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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 2009

No 1689

**FREE** inside Your LOCAL Magazine

## Arran Life

a focus on the island of Arran, its clubs and activities and the people who live here as well as great competitions, recipes and much more....

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Fire and Rescue Service protects Arran • James Bone – A Life on the Land • Arran Spring Bulb Show • 26 years of Arran Hospital Supporters League • Plus win a £60 hamper + much more

# Arran Aromatics saved

## New base for rescue team

Arran Mountain Rescue Team was given the keys to its new operations base at Cladach, Brodick this week, almost a year after building began.

Contractor John Corbett handed over the key to Alistair Hume, former AMRT team leader, on Friday.

'It's great to finally get the keys,' said Alistair. 'The new base is going to make such a big difference to the team. The old hut was tiny; it had no toilets, no running water and it was always cold.'

Since the 1960s the team has been based in a hut behind the old Brodick Police station. The shed is too small to hold training sessions in or to store all of its equipment.

The new base not only has toilets but also has shower facilities for male and female members as well as plenty of storage and office space.

'The new base is ideally situated for callouts,' said Alistair. 'We are directly across the road from the main path up to Goat Fell. It also means that team members have a warm place to coordinate searches from. It will make big difference.'



Alistair Hume, former leader of Arran Mountain Rescue Team, accepts the key to the new operations base from contractor John Corbett. b09mrt01

John Corbett, owner of the Arran-based construction company John Corbett and Son, explained that the wooden building is unique to Arran. 'This is a Sylvan Stewart log cabin which was purposely designed for the needs of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.'

The majority of the funding for the new base was contributed by the charity The Order of St John.

The team plan to hold an official opening of the operations base in the next few months, which members of The Order of St John will attend.

## New investment secures future of island's largest private employer

Report by JENNIFER LYON

Arran Aromatics, one of the island's biggest businesses, was given a new lease of life this week as investors secured the future of the struggling firm.

The running of the toiletries company – the island's biggest private employer with 95 direct employees and 66 on Arran itself – has been taken over by Iain Pittman after the departure of former managing director Alistair Rennick.

Mr Pittman and the Russell family – the founders of the company – and other financial backers have all invested money in Arran Aromatics to secure its future.

However, a handful of jobs will go through a voluntary redundancy scheme.

### Confident

Speaking to *The Arran Banner* this week, Mr Pittman said he was confident that Arran Aromatics had a strong future.

'This business has tremendous potential,' he said. 'I like the company and the people who work for it. With 20 years of history on the island it would have been ludicrous to see it fail.'

Arran Aromatics is the island's biggest private employer with 95 direct employees and 66 on Arran itself.

Before Christmas it was revealed that a petition had been presented at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) ordering the company to wind up and appoint a liquidator.

It was believed that the company had a £180,000 unpaid tax bill.

'The bank (HBOS) has been very supportive,' said Mr Pittman. 'It has put together a deal that we are delighted with, as has HMRC, which leaves us in a much healthier position.'

The Russell family have also supported the business quite considerably and I myself have invested a lot of money.'

Kenneth Gibson MSP said: 'I am delighted we've secured the long-term future of Arran Aromatics. At least 90 per cent of jobs are going to be retained over the next couple of months.'

Mr Pittman revealed that staff have been told of a voluntary redundancy scheme this week but he insists this is simply a temporary measure until the company gets back on track.

'We do need to reduce the workforce slightly but, assuming sales pick up in the next few months, we will be able to beef up staff numbers again in the summer,' he said.

Arran councillor Margie Currie said: 'I am hugely relieved at this news because of the high level of local employment at Arran Aromatics,' she said. 'I was beginning to wonder whether manufacturing on Arran could survive in these troubled times but I am very relieved to hear that their future is secure.'

'The success of Arran Aromatics is important not just to their employees but also for the confidence of all businesses on Arran. I wish them lots of luck.'

Arran Aromatics began making body care products on the island in 1988.

Iain and Janet Russell bought the Home Farm premises in January 1989 and the first products were made on the site a few months later.

The family-run toiletries company has expanded significantly over the past three years and now employs around 100 staff between their island premises and the factory in Dundonald on the mainland.



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## Police files

### Invalid licence

A 47-year-old Glasgow woman was charged with having an invalid excise licence for her vehicle at 7pm in Market Road, Brodick on Sunday February 15.

### Drink driving charges

A 56-year-old Lamlash man was charged at 3.55pm last Thursday in Shore Road, Lamlash with drink driving and having no valid MoT certificate for his car. Last Friday a Prestwick man was arrested for drink driving near to Alma Road, Brodick.

### Careless driving charge

An 18-year-old Lamlash man was charged with careless driving, failing to report an accident and attempting to pervert the course of justice as a result of an incident in Lamlash at 5pm last Sunday.

### Malicious mischief

Following damage by tyre tracks on the green behind the Co-op Welcome Convenience Store in Brodick at 1.15am last Saturday morning a 22-year-old Corrie man has been charged with driving on land other than a roadway and malicious mischief.

### Vehicle defects

Two vehicle defect rectification forms were issued by police this week; one to a Corrie man and one to a Brodick driver.

## New clubhouse approved

Two Arran planning applications were approved at Tuesday's meeting of the North Ayrshire Council planning committee.

An application to build a new clubhouse for Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club was approved with four conditions, one being that before commencing use of the new building the existing

clubhouse shall be demolished and the site made into a car park.

An application for a farm worker's house at Clauchlands Farm in Lamlash was also approved subject to four conditions and a section 75 agreement to limit occupation to persons employed in agriculture.

# North Ayrshire Council chief to stand down

North Ayrshire's chief executive, Ian Snodgrass, is to retire in August.

By then he will have spent five years in the post and 40 years in local authority service.

As chief executive he supported the council in meeting the social and economic challenges in its area.

He has led on two main priorities, social and economic regeneration.

The council's strategic approach has also been shaped by the formation of a Community Planning Partnership, enabling it to work with partners and agencies, particularly health and police, to respond to local needs.

### Positive

The council was one of the first to complete the Best Value Audit with Audit Scotland and received a good report. Since then inspections of social work, child protection, libraries and housing have all been positive with housing management graded as excellent.

It is expecting a very good report from its recent educational service inspection.

Mr Snodgrass wrote to councillors last week saying that when he took the chief executive's post he said he would serve for five years.

He said: 'North Ayrshire is a very good council and I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve this area. I have had a lot of support from members and officers and this has been



Ian Snodgrass outside the *Banner* office. b09exe01

greatly appreciated.

'But we now need a new chief executive with the vision to lead the council over the next five to 10 years and the freshness and stamina to lift our performance to the next level.'

It is hoped that the new chief executive will be in post by July.

Council leader David O'Neill said: 'Ian Snodgrass has served North Ayrshire well.'

'He has led from the front and delivered continuous improvement. We wish him well in his retirement.'

Arran's councillor Margie Currie said that Ian Snodgrass has been 'the most astute and

energetic chief executive that NAC could have hoped to employ'.

She said: 'For members and staff he is at all times approachable and helpful on matters great and small and he possesses an amazing retentive memory.'

'Much respected on the scene in Scotland nationally, Ian has fulfilled the five-year term he undertook to do both ably and professionally and it is a great regret that this time is up. Change is part of working life and Ian will be missed. Clever, diligent and likeable all at the same time are qualities that will be very hard to replace!'

## Ian must end his potholes campaign

Ian Small will be served with an enforcement notice by North Ayrshire Council next week ordering him to take down his road signs warning of the poor state of Arran roads.

North Ayrshire councillor Margie Currie told *The Banner* that the specially-made signs gave visitors a negative message about the island.

She said: 'I am not against Ian drawing attention to the poor state of Arran's roads but the word used on these signs paints a very negative picture of the island to people coming off the boat.'

Ian had the signs specially made in the same style as the BEAR signs that warn of defects on mainland roads. They can be seen at various spots around the island.

## Cheese and wine evening

We reported last week that a cheese and wine evening for Save the Children was held in Brodick Golf Club recently.

We correctly wrote that the general raffle raised £271 and the special whisky raffle raised a further £74, however we did not mention that the total sum raised was £873.

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# Arran comeback for the black grouse



Stevie Bunyan with the tyre tracks on the green near Brodick playpark. b09gra01

## Racers churn up Brodick Green

The village green behind the Co-op Welcome Convenience Store at Invercloy was churned up by car tracks last weekend.

On Monday morning Arran's NAC grounds maintenance supervisor Stevie Bunyan showed the Banner the ruts cut into the wet grass surface.

He said: 'It's the talk of the village. My phone was red hot on Saturday. It looks as though boy racers have been doing donuts on the green.'

'They do the same tricks at the boat slip opposite Bilslands but the club will be putting up bollards to stop them. At least with the mild weather we should be able to repair the green in a few days.'

The damage was done at about 1.15am on Saturday morning. In connection with this incident, a 22-year-old Corrie man was subsequently charged by police with driving on land other than a roadway and causing malicious mischief.

Further wheel tracks were left on the front green in Corrie in a separate incident.

The Arran Black Grouse Group welcomed 14 pairs of grouse to the island last weekend in an attempt to reinstate the once booming population of the birds on the island.

Kate Sampson, head ranger at Brodick Castle said: 'It is great to see the black grouse finally arrive on Arran - this follows eight years of planning and hard work by the Arran Black Grouse Group, National trust for Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage - as well as generous donations from local businesses and individuals from Arran.'

### Natural Habitat

'We will now keep the females and a few of the males in specially designed pens intended to mimic the natural habitat and reduce stress levels so that the birds can breed in safety this year. The chicks will then be released into the wild, where we hope they will flourish once again.'

In November 2007, The Arran Black Grouse Group, consisting of ornithologists through to shooting enthusiasts, brought over three pairs from Aberdeen to West Glen Sherraig Farm, Glen Rosa, for breeding.

The black grouse was last

recorded on Arran in the 1960s and it is unclear why numbers dwindled so quickly. Most point to the changes in farming practice, which destroyed many suitable habitats, while others will suggest predation was a main factor.

However The Arran Black Grouse Group is confident now is the time to reintroduce the bird as these habitats have grown back.

And while black grouse are still on game shooting lists, the shooting of these birds

will not be an issue, according to the group. Group member Rab Logan, who first mooted the idea of reintroducing black grouse 10 years ago, told the Banner in 2007 that they will be actively discouraging the shooting of these birds.



The black grouse was last recorded on Arran in the 1960s and it is unclear why numbers dwindled so quickly. b09gro01NO

## Community council on the move

Arran's community councillors have decided to move their monthly meetings from the North Ayrshire Council offices in Lamlash to the Ormidale Sports Pavilion in Brodick in a bid to encourage more people to attend.

### Suggested

On Tuesday night chairman Campbell Laing suggested that a move to Brodick would

hopefully allow more members of the public to come to the meetings.

The move comes as part of the agreed administration of a £10,000 grant to the Arran Sports Association (ASA) from the community council.

The council had been appointed to take part in a Scottish government pilot scheme, which enabled them to give the

ASA money to help maintain the sports complex at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

### Administration

Mr Laing explained: 'We have decided to give the entire grant of £10,000 to the Sports Association. At a meeting in Glasgow with Anna Gilbert and Jonathan Moore (civil servants) it was suggested by them that we hold our meetings in the

pavilion as part of the ongoing administration of the grant money.'

By holding the monthly meeting in Brodick councillors agreed that it would allow them to see first hand how the money was being spent.

The Isle of Arran Community Council meetings take place on the last Tuesday of every month.

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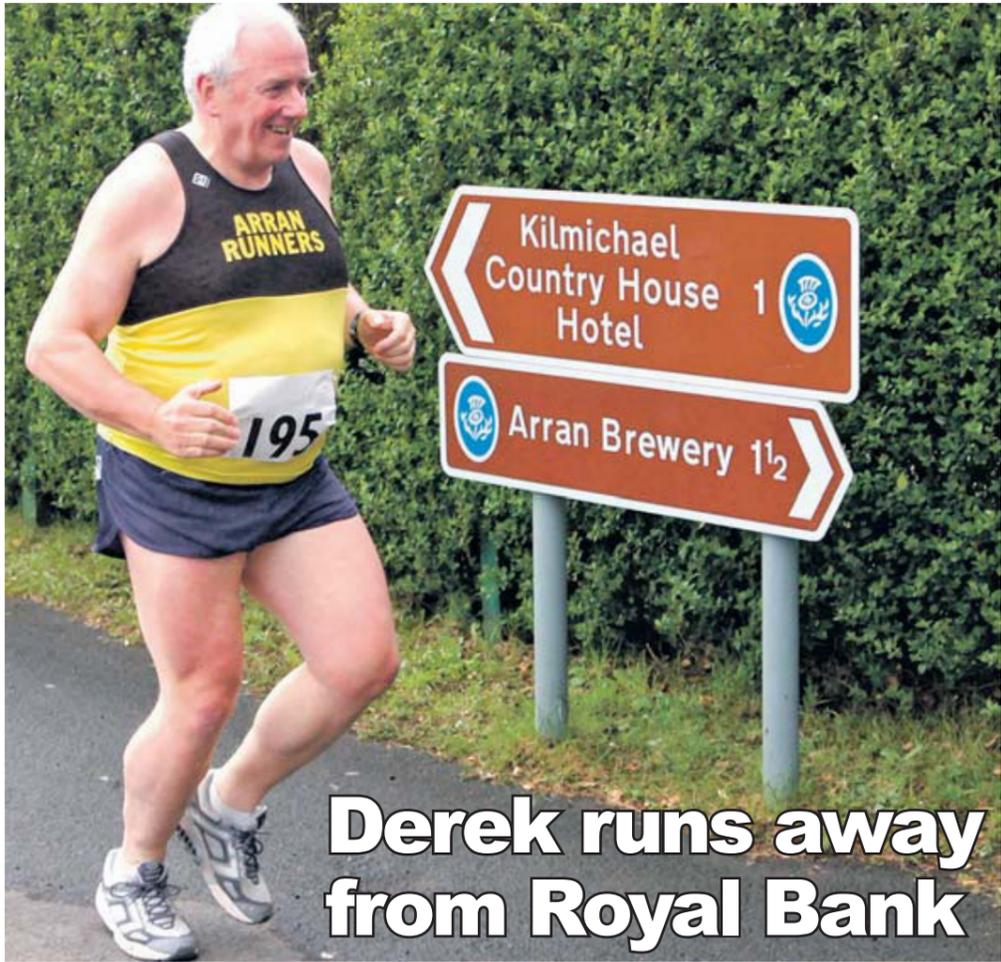
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## Derek runs away from Royal Bank

Derek Shand in familiar garb, taking part in the Ormidale 10K for Arran Runners.

b09der01

Derek Shand is retiring from the Royal Bank of Scotland. After 35 years with the company and 11 years as senior business manager at Brodick and Campbeltown he will be taking up the challenge of working from home. Derek was born and bred in

Kilmacollm, Ayrshire and his career with the bank has seen him based at Dalmellington, Ballantrae, Largs, Saltcoats and Glasgow Airport. Outside work he is a familiar figure with Arran Runners and Arran Pipe Band and has been known to do a bit of folk sing-

ing. He said: 'I am going to be offering business support and one of my first duties is as Island Officer for the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce. 'I would like to thank all my customers on Arran and Kintyre for their support and friendship over the years.'

# Capsized fishing boat crew rescued

The crew of a fishing boat were lucky to escape with their lives after their vessel capsized in the Firth of Clyde.

The *Jubilee Star* was towing nets off Dunoon last Wednesday when its nets got caught on the seabed. The vessel capsized throwing three crew members in the water.

The vessel's life raft was deployed and the three men managed to climb aboard the raft while awaiting rescue.

A Search and Rescue helicopter was scrambled from HMS Gannet at Prestwick and a police rescue boat, the Helensburgh lifeboat and a nearby fishing vessel, *Guide Me*, all responded to Clyde

Coastguard's emergency call.

The *Guide Me* took all three fishermen on board who were then winched on to the helicopter and transferred to a waiting ambulance at Dunoon.

Richard Morgan, watch manager at Clyde Coastguard, said: 'With sea temperatures at around six degrees at this time of the year they were very lucky to just have suffered mild hypothermia. 'We'd like to thank the crew of the *Guide Me* who responded so quickly to our emergency broadcast, and all the other personnel of the rescue units who attended.'

## Advice to pregnant women during lambing time

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Public Health Department is advising pregnant women to avoid close contact with sheep during the coming lambing season.

This is because some infections can pass from sheep to humans. While this is rare, these infections can affect unborn babies.

In particular, pregnant women should avoid being involved in lambing or milking ewes and contact with aborted or newborn lambs or with the afterbirth.

### Handling

They should also take care when handling clothing or boots that have come into contact with ewes or lambs

Dr Carol Davidson, Director of Public Health, commented: 'The number of reported infections and miscarriages from contact with sheep is extremely small, but pregnant women still need to be aware of the potential risks.

'If they do become ill, have flu-like symptoms or are worried that they could have acquired infection from a farm, then they should seek medical

advice immediately.' Pregnant women with concerns should contact their doctor and/or midwife.

Farmers can receive fur-

ther advice from Employment Medical Advisory Service offices, which are listed under the Health and Safety Executive in the telephone book.



Married by registrar Linda Murchie at Kildonan Hotel on Saturday January 31 were Vicki Dillon, daughter of Alan and Janet Dillon of Kilmory and Billy Sturgeon of Cumbernauld, son of Billy and Alison Sturgeon. Vicki works at the Bank of Scotland in Brodick and Billy works with William Kerr and Son.

b09wed01

# Coming soon...

# holiday arran

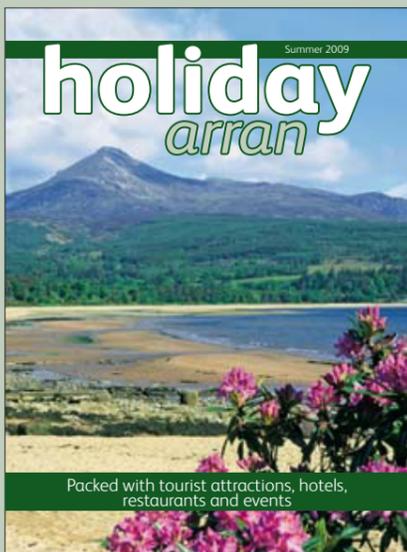
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Father Noel Colford at home in Brodick. b09chu01

## Message to parliament from Arran priest

Arran's Catholic priest, Father Noel Colford of the Holy Cross Church, addressed the Scottish Parliament this week.

At 2pm on Wednesday he gave the Time For Reflection message to the assembled MSPs and government officers.

Father Colford told the Banner: 'It's quite an honour. The local MSP Kenneth Gibson asked me if I would do it.'

'Some friends and local church members will be coming with me. After lunch with Mr Gibson I'll be having a tour of the parliament buildings. I'll also take the opportunity of seeing my nephew who lives in Edinburgh.'

Father Colford had been told that his spot in the limelight was to last four minutes. In his message he referred to religious and political bigotry down the ages.

He told the MSPs: 'The Scottish government's campaign against sectarianism is one that all Christians and indeed everyone should support. If the Scottish Parliament wishes

the people of Scotland to treat one another with respect it should lead by example; and the present political situation where parties have to cooperate requires respect and compromise.

'Barack Obama says that there was a golden age in Washington after the Second World War when, regardless of the party in power, civility reigned and government worked, when there was a trust and respect between politicians that helped them work through their differences and get things done. Respect for one another not only oils the wheels of government, it powers the wheels of government - it gets things done!'

# Valdete back on track

An Arran couple that hope to be able to help a young Albanian girl to walk again received some excellent news this week about the future of the youngster's treatment.

Back in December Valdete Gjonpal, aged 18, was told that life-changing surgery to help her walk would not be possible at Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock.

But now Sue and Julian Davidson from Whiting Bay hope they have found an orthopaedic surgeon who can help Valdete and other like her in Albania.

Sue explained: 'Last year, Julian saw a programme on

TV that showed the work of an orthopaedic surgeon working in Malawi. He was described as being someone who 'Thinks outside the box' and I'd have to agree with that.

'Lack of resources had forced him to do things that would not be thought of by doctors in the UK with the amount of money at their disposal. He had wonderful results.'

### Significant

'At the time, we thought there was a good reason for us seeing this programme but did not realise how significant it would be.'

The couple have since man-

aged to contact this doctor from the programme and he has shown great interest in helping Valdete.

'When we sent the email we expected to wait for a reply as this was a very busy man,' said Sue. 'The next day there was his reply showing a great interest in Valdete and wanting more information about her. We exchanged a few emails giving him as much medical detail as we could and were delighted when he said he would like to see her and there would be no charge.'

When she was just two-years-old Valdete suffered from an

extremely high temperature that caused a small bleed in her brain.

### Affected

Because of this one of her feet turns in and on the opposite side of her body her hand and wrist are affected.

Valdete will return to Arran in March to visit the orthopaedic surgeon to see if he can help her to walk again.

'Thanks to the Valdete Appeal we have the money to do this for her,' added Sue. 'We will keep our friends and supporters informed about her progress and no doubt you will see her out and about.'

## Hobbycraft Show winners announced

Six lucky Banner readers have won two tickets each to the Creative Stitches and Hobbycraft Show at the SECC in Glasgow.

Isla Blair of Strabane, Brodick; Gladys Hamilton, Tigh Beag, Brodick; Carole Boon, Northbank Cottage, Whiting Bay; Elizabeth White, Cloy cottage, Brodick; Seona McLaren, Schoolhouse, Corrie and Sabrina Sangster, Craiglea, Kings Cross all correctly guessed which famous sheep was featured in the life-size knitted display.

It was of course, Shaun the Sheep.

The show begins on Thursday March 5 and runs until Sunday March 8. Congratulations to all our winners!

## Help for youth cabin

The people of Arran have responded to an appeal for help in the pages of the Arran Banner three weeks ago.

Arran Youth Foundation was appealing for storage units to finish off the interior of their portable cabin now sited behind Brodick Library.

Foundation secretary Lexie Andrade said: 'We are in the last stages of legalities in order to open the cabin for the young folk of Arran to enjoy.'

'We needed storage units for tuck and cleaning equipment. The Foundation extends heartfelt thanks to Adrienne, Mairi, Anne and Andromeda for their very kind donations of cabinets and worktops for the cabin. We now have all the storage we need.'

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Fergus Ewing MSP Minister for Community Safety.  
b09fer01no

# Scottish Government opposes Westminster plans for ID cards

## Risk of fraud could increase with identity database

The Scottish government is opposing Westminster proposals to introduce national identity cards for everyone.

Minister for Community Safety Fergus Ewing reiterated the government's complete opposition to a National Identity Scheme.

The Minister made his views clear in a response to a consultation by the Westminster Government on their ID cards secondary legislation.

Commenting on the scheme, Fergus Ewing said: 'The Scottish Government remains completely opposed to the National Identity Scheme, and the Scottish Parliament recently supported a call for the UK Government to cancel its

plans for the National Identity Scheme.

'Given the current financial climate, the UK Government must have better uses for the vast sums of money being spent on this scheme, which presents an unacceptable threat to citizens' privacy and civil liberties, with no tangible evidence to suggest it will do anything to safeguard against crime and terrorism.'

Added local MSP Kenneth Gibson: 'The overall costs of this scheme could be £4.8 billion, or £5.11 billion if costs associated with foreign nationals are included.'

'This is more than eight times the annual budget of Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and

16 times the budget of North Ayrshire Council.

'If this money is available it should be used to pay for more teachers, nurses or police officers or invested in schools and hospitals. When the Scottish Parliament has been told to expect cuts of over £500 million next year in its block grant to help pay for Gordon Brown's recession, it adds insult to injury that this sum almost exactly corresponds to the resources dedicated by the UK Government to introducing this unwanted and unnecessary scheme.'

'The cost of introducing ID cards will not only be borne by the tax payer. All UK citizens will be expected to fork out for

a card and enrol on the national identity register when this becomes compulsory in 2012.

'The initial application fee has been fixed at £30 which is supposedly a cut-price offer to entice citizens to get one before they become compulsory. How much they will cost from 2012 is anyone's guess.'

'On top of the statutory fee, citizens will have to pay to enrol their biometric data, fingerprints and facial image, using as yet unspecified 'marketplace' organisations. This is likely to double the cost, if not more.'

'There are also real concerns that the cards and the identity database could increase the risk of fraud, not reduce it.'

## Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club

David Napier's talk on Ailsa Craig, unfortunately without the back up of his wonderful DVD, was a great success.

The Corrie and Sannox Wednesday club enjoyed an amusing, informative and entertaining afternoon, hearing of his boyhood in Girvan and of his connections with 'the Craig'.

It was very interesting to learn of the families

who lived there at the lighthouse and of the men who worked the granite to be shipped to the curling stone factory at Mauchline.

If the club can master the DVD technology, he promises to come back.

On Wednesday March 11 after the AGM, the club look forward to the annual visit from the pupils of Corrie Primary School.



Mark Stephen, presenter of BBC Radio Scotland's 'Past Lives' programme at the Machrie Moor standing stones. b09bbe01NO

## Arran's past investigated

Arran is to feature in BBC Radio Scotland's 'Past Lives' programme to be broadcast on Monday March 2.

One of the contributors to the half hour show is Donald Johnston from Lamlash who contacted BBC radio producers after reading about the show in The Banner.

Stuart Gough – archivist at the Arran Heritage Mu-

seum – also took part. Lucy Adam, a researcher on the programme said: 'In this programme of 'Past Lives' we delve into the sensational Victorian Goat Fell murder, hear about Lamlash's role in winning the First World War, explore Machrie Moor and go in search of the legendary 'Bruce's Castle.'

In January Lucy contacted

The Banner looking for information on the legendary Goat Fell murder in 1889.

She had read in Arran's newspaper a story about a map believed to have been used to search for the body of Edwin Rose, a walker murdered by his companion John Laurie.

The programme can be heard on radio Scotland at 11.30am on March 2.

## Local NHS is keeping Arran informed

The local NHS team has launched a new public newspaper featuring health news from across Ayrshire and Arran.

Healthwise will be published three times for a trial period of one year.

People will be able to pick up a free copy from health care premises, sports facilities

and from some local authority buildings.

Penny French, director of communications at NHS Ayrshire and Arran said: 'Over the next year, we will be bringing you news about health services and developments in your community. Many of you have asked for the latest health

news for Arran. We hope that Healthwise will keep you up-to-date about what is going on in your area.'

NHS Ayrshire & Arran are keen to find out what you think about this way of sharing information with the public. You can do this by: emailing [comms@aaht.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:comms@aaht.scot.nhs.uk)

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## Fantastic 80th celebration for Ellen

Ellan McMaster celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot recently surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Six of her eight children and 12 of her 24 grandchildren joined her for a weekend of fun, laughter and good humour.

Her son, Richard McMaster, said: 'Mum was thrilled and delighted that so many of her family were able to be there including her eldest son Bill and her youngest grandchild Hamish who came in specially

from Canada for the party.

'We enjoyed an excellent dinner then a dance followed by party games with 10-year-old Hamish proving to be an agile champion despite Niall's attempts to distract the competition by splitting his trousers!'

### Remember

Ellan said that she enjoyed the weekend so much that she may decide to have another birthday soon and she hopes to remember this one for some time to come.

Ann, John, Isobel, Quentin

and their families arrived from Scotland and England despite the snowy conditions and Ricky and his family made it all the way from Shannochie.

The family would like to say a very sincere thank you to Robbie, Frazer and all the staff at the Kinloch who were outstanding with their help and assistance in making it such a happy weekend for them all.

Thanks also go to all the friends who joined Ellen to make it such a memorable occasion.



Ellan McMaster was joined by 12 of her 24 grandchildren at her recent 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party in the Kinloch Hotel.

## Parents need to be more alcohol aware

The Arran Alcohol Forum is attempting to raise awareness of alcohol issues with parents of children between the ages of 14 and 17 ahead of their annual Youth Forum today (Saturday).

A spokesman for the AAF said: 'Unfortunately in the past few months there have been several incidents where young people under the age of 18 have been found to be

under the influence of alcohol, have been given alcohol by their parents prior to going out or have had older people buy alcohol for them.

'This has resulted in anti-social and risk-taking behaviour. If your youngster is going to a party or organised event, it is not the host's or organiser's responsibility to ensure they are safe before and after the event - it is yours as a parent.'

The AAF would like parents to consider five important questions before their son or daughter leaves the house.

- 1 Alcohol is the most commonly used drug on Arran. Are your children drinking alcohol?
- 2 Consider the impact you have on your children. Do you

promote responsible drinking through your own example?

3 Do you talk to your children about who their friends are?

4 Do you know where they go when they go out?

5 If they are on a sleepover with friends have you spoken to the parents?



The Sannox Cricket Club WAGs enjoy the club's annual dinner at the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday night.

## Cricket club dinner antics

Sannox cricket Club held their sixth annual dinner and awards ceremony at the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday night.

Although numbers were lower than expected and several members had to be extracted from the darts tournament in the bar everyone had a great night.

For the first time in the short history of the club an after-dinner speaker was engaged in the able shape of Bill McLaughlin of Whiting Bay who regaled the company with stories of Yorkshire Cricket Club for whom he played.

Chairman Eric Dunn delivered a report on the highs and lows of the 2008 season mark-

ing out thanks to several club members including Nathan Carey now left for the army for his enthusiasm, Steven Beardsley for his prolonged and dedicated ground works on the pitch and Audrey Allsop for continuing support with raffles and home baking on match days.

Eric Dunn was nominated as player of the year for 2008.

Indoor practise continues in the Auchrannie on Monday evenings at 7pm and there will be junior coaching in Lochranza on Wednesday March 4 at 3.30pm-4.30pm.

For further details contact Tim on 600287.

## Music flows at quiz night

As quizzes go this was a fascinating musical evening.

Puzzled, not at all, this was exactly what to expect before any quiz starts at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Folk music and the informality of these musical/quiz evenings is a most relaxing way to prepare and sharpens the mind for the questions asked by the energetic quiz master Johnnie Kelso.

There was clarsach clarity and purity from Mandy Hunter and Heather MacLeod, fiddle and vocals from Donal Boyle, Mark Brown, Pat McDonald and John McLean on guitar. Lucy Cartledge was a super flautist backed up by Mike Bailey and Stef Holmer on guitar and banjo and a rhythm section on a steady beat; Ceile Swinton-Boyle, Nigel Hunter

**The new format of folk music followed by the regular Friday night quiz was a hit with the Banner's music man, Harry Ross**

and Nicola Jane Swinton. It was an impressive array of local talent.

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## THE ARRAN

**BANNER****Good news, but challenges remain**

What good news it is this week to hear that Arran Aromatics has been saved from the brink of liquidation.

With more than 60 people employed by the company on Arran alone, Councillor Margie Currie quite rightly states that securing the future of the company is vital to the confidence of businesses across the island.

In this time of economic downturn some people may have already come to the conclusion that there is no longer a sustainable advantage for local manufacturing, but for the manufacturing industry, economic pressures are nothing new. The mass-migration of work to countries with cheap labour sees those still choosing to produce in the UK having to become a lot smarter in order to be able to compete.

So for now it is business as usual for Arran Aromatics but it will undoubtedly have to change to meet the challenges ahead.

The modern-day child is too clean and knows next to nothing about nature.

In response to this belief, the National Trust is urging children to go outside and get dirty.

The trust is organising events around the country designed to let children get mucky just like they used to in days gone by.

These will include pond dipping and making compost heaps. The campaign is a reaction to concerns that children do not experience nature anymore by climbing trees or playing in streams and is an attempt to get couch potato youngsters off the sofa. A recent survey showed that most young children know what a Dalek is from the Dr Who television series but few can identify a barn owl.

Children are generally living a more sedentary lifestyle due to the increase in children's television, video games and computer access. Many youngsters of primary school age have televisions and computers in their own bedrooms. This not only limits the influence of the family unit, it also reduces a desire to get outside and kick a real football or play street games.

The modern-day child would be horrified at the prospect of family life in the 1950s or 60s. But was it so bad then?

All the food shops closed at 5.30pm and didn't open on Sundays, but no-one starved. Children ate white bread and real butter, they drank full-fat milk and sugary drinks but they were not overweight because they were always outside playing.

There were no mobile phones or internet chat rooms, but children had real friends and they went outside and met them. You could only buy Easter eggs at Easter but they were appreciate all the more. Mums did not have to go to work to help dad make ends meet.

Of course, life was not always a bed of roses then, but maybe children's lives were that bit richer.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Because Jesus has Himself has passed through the test of suffering, He is able to help those who are in the midst of their test. (Hebrews 2:18)

**press policy**

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

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

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

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

**your letters**

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

**Letters to the Editor****Careless dumping kills otter**

Sir,  
I am writing to express my sadness at discovering a dead otter last Wednesday on the shore in Lochranza.

It is always a sad occasion finding dead animals, but the reason why I am so upset by this particular otter is because it should not have happened.

I spotted the otter when walking along Lochranza shore from the pier towards the castle. It was caught up in a pile of branches that had obviously been cut and then dumped there. The otter was cut around its neck but I couldn't tell if it was that that killed it or getting trapped in the branches and not being able to surface when the tide came in.

I have often seen garden cuttings being dumped around the shore, and been worried by it due to the worsening problem of invasive species.

But now that I have seen it directly responsible for the death of one of our precious native mammals I feel that I should speak out about this very wrong practice happening far too frequently here.

**Yours,**  
**Vanessa Hall**  
By email  
vanessahall@hotmail.com

**Bottomless potholes**

Sir,  
As an ordinary islander I would like to respond to the letter from Mr Cummings of Lamblash.

I have seen several of Ian Small's neatly printed, well-positioned signs. What I have not seen is any evidence of the 'graffiti' 'sprayed everywhere' to which Mr Cummings refers.

As an ordinary islander who is fed up of the endless repair bills and inconvenience caused by the outrageously poor state of our roads, I am extremely grateful to Ian Small for his imaginative and principled stance.

The fact that he is willing to face arrest on our behalf sets him apart from other ordinary islanders.

I, and many others I have spoken to, wholeheartedly support Ian in this campaign. As a mother of five I am grateful to

him for demonstrating the effective use of acronyms.

As to the expansion of their vocabulary, I have no problem discussing with any of my children (whatever their age) when and where a particular word is appropriate.

I would, perhaps, take issue with Ian as to whether a\*\*\*d was entirely appropriate in this case, only because as far as I can see some of our potholes have no bottom!

As the wife of one of the community councillors I find myself bemused by Mr Cummings perception of the community council.

I have always understood it to be an apolitical body so the reference to a 'three line whip' has caused me some consternation. My husband has led me to believe that the community council meetings involve discussing local issues such as bins and bus shelters, if I'd realised he was going to play with whips I would never have let him join!

I know most of the community councillors personally and I can assure Mr Cummings that they are all eminently ordinary islanders.

Many of them are self-employed and therefore understand only too well the fragility of running a business on our island - that is how they and their ordinary families survive.

It is a measure of their dedication to the island itself and their sense of duty to their communities that they give freely of their time, their energy and expertise.

It was, therefore, discourteous to say the least, of Mr Cummings to commit his thoughts to print without at least trying to be factually accurate.

As my husband is a serving community councillor I must conclude by stating that he neither endorses or condones my opinions, although in the interest of his personal safety he may choose to agree with me!

**Yours,**  
**Fiona McMaster**  
**Springfield**  
**Shannochie**

**Ineffective measure**

Sir,  
I note from *The Arran Banner* that signs are to be erected at

either ends of the villages and that an advisory 30mph speed limit is to be introduced.

These measures will be ineffective by themselves and show little understanding of driver behaviour.

I write as a senior member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists and also as an experienced cyclist with more than 50,000 miles under my belt amassed over nearly 30 years.

If you wish to mitigate the risk of accidents you must do something which reminds drivers and riders constantly, at all points on the road, of forthcoming hazards and/or which threatens them with a penalty if they infringe legally installed signs and markings. You must also make the road as safe as possible, bearing in mind that skill levels of most drivers are very low and that people will not pay full attention to what they are doing. This is especially the case on such a scenic route as that between Brodick and Sannox.

It is for that reason, and with awareness that NAC has no money, that I have emphasised the importance of white lining.

A solid white line is well understood by the most drivers to indicate a hazard. It is also a legally enforceable device, infringing which will result in a penalty.

A second effective action is to cut back the vegetation at various points along the road where this obscures vision.

A third, low cost, addition is to install better warnings of approaching hazards, especially blind bends and hidden road junctions.

An advisory speed limit is useless: in the first place 30mph is too low for the greater length of the road and in the second motorists completely disregard advisory limits. Either have a higher limit (40mph is about right), which you enforce, or none at all.

I do agree with the proposal to have an all-weather track paralleling the road, especially between Cladach and the end of the Merkland woods, but do bear in mind that such a track will require maintenance. If it is too rough or becomes covered with brash or seaweed cyclists will not use it. And who will

carry out the maintenance?

Overall, and I am certain that the NAC will reject the idea, the only long-term solution is for Arran roads to be reconstructed. I wrote a year or two ago suggesting that this could be done by a rolling programme over ten years carried out by a private company, charging all visitors to the island and extra £10 on the ferry. Expecting the local authority to do anything in the present economic climate is ridiculous.

**Yours,**  
**Ian Ferguson**  
**Northbeck Cottage**  
**High Corrie**

**Doggie gratitude**

Sir,  
I would like through your pages to express my gratitude to the Arran Coastguard Service for its prompt attention when I unaccountably became separated from my master while walking from Claulands Point to Dun Fion.

Unusually I did not respond to my master's whistles which made the old man think that I had fallen over the cliff edge.

How I lost my way is a secret that I will keep to myself as I am covered in embarrassment for causing a thorough search and rescue operation involving members of our coastguard team. My master and mistress say that the exercise was conducted with calm efficiency and in a sympathetic manner, not belittled because I am an adventurous and on this occasion a wayward young dog.

I am delighted to say that I was gathered up by the home-bound coastguards when darkness had descended and it seemed I would have to spend the night alone in the wild.

The care and community involvement of the coastguards have reassured me that I am a very lucky dog to make my home on Arran. I promise not to make a nuisance of myself again even though I enjoyed the biscuits and attention when the coastguards found me.

A big thank you to Arran coastguards from a penitent Katie and her master.

**Yours,**  
**Katie**  
**From Dr and Mrs J C Adam**  
**Bayview House**  
**Pirnmill**

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# VisitArran looks to the future with optimism

The island's tourism group, VisitArran, is looking to the future with optimism.

Jo Hastings is the new support manager for the group and one of her main challenges will be to promote tourism on the island and co-ordinate local businesses to help bring more people here for their holidays.

The island's destination management organisation was set up as a group in January 2007 having evolved from Destination Arran, a partnership of private and public sector organisations. Tourism on Arran was said to be worth £27million in

2007 and VisitArran aims to get that figure up to £35million by 2011.

Jo's initial contract is for six months and she has a flexible working week. She said: 'I do from 20 to 30 hours a week, but it boils down to the fact that whatever needs to be done I will do. Part of my job is to manage the VisitArran website that has links to all members and island events.'

#### Consensus

'The basic concept is to get more folk onto the island and then while they are here make sure they have a great time.

The general consensus is that advance bookings are looking good for this year.' The organisation now has around 60 members but prefers to call them participating businesses. Finance director Tom Tracey said: 'Our funding comes from multiple sources. There is a subscription based on 0.03 percent of annual turnover with a minimum fee of £150.'

'We have spent 12 months putting together a five-year business plan which we need in order to get support from government agencies. Bodies such as VisitScotland, North Ayrshire Council and Argyll and the Islands Enterprise are very specific as to how any funding is spent.'

#### Activities

On a practical note, VisitArran is currently holding meetings around the island to update members of the plans and activities for the coming year.

They also have a presence on the ferry. Jo said: 'There are three ferry desk operatives; Gillean Bussell, Diana McMurray and Dorothy Harris. They will be on at weekends at the moment and then on main sail-

ings throughout the summer. It's a little bit of a welcoming committee.'

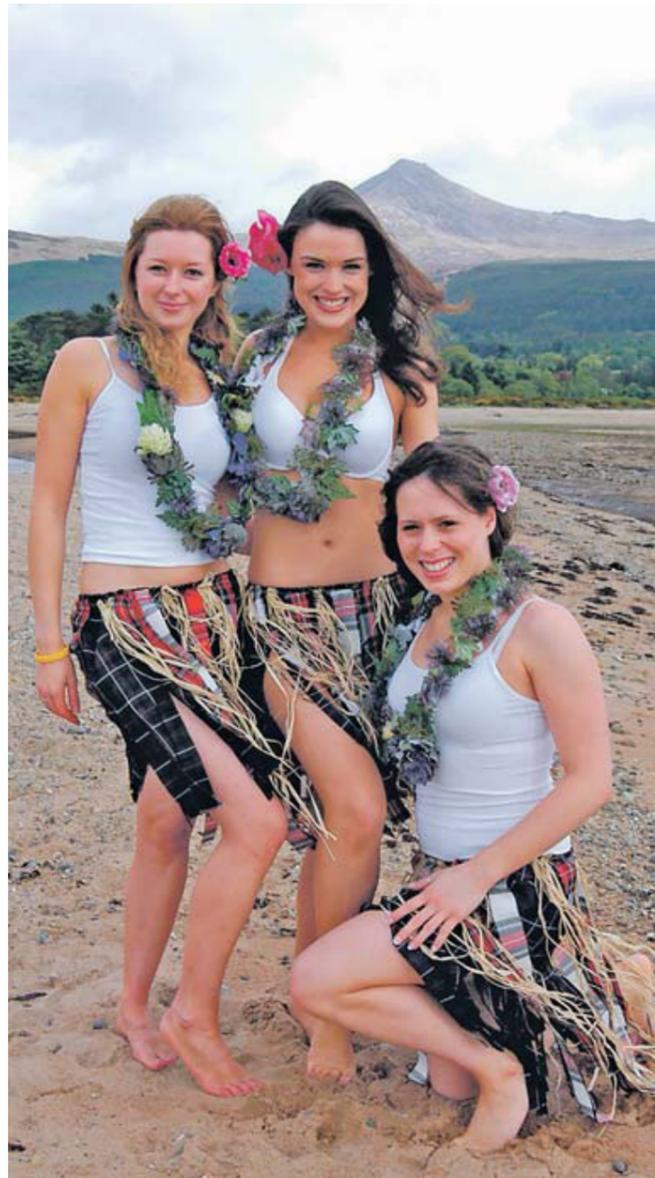
Diana McMurray told the Banner: 'We are giving out information and answering questions on the way over and then helping tourists to fill out questionnaires on the return journey to find out why they came here and what they are looking for. I have even done a bit of first aid on someone who fell coming on to the ferry.'

#### Employed

Tom said: 'A third of the population of Arran is either directly or indirectly employed in tourism. The Arran experience starts at Ardrossan and through VisitArran we want tourists to get the best possible experience.'

VisitArran has seven directors: Robert Waine (chairman), Alastair Dobson, Gerard Tattersfield, Douglas Davidson, Angela Elliott Walker, Kenneth Bone and Tom Tracey.

The group was launched in 2007 with a photo shoot of former Miss Scotland Aisling Friel and local girls Saffron Mullen and Colleen Middleton dressed as Arran Aloha girls.



Saffron Mullen, Aisling Friel and Colleen Middleton heralded the launch of VisitArran in 2007 dressed as Arran Aloha girls on Brodick beach. b09vis02



VisitArran finance director Tom Tracey and support manager Jo Hastings. b09vis01

## Ayrshire and Arran's best ever cancer waiting times

Treatment waiting times for Arran cancer patients have shown a marked improvement.

Statistics covering July to September 2008 released this week by the Scottish government show that 95.1 per cent of patients in the Ayrshire and Arran area started treatment within 62 days following an urgent referral.

This represents an eight per

cent improvement since the summer of 2007 and a 3.8 per cent improvement on the previous quarter.

The Scottish government had set a 95 per cent target for health boards to treat cancer patients within the 62-day period.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson was pleased with the results of the survey. 'It is very welcome

to see that the vast majority of patients diagnosed with cancer, who were urgently referred, are rightly starting their treatment within two months,' said Mr Gibson.

#### Important

'I think what is now important is that this high level of performance is consistently sustained above 95 per cent as we know how vital it is

for cancer patients, and for their families, that treatment is started quickly.

'Ensuring that the majority of cancer patients are treated within 62 days of referral is crucial to speeding up the time taken in delivering care and treatment to patients, an essential ambition of Scotland's action plan, Better Cancer Care.'

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# Wullie and Jan will miss Scottish sheepdog finals



Wullie Stevenson and Jan pen their sheep at the Birchburn sheepdog trial. b08dog01

Wullie Stevenson from Whiting Bay will be unable to represent Arran at the Scottish Nursery Sheepdog finals at Clochkeil Farm in Campbeltown despite coming out top on Arran.

Wullie and his bitch Jan were selected to represent the island as part of the Arran and Kintyre team after earning the most points at the local trials during January and February. But he doesn't think Jan will be able to compete in the Scottish Nursery finals.

Willie McConnell, secretary of the Kildonan and District

Sheepdog Society said: 'Wullie was away for five weeks back-packing in Thailand at Christmas time so his dog is a little out of practice. Representatives from Arran will attend the trials at Clochkeil to help out on the day but no one will take part.'

### Trial

Nine dogs and handlers competed in the last Arran nursery sheepdog trial of the season at Druid, Machrie on Saturday.

The results at the end of the season are as follows:

Druid Cup and First Nursery- John Craig with Ben 71, Second

nursery - Wullie Stevenson and Jan 61, Sweepstake- 1 J Murchie and Gem 83, 2 John Craig and Ben 79, 3 George Tod and Spice 71.

Alba Cup - 1 Jack Murchie and Gem 25, 2 George Tod and Spice 24, 3 Liz Robertson with Wick 16.

Hirsel Cup - 1 Wullie Stevenson and Jan 28, 2 John Craig and Ben 26. Cnoc Shield - Wullie Stevenson and Jan.

J C Picken Cup - Wullie Stevenson and Jan. Summer League Salver - Willie McConnell and Dan 74.



John Craig and his dog Ben keep close control of their sheep at the Birchburn trial. b08dog03



Trophy winners from this year's nursery sheepdog trials; John Craig and Ben, Jack Murchie and Gem, Wullie Stevenson with Jan and Willie McConnell and Dan. b09dog01



For Jack Murchie's dog Gem it was a successful last season. She will retire from the trials after more than 10 years. b09dog02



Wullie Stevenson and his winning dog Jan. b09dog03



John Craig and Ben with the Druid cup. b09dog04

# Drama festival off to a great start

The 2009 Isle of Arran Drama Festival got off to a cracking start this week.

Of the 10 plays at the festival there were only two plays on Wednesday but when drama association chairwoman Mary Young stepped into the lime-light to introduce them the auditorium at Arran High School Community Theatre was virtually full.

Shiskine Junior Drama Club was first up and 25 youngsters were in the cast. Snow White and the Mini Miners was a light-hearted take on the traditional Snow White story. Imaginative scenes were set in the Royal Palace, woodland and the dwarves house. Taylor Smith as Snow White had a huge part with a lot of lines and adjudicator Brian Marjoribanks said: 'Her costume and movements were marvellous.'

'She was charismatic and I loved her being extremely coy when chatting up the young prince (played by Gemma Bennet).

'This is an imaginative script and an excellent exercise for juniors to tackle. The sets were simple but very effective. In particular the good lighting allowed us to see faces and eyes. I was delighted at the quality of the music; the soundtrack from 'The Magnificent Seven' was just right.

'These youngsters were remarkably mature and I liked how they waited for their laughs.'



Taylor Smith as Snow White and Gemma Bennet as Prince Rudolph with the seven Mini Miners and woodland animals. b09dra01

He especially liked the expressive face of Murray Stout as the face in the mirror.

Nic Relf was a totally believable Queen Diamanda and nasty stepmother of Snow White. John Muir was the huntsman with lots of funny lines and the diminutive Struan Robertson was hilarious as one of the dwarves, Sigmund the Lofty.

Mr Marjoribanks said: 'The teamwork of the dwarves was excellent.'

'I will remember the fine individual performances and the imagination added by a very fine and talented producer.'

Full reports and pictures in next week's Banner.



Allan Nicol as Ivor, Helen Macfarlane as Professor Reising and Karen Curzons as Danilo, Marquis of Ruritania in Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music's production of Love in a Transylvanian Mist. b09dra03

## Archie brings a quick response to his first appearance

Archie made his *Banner* debut last week.

The Where's Archie? feature was entered on the *Banner* website and within minutes the first replies were being posted. Fleck was the first with a correct answer of the Viking Fort, Kings Cross. Fleck is a very clever collie dog and an old friend of Murphy, the former *Banner* dog.

Fleck said: 'Hi Archie, it's Fleck here. I don't think you know me but I'm sure we could be friends.'

You're at the old fort at Kings Cross point. My people took me there just a few days ago and we had a great walk.'

John B said: 'It looks to me as though Archie is hoping there may be a biscuit somewhere to the left of the picture!'

Brian Laycock of Halifax said: 'It's good to be involved again in the weekly article to find Archie.'

Eric Gilmour added: 'Many a walk I've had to Kings Cross point. I played around the old

wartime defences as a child. Went fishing with John McKenzie from the old lighthouse supply slip.

'Took my family there for picnics and camped in the Point House field with the scouts. It's still a walk I enjoy more than 50 years later. If that's not Kings Cross Point then I definitely need new specs.'

There were many more replies by email and just about everyone got it right, including old regular Iain Hendry.

This week Archie is on page 16 and see if you can guess where he is sitting.

## Go bananas for Fairtrade

Youngsters at Arran's primary schools will be going bananas this Friday as they take part in national Fairtrade Fortnight.

Graham Tinto and the team from Fairtrade Arran will be visiting all schools on the island to educate the children about the importance of Fairtrade.

On Saturday (March 7) Fairtrade Arran will be carrying out a special raffle and bag pack at the Co-op in Brodick to raise funds for the organisation.

**Trafalgar**  
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Brodick 01770 302293  
HOME COOKED BAR MEALS  
Served daily 6pm - 9pm and 12.30pm - 2pm at weekends  
Beer Garden Children Welcome  
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK  
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)

**Tea Dance**  
Wednesday 4th March  
Lochranza & Catacol  
Village Hall  
1.30pm - 3.30pm  
£4 entry includes cream tea

## Lamlash WRI

The AGM of the Lamlash WRI will be held on Wednesday March 4 at 7.30pm in Arran High School.

The meeting will be followed by demonstrations in four corners.

Bring a photo of yourself at five years or under and members are reminded to bring raffle money with ticket stubs.

## Corrie and Sannox WRI

The afternoon meeting of Corrie and Sannox WRI held on February 12 was well attended.

Although the scheduled talk on 'Birds of Arran' by John Rhead had to be cancelled, members were happy to welcome Elma Stevenson and Vicky Milne to give craft demonstrations.

Vicky demonstrated how to make a bag from a facecloth and soap and Elma showed members how to make cards.

The ladies were then given the opportunity to make their own with varying degrees of success.

All had a happy and enjoyable afternoon.

The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday March 12 at 7.30pm.

Members are reminded to bring their voting papers and a £2 parcel.

## Kildonan WRI

The monthly meeting of Kildonan WRI took place on Tuesday February 17.

Liz Smith and Linda Ross gave the members a demonstration of wool spinning.

Liz also told the ladies a bit about the history of spinning which was very entertaining.

A few members had a go after the talk and found it not as easy as it looks.

They also enjoyed having the island's central councillor, Elma Stevenson, with them for the afternoon.

A lovely tea was supplied as usual by Mamie and Christine.

The raffle in aid of ArCAs raised the sum of £26.

The competition for four savoury pastries was won by Jill Hollick, second Thelma Meldrum.

The next meeting is the AGM on March 17 at 7.30pm.

Members should bring along either a savoury or sweet dish for the buffet and the competition is a £2 parcel, wrapping from recycled materials to be judged.

**calendar sale**

Scottish Field - £6.65 £3.32  
Isle of Arran - £5.25 £2.62  
Scottish Field Mini - £5.25 £2.62

**50% off**

East Coast Fishing Scenes - £5.25 £2.62  
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West Coast Fishing Scenes - £5.25 £2.62

Only available via our office at Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran or by calling us on 01631 568000  
Order online at: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)  
\*All prices exclude worldwide postage and packaging, which is an extra £2.

# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, January 25, 1989

### Preparing for the new season

The committee members at the Arran Heritage Museum are preparing for the new tourist season this week.

They began work on their latest exhibit – the last rowing boat to be built in Corrie.

It dates from 1914 and was built by boatbuilder Mr McKillop whose granddaughter, Sandra McVicar, still lives in Sannox.

Before going on show though it will have to be painstakingly rebuilt.

At the AGM this Tuesday the committee are hoping to enlist some enthusiastic new members.

One aspect of the Museum's research has been its liaison with the Heritage project when school pupils have met with Arran's older residents and documented their findings about the past.

As an attraction at the AGM, a video of these meetings and discussions will be shown.

### Bring back the bus?

Do you remember the Isle of Arran publicity bus that travelled Scotland and England from 1982 to 1984?

After selling Arran as an ideal tourist attraction at various venues throughout the country, tourist officer Charles Currie feels there is a case for bringing back to the tourist bus.

Already Mr Currie has been to Belfast, Dublin, Northampton, and Newcastle and this week he is off to Birmingham.

Selling Arran as part of Argyll

and the isles, he has helped man a Cunninghame stand but he feels this publicity is inadequate.

'I think we should have had three days as well as adverts in the newspapers,' he said. 'Radio is good to let folk know you are there but I think that newspapers are where we would get a better response.'

He added: 'I'm in favour of getting the bus back on the road next year because I feel the exhibitions have been more expensive than they need to be.'



Anthony Brookes in 'Hell and High Water' on the first night of the Drama Festival. b09twe02

### New owner for The Douglas

The Douglas Hotel in Brodick, which has been in receivership for almost a year, now has apparently got a new owner.

In this week's licensing advert (in The Banner) there are no

fewer than five applications in on behalf of the Douglas.

This suggests that despite being on the market throughout last year, there are now several parties interested in running the Brodick hotel.

The clerk to the licensing court told us that it is unusual to have so many applications for the one licence but suggested that current negotiations would perhaps resolve the situation before the court date and unsuccessful applicants would withdraw.

In the event that more than one application goes through, the court will have to decide who gets the licence and by implication the sale of the hotel.

### Glen Sannox sale

The Glen Sannox, 35 years old this year and built specifically for the Arran run, is to be sold in a few months time.

Before she goes there will be a special cruise around Arran to allow people one last chance for a final sail on her.

The sail will be from Gourock to Dunoon, Wemyss Bay, Brodick, Campbeltown and back again.

### Guess the play

An intriguing new dimension of 'Guess the play' was added to the Arran Drama Festival when it opened on Thursday.

This was just one result of the four-night festival being curtailed to three nights after the adjudicator Miss Margaret Tomlinson was unable to be there on Wednesday due to the vagaries of the weather.

The cancelled night's plays



Colin Campbell the SNP European candidate visited Arran last Friday and was met by fellow SNP supporters Mike Lunan and Malcolm Kerr. b09twe05

were distributed over the remaining nights.

First play on Wednesday night was Lamlash Drama's 'Act of Murder', which was described as a drama-thriller.

A cad of a husband (Stan Huyton) was out to murder his rich wife (Eilidh Campbell) by making her have a heart attack.

Next was an Arran High School production of 'Hell and High Water' and then 'One Season's King' from Whiting Bay Drama. Both proved to be favourites of the evening.

Finally, 'The Changeling' by Robert McLellan, was Corrie's first contribution to a drama festival.

The adjudicator Margaret Tomlinson was mercifully brief. Positive in her observations she confined any criticism to inanimate objects.



The committee members at Arran Heritage Museum were preparing for the new season last week. b09twe01



Two strings to her beau, Julie Nelson with Bob Fisher and Alan Nicol in Whiting Bay's 'One Season's King'. b09twe03



Stan Huyton raises his glass for the drink that poisons him in Lamlash Drama's 'Act of Murder'. b09twe04

# Arran's Social Scene

E-mail: [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01770 302142  
Web: [www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

## Lamlash children's Cool Club

Lamlash Church children's Cool Club held a coffee morning last Saturday to raise funds for the group.

The church's youth club is open to all 8 to 10 year olds and is held after school every Friday afternoon during term time.

It is an opportunity for the children to enjoy ball games, table tennis, badminton and rounders as well as some quiet time contemplating the stories

of the Bible. Many members of the club were there on Saturday morning.

### Fully Stocked

Hannah Currie and Cara Miller were in charge of a very fully stocked bookstall whilst adult members of the church provided delicious home-baking to accompany the teas and coffee.

The money raised at the coffee morning will go towards church funds.



Jean Strachan and Johnanne McHarg. b09soc02



Joe and Shona Noteman with May Chambers. b09soc04



Jack Paterson and David Oakes. b09soc08



Pat and John Potter. b09soc06



Jean and Alison Armstrong. b09soc03



Hannah Currie and Cara Miller. b09soc01



Maureen Oakes and Ishbel Paterson. b09soc07



Mick Cannon, Janet Crosbie and Christine Hamilton. b09soc05



Maureen Pattison, Helen MacGregor and Isabelle McClure. b09soc09

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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 28th FEBRUARY**

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
Highland Dancing Lesson	Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Over 21s Disco	Ormidale, 10pm
Youth Cafe	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm
Quiz Night	Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
Arran Ceilidh Dancers	Corrie Hall, 8pm
Drama Festival	High school Theatre, Curtain Up 7.30pm
Quiz	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm

**SUNDAY 1st MARCH**

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 MARCH**

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, 7.00 - 7.20pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club	Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
AB Attack	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Indoor Cricket	Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Weight Wise	Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
St Brides Ladies	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Community Meeting	Kildonan Village Hall, 7.30pm

**TUESDAY 3rd MARCH**

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  
Country Dancing  
Shapers

KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm

**WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH**

Mixed Hockey  
Core Strength  
Jnr Rugby Training  
Shiskine Beavers  
Aquafizz  
Circuit Training  
Yogalates  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy  
Kickboxing  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Whiting Bay Toddler Group  
Lamlash Beaver Scouts  
Tea Dance  
Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm  
Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm  
P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm- 7.15pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie, 6pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am  
10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm  
KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm  
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm  
Ormidale Park, 7.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
Village Hall 10am - 12pm  
High School, 6.15pm - 7.15pm  
Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall, 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am - 12pm

**THURSDAY 5th MARCH**

Senior Fitness  
Citizens Advice  
Lochranza Craft Club  
Outdoor Run  
Pilates  
Aerobics  
Coffee Morning  
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal  
Cardiac Rehab  
Table Tennis  
KA Jog  
Legs, Bums & Tums Class  
Arran Junior Singers Practise  
Shiskine Cubs  
Scouts  
Embroidery Group  
Lamlash Cubs  
Brodick Toddler Group  
Brodick Bridge Club  
Indoor Bowling  
Outdoor Boot Camp  
Royal British Legion - Arran Branch

Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am  
Open 10am - 2pm  
Hall, 2pm  
Auchrannie, 6pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 6pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm  
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm  
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm  
KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm  
KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm  
Whiting Bay School 6.45pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm  
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm  
Church Hall, 10am - 12pm  
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Hall 7pm  
Ormidale Park 7pm  
McLaren Hotel, 2pm

**FRIDAY 6th MARCH**

Arran Pipe Band Practice  
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning  
Aquafizz  
Citizens Advice  
Circuit Training

Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
10am - 12pm  
Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am  
Open 10am - 2pm  
Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the  
Arran Banner 01770 302142





# PUBLIC NOTICES

# BANNER

**Cameronia Bar**  
Whiting Bay  
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**CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Golden Dragon**  
Whiting Bay  
Tel 700254

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
(No alcohol sold until further notice)

Best Western  
**Kinloch Hotel**

Due to a wedding being held at the Kinloch Hotel on Saturday 28th February 2009, we will not be serving food on this date.

We will be open as normal from Sunday 1st March 2009. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause

**BANNERCOMMENT**  
TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK](http://WWW.ARRANBANNER.CO.UK)



**THE CROWN ESTATE**  
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**THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (FISH FARMING IN MARINE WATERS) REGULATIONS 1999**

NOTICE is hereby given that:-

Further to The Crown Estate's refusal of a grant of lease under The Interim Scheme for the Authorisation of Marine Fish Farms in Scottish Waters of an application plus supporting Environmental Statement submitted for a new finfish farm site at:-

Reference	Applicant	Location	Map Ref
XX100/224B	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd	Clauchlands Isle of Arran	NS 055 388 Lat: 55° 33.546'N Long: 05° 05.122'W

and subsequent referral, at the applicant's request under the terms of the Scheme, of the papers to the Scottish Government's Department of Planning & Environmental Appeals for further consideration by an appointed Reporter, The Crown Estate Commissioners have decided that:

A lease should not be granted for the proposed development

The reason for the decision is the recommendation of the DPEA Reporter that the application for a seabed lease for the proposed finfish farm be refused.

Copies of the Decision Letter and Report can be viewed during working hours at Lamlash Post Office, Isle of Arran.

Dated : 28 February 2009

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice & The Newspaper Society

**Regional Press**  
Cover 10 North

**Arran sports Association**  
A G M

Will be held on **Monday 9th March**  
In the Ormidale Pavilion  
At 7.30pm  
All welcome

**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY: ISLE OF ARRAN**

North Ayrshire Council proposes to introduce an Affordable Housing Policy on the Isle of Arran. The Policy, associated Supplementary Guidance for Developers, and Report justifying the introduction of the Policy are available for inspection during normal office hours at:

Perceton House (Reception), Cunninghame House (Planning Services Reception and Housing Services Headquarters), Irvine, Arran Local Office, Lamlash and Brodick Library and online at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/localplans](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/localplans)

Any person wishing to make a representation in respect of this proposal should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Perceton House, Irvine, KA11 2DE, by Friday, 27 March 2009.

**THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (BRODICK PIER, ISLE OF ARRAN) (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 20\_\_**

North Ayrshire Council is proposing to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order at Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (Brodick Pier, Isle of Arran)(Waiting and Loading Restrictions) ORDER 20\_\_, together with a plan and a statement of reasons are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday at the offices of:-

North Ayrshire Council	Head of Infrastructure and Design Services	Legal and Protective Services
Arran Local Office	Design Services	North Ayrshire Council
Council Offices	Roads	Cunninghame House
Lamlash	North Ayrshire Council	Irvine
Isle of Arran	Perceton House	KA11 8EE
KA27 8JY	Irvine KA11 2AL	

Any person wishing to object to these proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services, Roads, Perceton House, Irvine by 18 March 2009.

R J SMALL, Head of Infrastructure and Design Services, Roads, Perceton House, Irvine KA11 2AL

**THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (BRODICK TOWN CENTRE, ISLE OF ARRAN) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 20\_\_**

North Ayrshire Council is proposing to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order for Brodick Town Centre, Isle of Arran.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (Brodick Town Centre, Isle of Arran)(Waiting Restrictions) ORDER 20\_\_, together with a plan and a statement of reasons are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday at the offices of:-

North Ayrshire Council	Head of Infrastructure and Design Services	Legal and Protective Services
Arran Local Office	Design Services	North Ayrshire Council
Council Offices	Roads	Cunninghame House
Lamlash	North Ayrshire Council	Irvine
Isle of Arran	Perceton House	KA11 8EE
KA27 8JY	Irvine KA11 2AL	

Any person wishing to object to these proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Infrastructure and Design Services, Roads, Perceton House, Irvine by 18 March 2009.

R J SMALL, Head of Infrastructure and Design Services, Roads, Perceton House, Irvine KA11 2AL

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX**

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2009-2010

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	768.00	576.00
B	896.00	672.00
C	1,024.00	768.00
D	1,152.00	864.00
E	1,408.00	1,056.00
F	1,664.00	1,248.00
G	1,920.00	1,440.00
H	2,304.00	1,728.00

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commissioner for Scotland. North Ayrshire Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water.

The level of discount on second homes and unoccupied properties is 10% in accordance with the Council Tax (Discount for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

The 2009-2010 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2009.

A J Herbert, Chief Financial Officer

Ian Snodgrass  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE

# DRIVE TIMES

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**BANNER****RECRUITMENT****north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk****SOCIAL SERVICES****Part Time Support Worker**

Ref: NAY0370

£10.23 - £11.21 per hour  
22 hours per week, Isle of Arran**Interested?** To find out more and apply on-line go to north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk and enter the job reference number.

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 13th March 2009.

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****ARRAN THEATRE and ARTS TRUST**

The Trust wishes to develop a project linking agriculture and the environment through arts-based activities, working mainly with school children.

The Trust wishes to engage the services of suitably-qualified artists with experience of working with young people, and of running successful projects, and holding a current child protection disclosure certificate.

Written application with CV should be sent to Ian Watt, Rozelle, Lamlash, by Saturday 14th March.

Scottish Charity No, SCO 06027

**LIVE IN CARERS REQUIRED**To work with 2 clients in their own homes on a 4 days on 2 days off rota.  
Carers will have experience of dealing with clients with Dementia and preferably possess NVQ 2 in Care.  
Salary Approx £16K**Interested?**Contact June or Sandra on **01563 544900**  
Or email [june@tsr.uk.net](mailto:june@tsr.uk.net) or [sandra@tsr.uk.net](mailto:sandra@tsr.uk.net)**Earn extra money as an Avon Rep.**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**KERR - SANDY**

Margaret and John would like to thank family and friends for flowers, cards and kind messages of sympathy. We would also like to thank all staff at Lamlash Hospital, Doctors Greg, Fay and Christina, the community nurses and the carers for all the attention they gave to Sandy.

Jean Hunter for a lovely service, David and Clair Hendry for funeral arrangements and Brodick Bar for looking after us so well.

**MILLAR - JOHN**

The Family of John Millar, late of 'Leglany', Bannan, wish to extend their thanks to friends and neighbours for their love and support during John's final days. Our thanks also to Drs Greg and Krystyna and the community nurses for their help and care – and to David and Claire Hendry for funeral arrangements. We are grateful for the Rev Gillean's help in arranging and conducting the funeral service. Finally Ann and Dave would like to extend special thanks to their work colleagues for offering open-handed support throughout.

John died peacefully at home among his own folk on 12th February 2009.

**COOK-Elizabeth Forrest**

**(Libby)**

Libby's family wish to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support and the many flowers, cards and letters received on their sad loss. Special thanks to Rev Gillean Maclean for the touching service, to David Hendry for all funeral arrangements and to the management and staff of the Kildonan Hotel for catering. Donations to ARCAS following the service totalled £606.50

**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 March**  
Brodick Church 10.30am  
Corrie Church 12pm.  
Pirmill 10.15am.  
Shiskine Church 12pm.  
A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 1 March**  
(Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)  
Shiskine 11am  
Sunday School meets in the Church Hall  
Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)  
Rev Frank Gibson  
All welcome

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

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 1 March**  
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. All most welcome. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and in Craigielea at 3.15pm to which all friends are invited.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**(in full communion with the Church of England)**  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 1 March**  
Holy Communion. 11am  
Rev Paul Fletcher  
Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday 4 March**  
Holy Communion 12.15 pm.  
All Welcome.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 1 March**  
Rev. Gillean Maclean  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30am  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**  
**Sunday 1 March**  
11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service, 7pm  
5 Glen Road.  
Rev J J Murray  
Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 4 March**  
7pm  
Rev. D. Macleod  
All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.  
**Sunday 1 March**  
10.45 Communion  
Tea and coffee from 11.10  
11.30 Worship and Word  
Speaker: Rev Noel McCullins  
Everyone warmly invited.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**  
Meeting for Worship  
**Sunday 1 March**  
11 am.  
Balmichael Bridge Cottage, Shiskine.  
Enquiries to Jeny 302779  
All very welcome.

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
Taize Worship  
**Thursday 5 March**  
St Margaret's Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay.  
All welcome

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
**Friday 6 March**  
Kilmory Church, 7pm  
Written by Christian women of Papua New Guinea. "In Christ there are many members, yet one body."  
All welcome

**PERSONALS**

**Happy 70th Birthday Kathleen**  
With love  
**Rodger, Nicola, Louise and Grant.**

*Charlie and Kitty McAllister*  
wish to thank very much family, friends and relations for beautiful cards and flowers on our special day.



**40TH BIRTHDAY**  
Congratulations on your retirement from the Army, Vincent.  
**Happy 40th Birthday on March 5th**  
Love from The Hagan Clan on Arran

**Co-operative Elections**  
Thank you to everyone who voted for me.  
I was re-elected for a further 3 years.  
Again, I'll do my very best.  
*Bill Roberts.*

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**Brodick Golf Wednesday Winter Cup**

Results:- 15/10/08 1 D Robertson 74-17 = 64, 2 Eric Thompson 78-17= 61, magic 2s Wolfie Kroner and Don Rudge. 22/10/08 1 Hamish McArthur 77-17=60, 2 Bill Paul 84-21=63, 3 Gordon Sillars 87-23=64. 29/10/08 1 Jim Green 80-19=61, 2 Wolfie Kroner 78-15=63, one magic 2 Gordon Sillars. 5/11/08 1 Derek Roxburgh 67-6=61, 2 Wolfie Kroner 77-15=62, 3 John Hartley 87-24=63. Five magic 2s, Derek Roxburgh 2, Charlie O'Neill, Wolfie and Bill Paul all getting one each. 12/11/08 1 Eric Thompson 75-15=60, 2 Charlie O'Neill 79-16=63, 3 John Hartley 88-24=64 with John Hartley getting the only magic 2. 19/11/08 1 Gordon Sillars 83-23=60, 2 J Green 87-17=70, only four played. 10/12/08 Rain prevented play the previous two weeks and a good turnout of 15 played. 1 Bill Paul 86-21=65, 2 Jim Green 83-17=66, 3 Harry Davidson 80-14=66. There were seven magic 2s, Hamish McArthur had three with Don Rudge, Dougie Robertson, Jim Green and Bill Paul all getting one each. 17/12/08 cancelled. 24/12/08 1 Derek Roxburgh 64-4=60, 2 Bryce Walker 79-17=62, with Derek Roxburgh getting the only magic 2. 31/12/08 1 Eric Thompson 71-13=58, 2 Captain Brian Smith 73-14=59, 3 Dougie Robertson 75-14=61, with four magic 2s, Eric Thompson 2, Don Rudge and Dougie getting one each. 7/1/09 1 Bryce Walker 77-17=60, 2 John Hartley 86-24=62, 3 Ken Barclay 85-23=62 with four magic 2s, Don Rudge and Derek Roxburgh getting two each. 14/1/09 1 Eric Thompson 77-8= 69, 2 Wolfie Kroner 85-15 = 70, with Eric and Wolfie each getting a magic 2. 21/1/09 1 Jim Green 80-17=63, 2 Charlie O'Neill 3 Derek Roxburgh 66-2=64 with Derek Roxburgh getting the only magic 2. 28/1/09 1 Brian Boal 74-14=60, 2 Ken Barclay 85-23=62 bih, Harry Davidson 76-14=62 with Jim Green and Harry Davidson both getting magic 2s. 4/2/09 1 Wolfie Kroner 71-15=56, 2 Bill Paul 81-21=60, 3 Jim Green 79-17=62 with Wolfie getting the only magic 2. 11/2/09 1 Harold (Spud) Taylor 86-23=63, 2 Neil Frost 90-24=66.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Sunday February 22, Winter Cup, 17 played, CSS 64. 1 J Beattie 38 points, 2 T Raeside 35 BIH, 3 G Hendry 35. There were three twos from I MacDonald, J Armit, and T Raeside.  
**Fixtures:** Sunday March 1, AGA Winter League (Duncan Trophy) is at Brodick Golf Club, tee off times from 10am. There will be a sweep for



members not involved in the team - open draws at 9am and 12.30pm.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Winter League 2008/2009. The final round of the competition will be played at Brodick Golf Club on March 1 with the draw as follows: 1 Brodick v Whiting Bay at 10am, 2 Shiskine v Corrie at 10.50am, 3 Lamlash v Machrie Bay at 11.40am.

It is looking like a tussle for the league between Brodick and Whiting Bay with the Bay leading by a point but Brodick have home advantage. Whiting Bay have the luxury of the draw but then Machrie could sneak it with a whitewash over Lamlash.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday February 22, 20 played in the fifth round of the Winter Cup. Scoring was very good resulting in a lower CSS this week. SSS 63, CSS 62.

1 Graeme Crichton (17)56, 2 Jamie MacPherson (4)59, 3 Eddie Hope (19)61 BIH, 4 Wolfi Kroner (15)61.

Jamie won scratch with 63 and Nicol Auld scored the only magic two at the 7th.

With one round to go George McKechnie has the best score over two rounds at one over par, but with several players close behind any one of about six players could still win the trophy with a good final round. **Fixtures:** Sunday March 1, Winter League match against Brodick at Brodick Golf Club, 10am start. Sunday March 8, sixth and final round of the Winter Cup.

Whiting Bay Golf Club are delighted to announce that the ladies section is back up and running with the appointment of a ladies committee as follows: Captain Pat McDonald, Vice Captain Lynn Walker, and committee members Jean Davidson, Susan Kidston and Ge Ge Kroner. We look forward to welcoming new

lady members to the club and to playing in more inter-club games. If anyone is considering joining or would like to come and play please contact Pat (700 351) or Lynn (700 595) in the first instance.

**Arran Ladies Golf Union**

The ALGU Drumadoon competition was played at Brodick on Saturday February 21 in good weather conditions including some sunshine. Sixteen ladies enjoyed the golf and soup and sandwiches afterwards. The winner was Lynn Walker with net 62, second was Viv Parks with net 69 and scratch was B J Livingstone with 77.

**Fixture:** The next game is the Drumadoon competition at Corrie Golf Club on Saturday March 14.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday February 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 39 points, 2 David Price 38, 3 Drew Crawford 37. Scratch Brian Sherwood 73. **Fixtures:** Tuesday March 3, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off. Saturday March 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup 12pm tee-off.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Sunday February 22, Glenburn Cup, non-qualifying for handicaps, 16 played.

1 Martin Wallbank 76-16=60, 2 Ian Bremner 70-6=64, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 73-8=65, best scratch Iain Murchie 69. there was one magic two from Martin Wallbank at the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Fixtures:** Saturday February 28, 15-hole medal, make up own groups. Saturday February 28, Winter Stableford, 9.30am and 11am start. Sunday March 1, team match AGA winter league at Brodick Golf Club (Lamlash v Machrie Bay).

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday February 21, 1 J McGovern 67-7=60, 2 J Adams 72-9=63 BIH, 3 C Pattenden 74-11=63.

Monday February 23, 1 E I Cannon 68-13=55 BIH, 2 J McConnachie 68-13=55, 3 S Beardsley 65-8=57.

**Fixtures:** Saturday February 28, Stableford/Sweep, tee-off at 12pm. Sunday March 1, AGA Winter League Corrie v Shiskine at Brodick Golf Club. those playing to arrive for 10.30am.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Sunday February 22, 12-hole Medal. First class: 1 Hamish Bannatyne 47-3=44 BIH, 2 D K Henderson 49-4=45 BIH, 3 Willie Kelso 49-4=45. Second class: 1 David Price 51-8=43, 2 A B Bannatyne 58-14=44, 3 Graham Martlew 54-9=45. Best Scratch Hamish Bannatyne 47. Magic two's from A Bannatyne, D Price and W Kelso.

**Fixtures:** Thursday March 5 Ladies 18 hole Medal. Sunday March 8, 12 hole Medal and Winter Cup Final.



Drew Raeburn and John Hartley award the Norman Peach Salver 2001 to Gordon Sillars on Wednesday afternoon at Brodick Golf Club. Picture courtesy of jinglyjingly images/Lenny Hartley 2009.



Arran found Marr RFC too hot to handle in Troon on Saturday, particularly at the beginning and end of the match.

## Pool disrupted by missed matches

The Arran pool singles and doubles competitions have been severely disrupted this year after players failed to play their matches by the allotted date.

Eddie Picken, secretary of the Arran pool League wants to remind players that all outstanding games must be played as soon as possible.

He said: 'Would all Arran singles and doubles competitors please note that any outstanding games in this year's competition must be played by Saturday March 7.'

'Please remember to phone all results to the PHT on 600418. Failure to do this will mean that all players in these ties will be excluded from the quarter final draw.'

Results from the Arran pool league matches played on Thursday February 19 were as follows: Drift Out 9 (gallon) Cameronia 3, PHT 8 PT1934 4 (G), Bar Eden 7 (G) Kildonan 5, Catacol 6 Corrie 6 (G).

Matches to be played on Thursday March 5: PHT v Corrie, Drift Out v Kildonan, Bar Eden v PT1934, Catacol v Cameronia.

The Arran Open pool competition will be played at the Pier Head Tavern in Lamlash on Sunday March 8 from 2pm.

Bar Eden are well ahead in the league with 43 points as a result of 14 wins and a draw from 15 games. They are followed by Drift Out on 30 points, Corrie on 23, PT1934 on 20, Cameronia on 20, PHT on 16, Catacol on 15 and Kildonan on 3.

# Tough from the start

## Arran RFC overwhelmed by Marr

Arran's senior rugby team received another blow this week after being defeated 67-5 by Marr RFC.

The team from Arran travelled to Fullerton Park in Troon on Saturday to play in the Scottish Hydroelectric Plate competition after they were defeated in a cup game against Greenock Wanderers last Saturday.

Marr currently play in the National League division three, so Arran knew

it was going to be a tough game from the start.

'It wasn't a great score,' said coach Bert Ramage. 'But when you broke the game down Marr only scored in the first and last ten minutes of each half so our defence held strong for

most of the game.'

A try from Arran winger Ben Tattersfield gave Arran their only points of the match.

'It's important for the boys to play these big teams - Marr and Greenock were both big challenges,' said

Bert. 'On the whole we played well but it is important to learn from our mistakes.'

Arran now have a weekend off because of the Six Nations Rugby tournament but will travel away to Braidholm the following week.

## MacKenzie triumph for Colin and Christine



Colin Haggarty and Christine Hamilton, winners of the 21st anniversary MacKenzie darts tournament on Saturday night at the Kildonan Hotel. b09dar01



Margaret MacKenzie with Anne Acuna, the owner of Kildonan Hotel. b09dar02

Margaret MacKenzie from Kilmory organised another successful darts tournament in Kildonan Hotel on Saturday night in honour of her late husband Donald.

Colin Haggarty and Christine O'Donnell defeated Nick Underdown and his partner Yvonne Phillips to win the trophy.

Colin had two 180s on his way to the final of the competition which raised £540 in total for the Kildonan and Kilmory Senior Citizens Association.

This is the 21st year that Arran's darts players have gathered to play in the competition in remembrance of Donald MacKenzie of Ferndean, Kilmory.

### Great night

He died suddenly 21 years ago and since then the competition has become something of an institution as well as a great night out.

His widow, Margaret MacKenzie explained: 'The first competition was just a silly wee event in the Lagg hotel. It was won by Colin McQueen and Helen Lennox and since then it has just snowballed and seems to be more and more popular every year.'

More than 46 people took part in this years competition and Margaret and family would like to thank everyone for making the evening such a success.

### Brodick Bridge Club

Results from Thursday February 19. N/S: 1 H Boyd and L Paul +2310, 2 M McGill and E McConnell +1130, 3 J Murchie and L Trickett -140.

E/W: 1 D Bruce and D Scobie +2070, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton +1550, 3 A Bilsland and E Duncan +310.

### Lamlash Bridge Club

Results from Monday February 23. N/S: 1 J and J Beatie +3220, 2 C Bone and M McGill +1660, 3 E Paul and J McArthur +130.

E/W: 1 E Sillars and J McBride +930, 2 V and M Iutz + 780, 3 H Boyd and J Murchie +240.

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## Sweet revenge for Arran youngsters

Andrew Earle launched himself through the defence to score Arran's first try

**Arran 38 Ardrossan 24**  
Arran's under 16 rugby team triumphed over Ardrossan on Sunday in an exciting game of rugby at Ormidale Park in Brodick.

After their defeat to the same side in December the lads knew what they had to do to beat them and turned on the style accordingly using home advantage to run out 38-24 winners.

Arran piled on quick pressure against their much bigger opponents and within five minutes, fast hands and feet allowed Andrew Earle to launch himself through the last line of defence to score Arran's first points.

Sam Tattersfield just missed

the conversion as the ball bounced back off the post. Ardrossan replied instantly with a well-taken try on the wing which was successfully converted to put them 7-5 ahead.

### Converting

Arran came straight back at them and played another 10 minutes in Ardrossan's half before converting pressure into points with another great offload to Andrew, sending him over for his second try, this time converted by Sam to go 12-7 up.

Again Ardrossan replied quickly from the restart with another good unconverted team try down the wing, 12-12. It was turning into a really

good hard fought game with the two sides evenly matched throughout the park.

Both teams were trying to play fast rugby, working hard to keep possession. There was fierce tackling all over the pitch, especially from Liam Boal who was voted Man of the Match by his teammates.

Just before half time Sam Tattersfield chipped a nicely weighted ball over Ardrossan's back line which Matthew Evans raced to pounce on over the try line for Arran's third try. Sam just missed the conversion but Arran went to the break 17-12 up. The second half started much as the first, with Arran using Andrew to break through their



Fast hands and feet as well as strong tackles from players like Iain Bayne helped Arran's under 16 rugby team defeat Ardrossan on Sunday. b09ba101

last line of defence for his third try, successfully converted by Sam to go two clear tries into the lead at 24-12.

Again, Ardrossan came back strongly and after some solid defensive work from Arran managed to sneak over the line for a well earned converted try, 24-19.

### Arguing

By now, Ardrossan were starting to panic, giving numerous penalties away from rushed play and arguing with

the referee, not the thing to do with 'Locky' who kept excellent control over a fast, hard match. Arran took advantage of the gifted possession, driving Ardrossan back deep into their own half, then produced their now well drilled move of releasing Andrew at speed to charge over for a 31-19 lead with Sam's conversion. True to form Ardrossan hit straight back with an unconverted tries of their own, leaving the last 10 minutes of the

game finely poised at 31-24. Both teams battled hard for possession then with only two minutes to go Arran broke through and again released Andrew for his fifth try of the match, with Sam converting to make it 38-24 with only seconds left to the final whistle. The match ball was kindly sponsored by J W Boal and Sons Ltd Plant Hire and the lads were superbly fed and watered by Anne, Cil and Fiona in the kitchen.



The Ladies from Lamlash celebrate with Karen Copperwheat as she retains the Ladies Open pool title for the second year in a row. b09ope01

## Second win delight for Arran's top female pool player

Karen Copperwheat from Lamlash retained her place as Arran's top female pool player on Sunday when she won the Ladies Open Pool Competition for the second year in a row.

Despite hardly playing pool during the past year, Karen defeated Susan Logan from Catacol 3-1 in the final.

Speaking afterwards Karen said she was very pleased to have won again and that she hoped to see everyone at the tournament next year.

Ten ladies took part in the event at the Kildonan Hotel.

To begin with the players

were split into two round-robin groups.

Paris Hamilton, Cathy Hamilton, Heather Black, Lorna Logan and Jeannette MacLeod were group A and Jill McCormack, Vicki Sturgeon, Susan Logan, Paula Rouine and Karen Copperwheat in group B.

After a long afternoon of games, Paris, Susan, Lorna and Karen went through to the semi finals.

At one point it looked as though it could be an all Catacol final after Susan Logan beat Paris but Lorna Logan was unlucky to lose to Karen.

**SPORTSDESK**  
01770 302142



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.