrived in Stornoway at 3.20pm on Sunday ready to take up the Stornoway to Ullapool sailings.



Brodick Castle. b05cas01

## Brodick Castle to open five days

Brodick Castle, one of the island's premier visitor attractions, will be open to the public for five days a week this season.

From Sunday to Thursday it will operate as normal and on Fridays and Saturdays it will only be open for pre-booked coach parties and specialised tours. This is seen by the Trust as the best way of cutting costs

while still being fully open on the busiest days of the week.

Castle administrator Ken Thorburn feels that this is good news following warnings from the National Trust for Scotland earlier this month that some properties including Brodick Castle may have to close for two days a week due to revenue losses across the board.

Dee MacIntosh, director of

policy and communication for NTS said: 'We have completed a cost saving plan for Brodick Castle that will be ratified by the Trust's board sometime in early February.'

'At the moment these plans include proposals to restrict access to the castle on a Friday and a Saturday - these are the changeover days so they tend to be quieter.'

# Staff cuts at Arran Brewery

'We have always bottled some of our ales in Hull but we have decided to increase the volume in recent months' - Gerald Michaluk

Arran Brewery has been forced to make four staff members redundant after deciding to bottle the majority of the company's beer on the mainland.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said that the company would only fill bottle conditioned ales on Arran, the other beers will be bottled in Hull.

Mr Michaluk is the managing director of Marketing Management Services International Limited (MMSI), the company that bought the brewery from Richard and Elisabeth Roberts in May last year.

He said: 'Four staff members in total have been let go but one is on non-paid extended leave so they may well be brought back into the company sometime in the future.'

'We have always bottled some of our ales in Hull but we have decided to increase the volume in recent months.'

He told The Banner that despite having to make redundancies at the firm, the business

was doing well.

Hilary Jones has recently been appointed operations director at the brewery. She will be based on the mainland but will spend a lot of time on the island.

'I'm really excited about the brewery's future,' she said. 'I previously worked for Scottish Newcastle breweries in Edinburgh so I have a lot of experience in brewery operations. In the next couple of months I will be looking at the best way to run the brewery here on Arran to help the business grow and improve.'

Marketing Management Services International Limited (MMSI) bought the Arran Brewery Company for an undisclosed sum in May last year after administrators were called in.

The Arran Brewery opened to full production at Cladach in February 2000 and has received many awards for the quality of Arran Blonde and Arran Ale.

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# Good old Irish knees-up for Tom's birthday

Tom Dolan of Brodick celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday last Saturday night with a grand party at the McLaren Hotel.

Fourteen of his family had made the trip over from Ireland for the occasion.

They were joined by many local friends for a buffet and a good old Irish knees-up.

Music was provided by an Arran folk group assembled for the evening at short notice by Joe Trickett, comprising Donal Boyle on fiddle, Jon Hollingworth and George Pettigrew on guitar and Joe on his squeezebox.

Tom came to Arran 30 years ago from his native County Longford in the Irish Midlands. He came with a construction company to work on the new sewer pipeline running from Brodick Primary School to Pellegrini's café (where the Book and Card Shop is now).

### Finished

After 12 months the job was finished and the company moved on, but Tom stayed.

In November 1980 he married local girl Helen Dickie and they set up home in Brathwic Place.

Over the years he has turned his hand to a variety of occupations ranging from running the bar at the Ormidale for Tommy Gilmore to building work with John Corbett and John Thomson Construction.

On Monday he said: 'It was so good to see the family all together and so many friends helping me to celebrate. The staff at the McLaren have done a wonderful job in looking after them all. All the family left on the 11.05am boat and there were a few tears.'

'We'll have to have another party when I'm 80.'



Tom and Helen Dolan, centre, with family James, Patrick and Katherine Dolan, Charlie, Michelle, Nicole, Shannon and Sinead Gallagher, Tom and Marion Farrell, Larry and Maureen Hughes, Joe and Margaret Callaghan and Franchesca Griffin. b05tom01



Arran folk group playing at Tom Dolan's birthday party. They are; Donal Boyle, Jon Hollingworth, George Pettigrew and Joe Trickett. b05mus01

## News from Arran Music and Drama Club

Last Thursday evening, Brodick Village Hall echoed to the sound of lots of laughter as the Arran Music and Drama Club held the first run through of the hilarious lines from their next musical.

*The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* is a most entertaining show that is very funny with a number of catchy songs in a Bluegrass style.

New musical director, David Payn, the conductor of Arran Brass, is leading the club in their newest musical venture that will be performed over

several nights in May. The group have also been encouraged by the number of new people – of all ages – who have joined this year.

However, there is still time for more to people to join. If you would like to be a part of the fun with Arran Music and Drama Club then come along to Brodick Hall on Thursday at 7.30pm.

The club are holding their annual Jumble Sale today (Saturday January 31) in Brodick Hall from 12pm to 3pm. See you all then!

## Cycle signs before summer

A series of road signs designed to warn drivers of the presence of cyclists are to be implemented along the road between Brodick and Corrie before the summer.

Councillor Margie Currie said: 'The council will be erecting dedicated cycle signs at strategic points on the road verge. They have authority to do this without a public consultation and I have been assured that it will be in place for this summer season.'

The death of a cyclist on one of Arran's roads last summer prompted concerned islanders to campaign for a safer route for bicycle users.

Since then Councillor Currie and North Ayrshire Council's access officer Louise Kirk have taken action to improve the safety of the road.

## Police Files

### Coal theft

Five bags of coal were reported as stolen from Claveron Cottage in Lamlash between 4pm and 4.20pm last Wednesday. Following police enquiries two Lamlash youths were charged with the theft and a report sent to the Children's Reporter.

### Breach of the peace

A 25-year-old Stewarton man was arrested and charged with alleged breach of the peace at 8pm in the McLaren Hotel, Brodick on Tuesday.

He was due to appear at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on Wednesday.

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## Fiona Tinto

of Lamlash graduated with a BA(Hons) in English Literature and Theatre Studies at Trinity College, Dublin.

# A family's farewell to Sandy Lyle

Sandy Lyle was the son of George and Bette Lyle of Whiting Bay who have made Arran their home for 40 years after a lifetime of family holidays on the island.

Having been brought up, lived, married and had three sons in London, Sandy had lived the final years of his life in Llandovery, South Wales.

When he knew he was going to die his request was that he be cremated there and his ashes taken home to Arran and scattered on the beach at Kildonan. His love of Arran was lifelong.

The family and close friends came from London, Stirling, Glasgow, Lamlash and Whiting Bay for the occasion.

Seventeen of them were together at the stunning setting of the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday morning.

When Sandy was younger and his parents lived in Colliebeg, it was just a quick walk through the field to the Kildonan Hotel bar.

Sandy's ex-wife, Christine, had gone for a stroll there ear-

lier in the morning with her son and his fiancé, when she took a tumble and had to be driven back to the War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash. X-rays confirmed that she had broken her wrist!

It was a traumatic start to the proceedings.

She managed to get back to the hotel with her wrist immobilised, and the 'ceremony' began.

Jenny, Sandy's sister, read the words of the poem from the Queen Mother's funeral: 'You can shed tears that he is gone, or you can smile because he lived...' and said a few words about her brother.

### Ashes Scattered

Leaving his mother Bette in the hotel, the group moved down to the beach, where his ashes were scattered, along with those of his much loved lurcher dog, Sable, who had died earlier and whose own ashes he had kept close to him.

It was very fitting that both should rest together. It was a sad but poignant moment,



In a fitting end to a lifelong love of Arran, Sandy Lyle's ashes were scattered on Kildonan beach last weekend.

with a beautiful lament played on the pipes by young Andrew Earle of Kilmory.

Plenty of tears were shed, but it seemed such a fitting end on the beautiful windswept beach.

After a toast of champagne to Sandy on the shore, the group returned to the hotel for lunch, then all met up again that evening for a dinner at Auchrannie; a fitting end to quite a day. JS

## First Responders talk for Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club

What would our Island do without its volunteers?

An excellent talk and power point presentation by Chris Traill, ably assisted by Fiona Laing, put the residents of Corrie and Sannox at ease to learn, that although the First Responders duties lay from Whitefarland to Lochranza, they were prepared to respond to a call out to our villages should it be necessary.

It was a surprise to all that these volunteers, the first line of assistance in an emergency, were

responsible not only for the maintenance but the provision of their expensive equipment, for training at their own expense and for upgrading their skills regularly and in their own time, through exams.

They demonstrated simple first aid to CPR. Alastair Aitkenhead hopes to hold a ceilidh to fundraise to support this very worthwhile group, the members of Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club, providing the supper.

Please support them.

## Arran Music Festival 2009

This is a reminder for all Arran Music Festival performers – individuals and groups – that your entry forms should all be sent in by Monday February 10.

All schools have copies of the poems and syllabuses are still available at many island shops.

If you have difficulty in obtaining a syllabus or entry form please contact the festival secretary Tony Smith on 700203.



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# Spirit of hope for Britain

Following the recent election of Barack Obama as US President and the consequent lift in morale of the American people, Arran's councillor Margie Currie questions whether Britain can also bounce back from the credit crunch and recession in the economy.

If we take stock where is the UK today in global terms?

Is there any government capable of taking these islands forward? I can't see it myself so I am a little envious of the spirit of hope in America.

Over the last 10 years the UK government has forced every EU constraint on our industry without us enjoying many of the true benefits of European free trade.

We may be experiencing the credit crunch but if those of us who have been prudent and responsible are to continue to be punished for this by the falling value of assets plus a practically nil rate of interest on savings accounts where is the incentive to rise from the ashes?

Low interest rates are essential for businesses and mortgage holders in this recession but this could be provided by government loans, and savers should continue to receive a modest rate of interest otherwise any incentive for investment totally destroyed.

## Adherence

Britain's move from heavy industry was to lighter engineering such as the motor trade, which is now also rapidly going down. The UK adherence to work to rule and to interpret literally every EU directive has rendered us uncompetitive in many spheres.

Manufacturing industries which produced the wealth in this country from the industrial revolution until the mid-20th



Councillor Margie Currie.

b05mar01

century have been replaced by modern electronics in which we have been surpassed by China, Japan and the Far East and the financial sector - that virtual world that has brought our reputation and our economy to its knees.

We have exported our greatest medics and scientists over many years often because they were constrained in their work by practices in the UK.

Sterling is no longer a force in the world economy. Britain is only half in the European Union. We thought that we had something worth preserving in this country that kept us from fully integrating with the EU but we have fallen between two stools.

Scotland, however, would stand a better chance if it was a full member of the EU in its own right. UK tourism survives by a thread (and a weak pound) on the strength of our history and the Monarchy.

The latest EU Working Time Directive for the 48-hour work-

ing week is the next nail in our coffin.

Wealth or success was never created by people who counted the hours they worked. Employment law is important to prevent exploitation, but to enforce a maximum working time on those who are fit and able and willing to work longer hours is economically suicidal.

## Deluding

Britain still deploys the armed forces as if we were a global power, but we are deluding ourselves if we believe that. Socially, morally, and historically we may have distinguish-

ing attributes but our reputation globally falls short of our own self-beliefs. Barack Obama may have phoned Gordon Brown but in truth we are pretty low on the USA radar.

Back to work is usually the answer at such junctures but we need to find the work first. We might start by recognising the prudence of securing a home-grown food supply. Coupled with self sufficiency in energy we might then have a more sustainable country.

We must all live in hope, but I can't quite see the equivalent of the Obama Bounce in this country.

## Fiona dances her way to success



Fiona Clarke, back, with Arran's only other highland dancer, Heather Snowdon.

b05dan01

Arran's senior highland dancer, Fiona Clarke of Shiskine, went to a dancing competition in Erskine last Saturday and won six medals and two trophies.

This was her first time competing on the mainland and

she was delighted with her trophy haul. Fiona and her mum Liz will be making their way to the ferry again this Saturday for a dancing competition in Denny and again on February 22 for another one in Clydebank.

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# Arran's Social Scene

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Robbie Duncan, Tommy Gilmore Len Hartley and Russell Duncan prepare to enjoy the fare. b05bur01



Colin Currie and Jock Kelso. Colin quipped to our photographer 'You'll need to go a bit further back to get me all in.' b05bur02



Young Struan Robertson and Allan Nicol. b05bur03

## Lamlash Burns Club Supper

It was 'men only' in Brambles Restaurant, Auchrannie last Saturday night as the men of Lamlash Burns Club held their annual homage to the Bard.

Around 60 men gathered to celebrate Burns Night and in particular the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Burns' birth.

The club was formed in 1921 and for many years the supper was held in the Whitehouse Hotel in Lamlash. Following the demolition of the hotel in 1984 the club has moved to a variety of venues including Steamers, Andy's Place and The Moorings – all the same Lamlash bar but under different names. It has been to the Kingsley in Brodick and more recently to Brambles at Auchrannie.

The 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary sup-

per was held at Andy's Place in 1989 with Russell Duncan presiding and Archie Nicol giving the Selkirk Grace. Both gentlemen were present last Saturday to once again enjoy a varied programme of entertainment but one club stalwart missing was Henry McNicol of Brodick who is recovering from a knee operation.

### Recitation

Jake Kerr gave the welcoming speech as president of the club and introduced 11-year-old Struan Robertson to give a recitation to the haggis. Willie McNish of Kildonan said grace and Brian Allison of Alma Park and Kilwinning addressed the haggis which had been piped in by Willie Robertson.

Archie Nicol sang *Mary Morrison* and fiddle music was

played by Paraig McKay and Alastair Paul, accompanied by Bob Lees on piano.

Colin Hunter gave *The Immortal Memory*, followed by Sandy Sloss singing *The Star o' Rabbie Burns*.

Allan Nicol gave a spirited rendition of *Holy Willie's Prayer* and Jock Kelso made the *Toast to the Lassies*. In a change to the programme, Jock also gave *Death and Dr Hornbrook* in place of Ken Currie.

The Toast to the Lamlash Burns Club was made by Neil Arthur and replied to by Tommy Gilmore.

Colin Currie rounded off the evening with a vote of thanks to the caterers and artists which he ended with his late father's own immortal words 'Let's give them another wee clap.'



Andy Perrie and Donald MacKay enjoy Neil Arthur's toast to the club while president Jake Kerr studies his notes. b05bur04



Club stalwart Archie Nicol. b05bur06



Paraig McKay entertained on the fiddle. b05bur07

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## 'Due to adverse weather'

Yvonne Brothers of Lamlash loves living on Arran but just dreads the thought of the ferry crossing to Ardrossan in winter.

The Caledonian Isles has had a particularly unsettled spell of disruptions in recent weeks. Most people take this with a philosophical shrug of the shoulders but Yvonne finds it hard to bear. She has an aversion to rough seas and disrupted sailings to the extent that she has penned a witty poem about this phobia that many islanders share to a greater or lesser degree.

'Due to adverse weather' –  
You don't even have to wait  
to hear the end of message,  
you already know your fate.

The shopping trip is  
cancelled,  
the holiday's on hold,  
the boat's not going at all  
today,  
'The wind's too bad,' we're  
told.

I hate the boat, I hate the  
sea,  
I don't know why I'm here,  
I spend the winter months on  
Arran  
living in great fear.

I miss my daily paper,  
I miss my daily bread,  
when the wind is whistling  
round the house  
I just go back to bed.

I feel like hibernating  
and waking up in spring  
to see a calm and glistening  
sea,  
Oh, what a wonderful thing.

It's time we had a tunnel,  
or maybe even a plane  
to cross that stretch of water  
and 'no come back again.'

I really love this island  
and the peaceful way of life,  
but the vagaries of this flip-  
pin' boat  
are causing me such strife.

Disruption still continues,  
the Co-op shelves are bare,  
I can't get any food at all  
for my man and I to share.

Everyone's complaining  
but the captain's taking care  
to ensure that we are safe on  
board  
and that, I find, quite fair.

Global warming is upon us,  
the weather's getting worse,  
depending on a b..... boat,  
it really is a curse!



## Girl power for Ella's party

Ella Kerr of Kings Cross celebrated her tenth birthday last week with a party for ten of her friends. The girls had a great time playing music and games in the house and then went to the Screen Machine in Brodick to see the film Madagascar 2. Birthday girl Ella, front centre, with her partying friends in Kings Cross. b05bir01

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

We've all been there. Standing at the front of a busy queue in a petrol station south of the border trying to pay for fuel with a Scottish £20 note.

The cashier holds it up to the light and squints at it looking dismayed. 'Sorry, we don't accept foreign currency here,' she says. You reply, 'It's not foreign, it's Scottish.'

'We don't accept Scottish notes in England.'

Why don't they? Scottish sterling is equal to English sterling in every monetary way. But because our note has a picture of Lord Ilay on the back, the first governor of the Royal Bank of Scotland, instead of Her Majesty the Queen, it is not acceptable.

Scotland's only Conservative MP, David Mundell, is trying to resolve this situation by changing legislation at Westminster. If successful it would mean English shops and businesses would have to accept Scottish currency – by law.

In Scotland, three banks retain the right to print their own money – the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Bank of Scotland and the Clydesdale Bank – but the force of law anywhere in the UK does not back these banknotes.

The root of the problem is that while Bank of England notes circulate widely in Scotland, Scottish notes are rarely seen in England outside of the Border regions.

There is something of a vicious circle here.

Traders are reluctant to accept them because their customers don't want them in their change because they think traders won't accept them.

Perhaps a simple campaign in England to raise awareness of Scottish notes and their acceptability would suffice.

It's 40 years since the much loved, and much missed, Shiski Diski started in Shiskine. Looking through The Banner archives it is interesting to see that the famous disco was mentioned only a handful of times over the years in a positive light. There are a couple of articles about disco dancing competitions but the other pieces tend to focus on a campaign by disgruntled residents to shut the disco down.

Over the years, particularly in the late 1980s, there seems to have been a letter written into the paper nearly every week complaining about the noise and disruption caused to residents of Shiskine every Wednesday night.

Buses full of youngsters from every corner of the island would steam into Shiskine every week as the Shiski Diski was the place to go.

Everyone of a certain age who lived here or spent summers on Arran has stories to tell of the Shiski Diski.

Now there are no more complaints about the noise just quiet reminiscences of the Arran's number one disco and the great times enjoyed there.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. (Psalms 30:5)

## press policy

WE AT *The Arran Banner* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a local newspaper.

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

This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

*The Arran Banner* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Arran Banner* are not necessarily those of the The Oban Times Group.

## your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Train telly theft

Sir,  
I would like to draw your attention to an incident that happened on the 11.26am train from Paisley to Ardrossan Harbour this week.

Sitting opposite me was my new television still in its original box. It was too big and bulky to sit any closer to me.

The carriage was empty apart from three females. Two mainland teenagers no older than 17 walked up and down the carriage.

I was carefully protecting my handbag when at speed one of the youths appeared from no-where, grabbing my TV and made a dash for the door opening at Stevenston. Instinctively I went after him, he dropped the telly and bolted out of the train.

With my statement, CCTV in the station and train, the Transport Police hope to catch

the offending youths.

Please be ultra careful how and where you carry your belongings whilst travelling on the train because it's an experience I wouldn't like anyone else to go through.

I would especially like to thank Sheila Gilmore for her care and attention.

Yours,  
**Shona Cannon  
Lamlash**

### Burns on roads

Sir  
To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, how about printing his Epigram to Roads from 1786.

I had not read this work until recently; it is taken from the 1912 Oxford edition of his works.

I'm now arrived, thanks to the gods!

Thro' pathways rough and muddy,  
A certain sign that making

roads

Is not this people's study.

And tho' I'm not with scriptures crammed,

I'm sure the bible says

That heedless sinners shall be dammed

Unless they mend their ways.

Yours,  
**Dave Freeman  
Lamlash**

### Corrie road plans

Sir,  
Myself and Alan Beasley have just had a good meeting with North Ayrshire Council in Ardrossan regarding all things on the Brodick to Corrie road.

By our next meeting in February we will be shown the proposals for making the road safer with signs and lines, etc.

Unfortunately they can't make the re-arranged date of the 24th so we've altered it again to Monday February 16, 11am Ormidale Pavilion.

Hope this still suits everyone.

We are also hoping to have another meeting with a different dept of NAC regarding the multi user trail and so should also have more information regarding that at the meeting. This message is also going to Harry Davidson as an invitation to attend the meeting along with John Inglis and Campbell Laing from the Community Council.

We would like the road scheme discussed at the Community Council meeting on the 24th. Anyone else on the island who wants to comment on the published plans can do so by responding to the Community Council in time for their meeting.

All being well, this whole process will be quite swift allowing NAC to do the work before Spring.

Yours,  
**Gerard Tattersfield  
Westfield, Lamlash**



## Weddings

Left: Holly Miller of Arran and Craig Beedie of Brechin were married on Friday January 16 in the Dominican Republic. The couple were joined by 20 of their close family and friends to celebrate the special occasion. They have now returned to running their small hotel in Banchory, Royal Deeside.

Below: The family group photo of Holly and Craig Beedie's wedding on the beach in the Dominican Republic. From left, Holly's sister Lauren, Holly's parents Graeme and Lynda, the bride Holly, Craig's mother Pat, the groom Craig, Craig's sister Kaye, Holly's brother and sister Mark and Joanne.



Above: James Primrose, originally of Lochranza and now living in London, was married to Karina Van Den Bergh of Felixstowe on September 20 last year.

The couple agreed that a photo for *The Arran Banner* seemed a little overdue!



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# Damp, cold weather doesn't concern Cairnhouse riders

The first Arran Winter Points show of the New Year got off to a damp and cold start last Sunday at Cairnhouse Riding Centre in Blackwaterfoot.

Postponed from two weeks previously due to the terrible weather, the conditions were not great but there was a good turn out and the day did improve.

Fifteen were put forward for the Wobbly Classes. Twelve went clear in the first round and eight in round two.

The following six made it round double clear to earn themselves three points on the leader board: Lauren MacAlister, Abbie MacAlister, Hannah Bone, Amie Latona and Emma Hill.

Shannon MacAlister flew round in 38.66 seconds on her own horse Rosie to pick up the five points on offer for riding the fastest double clear.

As this is the third time Shannon has won this class now with Rosie they can no longer compete in the wobblers for points.

The Duster Badge changed hands a couple of times in the first two classes. Erin and Taylor both took a tumble from their mounts, however no bones were broken and both lived to tell the tale!

Sixteen were entered for the novice class and 10 of them went round clear and into a jump off against the clock over the shortened course.

Amy Downard was drawn in first on Molly and was unlucky to claim duster number three.

Megan MacAlister set a super time and clear in 24.87 seconds for the others to chase. They held onto their lead until the fifth to go Nicola MacAlister, riding Taylor's pony Bing, came in and rode a lovely round in 24.59 seconds to take the red rosette.

Novice: 1 Nicola McAlister on Bingham's Pageboy, 2 Megan McAlister on Ally, 3 Lynn Ramage on Katie, 4 Amy Downard on Merlin, 5 Emma on Dynah and 6 Hannah on Lilly.

Twelve braved the elements

for the Mini Challenge where the maximum height is 2'3". Lauren was first in and easily jumped the 100 with Fudge to return with a top score of 145.

Sherlea MacDonald rode a lovely round on Molly and went into the lead with 210.

Next in was the on form Nicola and Bing.

They jumped the 100 both ways effortlessly and came home scoring 340.

Anna and Laura won both the junior and the senior duster badges again in fine style.

Nicola held onto her lead right up until the last competitor Nicola Currie came in riding her own Dolly.

Jumping nine fences in total, she came back with a great top score of 370 to win the class and earn herself the six points.

Mini Challenge: 1 Nicola Currie on Dolly, 2 Nicola McAlister on Bingham's Pageboy, 3 = Emma on Dynah and Megan McAlister on Ally, 5 = Sherlea MacDonald on Malakye and Amie Latona on Merlin.

The clear round class had the following seven ride a clear for the three points available: Lauren McAlister, Amy Downard, Megan McAlister, Amie Latona, Emma, Lynn Ramage and Nicola Currie.

Cairnhouse Challenge: 1 Amie Downard 270, 2 Nicola McAlister 130, 3 Lynn Ramage 115, 4 Amie Latona 100, 5 Megan McAlister 100, 6 Nicola Currie 90.

The next winter points is on Sunday February 8, weather permitting!



## Catching up on Arran's news in Florida

Arran's weekly newspaper has become quite the jet setter over the past few weeks.

So far we have published photographs of The Banner being read by holidaymakers in Tripoli, Peru and Gran Canaria and New York.

This week Gary Wilson from Brodick sent us a pic-

ture of himself catching up on the island's news while at his holiday villa in Florida, USA.

### Hot and Sunny

He said that the weather was hot and sunny every day with not a single drop of rain.

If you are planning to take a holiday remember to take your

copy of the Banner with you. It could be from Coatbridge or Casablanca, it doesn't really matter, we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to [editorial@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editorial@arranbanner.co.uk) or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8RJ. b05ban01NO

## A Scottish tenner is as good as an English tenner

Attempts are being made at Westminster to make it legally binding for shops and businesses in England to accept Scottish banknotes.

At the moment traders south of the border can refuse to take such notes.

Jackson Carlaw, conservative MSP for the West of Scotland which includes Arran, has welcomed the legislation that would see Scottish banknotes on an equal basis as English banknotes.

'Many people, myself included, have tried to pay with

Scottish banknotes in other parts of the UK, only to find them questioned or refused,' he said. 'This is exasperating. When Scottish notes are refused it can even leave people unable to pay for products or services they cannot return, such as after a meal, after filling up at a petrol station or at the end of a taxi journey.'

### Banknotes

'There's absolutely no excuse. Scottish banknotes are every bit as good as English banknotes. That's something everyone working in shops

or other parts of the service economy anywhere in the UK should know.'

The legislation would require all providers of goods or services in the UK, which accept Bank of England notes, to take Scottish banknotes on an equal basis.

In Scotland, three banks retain the right to print their own money - the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Bank of Scotland and the Clydesdale Bank.

These banknotes are not backed by the force of law anywhere in the UK.

## Arran livestock sales

United Auctions, Stirling had forward 821 store cattle and 3,672 cast tups, ewes and store lambs at their Kildean auction mart last Wednesday January 14.

### Cattle

Limousin cross bullock stirks £530, 202p Glenree. Limousin cross heifer stirks £440, 184p Glenree.

### Sheep

Mule lambs £44.50 Drumaghinier Texel cross lambs £69 and £67.50 Craigdhu, Kilpatrick and Sheddock £53, Springfield £47.50. Cheviot lambs £45.50 Cosyden. Suffolk cross lambs £55 Sheddock. Blackface lambs £34 Drumaghinier, £30 Ceither Gaithe. Cross ewes £29.50 Sheddock. Blackface ewes £30 Drumaghinier. Cross tups £42 Springfield.

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# Shiski Diski, an island institution

## It all started one hot night in the



The first of the legendary Shiski Diskis took place 40 years ago and on Saturday February 14 the equally legendary DJ Charles Currie will be rolling back the years in Shiskine Village Hall.

It all started one hot night in the summer of 1967, when the first pop records were played at a dance in Shiskine Hall.

This momentous occasion shaped the social life of young people on Arran for next 40 years as the Shiski Diski had been born.

### Promised

A large number of teenagers, including local boy Charles Currie, had turned up that night and been promised that modern pop 45s were going to be allowed after the accordion band had finished.

'Patience has never been the most prominent trait of teenag-

ers and as we all stood at the bottom end of the hall cat-whistling and heckling the dancers, it was not the least acrimonious hand over from dance to pop,' said Charles.

That summer saw Sandy MacAlister and Duncan Robertson volunteering as disc jockeys on the one turntable that was available.

Enthused by the magic of the summer, Charles set up Phoenix Discotheque along with friends Dougie Maclean and Raymond Miller and they started to fill in between bands at the Northcoat Boy Scout hall in Glasgow's West End.

'We had a home made deck unit which originally contained two Garrard turntables and two leads to separate channels of a borrowed amplifier,' said Charles. 'By the time Phoenix Discotheque came to Arran in summer 1968 we had advanced to having a switch on the unit to switch on the decks from live cue on a mini valve amplifier with three exposed valves. Before this we cued the records by putting our ears down to the record and listening for the stylus noise.'

Raymond Miller left the Phoenix trio and took his amplifier and speakers with him so Dougie and Charles had to make a quick decision about continuing or not.

### Summer Season

'We each borrowed £100 from our fathers and we bought speakers and a 50 watt amplifier and set of to Arran for the summer season,' said Charles.

At that point Alistair Bilsland was running dances in Brodick, Lamash and Whiting Bay Halls on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

So the men behind Phoenix Discotheque decided a Wednesday night from 9pm to 1am would be ideal.

'We attended a hall committee meeting to convince the esteemed members that two under 18s were responsible enough to run a dance,' said Charles. 'Were it not for the committee taking that chance on us, Shiski Diski would have not got off the ground in the form it was soon to become.'

During the summer Charles and Dougie added a visual performance to the 50-watt sound

when they built a flashing light machine.

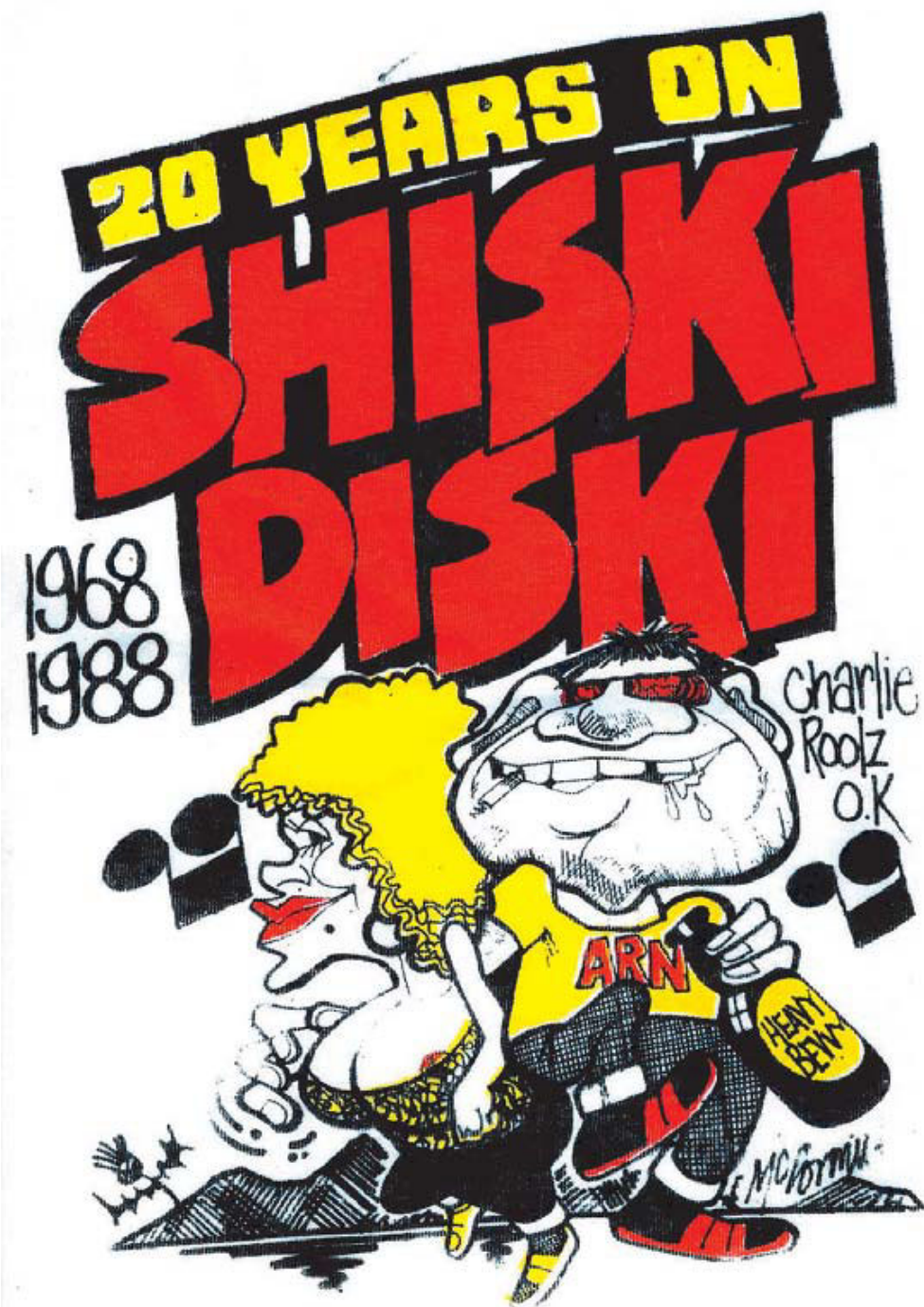
Charles explains: 'This consisted of 16 100-watt bulbs in a column with three different colours of crepe paper in front of them. After we saw the band 'Ceiling Light Machine' at Brodick Hall use liquid wheels, Dougie invented our own version using four slide glasses, three different food colourings and ether which we built into a slide to put into a normal slide projector with the evaporating ether causing the food colouring to produce fantastic effects.'

'The unfortunate side effect was that your fingers were coloured red, blue and green for three or four days.'

### Flocked

As the summer wore on the Shiski Diski increased in popularity. Teenagers from all over the island flocked to dance to hits by Tommy James and the Chandelles like 'Mony Mony', Scott McKenzie's 'San Francisco', The Beatles and 'Get Back' and The Rolling Stones 'I Can't Get No Satisfaction'.

As the years went by Shiski Diski became the place to go



A souvenir t-shirt from the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to mark two decades of the Shiski Diski, an island institution. b05shi01N0



Charles Currie started the Shiski Diski with friends Dougie Maclean and Raymond Miller. He is pictured in 1984 reading *The Arran Banner* at the Westsound Radio studios in Ayr where he presented the Arran Waves programme on a Friday night. b05shi04

# celebrates its 40th anniversary

## summer of 1967

on a Wednesday night and guest DJs like Steve Jones, the main Radio Clyde presenter, came over a couple of times to present the 'Miss Shiskine' contest which incidentally was won by Sharon McNeish from the southend, who went on to win Miss Arran.

Richard Park, now the master of 'Fame Academy' was another regular DJ and so too was Tiger Tim Stevens and Gary Marshall.

Another feature of the Shiski Diski was the give-away raffle at midnight, which started when Charles and Dougie were buying about a dozen new records every week but not all were suitable for the playlist.

'Rather than keep them we hit on the idea of giving them away as prizes for competitions and raffles,' said Charles. 'How many people still have a record in their attic that they won at the Shiski Diski?'

In the mid 1970s Charles and his wife Irene began to run the discos on their own with various local helpers.

### Amusing

'We were lucky in those days that everyone was there to have fun,' explained Charles. 'Although it was amusing to hear the complaints from people about too many kids being there early on, when they themselves had been as young when they first came.'

The organisers of the discos

never hired transport to bring folk over to Shiskine but enterprising youngsters from the other sides of the island did hire buses, which were usually driven by Ralston Green.

His presence gave much comfort to worried parents that their offspring would be well looked after on the wild side of the island and be safely returned after the disco.

### Flower Power

'Through the years there were different crowds with different musical tastes,' said Charles. 'My own favourites being the late 60s flower power pop and the modern romantic and Scottish bands of the 1980s. My least favourite was the mid 70s disco and Philadelphia music.'

The legend of the Shiski Diski has built over the years and those with fond memories of attending those nights still regale the younger generations with the stories.

You can find out what it was all about on Saturday February 14 as there will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Shiski Diski at Shiskine Hall.

A 60s, 70s and 80s disco will hopefully bring back memories for those who attended the island institution over the years.

Tickets are available at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick or from Sheila Gilmore and all funds will go towards Shiskine Village Hall.



Shiskine Village Hall: the venue for the infamous Shiski Diski for more than 40 years. b05shi05



It didn't take long for the Shiski Diski to become Arran's number one disco as this poster from the late 1960s shows.



Crowds would flock from all over the island to attend the discos in Shiskine Hall every Wednesday night during the summer. b05shi03

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# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, January 28, 1989

### Much brewing!

Arran Ales, the island's own beer, could be a reality by the end of this year.

It would be brewed and bottled at a new 'tourist come workshop complex' at Blackwaterfoot.

Already a real ale recipe is being devised especially for Arran at Malton Brewery in Yorkshire.

Even if not actually brewed on Arran because problems with effluent have been suggested, the beer could at least be bottled on the island.

The idea for the beer has come from a newcomer to Arran, Mr Alan Pennington-Smith.

His complex in Blackwaterfoot is going to include almost everything you could imagine.

Taking some 30 to 40 acres of land west of the road from Blackwaterfoot to Torbeg he intends to start building a small number of timeshare units, which will be followed by self-catering traditional style cottages.

An outward-bound centre for adults will also be established as well as craft shops and a tearoom.

Why has Mr Pennington-Smith come to Arran, though?

He said that despite never having visited the island until six months ago he's had so much help from Cunninghame District Council and HIDB that it was the perfect location.

'I've not come to live off Arran,' he said, 'I've come to sell goods that are Arran made to the mainland. I've had a great deal of interest because of the job creation aspect and planning would not be given without the job creation.'

### Percentage for art!

Marine Harvest should support the visual arts if they expand their fish farm in Lamlash Bay, said Councillor Fergus Clarkson this week.

HE believes this would be one way of putting something back into the community.

Following the meeting in Lamlash last Thursday he has written to the Cunninghame director of planning with some suggestions.

'Should Marine Harvest be successful it will be seen that while some locals will gain from economic activity, others will suffer some loss of amenity and perhaps loss of trade,' said the councillor.

One answer he said could be a 'percentage for art'.

Some of the company's profits would be used to support local talent in the form of an art gallery, he said.

### New school pool

Plans for the new swimming pool at Arran high School were shown to the Community Council at their monthly meeting last Tuesday.

They show a pool 13.5 metres long by 5.5 metres wide with a one metre walking space around the edge.

The pool will have no slope, being an even depth of 1.2 metres and it is expected to cost in the region of £150,000.

It will also be equipped with shower and toilet facilities but some anxiety was expressed at there being only one changing room.

Tenders are expected to go out in March for the new pool to be completed in time for the start of the 1989/90 school session.

### Plans rejected

A plan to convert the loft space above one of the new shops at the Douglas Centre in Brodick was rejected by Cunninghame Planning Committee this week.

The committee felt it would mean a loss of storage space to the shops and would not enjoy the appropriate standard of amenity required for a private dwelling.

### Water treatment contract won

John Thomson Construction Ltd have won a £300,000 order to build a water treatment works behind Lamlash, Strathclyde's Water and Sewage Committee decided this week.

Water treatment plants are also due to be built at Kings Cross and Pirmill.

### Now in touch

The Arran Lifeline is now up and running, after almost a year of fundraising and lobbying.

On Wednesday David Bridge of the Council of Social Service installed the second unit in the home of Mrs Cathy Craig of



It was Huggles galore in Brodick Co-op last Friday afternoon when cheerful children and their parents assembled to be presented with a giant white teddy bear for each of their respective playgroups. The Huggles bears were part of the Co-op's Christmas campaign to raise funds for the RSSPCC and they rounded off the campaign with co-op manager Claire Hyndman and Ian Struthers making the presentations of one of the big bears to each playgroup. b05twe01

Pirmill. The Lifeline system is designed to supply to elderly people, who live alone, a help call system should they find themselves in difficulty.

In case the user is infirm and may find themselves lying on the floor they are able to call for help simply by pressing a button on a pendant around their neck.

Although Mrs Craig is 83 and has been blind for 30 years, she is very spry on her feet.

She decided to have the system fitted after she heard someone knocking on her door in the middle of the night.

Some villagers heard this story and insisted that if she heard the night prowler again she was to call for help immediately.

She said that to have the Lifeline fitted was a great reassurance for her.

### Teaching posts being filled!

Strathclyde's education department this week has addressed concerns from the Arran Community Council about the lack of permanent replacements for



Alan and Penny Pennington-Smith plan to brew beer at Blackwaterfoot. b05twe03

teachers who have left the High School.

In a reply to a letter outlining concern and the effect it was having on education at the school, the department explained why teachers had not been replaced.

They said it was due to a 'moratorium on promoted posts while school closures were going on'.

Head teacher David Oakes said that the three departments without principal teachers (English, art and PE) would all have somebody in charge by next term.

### Glen Rosa horseshoe

Arran has a brand new event coming up, a fell race called the Glen Rosa Horseshoe.

While not diminishing the Goat Fell race one iota, its 13 mile length and ascent of 5,500 feet over four peaks will certainly make it a longer event requiring an even greater com-

mitment from the entrants.

The new fell race is the brainchild of David Freeman, chemistry teacher at Arran High School and at least twice winner of the Goat Fell race.

After one of his previous wins David was quoted as saying he was going to get a real fell race going on Arran and said that, for fell runners, the Goat Fell race had too much road.

'In the Goat fell race,' he said, 'the last thing you want to do when you get to the top is run down again.'

### Ladies darts

Aldersyde 7 Greannan 5\*, Lochranza 5 Catacol 7\*, Kinloch 9\* Breadalbane 3, PHT 5 Rock 7\*.

### Gents darts

A/A 3 Ormidale 9\*, Kinloch 5 Shurig 7\*, PHT 11\* Cameronia 1, Rock 6\* Catacol 6, Brodick Bar 4 Lagg 8\*, Craigard 6\* Breadalbane 6.



Mrs Cathy Craig from Pirmill receives her first call on the new Lifeline service from the friendly operator in Edinburgh. b05twe02

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# Bird Notes: Magpies on Arran

Through these regular articles in *The Banner*, encouragement has been given to people to share their bird sightings with me.

One bird, above all else, has generated strong feelings. Indeed horror has been expressed at the presence of this bird on Arran, a long staying magpie.

It was first reported on 20 April 2008 and there were still reports of it last week.

Various races of the magpie (*Pica pica*) occur throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. Throughout their range, they are birds of folklore and myth.

In Western Europe and North America, magpies were thought to be bearers of bad omens and associated with the devil.

### Influence

To this day, many peoples still have a ritual to negate the perceived bad influence of the magpie. They seem to be the only bird in British folklore to elicit such a response.

If one is seen on its own some people salute it and say: 'I salute you Mr Magpie.'

Many variations exist: others turn around three times and say: 'Hello Mr Magpie, how are you today, where's your wife, your child and your family?'

There are many variations on this well-known rhyme:

*One for Sorrow  
Two for Joy  
Three for a Girl and  
Four for a Boy,  
Five for Silver  
Six for Gold,  
Seven is a Secret never to be told,  
Eight's a Wish and  
Nine's a kiss  
Ten is a bird that you must not Miss.*

On the other hand in Asia, the magpie is seen as a bird of great good fortune and a provider of prosperity.

It is the national bird of Korea.

In Chinese its name means bird of joy. Shamanism believes that the magpie's wis-

dom includes prophecy, intelligence and good luck.

Magpies are sometimes linked to the overall decline in song-bird numbers in the UK. But the flipside, often overlooked, is that they are good pest-destroyers.

There was a recent study in two similar suburbs in Paris.

In one, magpies had been trapped and removed and in the other the magpies were left.

When the numbers of small birds in both suburbs were compared, before and after the removal of magpies, there was no noticeable change.

It would have been interesting to see what the results would have been if the major



Horror has been expressed about the presence of a magpie on the island.

predator of small birds had been removed, namely cats. Magpies are, at least, natural predators, and were present in Arran until removed by gamekeepers in the nineteenth century.

Last century and this, there have been occasional sightings of magpie on Arran, but the one this year has been a particular long-stayer.

### Suspect

I am not sure why magpies and also rooks have not recolonised Arran, but I suspect the presence of so many other crows on Arran may have had some bearing on this.

Carion and hooded

by Jim Cassels

crows tend not to tolerate magpies in the area. Magpies are a species that can be controlled under the general licence.

This means that they can be controlled using legal means by anyone who is covered by the licence arrangements.

### Debated

Whether they need to be controlled is always going to be a hotly debated point. There is no doubt that Arran is part of their natural range and that they would (but for their eradication by man) be present on the island.

to where that balance should rest.

In recent years, another species long absent from the island, the great spotted woodpecker, has managed to become re-established as a breeding species.

This charming woodland bird is also in the habit of preying on the nests of smaller species, and it also has the potential to have an impact on the numbers of smaller birds.

The red squirrel is a much-loved garden visitor in Brodick, but it also raids nests for eggs and young.

Little concern is expressed about the impact of either of these species, presumably for no other reason than their popular image.

The magpie, on the other hand, comes with a 'bad reputation' for behaving in exactly the same way. In the end, with most natural systems, the overall health of the animal populations tends to depend on the health of the habitats that support them by providing food and shelter.

There will always be predators and prey, but in a healthy system they will always find their own balance.

### Supporting

It is not in the predators' interest to make their prey extinct. Thankfully, the gardens and woodlands in and around Brodick seem to be in very good condition and capable of supporting an abundant and varied bird population, including, at the present, one magpie. *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. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



Pictured holding the small change pots are John Mulholland and Katie Morrison.

## Kilmory kids support children in Malawi

The pupils at Kilmory Primary School have been collecting small change in little pots to support the charity Mary's Meals.

At the end of last term the children emptied the school pots and sent a cheque for £121 to Mary's Meals.

The charity is a movement that specialises in setting up school feeding projects in

communities where poverty and hunger stop children from gaining an education.

It provides children with a daily meal in school and £5.30 will provide a child in Malawi with Mary's Meals for a year.

If you would like to give a donation of small change to this very worthwhile charity please contact the school.

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Fri - Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)  
Sat - Over 21's Disco - 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)  
Sun - Folk Session  
Tues - Pop Music Quiz - 10pm  
Thur - General Knowledge Quiz - 10pm  
Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

**The Coffee Pot**  
Golf Course Rd  
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**BANNER****WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park	11am - 4pm
Trout fishing	Loch Garbad, Bank
Hawk Walks	Lamlash
Fitness Assessments, Gym Induction, Personal Training	Auchrannie Spa & Gym

**SATURDAY 31st JANUARY**

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers, Ballet & Jazz, 3 - 18years	Arran High School 10am - 4pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Youth Cafe for all High School Pupils	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 10pm
Highland Dancing Lesson	Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Quiz Night	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Jumble Sale	Brodick Hall, noon - 3pm

**SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY**

Alcoholics Anonymous	St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes	Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games	Arran High School 1 - 4pm

**MONDAY 2nd FEBRUARY**

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Badminton	Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie Spa, 6.00 - 7.15pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club	Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
ABS Class	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8pm
Indoor Cricket	Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Weight Wise	Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
Arran Justice, Peace & Environment Group	Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm

**TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY**

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.30am
Lochranza Swimming Club	Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Legs Bums & Tums	Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 6.45pm
Army Cadets	Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Pop Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Rotary Club	Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Pulmonary Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Open Music Session	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Indoor Bowling	Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Body Conditioning Class	KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Country Dancing	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Shapers	Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm

**WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY**

Mixed Hockey	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
Jnr Rugby Training	P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm- 7.15pm
Shiskine Beavers	Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm
Yogalates	Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy	10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
Kickboxing	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training	Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Arran Brass Rehearsal	Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Coffee Morning	Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12pm
Whiting Bay Toddler Group	Village Hall 10am - 12pm
Tea Dance	Lochranza Hall, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY**

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am
Senior Aerobics	Auchrannie 9.30 - 10.30am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lochranza Craft Club	Hall, 2pm
Outdoor Run	Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates	Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Aerobics	Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
Coffee Morning	St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Table Tennis	Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Jog	KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
Legs, Bums & Tums Class	KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Arran Junior Singers Practise	Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Cubs	Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Scouts	Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Embroidery Group	Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Lamlash Cubs	Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Junior Scottish Country Dancing	Lamlash Church Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Brodick Toddler Group	Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Brodick Bridge Club	Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Outdoor Boot Camp	Ormidale Park 7pm
Royal British Legion (Arran Branch) Social Meeting	Ormidale Hotel, 2pm

**FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY**

Arran Pipe Band Practice	Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning	10am - 12pm
Aquafizz	Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Quiz Night	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Arran Ceilidh Dancers	Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
Coffee Morning & Homebaking Stall	Corrie Primary, 10am - 12pm

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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

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Applications for planning permission which comprise departures or potential departures from the adopted/approved development plans listed below the application details. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

Application No: N/08/00977/OPP Address: Site To West Of 11 Benlister Terrace, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development: Residential development

Ayrshire Structure Plan Policy(s) :-  
 Arran Local Office Local Plan Policy(s) :- RES1, ENV1

Ian Snodgrass  
 Chief Executive  
 Cunninghame House  
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Required to lead a team of instructors and to ensure the professional delivery of the company's range of activities. Applicants should have relevant qualifications in Kayaking and Sailing, together with experience in Climbing and Mountain Biking. A driving licence is also required.

**Hours / Days of Work**

This is a full-time seasonal post from March to October.

**Salary**

The salary is negotiable, depending on experience.

**Sales & Marketing Administrator**

The ideal candidate will have a keen interest in adventure activities and be confident in dealing with customers. A friendly outgoing personality and an ability to contribute to a positive team spirit are essential.

Applicants should have a mature, responsible disposition and be experienced in customer service, use of computer systems and telephone reception.

**Hours / Days of Work**

Applications will be considered for part-time/full-time hours and this would include some weekends.

This position is also suitable for a job-share, so we would welcome a joint application to cover 7 days per week, where weekend working could be shared.

This is a seasonal post starting in March.

**Salary / Benefits**

The salary is negotiable, depending on experience.

Staff benefits include access to adventure activities and use of equipment, membership of 4\* leisure club.



CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

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Brodick, Isle of Arran

40 hours per week (fixed term contracts)

Ref 239-SB

Rate of Pay £7.02 per hour

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You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

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If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 239 - SB no later than Friday 13th February 2009 to:

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**BIRTHS**

**CURTIS**

Ewan and Elise (nee Sinclair) are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Amelie Elizabeth Mary at The Queen Mother's Maternity Hospital in Glasgow on Thursday January 15th 2009



**HACKETT**

To David and Mhairi (nee Macleod) a son, James Russell, born 13th January at Ayrshire Maternity Unit.

A first grandchild for Gus and Sharon and great grandchild for Hight and Mae Allan and Violet Macleod



**DEATHS**

**SCHLUND - ELIZABETH**

Peacefully at home in Kilmacollm on 27th January 2009, Elizabeth Hamilton Schlund, devoted wife of the late Arnold, loved and loving mother of Fiona, Margaret and Christine and much loved Grandmother. Funeral service, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited, at St Bride's Church, Lochranza, on Tuesday 3rd February at 12 noon. Family flowers only please.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill 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, to which all are invited

**Sunday 1 February**

Brodick Church 10.30am.

Corrie Church 12pm

Pirmill 10.15am. Including

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Shiskine 12pm. Including

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

A service of Worship will be

held in Montrose House at

1.30pm.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 1 February**

(Church is on the road between

Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)

Shiskine 11am

Brodick 7pm (Church is behind

Post Office)

Sunday School meets in the

Church Hall

Rev David Karoon

All welcome

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 1 February**

The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. This table belongs to the Lord Jesus and all who love Him are most welcome. There will be activities for our young people in the Church Hall.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

All welcome.

There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and a service in Craigelea at 3.15pm to which all friends are welcome.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**(in full communion with the Church of England)**  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**Sunday 1 February**  
Holy Communion.

11.00 am. Revd Paul Fletcher

Annual Church Meeting after the service

**Wednesday 4 February**

Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.

All Welcome.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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**Sunday 1 February**

Rev. John Webster

Kilmory 10am

Lamplash 11.30am

All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**

**Sunday 1 February**

11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service, 7pm

5 Glen Road.

Prayer Meeting

**Wednesday 4 February**

7pm

Rev. D.Macleod

All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Ormidale Pavilion,

Brodick.

**Sunday 1 February**

10.45 Communion

Tea and coffee from 11.10

11.30 Worship and Word

Speaker: Rev Colin Mutch

Everyone welcome

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Taize worship

**Thursday 5 February**

8pm

St Margarets Episcopal

Church

Whiting Bay

All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FREINDS (QUAKERS)**

Meeting for Worship

**Sunday 1 February**

11 am.

11 Glen Estate, Glenclay

Road, Brodick, Enquiries

to Jeny 302779. All very

welcome.

**PERSONALS**

The Isle of Arran Rugby Club would like to say a huge thank you to the weatherlottery.com for its recent donation. The sum of £700 will help towards training facilities and coaching within the Club.

Amie Hume would like to thank everyone who attended her 21st birthday party and for all the lovely gifts received. It was a fantastic night - one to remember  
*Thanks again*

**Tom Dolan**  
Would like to thank everyone for the gifts and cards received on his 70th birthday and everyone who attended his party at Macs Bar. Special thanks go to Billy, Janie and staff for their hospitality and for helping to make it such a memorable day

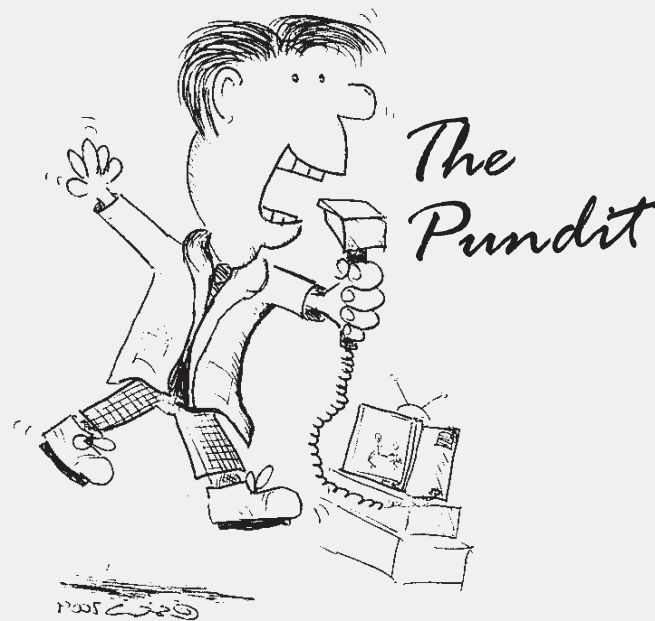
**Cast your vote in Co-op elections**

The Scottish Cooperative area committee elections take place this week and Co-op members are being urged to remember to cast their vote.

All Co-op member cardholders should receive ballot papers through the post.

There are 18 candidates standing in the South west of Scotland area to fill 12 posts.

Arran's current committee member is Bill Roberts from Whiting Bay.



**THE PUNDIT SPEAKS OUT**

After an absence of many years The Banner's much loved Fanatic sports reporter has returned in a new incarnation.

He (or she) has taken on a new persona under the name of The Pundit and while it may not be the same person, they will aim to report and comment on all the pressing sporting issues on the island just as before. The Pundit is guaranteed to have an opinion on all sporting matters.

In this new manifestation, The Pundit will not be confined to writing about the Arran Football League but will be covering all manner of sports from rugby to clay pigeon shooting.

So, here I am, sitting at my desk and trying to decide what to write about in this first article.

There are many issues facing sport on Arran: the disruption of the rugby club's matches due to bad weather, the non-existent men's darts league or the island's once promising hockey team.

Whatever the subject, I'm sure you will have your view on it.

Anyway, back to deciding what this piece shall be about.

I think I'll just do the bloke thing and talk about football, and whether the island should have a football team of its own. There are many reasons why the island could, and possibly should have a squad.

There is definitely the player-pool and fan base, and - although debatable after the footage Sky Sports showed recently - the talent.

I'm sure also that finance wouldn't be a problem, but could the island give support to a rugby and a football team?

A football calendar, much like the rugby club's could help. But hey, this is football, and some of the players may not be as comfortable as the rugby team when it comes to getting their kit off.

But there are a few issues I could see against an island team. One reason that I can think of, off the top of my head, is that the prestigious Arran League might have to downsize to allow an island squad to compete on the mainland and not clash with the rugby season.

Many teams may have to cope with the loss of key players for crunch matches, and provide coaches with a selection headache. (I think that this is one scenario though that Northend captain Matt Milne won't have to worry about.)

However, you never know, if there was an island team, one of the Big Four might not actually win the five team Arran league!

I'm pretty sure I can already hear another paper organising the petition for Arran FC, and designing the 'Northend are league champions' headline. (I'm fairly certain that is another reason against it.)

And of course, the all-important question: 'What would happen to the local team's adult policies?'

Most squads will be filled with youngsters and there will be no room for the development of 30 and 40-year-olds - Davie Currie may just have to come out of retirement! Slowly but surely I find myself on the losing side of this argument, which is ridiculous because I could just make something up to balance it out!

Oh wait, I'm getting mixed up with writing for a different kind of paper!

Anyway, all factors considered, myself and many others still do think that Isle of Arran FC could work - just not in their current red and white Shiskine strip.

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# Bar Eden win pool knockout competition

The team from the Bar Eden in Whiting Bay won the pool knockout shield in Kilmory on Sunday evening.

The event was held in Kilmory Village Hall for the first time last year and it was a great success but sadly this year, only four teams turned up to take part.

'It was a real disappointment,' said Craig Black, the Arran pool league's vice-chairman. 'We began with a mini league so that the teams coming in first and second place played for the shield and third and fourth played for the second chance salver.'

Bar Eden defeated the Cameronia 5-3 to win the knockout shield.

In the second chance salver round, the Drift Inn overcame PT1934 by the same score to win the trophy.

Craig said that he and Angus Cook, pool league chairman, believe that after the poor

turnout on Sunday the league may have to fold at the end of next season.

Both are now hoping that a good turnout at the Arran Pool



Nicol Auld, Bar Eden captain accepts the knockout shield from Angus Cook, chairman of the Arran Pool League. b05pol03

Open competition next Sunday (February 8) will increase interest in the game.

The open competition can be entered by anyone from Arran. It starts at 2pm, venue to be confirmed.

Pool league results for Thursday January 22: Drift Out 5 Corrie 7 (gallon), PHT 8 Kildonan 4 (G), Catacol 4 (G) PT1934 8, Bar Eden 9 (G) Cameronia 3.

The draw for the first round of the singles competition to be played on or by Sunday February 1 is as follows: C McBain (Cameronia) v M McDonald (Drift) at the PHT, S McGovern (Bar Eden) v F Barr (Bar Eden) or D Cudrie (PHT) at the Cameronia, S Logan (Catacol) v B Radtkouski (PHT), J Ainsworth (Cameronia) v L Girbow (Drift) at the PHT, J Welsh (Drift) v E Ingram (Bar Eden) at the Cameronia, I Murchie (Drift) v M Williamson (PT1934) at the Bar Eden, J McPherson (Bar Eden) v P Stewart (PHT) at the Cameronia, A Duncan (Bar Eden) v L Logan (Catacol) or T Mulholland (PT1934) at the PHT, S Pringle (Bar Eden) v W McDonald (Drift) at the PHT, S Scott (Drift) v A McDonald (PT1934) at Bar Eden, A Cook (Cameronia) or S Patrick (PT1934) v S Heaney (Drift) or John Ferguson (Cameronia) at the PHT, D Head (Bar Eden) v N Auld (Bar Eden) at the Bar Eden, M McKee (Drift) or J Copperwheat (Drift) v M Picken (PT1934) at the Cameronia, J Picken (PT1934) v H Driver (Kildonan) at the Bar Eden, E Picken (PT1934) v G Willis (Cameronia) or I Roberts (PHT) at the Bar Eden and finally M Worthington (PT1934) v G Blythe (Drift) at the Cameronia.



The Bar Eden, winners of the Arran Pool Knockout Shield in Kilmory Hall. b05pol01

## Lamlash Bridge - Peggy Currie Cup 2009

Seven bridge teams competed for the Peggy Currie Cup in Lamlash Golf clubhouse last Monday January 26.

This keenly contested competition is played in teams of four for a lovely cup that was presented to the club by the family of the late Peggy Currie who was a stalwart member of all the Arran Bridge Clubs and an excellent player.

The winning team was Jean Barclay, Morag Gardner, Jennifer McArthur and Eendie McNiven.

Runners up and winning the Ann Cook Salver was the team of Douglas Hamilton, Tricia Martin, Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

The club extends grateful thanks to Janie Maclure who organises and runs the evening.

Lamlash Bridge Club meets in the golf clubhouse at 7.15pm on Monday evenings.



Winners of the Peggy Currie Cup; Morag Gardner, Jennifer McArthur, Jean Barclay and Eendie McNiven.



Second chance salver winners the Drift Inn. b05pol02



## Arran Ladies Golf Union

Twenty one ladies played at Whiting Bay on Saturday January 24 in the third leg of the Drumadoon Tray.

Although the starting time of the competition had to be delayed by an hour to allow the frost to clear, everyone enjoyed playing in lovely sunny weather and the views were magnificent.

Some ladies also played very good golf. The winning score was returned by a welcome newcomer to the ALGU, Lynn Walker of Whiting Bay with an excellent score of 90-22= 68.

The runner up was Viv Parks of Shiskine with a 69 on a BIH from Pat Adamson also of Shiskine. Pat took the scratch with an 85.

Our thanks are extended to

Whiting Bay Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and to Susan Kidston and Jean Davidson for the delicious soup and sandwiches.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 25, 8 played in the fourth round of the (well named) Winter Cup in wet and blustery conditions.

CSS 63, SSS 66 (RO), John Pennycott (11)68, John Taylor (20).

John Pennycott had the only Magic two at the 5th hole. **Fixtures:** Sunday February 1, Winter League at Lamlash Golf Club against Corrie.

Tee-off at 11.40am. Sunday February 8, Winter Cup Round 5.

## Arran Golfers Association

Winter League 2008/2009

The game involving hosts Corrie Golf Club and Lamlash finally got underway on the third time of asking in what turned out to be atrocious weather conditions towards the end of the round.

The start of the day wasn't

too bad but deteriorated as the day went on, the soup and sandwiches were a welcome relief for all players concerned.

The first game was a battle of former island champion Dougie Macfarlane and J Henderson against present champion Ewan McKinnon and Stephen Beardsley.

Ewan even got a stroke which is unusual for someone off a handicap of one, and after many swings and turns the match ended all square with Jim getting a fine net birdie at the last despite the rising tide on the home green!

Second were Andy Pattison and Alan Smith against John Adams and Drew Crawford. With the weather getting worse a gentlemanly half was agreed which Andy and Smithy were more than happy to take.

Smithy was having a bad hair day and is possibly the only man in Arran golfing history to start and finish a game of golf with a different hair colour!

Third up were Dan Bremner and Bob Hastings against Alistair Macdonald and son Mark. Nothing much separated the pairs and the game finally ended at the last in favour of

Corrie. Alistair had a few adventurous holes but none more so than the 13<sup>th</sup> where local knowledge definitely played its part. While his playing partners all attempted to hit balls into the teeth of the hurricane and go for the green Alistair decided to go for the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway then drill a four iron to 10 foot and hole the putt to win the hole, much to Lamlash's amazement.

Final game out was Lee Girbow and Alan Winship up against past chairman Eddie Cannon and present chairman Donald Logan.

This was the most one-sided game and the result went in favour of the chair 5 up.

Reports that Lee threw the game to go drinking in the Southend at the pool knockout cup have not been confirmed although enquiries are continuing.

**Fixtures:** Fourth round of the Winter League on Sunday February 1 at Lamlash Golf Club. Draw: Lamlash v Brodick at 10am, Machrie v Shiskine at 10.50am, Whiting Bay v Corrie at 11.40am.

Keep everything crossed for a decent forecast as I think we are due one. Corrie are scheduled

to play Brodick in the final outstanding match next week so league standings should be clear going into the final match at Brodick in March, a league table will be printed ready for the final round.

## Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday January 25, Ryder Cup Results: Kilpatrick 6 Shiskine 2, Torbeg 2 Blackwaterfoot 2.

Ryder Cup Table so far: 1 Blackwaterfoot 21, 2 Shiskine 16, 3 Torbeg 14, 4 Kilpatrick 13.

**Fixtures:** Thursday February 5, Ladies 18 hole Medal. Saturday February 7 18 hole Medal.

## Brodick Golf Club

Winter Cup, Sunday January 25, six played, CSS RO.

1 Robert McCrae (7)30 points BIH, 2 Iain Sillars (14)30 points. There were two magic twos from Robert McCrae and Bruce Jenkins.

## Corrie Golf Club

Saturday January 24, Winter Cup.

1 M MacDonald 75-18=57, 2 A Smith 69-10=59 BIH, 3 B

Barr 80-21=59.

Monday January 26, Winter Cup.

1 T Cotton 72-17=55, 2 H McArthur 72-13=59, 3 I Buchanan 67-6=61.

Sunday January 25, Winter League. Congratulations to the Amphibians on a fine 3-1 victory over Lamlash.

**Fixtures:** Saturday January 31, sweep tee-off at 12pm. Monday February 2, Monday Cup tee-off at 12pm.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 13, Winter Cup. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 60, 2 Hugh McLelland 61, 3 Peter Emsley 65. Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 63.

He also got the year off to a flying start by getting three magic twos.

Tuesday January 20, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 David Price 36 points, 2 Brian Sherwood 34 BIH, 3 Peter Emsley 34. Scratch Brian Sherwood 78.

**Fixtures:** Tuesday February 3, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off. Saturday February 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup 12pm tee-off.

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## Calcutta Cup increases interest in rugby on Arran

The visit to the island last week of the world's oldest international rugby trophy has hopefully increased interest in the sport among Arran's schoolchildren.

The Calcutta Cup is presented to the winner of the annual match between Scotland and England.

Greg Sinclair, KA Leisure's rugby development officer brought the cup to Arran last Wednesday to let youngsters across the island get a first hand look at it.

Greg took the cup to all of the island's primary schools before going to Arran High School in the late afternoon.

Arran Rugby Club then displayed the trophy at the Ormisdale Pavilion on Wednesday night.

### Rugby Fans

Hazel Gardiner, headteacher of Pirmill Primary School said: 'It was just great for the children to see the trophy up close like that. I'm not sure if there were any rugby fans before but I'm sure that seeing

the trophy will have piqued their interest in the sport.'

When the Calcutta Football Club in India closed down in 1877 the club created the cup by melting down their remaining rupees in their funds and the trophy was donated to the RFU in 1878.

The cup soon became the prize for the yearly match between England and Scotland.

Scotland are the current trophy holders after defeating England 15-9 at Murrayfield on March 8 last year.



The pupils at Pirmill Primary School with the Calcutta Cup. b05cup01



Greg Sinclair, KA Leisure's rugby development officer with 10-year-old Connor Percy at Brodick Primary School with the famous rugby trophy. b05cup03



John Rankin of Pirmill with Sinclair MacLeod of Catacol and the Calcutta Cup. b05cup02

## French rugby trip for Matthew

Matthew Evans of Lamlash has been invited to attend a prestigious rugby training course at Perpignan in the south of France.

He will be joining the Glasgow Thistles development trip for two weeks next June.

A Thistles spokesman said: 'To be a Glasgow Thistle means being a member of a very exclusive group of players.'

'Each player should recognise the commitment that is being made on their behalf. The players selected are ambassadors for their club and school, Glasgow rugby and for Scotland.'

'This trip should be a very fulfilling experience for all those who have been fortunate enough to be invited.'

The course will be based at Malibu Village resort near Perpignan and has superb facilities.

It is regularly used by many of the French and Italian teams as well as Harlequins, Sale Sharks and Australia. The south of France is the heart of French rugby with all its traditions and favourable playing conditions.

Last August Matthew was selected to captain the Ayrshire Kestrels under-15 rugby team and went on to lead them to victory in their four matches.

Kestrels head coach Stevie Edwards said: 'It is a great honour for Matthew to be playing at this level. Arran is

breeding a lot of good young rugby players.'

Matthew and other selected players will be departing from Glasgow Airport on Wednesday June 24 and returning on Tuesday July 7.

The cost of the trip is substantial and a large part is met by the club but each player will have to make a significant contribution so Matthew will be looking for as much support as possible.



Matthew Evans captaining Ayrshire Kestrels. b05mat01

## Winter bowls at Auchrannie

Results for Monday December 22, 14 bowlers: C Steed and J Steed.

Tuesday January 6, 16 bowlers: J Haggart and J Steed.

Thursday January 8, 13 bowlers: J Lauder, D Hendry, N Pringle and C Weir.

Tuesday January 13, 23 bowlers: J Steed, I Davidson and A Hobbs.

Thursday January 15, 18 bowlers: C Weir, N Pringle and T Wooden.

Tuesday January 20, 20 bowlers: I Hendry, S Allen, J McGovern and M Megarrell.

Thursday January 22, 20 bowlers: C Steed, I Davidson and I Wilson.

## Results from Brodick Bridge Club

Results for Thursday January 22. N/S: 1 H Boyd and L Paul +3300, 2 J Murchie and D Scobie +1220, 3 J Barclay and M Gardner +140.

E/W: 1 V Iutz and C McAllister +2490, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton +1450, 3 J MacLure and A McKelvie +1140.

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran  
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021  
E-mail: [editorial@arranbanner.net](mailto:editorial@arranbanner.net)  
Registered at the Post Office as a Newspaper



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - [www.abc.org.uk](http://www.abc.org.uk). The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2007 and 31st December 2007 was 3,488. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.