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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 2006

No 1531



Mine hosts Vicky and Brodie Pearcey behind the counter at the Bar Eden with one of the no-smoking signs that are now displayed throughout their licensed premises in Whiting Bay. b07smo1

No smoke in Bar Eden

The Bar Eden in Whiting Bay has become the first bar on Arran to stub out smoking on its premises.

West of Scotland MSP Stewart Maxwell has praised the owners Vicky and Brodie Pearcey for introducing the smoking ban more than a month ahead of the scheduled date.

The move comes six weeks ahead of the ban on smoking in enclosed public places, which comes into force on March 26 throughout Scotland.

Mr Maxwell said: 'The owners should be congratulated for making this move; they are ahead of the game. Premises which embrace the change early will come out best while those who wait until the last minute will find it more difficult to adapt.'

Vicky and Brodie, both non-smokers themselves, hope that they will be able to attract more customers into their bar.

Brodie said: 'Our food sales are where we make most money and eating in a smoke-filled environment isn't very pleasant.'

'We hope to appeal to more families with young children.'

The couple feel that this smoking ban in the bar will not affect their regular customers who have indicated they are happy to see it coming into place.

Over the past couple of years Vicky and Brodie have gradually introduced more and more no smoking areas into their bar.

Vicky said: 'This wasn't really

working as smoke was drifting into the non-smoking areas, so we were intending to make the bar no-smoking anyway.'

They had hoped to re-open the downstairs Shurig bar as a smoking area, but this is planned to go ahead now as another no-smoking area.

However, Brodie and Vicky are not entirely anti-smoking. Vicky said: 'We intend to have an area outside with patio heaters where those wishing to smoke will be able to do so.'

At the Aldersyde Bar in Lamlash licensee Joy Riddell shares a different view: 'We are completely against this smoking ban.'

'We find it difficult enough to survive over the winter months; this ban will make it seem like a 12-month winter to us.'

Joy runs the hotel with her partner Norrie Gray. He said: 'I'm concerned with the policing of this. I feel this ban is going to put staff in a dangerous position.'

However, Brodie at the Bar Eden does not see the ban as posing a threat to his safety: 'The ban has been widely publicised and when customers see no ashtrays on the tables they will realise. If they ask for one I will be able to tell the customer the bar is no-smoking - I really don't see any problem.'

A local police officer said: 'We will only become involved if someone lights up and refuses to put it out, causing a disturbance.'

Simon Clark, director of the pro-smoking group FOREST said: 'We have received many calls from publicans in Argyll and the Islands who are concerned that their takings will drop.'

'Bars in the Republic of Ireland where the smoking ban has been in place since 2004 have already recorded a 15 percent loss in profit margins.'

'While we are not against the ban this comes as another blow to rural pubs who have a hard enough time surviving.'

'I think all bars have to look at creating an outdoor area for their customers to smoke otherwise they will spend less time there.'

The Bar Eden has just reopened last week after a two week refit.

Brodie said: 'Baroque woodwork of Whiting Bay has completely refitted our bar area and it just seemed pointless to allow customers to smoke in the bar for six weeks and then have them stop - so we are doing it now.'

Vicky added that this ban will help to give smokers more incentive to kick the habit.

Brodie indicated that he could have applied to have some of the hotel rooms as smoking areas but preferred not to.

Norrie at the Aldersyde said: 'Businesses that run solely as pubs are going to suffer more from this ban than those who also operate as hotels. I really feel for them.'

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Warships in Clyde

A military exercise will take place in the Clyde next weekend.

The exercise called Neptune Warrior (NW) 061 involves the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and armed forces from the UK, NATO and several invited countries.

Activity will take place throughout the west Highlands from 26 February to 11 March and will include three destroyers, five frigates, four support ships, two submarines, 50 aircraft and five helicopters.

The exercise starts with the departure of a convoy from Faslane naval base on Sunday 26 February and Monday 27 February.

The ships will sail down the Clyde and fight off simulated attacks by Royal Marines in small boats, security forces and jet skis from the Maritime Warfare Centre. Much of this activity should be visible from Arran.

A Navy spokesman said: 'Careful risk mitigation has been conducted to reduce any environmental impact by the exercise.'

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Female farrier is top in her field

A girl who spent all her childhood summer holidays on Arran and first developed her love of horses on the island has nailed a coveted trophy for her work as an apprentice farrier.

Twenty-three year old Sarah Mary Brown from Giffnock claimed the Peter Alexander Per-

petual Trophy and £800 in prize money at an awards dinner held last week at the Huntingtower Hotel in Perthshire. She is in her penultimate year of a four-year advance modern apprenticeship at Oatridge College. The awards are run by Lantra which is the sector skills council for the environmental and land based sector.

Sarah Mary said: 'I am chuffed to bits with my award, it came as real surprise to me.'

'I only found out three weeks before the finalists dinner that I had been nominated and then on the night I found out I had won.'

Her grandmother, May Fenton of Lochranza is absolutely delighted by her achievements, she said: 'She is just an awful nice wee lassie.'

Sarah Mary spent her childhood summers with her grandmother, May who first settled on Arran in 1946. Along with her husband Willie they ran the Rock Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

May continued: 'Sarah Mary was literally carried in arms as a baby to Arran and has been coming here for holidays ever since.'

'She was all set to study law and one day she just walked in and said she wanted to work with horses and that was that.'

While on Arran Sarah Mary spent a lot of her time at Dawn Murchie's Cairnhouse Stables in Blackwaterfoot where she had her first ever riding lesson. Dawn said: 'She was always interested



Sarah Mary Brown with her trophy b07lan1

in horses and used to come along to the stables any free time she had. 'I take my hat off to her, its a tough job and I wouldn't fancy doing it, I am pleased for her.'

David James, Principal of Oatridge College nominated Sarah for her award. He said of her: 'Sarah is demonstrating that skill is far more important than brute strength in this ancient craft.'

Sarah Mary said: 'There are only about five per cent of women in the industry at present.

'But when guys see that you can do the job this has a knock on effect. There is a gradual increase in the number of women becoming involved in a career in shoeing horses.'

Sarah Mary now plans to work in North American with a view to returning to Scotland and opening her own business. She would consider setting up in business on Arran. 'If there is work for me, I'd be there like a shot, Arran is my second home.' she said.

Four nights of drama

The annual one-act drama festival takes place over four nights next week in Lamlash Community Centre.

Organised by the Isle of Arran Drama Association, the festival started in 1931 and at its height in the 1950s attracted up to 20 entries.

After a lull in the late 1960s it was resurrected in 1978 and has continued to thrive with an average of 10 entries.

There were eight plays last year but festival secretary Fiona Crawford said she was delighted that they had 14 entries this year.

'There is one junior entry each night and the rest are drawn out

of a hat,' she said.

'This gives us three plays on Wednesday, four each on Thursday and Friday and three on the final night.'

'There should be a good mix of drama and comedy.'

Adjudicator is Jim Gibson who is a head teacher at Kilwinning primary school.

Festival chairman Allan Nicol said: 'Mr Gibson has been involved in drama for 35 years and tells me he has adjudicated the length and breadth of Scotland. This will be his first time at our festival.'

The drama festival starts next Wednesday 22 February.

Recycling appeal

Following the staggering response to the Christmas card appeal run by Arran Recycling Community Organisation, ARCO, the organisation is now looking for Islanders to help with the latest campaign.

This time around they are looking for all BT telephone books to be collected. Jo Totty of

ARCO said: 'All primary schools and Brodick Library have very kindly agreed to be collection points for your old BT telephone books until mid-March.'

Joyce MacLean of ARCO said: 'Please do recycle your books as it saves bulky paper items going to the landfill.'

Police Files Breach of the peace

A 32-year-old man was arrested for alleged breach of the peace in Shore Road, Lamlash on Saturday 11 February. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Alleged assault

A young woman was allegedly indecently assaulted by a man at St Elmo, Shore Road, Brodick, on Sunday 12 February. Police inquiries are continuing.

Stolen car

On Saturday 11 February a car was allegedly stolen from Brodick pier. Police have appealed to the public for information.

Logo needed for wind farm

Arran Wind Power needs a logo for its renewable energy project on the Island.

Entry forms for the logo competition are available from Brodick tourist information office and there are three categories: under five-years-old, five to 18 and over 18.

The closing date is Tuesday 28 February and project manager Craig Potter said that the winning design will be used on the company's website and in promotional material. Craig said: 'Arran could potentially have its very own wind farm by early next year if proposals by Arran Wind Power Ltd get the green light.'

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Rubbish goes to mainland

Arran's waste is on the move when the current landfill site at Market Road, Brodick, closes at the end of August.

The decision to transfer waste to the mainland was announced by North Ayrshire Council's, (NAC) Corporate Service Committee at a meeting held in Cunninghame House last week.

Last June *The Banner* carried a story about the sites which had been suggested by NAC to replace Market Road landfill site which has reached capacity.

Many of the options facing the

council at that time included the need to construct a waste transfer station to take rubbish to the mainland.

This station will be used as a middle ground between the collection of waste and the ultimate disposal at a landfill site. Waste will be compressed at the transfer station and made ready for dumping on the mainland.

A spokesman for NAC said: 'Arran's waste will be bulked up at the transfer station and placed into sealed containers.

'These will be transported on

the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry and the waste will be taken to the Shewalton landfill site in Irvine.'

A spokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne told *The Banner*: 'We have not formally been told by North Ayrshire Council what types of vehicles will be used to transport the waste.

'If it is suitable for the closed deck of the *MV Caledonian Isles* it will go on that ferry, if not it will have to go the other way round on the Lochranza ferry.'

John Thomson Construction Ltd, (JTC), of Lamlash has been

successful in their tender to build the waste transfer station at Market Road, Brodick.

The property services committee for North Ayrshire Council agreed to Thomsons' projected figure of £416,311 to complete the work after the company upped it's original tender of £404,942.

The next closest tender came from Kilmarnock-based construction firm Kelburn Ltd which proposed a figure of £460,136.

The committee agreed that the lowest tender submitted by JTC was competitive and on this ba-

sis recommended it for acceptance. NAC will have to pay £9,000 rental per annum as the open market value of the site.

With the closure of Market Road landfill site this August the reports indicates that acceptance of this lowest offer will allow the waste transfer station to be completed on time.

Last June NAC reported: 'It may not be possible to have a suitably constructed transfer station with permissions in place by August 2006.' However, it would appear this is no longer the case.

NAC now state: 'Negotiations have been held with Messrs Managed Estates, represented as Sannox Estates, and provisional terms have been agreed for the lease of the site.'

It is believed that this waste transfer station site at Market Road will have a lease period of 25 years from a date of entry.

Conditions are that the site can only be used for the development of a waste transfer station and for no other purposes without the prior approval of the landlord.

Second poetry book



Diana Riddell of Kilmory has just published her second book of children's poetry.

Called *Sporting Rhythms*, it contains 14 fun poems all with a sports connection.

They range from a tongue-twister called *Discuss Discussion* to *Harry the Hurdler* and *Running to the Finish Line*.

Diana teaches part-time, three days a week, at Lamlash and Kilmory primary schools and three of her young pupils have supplied illustrations for the book.

They are Molly Weir of Kilmory and Julian Hastings and Wesley Sloss of Lamlash.

Diana plans to have a book-launch and signing day at the Book and Card Centre, Brodick, on Saturday 25 February from noon.

Sporting Rhythms is a follow-on from her first poetry book *Monsters Don't Exist* which was published in 2001.

It should soon be on sale in several Island shops, and Diana pointed out that her first book was stocked by Borders bookshop in Glasgow.

Diana Riddell with her two poetry books, *Monsters Don't Exist*, and the new *Sporting Rhythms*. b07poe1

10-year-old malt in the bottle

Isle of Arran Distillers have just bottled its first 10-year-old single malt whisky at the company's distillery in Lochranza.

Managing director Douglas Davidson said: 'We have had a hugely positive response to the new 10-year-old from all our European distributors.

'The level of forward orders has been greatly encouraging and our sales director Euan Mitchell left last weekend for a three-week tour of our Far East markets where I feel sure he will get a similar response.'

The new 10-year-old has been bottled at 46 per cent by volume and comes from bourbon and sherry casks.

Isle of Arran Distillers won the Queen's Award for International Trade in 2005 and increased bottled malt sales by 29 percent.

The Lochranza distillery opened in 1995 and has since gone from strength to strength.



Planning Manager Mark Callachan beside the first bottles.

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ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER

Saturday 18 FEB, 2006

Arran's roads will come in for special attention in North Ayrshire's budget. We will benefit from 'very large sums of money which will be invested in roads and lighting' said the chief executive last week.

Have we not heard this before? It is seven years since the huge outcry over the condition of the island's roads. Then, and since, there have been various noises about funding from central sources, promises of new sections of road, frequent visits from the jetpatcher, even a threat to take the council to court.

Yet nothing changes. They are as bad as when people were claiming, mostly unsuccessfully, for damage to their cars, the few smooth parts which were resurfaced at great expense have erupted into craters, and the excuses of being short of money continue as before.

And council tax goes up by 4.65 per cent. This is to safeguard services. In fact it is about priorities and which services they want to safeguard. Should roads not be the most important? but in their book it appears to be least. There must be dozens of council employees on Arran alone in posts which have been dreamt up in the last 10 years but which are quite unnecessary. Naturally each one of these would fiercely justify their role - who wouldn't when status and income depend on it - but for safety and efficiency what can reasonably come before roads?

It is said that up to one-third of council tax actually goes towards safeguarding the secure, index-linked pensions of council workers. And this at a time when those in company pension schemes have seen their pensions reduced while others in private pension schemes have lost most of theirs.

It makes one wonder what the councils are for. There is a proposal to reduce the number of councils from 32 to 11. Ought they not be reduced to just one, the Scottish Executive, which is itself a middle tier of local government? After all there are plenty of city governments around the world with much greater populations than a mere five million.

Yet so much vested interest is there in local government that to reduce the number to even 11 would be fought tooth and nail. Why do we need 32 directors of education for an education policy that should be the same over the whole country? Or 32 chief executives and heads of planning, all receiving huge salaries yet all administering the same rules. Imagine the howls of protest, the spurious justifications put up, at the threat of all these highly-paid people losing their jobs.

Local knowledge will be put forward as justifying the need, so that everybody feels close to their council. Yet I hardly think that people on Arran feel close to North Ayrshire. I doubt that many could name even one councillor, except for our own Arran councillor. There is as much knowledge about, and feeling of contact with, the Executive as with North Ayrshire.

Redundancy payments, vested interests, political opposition, inertia, all would mitigate against any meaningful reform of what we pay our local taxes for. But in the meantime some of us might settle quite happily for a few, half decent roads.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God is a forgiving god, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.

*Nehemiah 9:17***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.

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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****Island's Roads**

Sir,
We are all very much concerned, indeed frightened, by the state of our roads, but I believe the problem is soluble.

The cost of laying a brand new B-road is about £150,000 per kilometre. We have about 100 kilometres of road on Arran, of which some 20 have been improved to an acceptable standard, leaving 80 to be resurfaced. Clearly the cost of resurfacing is much less than the cost of laying new, so it would seem reasonable to assume a cost of £75,000/km for the lesser work. This would give a global cost of £6,000,000 for resurfacing the entire system.

North Ayrshire's roads budget for 2007-8 is £4.1 million pounds (I take no account of possible EU funding). Assuming 5 per cent of this is allocated to Arran, we would have £205,000 for next year, say £200,000. By setting up a private company, or forming a public/private partnership, a loan could be raised over 10 years, over which period we can assume an income from NAC of £2,000,000. The £4,000,000 balance remains to be financed.

Suppose each car coming off the ferry (not residents who would have passes) paid £10 at the pier, or included in the ticket, before being allowed to drive on the Island. Assuming an average of 50 cars arriving four times a day for seven days a week during the summer season (May-October), this would yield an annual income for the Road Fund of £360,000. In addition, if one assumed that 20 cars arrived per ferry during the rest of the year, a further £144,000 would be generated. The total of £504,000 would more than cover the £400,000 needed even allowing for the costs of servicing the loan.

After 10 years a reduced rate would cover maintenance, plus build up a fund for the replacement of worn out sections.

It would be sensible, surely, to put the entire Island's road network out to competitive tender and organise a phased contract over, say, three years. To reduce costs, the present A841 would have to be de-classified from its present A-road status and we would not be able to accept the EU Directive about 44 tonne lorries (which would require entire

relaying including new road beds), but so much the better.

We might even consider privatising the roads completely (this is becoming quite usual on the Continent), whereupon we could get rid of the ghastly sodium street lights and NAC tat such as the village entry/exist signs.

Would any of your entrepreneurial readers care to take this idea forward?

Yours, Ian Ferguson, High Corrie

Area restored

Sir,

I was born and brought up in Glen Rosa and passed the old kirk and cemetery at the road-end every day going to the school or to the shops in Invercloy.

After World War Two was demolished, but the whole area was kept clear and tidy. However, over the past 20 years I have seen the rapid encroachment of rhododendrons and briars encircling and finally concealing the neatly trimmed burial ground.

So, what a delight to see the whole area restored again. The rhododendrons and briars cut back and the environs levelled and ready for seeing. Congratulations to the cemeteries staff for a job well done.

Yours,

Ian Hendry, Cir-Bheag, Brodick

Lagg tranquility

Sir,

The idea of building in the picturesque hamlet of Lagg is quite shocking and I hope will not materialise.

Seen from the eyes of a visitor Lagg has a completely unique charm unlike any of Arran's other beauty spots.

For a start there is no sea view and therefore the visual impact of this haven of tranquillity is entirely due to the idyllic setting of an unspoiled dell with a traditional inn and a village shop nestling unobtrusively at just the right places to enhance the sheer magic of a breathtaking vista. How often does one see the photographers and artists trying to capture their treasured aspect and how often has Lagg Hotel appeared on Arran calendars and postcards?

It would be such a serious mistake to alter the charm and character of this very special corner of Arran.

Yours, Ginger Bright, Harrogate

Lagg character

Sir,

By the look of it, Lagg's character will vanish if the Dundee based firm involved gets its plans passed.

First get them to show you their plans and elevations to see how the houses will look when built and publish these, partly to let us have some idea of it, and partly to set it on record.

Otherwise, we proceed on supposition merely.

Yours, Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers Lane, Penrith

Lagg objectors

Sir,

As residents of Lagg and objectors to the proposed planning application covered on the front page of *The Banner*, we feel it necessary to put pen to paper in response to the comments made by Mr Paterson of Arran Development Select.

Firstly, we feel that Mr Paterson's proposed sale price of under £200,000 for a four-bedroom detached house with integral garage, as per the planning application, is extremely conservative. One only has to glance in the window of any of the Arran estate agents to realise that properties of this size command a far higher price.

Secondly, Mr Paterson's statement regarding the sympathetic design of the development is, in our opinion, completely misleading. The proposed size, design and infrastructure layout is completely at odds with the existing village of Lagg.

Finally, Mr Paterson's comment regarding grazing on the site is absolutely ridiculous. The proposed grazing area would not feed a couple of rabbits never mind cattle!

Yours, Viv and Anne Parks, Kilmory House, Charlie and Norma Hunter, Bridgend Cottage, Ron, Peter and Mary Bowers, Lagg Hotel

Arran's roads

Sir,

I want to clear up any misunderstandings regarding your report on North Ayrshire Council's budget for next year.

The report highlighted the large sums of money which will be spent throughout North Ayrshire on roads and lighting, an invest-

ment which recognises the concerns expressed by many residents.

Arran's roads as a whole will certainly benefit from this programme. We are, however, looking at the busiest stretches of road and population centres, rather than paying particular attention to the west coast.

Yours, Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive, NAC, Irvine

Beetle drive

Sir,

Beetles, beetles, beetles. Not the creepily crawl type, but the ones that you draw with a pencil.

Come along to Lamlash Church hall on Saturday 18 February at 2.30pm and have fun at a beetle drive. All ages are welcome and there will be prizes not to mention teas, coffee and juice.

The beetle drive is in aid of the last phase of the Church restoration fund.

Yours, Mary MacKenzie
The Knowe, Kings Cross

Friday Club

Lamlash Friday Club is having a lunch at Kildonan Hotel on Friday 24 February. A bus will leave Gordon's car park 11.30am.

Church Guild

The meeting of Lamlash Church Guild on Tuesday 21 February at 2.30pm will be addressed by a speaker from Yorkhill Children's Hospital Foundation Trust and everyone is welcome.

Kildonan WRI

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 February at 2pm in Kildonan village hall when Kildonan WRI's handcrafts entry for the show will be discussed. All welcome

Boxing dinner

Mr Robert Crawford has asked us to point out that he was the organiser of the boxing dinner reported in last week's edition of *The Banner* and that any money raised by the event will be distributed at his discretion.

Arran Antiquarians

On Monday 20 February at 2pm in Brodick Hall, Alison Prince of Whiting Bay will be speaking on 'Old things, Living and dead.'

Non-members and visitors are very welcome to this meeting

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Nominated for Island knowledge

The final nominations are now in for Arran Ambassador of the Year 2005.

The scheme was arranged by Destination Arran to recognise those who have displayed excellent levels of customer care and satisfaction to holidaymakers.

December has three nominations, highlighting Arran service personnel who have done just that.

Neil Bulger has owned and run the Corrie Hotel for the last 17 years and along with his wife Margaret they welcome hundreds of guests each year.

His nominee said of him: 'Neil

is a wonderful host, warm, friendly and extremely helpful. We had a superb weekend stay.'

Neil said: 'It's good to be nominated; it helps us to know that we are doing things right.'

Neil is a member of Arran Mountain Rescue Team, and has a good knowledge of the Arran hills.

He continued: 'I talk with a lot of my guests about walking and climbing, and can give them information on the subject.'

'I always aim to make our guests feel welcome, the nomination has come as a surprise to me.'

Also in the spotlight this month is Fiona Rutherford who works part-time at Brodick Nursery Gardens.

The couple who nominated her said: 'Fiona presents Arran in one piece; colourful, positive, cheerful and practising an awesome, what we call in Sweden, outstanding 'hostmanship' with all her senses. Big thanks, we will be back.'

Fiona said: 'This is a nice sentiment from two very nice ladies.'

The ladies were mycologists from Sweden and Fiona went out of her way to help them. She gave them two beech saplings which they were hoping to plant when they got back home.

Fiona is involved with the Roots of Arran project to reintroduce native Scottish woodland to the Island and shared similar ecology interests with the Swedes.

Marjorie Bannatyne of the Lochside Guest House is the third nomination for December.

The overall winner for 2005 will be announced next month.



Fiona Rutherford gives excellent 'hostmanship'. b07amb2

St Brides Ladies

There are two types of garden tips - rubbish dumps and handy hints. Fortunately it was the latter which Norman Cuthbert brought to St Bride's Ladies on Monday 6 February.

He welcomed everyone to 'Norman's potting shed' and seemed to have brought its entire contents with him.

There was potting soil, grit, seed and seed trays, flower pots and plants and even a watering can. This was a really first class demonstration; hands-on and quite literally down to earth, beginning with the sowing of seeds and ending with the taking of cuttings.

Norman describes himself as only an amateur, but there is not much he doesn't know about gardening as he proved when answering the many questions put to him. He fully deserved the thanks expressed by Marion McRorie.

At the next meeting on Monday 20 February John Beattie will be giving a talk with the intriguing title, 'So bo-o-o-oring'. What can this mean? Watch this space and all will be revealed.



Neil Bulger aims to provide a friendly service. b07amb1



From the 1st April 2006 free bus travel is changing for people 60 and over and disabled people in Scotland.

- If you want to travel free on buses locally and Scotland-wide from 1st April 2006, you must apply for your new National Entitlement Card now.
- If you were sent information on how to apply for your new Entitlement Card please apply now.
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- The later you apply, the more likely it is that you will not have your new Entitlement Card in time.
- Your new Entitlement Card replaces your existing local scheme concession travel card and will also be used for the National Blind Scheme. In future you may be able to access other services on the Entitlement Card.
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NAC Budget - The opposition amendment

Response by Arran councillor Margie Currie to the North Ayrshire budget announcement last week

The Conservative group amendment to the proposal to raise council tax this year by 4.65 per cent was to peg the rise to 2.5 per cent as recommended by the Scottish Executive.

Although supported by the SNP group it was not surprisingly defeated by the Labour Whip.

While the Conservative group identified with most of the £7M proposed savings they believed that a further one per cent of savings could have been made by further economies shared by every department of the council. It is the case that the only serv-

ice to receive an increase in budget this year is roads and Councillor Currie welcomes this very much.

Arran will get its share of this budget and it will help, but it is apparently not nearly enough to solve all the problems.

Although everything will be done by the council not to reduce frontline services there will be

some unwelcome cuts. The Scottish Executive, particularly in Social Services, make demands upon councils to maintain and enhance these services without supplying the necessary extra funding to carry these through.

'Free personal care for the elderly and free travel are wonderful services but they are not free,' said Councillor Currie. 'The tax

payer has to pay. There is no such thing as a free meal.'

'I was not a proponent of devolution in the beginning but I very much support it now. I think that Scotland has benefitted greatly from devolution but I have serious concerns that we are in danger of living above our means.'

'I believe in fair and compassionate local government at a

price that the Scottish council taxpayer can afford.

'To achieve this balance is not easy. The Conservative group in North Ayrshire will continue to put pressure on the rising costs of local government albeit that the whole of the council is united in endeavouring to maintain jobs and essential services throughout the region.'

Brodick alive with *The Sound of Music*



Sandy McDougall sits at the piano providing music for budding Von Trapps. b07mus1

Forty years ago Julie Andrews wowed audiences worldwide in *The Sound of Music* film and still today this musical remains the family favourite of all time.

The dates for the Arran production of it in Brodick Hall are Monday 29 May until Saturday 3 June so take note now in your

diaries for the shows. Rehearsals are now into full swing after the festive season and the photograph shows a happy group yodelling away, *The lonely goatherd* accompanied at the piano by Sandy McDougall. In the picture are some of the children who successfully auditioned for principal

roles as the Von Trapp family. There will be fuller details of the cast in our 'spotlight' column in *The Banner* nearer the production time so watch out.

There is still time to join in however, so if you fancy a good old sing-along do come along.

Jean Bowden
Isle of Arran Music and Drama Group

High school news

Cast announced

After much deliberation and two sets of auditions, Arran High's production of *West Side Story* has been cast.

Pupils waited with anticipation for the list to appear on the wall of the music department on Friday morning.

Despite a wealth of singing and acting talent, unfortunately there weren't parts for everyone who auditioned. A great deal of thought went into casting the main parts and congratulations are in order for Paul Tinto, cast as Tony, our own stars Sabrina Beatan and Katie Maun as Maria and Anita respectively, Sam McDowall as Riff and Calum Johnston as Bernardo.

There are too many to list but we would like to congratulate everyone else who received a part and everyone who went through the painful process of auditioning.

Now that these parts have been cast, rehearsals will take place after school on Thursdays where Mrs Gough and Mrs Hamilton will be coaching pupils in their

acting and singing. The hard work starts now, and we wish everyone involved with the production the best of luck in the coming months.

Sarah Weir, S6

Young singer and musician of the year

It's that time of year again when S5 and S6 pupils from the music department are preparing to go head to head for the title of young singer or musician of the year.

This year the heats to see who goes on to do battle with the mainland talent will be held on Monday 20 February at 7pm in the Arran High School gym hall.

There will also be a range of performances from lower year groups. Although they are not eligible for entry this year, they may well be in the future. S5 or S6 pupils wishing to display their talents but not enter the competition will also be able to perform. There will be a winner picked from S1 and S2 and a winner from S3 and S4. These pupils will not go on any further to compete but will be held in high regard at Arran High.

Parents are welcome to attend and support the event free of charge.

Mhairi Beggans and Sabrina Beatan S5

The Competitive Coca-Cola Cup

There was victory and disappointment for the S1 Arran boys on Monday 6 February when they competed in the Coca-Cola 7-aside competition in Ayr.

Tension was high as a few famous football faces had turned up to watch. After a win, 1-0 against Auchinleck, with the winning goal being scored by Neil Faulkner, the players seemed to lose their luck and they narrowly missed out in the next match losing 2-1, despite a goal from Matthew Evans in P7. They then lost the third match 2-0 to Auchenhavrie.

However, these were and are hard, competitive games and full credit should go to the players for trying their best.

It wasn't all bad news though, as after the tournament there was a 45-minute coaching session with the ex-Scottish International player Murdo McCloud.

This included a keepy-up competition where two Arran boys, Matthew Evans and Alexander McNeil came joint first. Although they didn't win any prizes, the team came away having enjoyed their day and feeling proud of themselves. Better luck next time, boys! **Gemma MacDonald, S5**

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Back to school for Rotary



Back to school, Jim Lees and Douglas Meldrum and other members set about problem-solving. b07rot1

At last week's Rotary meeting Jim Nichols set the members a few posers to get the grey cells working.

Rotarians were reminded of those classroom conundrums about numbers of fence posts or

cars racing towards each other which always seemed so simple when the answer was provided.

Jim decided it was time to update Rotarians' problem solving skills and the visiting Assistant District Governor, Ian Birrs, joined in with enthusiasm.

He reminded his audience of the time before head teachers and college principals became managers and financial controllers and what a shock it was when they found themselves forced to become business managers.

As a management training consultant, Jim found planning and problem solving exercises very useful in helping them and decided

it would be good for Rotarians to polish up the brain cells and tackle a team problem solving exercise.

Instead of fence posts and cars they were asked, in teams, to answer a number of questions as they guided an imaginary super tanker on a mission.

The route was beset by barriers and problems, and these had to be solved before decisions about direction, time and speed could be worked out.

With questions like 'Where are we coming from? Where are we going? Where do we want to be?', there was a little banter at the start, but soon fascination and the

competitive spirit took over as heads were bowed over maps, tide tables and charts.

Jim was, however, a stern taskmaster, who looked horrified when a voice piped up: 'What day is it?'

Nothing puts Rotarians off and soon they were arguing with him and the other team as though the winning of this little competition was a matter of life and death.

What did the members learn? Jim's motto was: 'Discard irrelevant information and get on with the job.'

Not a bad motto learned from an entertaining, educational and well-organised evening. Fun too.



Rotarian Tom Miller comes up with his answers to the exercise. b07rot3

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Guitars play in Brodick Hall

The Aquarelle Guitar Quartet certainly lived up to its name on Saturday night.

A privileged audience was presented with a shimmering array of sound pictures at the Arran Music Society concert in Brodick Hall.

This talented quartet, comprising Michael Baker, Vasilis Bessas, James Jervis and Richard Safhill, winners of the prestigious Tunnell Trust Prize 2005/6 showed that there is much more you can do with a guitar than just strum it or pluck it.

In a selection of music ranging from the 18th century to the present day, much of it arranged by themselves, they delighted the ear with a sparkling display of virtuosity.

In a quartet of four identical instruments the concept of a leader is dispensed with, and tunes and phrases are passed around from player to player, seamlessly forming a musical whole.

It was fun to watch closely and see who had the tune now, but it was more fun to sit back and appreciate the different sound qualities of each individual and their instrument shaping and colouring the music.

At times a pair of guitars would play in octaves, using vibrato

to sustain a melody over a more staccato accompaniment; at others all four players were slapping and tapping away at the body of their guitars, showing great skill and precision as a percussion section.

Ghostly harmonics were invoked to atmospheric effect in *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* by Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Whilst you would expect rhythmic playing from guitars, there was plenty of lyricism, too. A favourite piece was *Opals*, by Australian composer Phillip Houghton.

Apparently he had written the colours that the players were to invoke on the music. This piece twinkled, flashed and changed colour just as opals themselves do.

The next music society concert is on Saturday 11 March, and features John Kenny. In a programme called *Music from the Gods* he will illustrate the story of lip-reed instruments from around the world.

The society is promised more music than talking and if Saturday's concert is anything to go by, they can expect an astonishing variety of sounds and musical effects.

As always, children of school age will be admitted free. Come along and expect your preconceptions to be blown away.

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Hollie and Merlin sweep the board

The penultimate show of the Winter Points competition held at Cairnhouse Riding Centre was a superb late birthday present for a certain young lady.

Hollie Adamson of Lamlash swept the boards winning every class she could with Merlin to bring her score to date to an incredible 114.

However, the grand final to be held on Sunday 5 March offers double points and there are a few determined young riders that are not going to let Hollie have it all her own way.

Twenty-two were forward for the wobbly classes. Anna Hamilton and Taylor Smith were both riding in their first Winter Points and according to Dawn Murchie,

owner of Cairnhouse stables: 'They both did a pretty good job too, coming away with double clear rounds, a rosette and three points each on the old score board.'

Sixteen were clear in class one, 15 went round clear in class two and the following 12 were double clear for three points on offer:

Beth Hamilton, Lauryn Fleming, Taylor Smith, Katelyn McVicar, Rhiannon Beveridge, Lynn Ramage, Kirsty McBain, Kirsty McQueen, Shauna Jamieson, Shannon MacAlister and Anna Hamilton.

Hollie started her winning streak by earning herself the five points for riding the fastest double clear round.

Eighteen were entered in the novice and it was good to see that half of them made it through and into a jump off against the clock. Katrina McDonald was drawn in first and set the followers a good example of how to tackle the tight twists and turns round the shortened course.

She brought Storm home clear

in just over 31 seconds. Shauna, who had brought her entire fan club for support, didn't disappoint them and turned wee Brambles inside out to ride a fabulous clear in 24.13 seconds to hold the lead for some time.

Rachael Kennedy had a nice, steady clear on her Mum's horse Tinker in 36.75 seconds which

was to merit one point. Eilidh Kerr was close on Shauna's tail but was just a fraction outside the time, clear in 24.22 seconds which was good enough for the yellow ticket.

However it was still all to play for and two riders later, Hollie came in and stole her little cousin's thunder, taking as few strides

as necessary to shave seconds off to win the class outright in 21.06 seconds. Nicola Currie had a lovely clear with her own Lilly in 36.31 seconds to finish in fifth place. With the biggest entry ever of 17 in the Mini Challenge, 12 of whom jumped the '100', the riders had everything to jump for.

Continued on page 9



Winners of the Mini Challenge from right are: First, Hollie Adamson on Merlin, Second, Kirsty McQueen on Cal, third Eildih Kerr on Storm, fourth Shannon MacAlister on Truly, fifth Katrina McDonald and sixth Nicola Currie on Lilly. b07win1

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Continued from page 8

Kirsty McBain was drawn in first with Katie and they came home with a top score of 235.

Rachael jumped the '100' both ways to score 255. Katrina was the first to score over 300 going into the lead with a score of 315,

but not for long as Kirsty McQueen jumped eight fences on Cal to take the lead with a top score of 375.

Eilidh had to settle for the yellow rosette again coming home on her horse Stormville City Arizona on 365.



Shauna Jamieson clearing a jump on Brambles; she came second in the novice class. b07win2

It was very close but there was just no stopping the pair on the day. Hollie, riding Jenna Thomson's Merlin managed to do it again and pulled out all the stops to score 385 for the red ribbon.

Shannon is never one to shy away from a challenge and rode a fabulous round on Truly to score 355 which was good enough for fourth place. Nicola was also in the ribbons with a top score of 280.

The following nine rode a clear round out of the 12 entered: Kirsty McBain, Katrina McDonald, Kirsty McQueen, Shauna Jamieson, Eilidh, Hollie, Megan MacAlister, Shannon and Nicola.

The Cairnhouse Challenge was as usual the last class of the day and it was good to see so many stay on to encourage the riders to take part. Kirsty McBain flew round at top speed on Sue Tozer's Katie to score 80. No one topped that until Eilidh did with Storm scoring 175 which was to put her into eventual third place once more.

Kirsty McQueen was the first to jump the '100' now standing at 3 feet 3 inches and scoring 220



Shannon MacAlister on Truly; she was fourth in the mini challenge. b07win3

went into the lead, however, it was short lived as Hollie jumped eight fences in the time allowed to return with a winning score of 340. Megan and her own Min-

strel collected two points for scoring 95 and sister Shannon just squeezed into fourth place on a score of 110.

The grand final showdown is

on the Sunday 5 March. Come along and watch what is going to be one of the closest competitions there has been at Winter Points.

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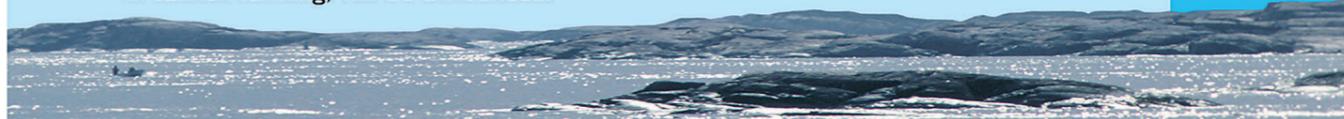
- o World Markets
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- o Species Development.

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



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.

Fit for the Future



GROUP BOOKING DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE UP TO 25% DISCOUNT
 FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE £465 + VAT BEFORE DISCOUNT

- Welcome reception
- Two day conference entry, includes lunch and refreshments
- Full conference papers
- Trade show
- Gala conference dinner and awards

SPACES FOR THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE ARE FILLING UP BOOK SOON TO SECURE YOUR PLACE!
 Tel: 0131 312 4550 www.aquaculturetoday.co.uk

News from Strasbourg

Elsbeth Attwooll MEP, who has a house in Whiting Bay, reports on the latest workings of the European Parliament

January's Strasbourg session had the European Parliament once again showing its teeth, throwing out a proposal on port services.

It was the Commission's second go at a piece of legislation to open up competition within ports. And it was much more heavily defeated than their first one.

This was because of all sorts of concerns about safety, social dumping, property rights and so on and because it did not really tackle the much bigger issue of competition between ports across the EU.

I certainly felt that it was unnecessary and unhelpful, prob-

ably actually damaging, in the Scottish context.

This month in Brussels has seen the usual Committee work, with my own opinion on the future use of EU funding for rural development getting voted through.

I was very pleased with the outcome and think that between the Regional Development and Agriculture Committees we have come up with some real improvements to the suggested guidelines.

January also saw our annual European Parliament Burns Supper. This started on its usual slightly unconventional path with a woman excellently reciting the address to the haggis.

This was followed by followed by a witty Immortal memory and a highly atmospheric delivery of Tam O' Shanter.

For the toast to the lassies and the reply we were really fortunate to have the contributions of two contemporary Scottish poets, Don Paterson and Jenny Lindsay,

who both did the subject proud.

As well as having a thoroughly enjoyable evening we managed to raise a good sum for the work of Mercy Corps Scotland. This was thanks to a full turnout, the generosity of the Royal Mail and Diageo and some fierce bidding at the auction.

People from other parts of the UK sometimes express surprise at how well the Scots MEPs, from four different political parties, can work together, not just on such social occasions but on a wide range of issues where Scotland's interests are particularly affected.

This looks to be necessary on various funding matters in the weeks to come.

On these or any other topics I can be contacted at Parliamentary Office, 2nd Floor, Olympic House, 142 Queen Street, Glasgow. G1 3BU. Telephone: 0141 243 2421 Email: info@elspethattwoollmep.org.uk. Website: www.elspethattwoollmep.org.uk



Elsbeth Attwooll with former party leader Charles Kennedy on a visit to the Remploy factory in Hillington. b07els1

THE START OF AN EXCITING NEW ERA

1st issue out on the 3rd March

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FISH Update

The new all sector industry monthly covering catching - processing - aquaculture

3x MORE PAGES

Whiting Bay Thursday Club

A trip to Jordan and Syria with the Rev Elizabeth Watson.

With the village experiencing a February cold spell the club found it most enjoyable to see slides of part of the Middle East bathed in hot sunshine from clear blue skies.

Elizabeth Watson, the minister at Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church, has made quite a few journeys to this part of the world and has organised several trips for parties made up of people from both on and off the Island. In fact she is away again with a tour later in the year.

Always well prepared, and with good background knowledge of the history, geography, economic and Biblical aspects of her topic, she took those gathered through her pictures in an interesting and captivating way. Adding to their pleasure were her little anecdotes about people and places.

Sometimes referred to as the *Cradle of Civilization*, the journey started in Jordan and ended in Syria. Among others they saw Amman, Damascus, Aleppo, Petra, Ugarit, Palmyra, the Temple of Bal and some Crusader castles.

The mountain and rock formations were eye-catching and the stonework of the various edifices, some of them Roman, was quite staggering in intricacy of carving and massiveness of size.

Perhaps labour was cheap and expendable, but they remain monuments to great effort and the success of early settled societies.

Elizabeth ended her talk saying how friendly she had found the ordinary people of Syria and Jordan and that anyone with an interest in history and archaeology would be well satisfied with a visit to these counties.

Heather White moved the vote of thanks and the loud applause indicated how very pleased the members had been with the talk.

The afternoon was completed with tea and home baking and thanks are due to the members organising the hospitality. Among other delights there were pancakes with butter and jam, a tasty sponge with a thick icing; and very interesting chocolate triangles that were just fantastic.

The club appreciates the very talented home-bakers among their number.

The next meeting provides an opportunity to see more of the underwater pictures from the club's friends at the Community of Arran Seabed Trust, COAST.

They will also hear an update of the progress of this local pressure group. The meeting after that is an afternoon tea at Bilslands. Names are already being taken. The list will appear at the next meeting and then will go into Bay News shop.

A warm invitation is extended to all members, friends and Islanders interested in either of these meetings.

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Come and join us for a relaxing evening meal in our fully licensed restaurant.
Open Wednesday to Sunday 5.30pm. Last orders 8.30pm
For bookings please call 303522
COPPERWHEATS COFFEE HOUSE
Open Monday - Saturday 7.30am - 5pm
Sunday 10.30am - 5pm
Serving a selection of coffees, homebaking, light meals and snacks

CATACOL Bay Hotel
Due to refurbishment, the hotel and bar will close at 6pm on Sunday 12th February and reopen on Saturday 25th February



SHORE ROAD WHITING BAY 01770 700250

Fine Contemporary Art Gallery

Showing the latest paintings by

Resident Artists Nick Giles and Tommy Fitchet and also Peter Howson, Graham McKean, Nicky Gill, Martin Oates, Joan Lawson, Josephine BroekHeuzen, Richard Butterworth, Lynn Scobbie, and Sculptures by Tim Pomeroy
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

Portnalochan Fishery, Kilpatrick, open all day
Brodick Country Park, 10 am-dusk
Arran Brewery, 10am-3.30pm Mon,Wed, Thur, Fri . Sat 10-4pm
Ardsheil Gallery, W. Bay 1.30-5pm (Wed - Sun)
Main Fine Art, Oakbank, Auchrannie Rd, Bro. 2-5pm
Trout Fly Fishing, Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank.

Weightwise, Hospital bungalow 6.30pm-7pm
Indoor Cricket Auchrannie Games Hall 7-9pm
Yoga, Kildonan Hotel, 10.30am
Lamlash Bridge Club, Clubhouse 7.15pm
Kildonan WRI 2pm
St Bride's Ladies meeting
Arran Antiquarians, Brodick Hall 2pm

Shiskine Beavers, Shiskine Hall 6-7pm
Sound of Music rehearsal, Brodick hall 7.30pm
Dance / Exercise class over 50's / 60's W.Bay Hall 2-3pm D Harris
Drama Festival Community Centre 7pm

SATURDAY 18th February

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
Lamlash Church Guild 10.30am - 12noon
Mixed doubles darts, Breadalbane, 7.30pm
Arran Schools Brass Band, coffee morning & jumble sale, Brodick Hall 11am
Beetle Drive, Lamlash Church Hall, 2.30pm in aid of restoration fund
Arran Word & Music Workshop, Kilmory Hall 10am-3.30pm
Arran Word & Music Ceilidh. Kilmory Hall 8pm
Deep Joy, Cameronia, 9.30pm

TUESDAY 21st February

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
Brodick Toddler Group, Church Hall, 10.30am-noon
Lochranza Swimming Club, Kinloch, 11am-noon
Pirmill Guild meeting - village hall 2pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm
Jnr Rugby Training, S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm
Indoor bowls, Auchrannie, 7-9pm
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 4-6pm by appointment only
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
Loch & Cat Coffee morning, hall 10am-noon
Lamlash Church Guild meeting, Church hall, 2.30pm

THURSDAY 23rd February

Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am-12.05pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30-10.30am & 10.45-11.45am
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 10.30am-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
Sound of Music rehearsal Brodick hall 7.30pm
Garden Club meeting & AGM Ranger Centre, 7.30pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Hall 2pm
Drama Festival Community Centre 7.00pm

SUNDAY 19th February

Childrens Art Class, Burnside Gallery, 10.30am-1pm
Arran Art Gallery Whiting Bay 11am-6pm
Lochranza Choir, village hall 2.30pm
Open Folk session night, Ormidale, 9pm

WEDNESDAY 22nd 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
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, 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4.30pm
Aerobics class, High School 8-9pm

FRIDAY 24th February

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 10.30am-noon
Ceilidh Dance Group Lamlash Hall 8pm - 10pm
Lamlash Friday Club, lunch at Kildonan Hotel, bus leaves Gordon's car park 11.30am
Loch & Cat Coffee morning 10am-noon
Drama Festival Community Centre 7.00pm

MONDAY 20th February

Shiskine Playgroup, Shiskine Hall, 9.25am to 12.05pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie, 9.30-10.30am
Over 50s Badminton, Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Football coaching, Ormidale Park, 6 7.30pm (8-15yrs)
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, 10.30am-12.30pm 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

SATURDAY 25th February (non regulars)

Scottish Country Dancing AGM Brodick Church Hall 11am
Drama Festival Community Centre 7.00pm

The Cameronia Hotel
Whiting Bay
LIVE MUSIC
Deep Joy
Saturday 18th February
9.30pm til late
usual ID will be requested

Auchrannie

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Non-smoking working
family

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OR

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WANTED

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employment.
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considered

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Tuesday 28 March
11 a.m.

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AUCHRANNIE**

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01770 303904

BRODICK HIGHLAND GAMES COMMITTEE Annual General Meeting

**ORMIDALE HOTEL
TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2006**

at 7.30 p.m.

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/05/01197/PP Address The Byre, Claulchlands Road, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development Erection of two storey extension to side of detached dwelling house

Application No N/05/01171/PP Address Site To South Of Glen Cottage, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development Installation of telecommunications base station (enhancer) comprising 2 no 4m high timber poles, 2 no antennae and 2 no equipment cabinets

Application No N/06/00070/PP Address Site To South Of Kilmory House, Kilmory, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development Erection of 4 no detached dwelling houses and formation of ancillary roads, garages and parking spaces

Application No N/05/01106/PP Address Site To West Of Coastguard House 1 and 2, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development Erection of a detached dwelling house

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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2 owners, only
58,000 miles,
Central locking,
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Telephone **01770 600296**

All conditions and details of salary will be subject to negotiation at the interview

LOOKING FOR STAFF?



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FAX: (01770) 302021

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Caterer required

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Whiting Bay Golf Club

Apprentice Greenkeeper

£120 - £202 per week depending on age

To assist in the maintenance of Whiting Bay Golf Club grounds.
A willingness to undertake training and attend college is essential, a minimum of 4 Standard Grades is desirable.
This is a permanent position.

Applications in writing to Mrs M Auld,
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Applications to be received no later than Monday 6th March 2006

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Start first week in March.

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A shift pattern basis will apply this will normally consist of week on week off.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 10-SG no later than 24 February 2006 to:

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Bilslands
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Bilslands, Brodick, Isle of Arran.

302272

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Applicants should write to Marie Park enclosing c.v. with a brief letter explaining their suitability for this post.

Arran HideAways, The Hideaway, Brodick KA27 8AJ

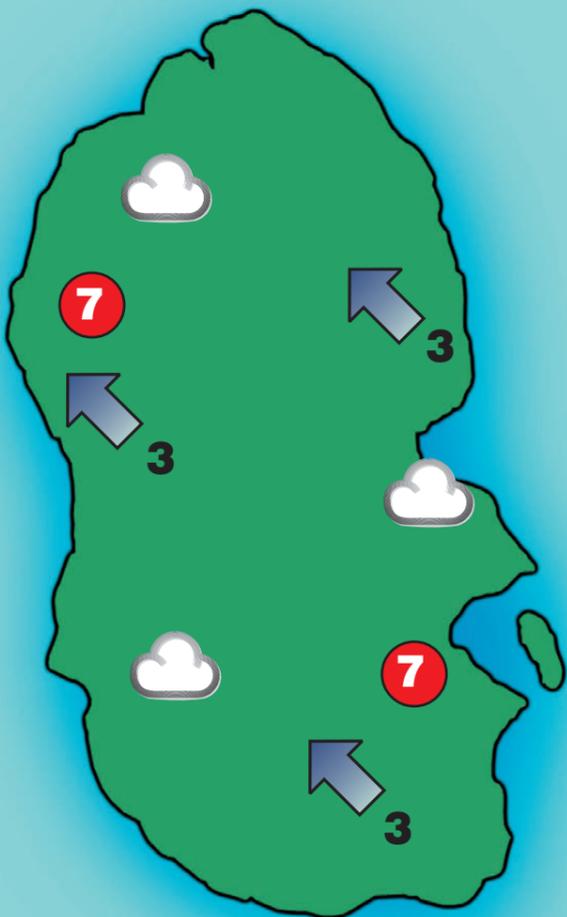
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, February 18 2006** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Sat	03.04	2.8	08.35	0.4	15.04	3.1	20.46	0.3
Sun	03.33	2.7	09.11	0.5	15.38	3.0	21.24	0.4
Mon	04.05	2.6	09.51	0.6	16.13	2.9	22.08	0.6
Tues	04.37	2.5	10.41	0.8	16.54	2.7	23.03	0.8
Wed	05.22	2.4	11.43	0.9	17.49	2.5	** ** *	**
Thur	00.10	0.9	06.37	2.3	13.05	1.0	19.12	2.4
Fri	01.30	1.0	08.38	2.3	14.42	0.8	21.06	2.4

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

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



Saturday

the weather

Saturday, February 18

Mainly dry day with a light southerly breeze. Temperatures average for time of year 6°C and 7°C

Sunday, February 19

Settled day with a light breeze
Temperatures between 6°C and 7°C.

Monday and Tuesday

Dry fine and bright on Monday. Feeling rather cold
Temperatures 5°C and 6°C.
Possibility of scattered showers into Tuesday

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate
Tarbert/ Lochranza - Moderate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH NEWS

Arran Free Church of Scotland

Sunday 19 February
Shiskine 11am.
Brodick 7pm.
Reverend David Karoon.
All welcome.

Lamlash, Shiskine, Lochranza and Pirnmill

Sunday 19 February.
Lamlash Church; 11.45am, St Molio's, Shiskine 10.00am. Both services by Rev Kenneth Fisher.
St Bride's, Lochranza, 10.30am; Pirnmill Church 12 noon. Both services by Mrs Jean Hunter.
All Welcome

Brodick and Corrie Churches

Worship will be conducted in Brodick Church on Sunday 19 February at 10.45am and in Corrie Church at noon. All welcome. Tea and coffee will be available in the hall at Brodick after the service. Both services

will be conducted by Mr Angus Adamson our locum minister.

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 19 February
Worship will be conducted by the minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods and cards.

The Young People's Group for all in S2 and older meet in the Manse at 7pm.
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 19 February
Public worship and Sunday school at 10am
Visitors especially invited.
Rev John Webster, locum.

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 19 February: 11.00 am, Holy Communion. Mr J Roberts.

Coffee after service.
Wednesday 22 February: noon.

Holy Communion. All Welcome.

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 19 February at 11 a.m. in the Free Church building, Brodick (Beside the Post Office) Tom Hutchison 'The Christian's Hope' (1Pet:1-12)
All welcome.

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 19 February
Trust housing lounge, Brodick, 11am.
Evening service, 5 Glen Road, Brodick 7pm.
Prayer meeting Wednesday 22 February.
Rev D McLeod.
All welcome.

editorial@arranbanner.net

PERSONALS

BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 18th



Love from Mum, Michael and Stephen

BIRTHDAY



THANKYOU

Jane would like to say a big Thank You to all friends and relatives who made her **40th Party** a fantastic night to remember and for all the lovely gifts. Special thanks to 'Party Planners' Dianne and Gail (also to Dad, Mum, John and Ella for tidying-up operation on Sunday morning!)

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THANKS

MACDONALD - Finlay MacDonald, died peacefully on February 1. Special thanks to all staff at AWMH for the care given to him in his final weeks. Thanks, also, to Jean Hunter for a lovely service and D. Hendry for funeral arrangements.

Special thanks to Johnny, Sandy, Diane and Rorie for their support and friendship. Betty and family would also like to thank all friends and colleagues for all the lovely cards and flowers received; they have given great comfort at this sad time.

BIRTH

MORRISON - David and Lisa are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Kirsty Mary, a wee sister for Gregor.

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATH

McKINNIE - Robert Andrew (Robin), suddenly, on the Isle of Wight on Friday, February 10. Funeral private. No flowers, please. Donations in lieu can be made to Riding for the Disabled (Arran Group) Bank of Scotland.

PERSONAL

Isle of Arran ferry crossing. **Saturday October 15th 2005. 11am** crossing from Brodick to Ardrossan. Lady driving blue Mazda Reg KFO'S BMY please contact Andy, passenger in red Peugeot at the Arran Banner Box Number 911

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
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At last, KD, it would appear that you have reached your 30th year. First was Hazel then it was Jill. So it's off to Glasgow for a wild weekend. Lots of money I'm sure you'll spend. But save some aside 'cos our time will come. We'll party all night - and then some!
Happy Birthday!
Love S.I. Jill & Hazel

Murray is open pool champ



From left, open pool finalists Glen Willis, Craig Galloway, champion Murray Picken and Peter McKinnon. b07p001

Murray Picken of Lagg won the Arran Open pool tournament at Corrie Hotel last Sunday 12 February. Murray, who won the Arran singles title two years ago, defeated former

open champion Glen Willis of the Cameronia in the final. Losing semi-finalists were Peter McKinnon of Corrie Hotel and Craig Galloway of the Cameronia.

Fixtures

Ladies singles at Bar Eden Sunday 26 February, 3pm

Arran singles

To be played by Sunday March 5.

Breadalbane; J Ferguson v M Picken, A Cook v A Picken.

Cameronia; C Duncan v E Ingram Aldersyde; E Picken v J O'Connor.

'Robbie Williams' rocks the crowds at Kilmory Hall



Stewart Reid with his Robbie Williams show in Kilmory hall last Saturday night. b07rob1

Kilmory Hall rocked to the sound of Robbie Williams last Saturday night.

Singer Stewart Reid brought his Robbie sound-alike show to the southend of Arran and was well-received by a boisterous audience ranging in years from early 20s to mature middle-age.

He opened with the rock anthem *Let me entertain you* and took in Robbie's full repertoire of Sinatra-style swing before closing with the legendary *Angels*.

This was the first pop concert in the newly re-furnished Kilmory Hall and the floor was given a severe test as the crowd jumped up and down in mild hysteria.

Stewart Reid maintained a credible Robbie-type nasal Stoke-on-Trent accent during the performance but when speaking with *The Banner* backstage lapsed into his native Kilmarnock voice.

He and his entourage stayed in the new bunkhouse above the lesser hall and declared themselves to be delighted with the comfort and convenience of the Kilmory accommodation.

Prom night at the Aldersyde

The Aldersyde Hotel in Lamlash held a special Valentine prom night last Saturday 11 February.

The bar was transformed to 1950s high school America with the pool table effectively dressed up as a pink Cadillac motor car.

Some of the patrons also went to the trouble of dressing in 1950s gear for an evening of bopping and jiving to a selection of choice tunes from DJ Mark McGee.



Putting on the style for prom night at the Aldersyde in their best blue frocks are Heidi Macfarlane, Janice MacVicar and Janet Brown. b07pro1

CLASSIFIED

For Sale

MAHOGANY OVAL table 5' x 3' with 4 matching high back chairs. Ex con. Tel 820689
 2,500 litre bunded plastic oil tank. VGC. £400 Tel 860435
 VOLVO 850 estate 1994. Mot oct, towbar. Tidy big car £600 Tel 302325
 VW PASSAT estate Mot till Nov 06. Old but reliable. 48,000 miles. £400 ono Tel 860256
 HOOVER, vortex power 2 years old. £50 Tel 600628
 INDESIT DISHWASHER full size £75 Tel 700673
 SILVERCROSS PRAM hard body. Navy, includes parasol, pillow set and bag £130. Silvercross soft pram, navy £50. Mamas and Papas car seats £30 and £40. Childs pine wardrobe £40. 3 wheel, 6 volt motorbike. Suit child 2 - 5yrs £40. Tel 303555
 FIESTA VAN diesel, P reg Tax & MOT £350 ono. Fridge freezer. little used. £75 ono. Cement mixer, electric, little used £125 ono. Tel 600902 Monday pm onward.
 ROVER 416I N Reg, very good runner £600 ono. Tel 700665
 NISSAN PRIMERA. hatchback, 2 litre turbo diesel. T Reg. Mot & taxed. Electric windows, central locking, cd player £1895 ono. Tel 860497 after 5pm
 4 BERTH TOURING CARAVAN Abbey Oxford. Shower, cassette toilet. Good condition. Tel: 01770 860576
 HEWLET PACKARD Laptop Computer, Intel inside. Excellent condition £80 Tel: 01770 302856

Under £30

GOLDEN WONDER, Kerrs Pink, White Potatoes, Dirty Carrots. Tel 820218 after 7pm. Can deliver
 SEVERAL CHAIRS. Free to uplifter - donation to Heritage Museum appreciated. Tel 302412
 VALOR HEATER £20 Tel 600628
 DOUBLE FOLDING Bed £30 Calor Gas four ring cooker with grill £30 Tel: 01770 700274
 3 SEATER SOFA with blue loose covers £20 SINGLE BED (base & mattress) seldom used £30 NEST of TABLES (3) circa 1950 £10 DINING TABLE (oval) & 6 chairs & sideboard - needs TLC £30
 PAIR of WING BACK armchairs (dark red) any reasonable offer. ELECTRIC COOKER & MICROWAVE free to uplifter Tel: 01770 600752

Wanted

RUSSIAN TUITION. 16year old boy needs intensive russian teaching/ conversation week commencing 20th Feb. Tel 0208 747 0871
 SMALL ARMCHAIR/ Tel 600664
 DOG CAGE - suitable for large breed. Tel: 01770 860425

Miscellaneous

BRAE SALON, Blackwaterfoot: Open Sat, Tues and Fri 10am -5pm. Gift vouchers available. Tel. 860456.
 JOHN ROBERTSON, JOINER & GLAZIER: Joinery, kitchens, replacement windows, repair/maintenance, extensions/alterations etc. Estimates free. Tel 860243.
 ARRAN CLEANING SERVICES: Windows, Carpets & Upholstery, also gutter cleaning. See Index ad Tel. 303555 (Mob 07050 064656).
 JOHN WATKINS: Electrical, Plumbing & Heating Engineers: Suppliers of Rayburn, Esse Cookers & Villager Stoves etc. Tel. 700585, fax 700731. Mob 07775 942319.
 ARRAN LAMB COMPANY, Abattoir services. Contact Iain Anderson, phone/fax 850264, mob. 07962 219481, email iain@arranlamb.com.
 WALLPAPERS: Over 1000 designs. County Carpets Tel.700480.
 GATES, RAILINGS, BALCONIES complete, grills, ornamental ironwork. Free estimates, D Nelson. Tel/fax 700551.
 CAKES FOR ALL OCCASSIONS! Kinloch hotel home bakery - Made to order. Tel 860444 or call into the Bakery to place your order. Open Tue, Thurs & Sat.
 TONY BUTCHER UPHOLSTERY SERVICES, Repairs, recover, restore. Tel 600975

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Arran's Weekly Newspaper



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Seven-a-side soccer in Ayr

The first round of the Coca-Cola football 7's kicked-off earlier in the month with over 7,000 boys and girls from across Scotland competing for the chance to play in the finals at Scotland's field of dreams, Hampden Park.

Arran sent forward a boys team and a girls team to Whitletts in

Ayr earlier in the month to take part in the opening rounds.

Both fought valiantly with the boys competing in seven matches and the girls team in eight. They played well but couldn't manage enough to take them through.

The boys won against Auchinleck Academy A, 1-0 and

Auchinleck Academy B, 3-0. However victory was to elude them in their other matches against Garnock, Kilwinning, Auchinharvie and Marr recording 1 draw and 4 defeats.

The girls fared better with three wins, four draws and only one loss, going down 3-0 against Auchinleck Academy A.

The Arran High girls had a great win over Auchinleck Academy B 4-0 but a couple of no score draw games didn't help with their chances of progressing to the next round.

However, both teams had a good time and enjoyed the experience of playing in a big event.

Sixth year

This is the sixth year of the competition which is open to all Scottish secondary schools and is organised by the Scottish Schools Football Association.

Every team taking part in the tournament received coaching from Scotland legend Murdo MacLeod and his team of coaches, Gary Mackay and Chic Charnley, who were on hand to put the players through a football skills programme.

For more on this story see the High School News column on page 6 of this week's *Banner*.



Girls team from Arran High School team. b07fot2



Arran High School boys team who competed in this years competition. b07 fot1

Golf...

Shiskine Golf Club - Gents section

Fixtures

Gents Sunday 19 February Final ryder cup game

Sunday 26 February 12 hole medal and winter cup

Sunday 5 march winter league

Sunday 12 March 12 hole medal and final winter cup

Shiskine Golf Club - Ladies section

Fixtures

Saturday 25 February ALGU Drumadon.

Thursday 2 March 18 hole medal.

Thursday 16 March 12 hole medal.

Lamlash Golf Club - Gents section

Gents fixtures

Sunday 19 February, winter

friendly v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay, 10.30am, for 11am start Sunday 26 February, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts.

Lamlash Golf Club - Ladies section

Results

Wednesday 8 February, February Medal, CSS: 64

1 E Ross 80-17=63, 2 E Sinclair 83-13=70, 3 E Jones 82-10=72. Best Scratch E Ross 80.

Corrie Golf Club

Results

Monday 6 February, Monday Cup.

1 A MacDonald 35+32=67-6=61bih, 2 I Buchanan 35+36=71-10=61, 3 P Moran 40+39=79-17=62. Two magic two's

Fixtures

Saturday 18 February, winter cup, draw at noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 7 February, winter cup, 13 played

1 A MacDonald (61), 2 B Sherwood (65), 3 I Buchanan (68)

Best scratch was 69, both H Bannatyne and B Sherwood who each had a magic twos.

Fixtures

Drumadon Tray, Ladies' competition at Machrie on Saturday 25 February, see sheet on notice board.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 12 February, brandon and winter cup, 18 played

1 Brian Smith (13) 66bih, 2 Bryce Walker (16) 66, 3 Iain Sillars (13) 67, scratch Jimmy Armit 76.

John Beattie had the only magic two

First class brandon winner: Chris Pattenden, second class winner: Brian Smith

♣♦ Bridge News ♥♠

Brodick Bridge

Thursday 9 February

N/S: 1 D Scobie, D Bruce +2290, 2 J & J Murchie +1740, 3 H Boyd, L Paul +1170

E/W: 1 J Maclure, A McKelvie +40, 2 R & J McBride -20, 3 A Bilsland, E Duncan -580

Shiskine Bridge

Friday 10 February

N/S: M & C Bannatyne +1290, H Boyd & P Adamson -20, F Crawford & D Henderson -1330

E/W: V Iutz & C McAlister +1110, M McGill & E Sillars +710, M Iutz & J Murchie -1910

Lamlash Bridge

Monday 13 February

N/S: 1 J. & J. Beattie + 1100, 2 J. & J. Murchie + 250, 3 E. Paul & M. Cumming - 280

E/W: 1 H. Boyd & M. Alexander + 2380, 2 J. McClure & A. McKelvie + 1830, 3 E. McKellar & I. McArthur + 1600

Don't miss next weeks *Banner* and your chance to win tickets to a top SPL match

More sport page 15



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