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The top table guests at the Arran Society of Glasgow Dinner at the Kinloch Hotel last Saturday night; from left, Robbie Glen, Sharon McKay, Deborah Robertson, Mary Margaret Brown, Lynda Davidson, Graeme Davidson, Sheila Gilmore and Willie Robertson. 02\_b11soc01. Report on page 4.

# Vital outreach post axed

## Only service of its kind available on the island

Deep concerns have been expressed about the future of Adult Outreach Services on Arran this week after NAC took the decision to terminate the post of one long serving staff member. The council-run service provides support to around seven users with physical and learning difficulties.

At present it is the only service of its kind available on the island and is considered vital in meeting the social and emotional needs of users of this service. According to service users, the decision by North Ayrshire Council will result in a third of direct support hours being removed from the serv-

ice and a saving to the council of £19,710 per year. Nigel Hunter lives in his late mother's house in Murray Crescent, Lamlash. He has Cerebral Palsy and two other painful conditions as well as a speech disability which means that he is heavily

dependent on Social Services including the Outreach Service that provides a vital lifeline allowing him to do routine tasks such as banking, shopping and doctor visits. He said: 'Needless to say, I am gravely concerned at the proposed cutbacks as any

reductions in my allocated hours would leave me virtually housebound and unable to be an active member of the local community which could well be a breach of my rights under the European Convention of Human Rights. 'To the best of my knowledge, North Ayrshire Council has not to date consulted any of

the outreach clients and their families as to the adverse effects of these cuts on their everyday lives.' He added: 'It does appear that the top mainland executive officials of NAC clearly have no understanding of the problems faced by disabled islanders such as myself due

**By Jennifer Lyon**

**continued on page 2**

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continued from page 1

to lack of resources on Arran which in my view would be better served under a different administration unless changes are undertaken from top to bottom.'

Irene Reid is the welfare guardian for one of the service users. She told The Banner that the service is also 'highly valued by carers and family members as it provides them with some level of respite and may be their only form of external support out with the family.'

She added: 'An outreach service such as this on a small island where there are limited resources for people with disabilities is a service that must remain in place and must be flexible to accommodate people's changing needs.'

A spokesman for NAC said: 'This is a discrete service for disabled adults on Arran. A preliminary review of the service has already been undertaken which has identified that there are options to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The options included the deletion of the co-ordinator post, with the service being managed locally by the team manager.'

'Restructuring of services after the agreed NAC budget are carefully monitored as to effectiveness. We are barely a month into that process.'

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# Auchrannie world's best for families



The Auchrannie Resort was rated the best hotel in Britain for families.

Visitors to the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick have rated it the best hotel in Britain for families – and the 10th best family hotel in Europe and 25th best in the world!

The hotel has been celebrating the news that contributors to TripAdvisor, an online travel review site, have reviewed it so highly.

The news was announced as TripAdvisor unveiled the winners of its 2013 Travellers' Choice Awards which honour the very best hotels in the UK and around the globe.

Linda Johnston, executive

director of Auchrannie Resort said: 'We are delighted to have been voted the number one family hotel in the UK by the families on TripAdvisor. This is testimony to the efforts of our fantastic team who work hard to ensure families that visit us have an enjoyable and memorable stay.'

The news is a further boost to the Auchrannie as they prepare for a year of celebrations to mark their 25th anniversary.

'On a global level, TripAdvisor contains more than 75

million reviews and covers in excess of 680,000 different hotels,' said general manager Richard Small.

'For a relatively small resort

such as Auchrannie to have found its way into the top 25 worldwide for families is an achievement beyond anything we could have imag-

ined. 'We hope that this will prove significant in raising awareness of both Auchrannie and the Isle of Arran at an international level.'

## Fined for drink driving

Drink driving led to a fine and a ban for Arran motorist Kyle Smith when his case was called at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court this week.

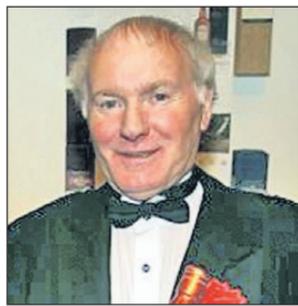
The 23-year old of Corriecravie admitted that on December 15 at Knowe Road, Brodick he drove with 92mg

of alcohol in 100ml of blood – the legal limit being 80mg.

He was banned from holding or obtaining a driving licence for a period of 12 months and fined £260, reduced from a potential £400 because of a guilty plea.

Mr Smith's lawyer David McSorley told the court: 'This was sheer stupidity and he accepts that.'

## Arran's first master distiller dies



Gordon Mitchell, Arran's first master distiller, has died.

The Isle of Arran Distillery's first master distiller, Gordon Mitchell, sadly passed away on March 8.

He served as master distiller from the opening of the distillery in Lochranza in 1995 until his retirement in 2007.

Euan Mitchell, managing director of the company, said: 'Gordon was always a delight to be around and his infectious enthusiasm won Arran many friends from around the world.'

'Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. We would like to celebrate the life of this won-

derful man who was such a huge part in the Arran story.'

Gordon Mitchell arrived on Arran with his wife Evelyn from Cooley's Distillery in Ireland in 1994 to help set up the new distillery in Lochranza.

During his years on Arran, Gordon not only produced beautiful whisky and made many close friends; he also helped to receive visitors to Lochranza from all over the world.

He also travelled to many of the world's top whisky markets, making friends wherever he went.

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## Banner celebrates increase in circulation

It's official - The Arran Banner is the only paid for weekly newspaper in Scotland and one of just 13 paid-for weekly newspapers across the UK that recorded circulation increases in the final six months of 2012, latest figures have revealed.

The industry's official Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) figures for The Arran Banner between July and December last year show a 2.1 per cent increase to an average weekly net circulation of 3,307.

The Banner joins a total of only 10 newspapers throughout England and two in Northern Ireland - none in Wales - that saw a rise in sales figures.

The Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald recorded an 11 per cent fall in circulation that sees them fall for the first time to under 10,000 copies sold each week.

Also recording a reduction in sales was the neighbouring island title The Buteman, which has dropped by five per cent since last year.

The Ayrshire Post series has fallen by 12 per cent.

## A good night's sleep to be found at Kilmichael

Kilmichael Country House Hotel in Brodick is the third best hotel in the UK for a good night's sleep.

That is the finding from comments made by travellers in the 'sleep quality' category on TripAdvisor in the last

year. The month of March is officially declared 'National Bed Month' by the UK Sleep Council and deemed to be the perfect time of year to remember the importance of a good night's sleep.

TrippAdvisor spokesperson

Hayley Coleman said: 'For a good night's sleep, lay your head in Brodick, say TrippAdvisor travellers. Kilmichael House is listed as a building of historic and architectural significance. All the rooms are decorated to retain the look

and feel of a country house. As one TrippAdvisor commented, 'Accommodation is first class, food is superb and everyone is so friendly.'

Geoffrey Botterill, co-owner of Kilmichael, said: 'As you can imagine, we are delighted

to know that even when their eyes are shut and they are deep in the land of Nod, our guests are enjoying their stay at Kilmichael.'

Number one UK hotel for a good night's sleep is Kingsley Lodge in Wilmslow.



Vicki Yuill, nursery leader (right), with Abbie Jackson and her mum Debbie. 01\_b10top01

## Nursery kids raise much-needed cash

An impressive £407 was raised at Brodick Nursery's Table Top Sale last Saturday in Brodick Hall.

Nursery leader Vicki

Yuill said: 'I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated items for sale, tombola prizes, home baking and all volunteers

who helped on the day.' The money will be used by the Nursery children for various activities during the coming year.

## Scandal of HMS Dasher for Castle Friends

'The Scandal of HMS Dasher' is the subject for guest speaker John Steele at the Friends of Brodick Castle meeting next week. Mr Steele and his wife Noreen have written a number of books about the mysterious sinking of the aircraft carrier 70 years ago in March 1943. In what was one of the worst British naval disasters of the Second World War some 379 lives were lost in the incident in the waters between Ardrossan and Arran. Mr Steele claims that there has never been a satisfactory official explanation for the maritime disaster, despite many requests and intervention by MPs and relatives of the dead. The meeting is at 2.30pm on Wednesday 20 March in the Castle tearoom.

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## The Arran Society of Glasgow annual dinner

The Annual Dinner of the Arran Society of Glasgow was held in the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot last Saturday. Society secretary Catherine Murchie reports on the event.

The dinner was very well attended by 95 guests who were piped in by Willie Robertson.

Society president Mary Margaret Brown welcomed everyone and introduced the top table guests. The Selkirk Grace was said by Stuart Lambie.

In her Toast to the Society, the president highlighted the continuing work of the Society, now in its 170th year, and the many and varied ways in which it continues to fulfil its objectives.

This includes the annual High School Awards and the provision of financial assistance to many qualifying applicants, including the Arran Defibrillator Project, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, Shiskine Scouts and Feis Arainn.

To commemorate Nan Murchie who sadly passed away last January, the Society has arranged for a Memorial Rose Bowl to be donated to the SWRI Federation. This will be awarded in the Art Section at the Agricultural Show.

Mary also mentioned members who have recently passed away, Ken Currie and Peter Bruce, who had supported the Society for many years.

The book of the Arran Reunion has been rebound and Don Brown has written the foreword. It will be available in the Heritage Museum for viewing.



**The Toast to the Isle of Arran was proposed by a well-kent figure on Arran - Robbie Glen**

A special mention was made to Murette Hoyland who is in her late eighties, and travels every year from England especially for the dinner.

Mary thanked all her fellow directors for their continued support, Catherine Murchie and Sheila Gilmore for organising the dinner and Gilbert Anderson for the use of his firm's office premises in Glasgow.

The Toast to the Isle of Arran was proposed by Robbie Glen.

Robbie is a well-known speaker on Arran and in his toast he entertained the audience with very amusing tales of his varied lifetime prison experiences, as a Governor...

not an inmate!

Lynda Davidson replied competently to Robbie's toast and she spoke of her affection for Arran and how the Society had helped her daughter, Lauren. She then followed with a humorous poem she had composed especially for Robbie. Her husband Graeme accompanied her to the dinner.

Entertainment was provided by five very talented Arran High School pupils accompanied by music teacher, David Lambert.

Iain Clarke, Finlay Murchie, Fraser Blain and Jessica Demazeux all played a variety of musical instruments and Olivia Barker sang two songs beautifully.

This was followed with an excerpt from Tam O'Shanter, recited eloquently by Finlay Murchie.

A most enjoyable evening concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman by Sheila Gilmore.

Many thanks go to everyone who contributed to make the evening such a success.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2014 when the dinner will be in Arran, on Saturday 8 March 2014 - a date for your diaries.

Catherine Murchie is the Secretary of the Society and any requests for assistance can be sent to Catherine at 4 Whitelee Crescent, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6UH or e-mail catherine.murchie@btinternet.com

## Baby unit benefits from bank staff fun



**Sarah Wilson and Jess Taylor dressed as Freddie Mercury and Dolly Parton for baby unit funds.** b11bank01

Staff at the Brodick branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland pushed the boat out last week to raise funds of £539 for the baby unit at Crosshouse Hospital.

Manager Karen Ward said: 'I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all our customers for their generosity and good spirit throughout our fundraising week.'

'Dolly Parton and Freddie Mercury lookalikes Sarah Wilson and Jess Taylor kicked off the week with the launch of our challenging Scottish Islands quiz; also on Monday Sarah took our star to Saltcoats Branch using the fire engine, ferry and articulated log truck as modes of transport.'

'This was no mean feat as she had to walk from the station in Saltcoats to the RBS branch dressed as Dolly, receiving quite a few comments en route.'

'I would like to thank Jess for her decorative artwork which helped to make the branch look great, and all my staff for the time and effort they put in.'

'Thanks also to Alan Johnston for arranging the fire engine, Carolyn at Arran Haulage for the log truck and Billy Hamilton for driving it, and special thanks to Graham Chappell at Arran Graphics for the brilliant banners he did for the front of the building and for offering the use of his Ferrari if we couldn't get the fire engine.'

The winner of the quiz was Frances Corbett of Brodick.

## New forest road planned for Brodick

An application for a new forestry road has been lodged with North Ayrshire Council.

The applicant is Sannox Estate and the road is described as a loop access from the A841 north of Brodick oppo-

site Rosaburn Lodge.

The road is shown as having an entry and exit to Stronach Wood incorporating a 40 metre by six metre loading bay for forestry log lorries.

The access loop has been designed to facilitate a forest

road extension when funds become available which will allow greater and easier access to the wood for both forestry and recreational activities.

The application is pending consideration.

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International Tri-athlete and Type 1 diabetes sufferer Gavin Alexander is gearing up for Diabetes UK's most extreme fundraising event, the Arran Bike and Hike.

# Athletes prepare for Arran Bike and Hike challenge

Diabetes UK is giving athletes the chance to take on the challenges our island has to offer while raising much-needed funds for the charity by participating in the 2013 Arran Bike 'n' Hike Challenge in June.

Supporting the event is 17-year-old Gavin Alexander, a Scottish championship

winning tri-athlete who has Type 1 diabetes, who has recently signed up to the international Team Novo Nordisk Triathletes.

The cycle is a round trip of 55 miles with plenty of steep climbs and hair-raising curves and those with a more competitive streak can test themselves on just how long

the round-the-isle journey takes.

After the cycle, there's further challenge left - a climb up Arran's highest peak the 2867ft Goat Fell.

For further information contact Diabetes UK Scotland on 0141 245 6380 or emailScotland@diabetes.org.uk.

# Tibet talk cancelled by ferry problems

A planned visit to the island by the UK representative of the Dalai Lama was cancelled last Thursday.

Thubten Samdup, envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, was due to be guest speaker in Corrie and Sannox village hall on Thursday afternoon

with a talk entitled 'Why Tibet Matters'.

But while en route to the island he heard that Caledonian MacBrayne had cancelled two midday sailings for 'essential work on the port engine' of the Caledonian Isles. Passla Gautier of Corrie

had arranged the visit and she told The Banner Thursday morning: 'We are so sorry that Thubten Samdup has had to cancel his talk; he is on his way back to London now.'

'Hopefully we will be able to re-arrange another visit.'

## Kildonan SWRI ladies try their hand at cupcake decoration

On Wednesday 20 February the guest speaker for the afternoon was Adele Smith who came along to give a talk and demonstration on the decoration of cupcakes.

The knowledge she has gathered over the years running her own business was fascinating and everyone learned something new.

The ladies then went on to try decorating two cupcakes of their own and had a good laugh as the hall was quite

cold and the icing was proving to be a challenge to use.

The competition was for the best decorated cupcakes on the day and this was won by Beth Mowatt with Angela Irving taking second place.

### Lunch

Afterwards everyone enjoyed a sharing lunch.

The next meeting will be the AGM and will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20 March in Kildonan Village Hall.

## Lochranza and Catacol 200 club

The winners of the February draw were: 1st prize Andrew Carpenter and 2nd prize Evelyn Grassick.

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## Painting workshop a visual delight

Arran Visual Arts group held a watercolour painting workshop on the weekend of 2 and 3 March, led by the distinguished artist Martin Oates.

Pat Eyres, one of the delegates, writes a report of the course below.

'As a new member of Arran Visual Arts and a lapsed painter for more years than I like to say, it was with some nervousness that I booked on the first Watercolour Painting Workshop of the year with Martin Oates.

'His website was impressive and he has a very different, vibrant style so I wondered whether this was a good idea to imagine I could participate fully.

'I needn't have worried however as the weekend turned out to be inspiring, and Martin was a patient, talented tutor - who made everyone feel instantly at ease. I'd forgotten so much - but Martin's style of painting was wonderfully free and accessible by painters of all abilities and experience.

'It was not surprising then that the two days were packed

full with eager participants, as most were already aware of his talent, and his paintings I believe are on display in the Whiting Bay Gallery.

'All agreed that we were extremely lucky to get an artist of such quality to come to Arran. It was a wonderful re-acquaintance to painting for me - and has given me much more confidence to paint again.

'Now I'm wondering how many paintings labelled 'in the style of Martin Oates' or 'painted at a Martin Oates Workshop' will make their appearance at an exhibition on Arran.

'A very tempting snippet of information from the weekend - Martin is about to organise a couple of Painting Holidays in Spain in September this year at his lovely villa in Andalucia.

'Doesn't this sound wonderful?

'I'm now looking forward to other courses with AVA. I wonder how many on Arran realise how lucky we are to get such high quality and talented artists coming to the island?'

# Paul to put Operation Crucible on the stage

Arran-born actor Paul Tinto of Lamlash is embarking on an exciting new project.

He and three actor pals are planning to put on a production of a wartime drama

about Operation Crucible, a German plan to destroy Britain's main ammunition heartland in Sheffield.

One of the actors is a writer and he is currently penning the

script. Paul told the Banner: 'I am trying to raise awareness of this project that we are devising and producing.

'We are doing it to raise money for a local cancer

charity in Sheffield. In December 1940 the German High Command launched a major bombing raid on Sheffield in what became known as the Sheffield Blitz. But the raids on Coventry and London had much more prominence in the press than the Sheffield one.

'Our play will be looking at what it was like to live and work in the steel trade at such a dangerous time.

'Many dramas have dealt with the hardships of the mining industry but few with the steel industry.

'It was an arduous and dangerous craft, never knowing if you were going to be hit next.

'If it is successful, it would be great to bring the production to Arran.'

One of Paul's major roles was as student Marius in the 2004 Arran High School production of Les Miserables.

To find out more about Paul's project, go to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and type in Operation Crucible.



Paul Tinto, left, in Chariots of Fire at the Gielgud Theatre last year. b27paul01

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## Brewery to sell sake back to Japanese



The boss of the Arran Brewery has become Scotland's first sake master.

Gerald Michaluk has completed a course in Japan to study the rice wine, Japan's national drink.

Towards the end of this year, the Arran Brewery, based near Brodick, will launch the first Scottish sake.

Gerald said: 'I learnt a great deal about sake and how it is made.

'Sake is the national drink of Japan and, as they now make some very acceptable whisky, which they sell here, I felt it was time for us in Scotland to make some sake and sell it in Japan.'

Gerald Michaluk has become Scotland's first sake master. b11sak01NO

## Youth issues addressed by council executive

Pupils from Arran High School were invited to hear the council's plans for young people in North Ayrshire when they visited the school last Tuesday.

Last year the North Ayrshire Youth Council Executive was invited to attend future meetings of the Council's Cabinet by Council Leader Willie Gibson.

The meeting at Arran High School, was the second

joint Cabinet/Youth Council meeting following their initial event in December 2012.

The joint meetings give the Youth Council the opportunity to see the council in action and hear about the subjects that affect them and their peers.

### Insight

Councillor Willie Gibson said: 'It is a pleasure for us to be able to hold this meeting in Arran as it gives young

people here a better insight into our discussions. Many of the issues that affect young people in the rest of North Ayrshire are very different to those here and we want to help address them if we can.'

The Arran pupils were able to ask questions and the topics varied from participation in RE classes, school toilets, bus fares and suitable part-time working hours for young people.

# Kilmory village IN THE PINK for posh afternoon tea

The Posh or Pink afternoon tea in Kilmory Hall with beautiful dainty cakes and fine bone china made more than £1,000 for a cancer charity last Friday.



Posh and two pinks – Helen Driver, Phyllis Picken and Joan Cook. 02\_b11pink01



One pink and three very posh ladies. 02\_b11pink05



Bella Doig walked all the way from Brodick to raise money. 02\_b11pink03

Left: Morag Grieve was really in the pink. 02\_b11pink06

The annual event, organised by Phyllis Picken, raised £1,225 for the Cancer Research UK charity appeal.

The village hall was packed with folk, mainly ladies and youngsters, all decked out in pink or posh outfits. The children from Kilmory School even came across to the hall and handed over £58.85 that they had raised.

And Bella Doig, in bright pink outfit, had walked all the way from her home in Brodick, raising £130.27 in the process.

Bella told The Banner: 'I used to live in the village and worked in Lagg Hotel, but moved to Brodick a couple of years ago.

'I just called on shops and passers-by on my way round the Southend. Everyone was so generous.'

The remarkable raffle took over half an hour with an amazing total of 116 super prizes being handed out.

And everyone was encouraged to take home the china cup, saucer and plate that they had used. 'We don't want any washing up,' exclaimed Phyllis.

She added afterwards: 'I'm delighted that we made £1,225 from donations and the raffle. Don't we do well in Kilmory?'



Isobel Mulholland, Lorna McKelvie and Morven Buckley with their three-tier cake stand and china crockery. 02\_b11pink04



Kilmory Hall in the pink. 02\_b11pink02



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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## British pride hard to find

It has been fascinating this week to read all about the referendum in the Falkland Islands that saw 99.8 per cent of the population voting in favour of remaining an overseas territory of the UK and just three people voting against.

It was a result that would make even Kim Jong-un blush.

Despite being thousands of miles away the Falklands have a great deal in common with Arran.

1. The population is around 3,000 – almost all British by birth or descent.
2. There are 500,000 sheep on the islands (it feels like we have that many deer!)
3. There is only one town: the capital, Stanley.
4. There are no cash points, and only one bank.
5. Like Arran there is no McDonalds, no Tesco, no Starbucks – in fact no chain shops or restaurants of any kind.
6. Just like on Arran, you drive on the left, there are red telephone boxes in Stanley, and the currency is the Falkland Islands pound, which is worth exactly the same as British pound sterling.
7. There are seven pubs in Stanley, but you'll struggle to get a pint in any of them. Beer is mostly sold by bottle.
8. There is little in the way of crime – like many from Arran, people leave the keys in the ignition of their cars and many houses don't even have locks on the doors.
9. They only got mobile phones in the Falklands in 2005 – many parts of Arran still don't get a signal
10. The Falklands is a favourite destination for wildlife fans: you will find thousands of penguins in colonies all over the archipelago.

If one looks at reality, without the Union Jack-tinted shades, the islands were stolen from the Argentines back in the 19th Century.

But that doesn't mean that 200 years later the people of the Falklands should not feel proud to be British.

What is absurd is that these people thousands of miles away feel more a part of the United Kingdom than we Scots do.

As we head towards an independence referendum that could see Scotland torn from the Union, we have to ask ourselves why this pride in all things British is increasingly hard to find north of the Border?

There are thousands of us who do not wish to live under Alex Salmond's Saltire, but our voices are being drowned out by the passion of the Nationalists.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8: 39)

## press policy

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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## your letters

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

# Letters to the Editor



## Safety on the hills

Sir,  
In response to the article in last week's Banner (Dismantled cairns danger to walkers, 8 March) we would like to assure people that the National Trust for Scotland and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team are working together to ensure safety on our hills.

Yours,  
**Alan McNicol, Team Leader of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team and Kate Sampson, Goatfell Senior Ranger, National Trust for Scotland.**

## Cairns a false sense of security

Sir,  
The recent article in the Banner reminds me of an incident that occurred back in the 60s. I was in a pub in Edale after a days walk.

A man came into the bar and informed the company there that he had just built a line of cairns over Bleaklow because he was bringing a school party the next day.

The next man in entered saying: 'I've just spent most of the day removing a line of cairns that someone has built over Bleaklow'.

After the two men had been separated there was a lively discussion.

The balance of opinion was against the schoolteacher.

The habit of building cairns for this purpose is unsightly, causes damage to the environment and most importantly fosters a false sense of security.

Your article is the first thing I have read or listened to that supports lines of cairns for more than 30 years.

The NTS policy on this has been in place for more than 20 years; it is one I support and in my view has the support of the overwhelming majority of enlightened mountaineers.

I read with approval recently the article in which an Arran Mountain Rescue spokesperson reminded people to learn how to use map and compass.

Encouraging people to fol-

low lines of cairns puts more people at risk than does any NTS policy.

Yours,  
**Dave Freeman Lamlash**

PS. Unfortunately not an option to the schoolteacher in my story, but anyone wishing to mark a spot for their own purpose should leave a way-mark on their eTrex.

Therefore not contributing to erosion.

## Axed support is vital

Sir,  
Regarding the recent decision made at the NAC budget meeting on January 30 affecting the Adult Outreach Service on the Isle of Arran I wish to raise concerns I have over the impact this will have on users of the service, one of whom is a member of my family.

As you may be aware, the Adult Outreach Service provides support to around seven service users with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties.

At present it is the only service of its kind available on the island and as such is deemed as vital to meeting the social and emotional needs of the users of this service. It is also highly valued by carers and family members alike as it provides them with some level of respite and may be their only form of external support out with the family.

An outreach service such as this on a small island where there are limited resources for people with disabilities is a service that must remain in place and must be flexible to accommodate peoples changing needs.

The decision by North Ayrshire Council to terminate the position of one long established staff member will result in a third of direct support hours being removed from the service and a saving to the council of £19,710 per year.

With this position now terminated, the result is a devastating blow to the outreach service with the likelihood of peoples support hours being

cut substantially as there will only be two part time workers left in the service to provide direct support each week to seven service users.

I am concerned about the effect this will have on my own family member but also the impact it will have on future services. There are a number of island residents under the age of 18 who will need support from a service such as the AOS when they reach adulthood but what sort of service will their be?

I am well aware of the current financial climate and the need for cuts to be made but in a small island such as Arran where there are no other services available to be bought in, it results in the needs of the islands vulnerable service users being dismissed for the sake of less than £20,000 a year.

Unfortunately, this means people on Arran will now go without, which is simply not good enough and clearly conflicts with the Scottish government's policies on social justice and social inclusion.

I would like NAC to reconsider their decision and provide assurances that no further cuts will be made to this service.

Yours,  
**Irene Reid, 1F Abbotsford Place, Dundee**

## Calling Whiting Bay

Sir,  
The Whiting Bay Improvements Group is going to have a Spring Clean.

Firstly to have a meeting to plan our Spring actions and activities, and secondly to clean up the beach after a winter of stormy seas and much flotsam and jetsam. Our village flowering boats are looking very springlike, so we need to too. If you live in Whiting Bay or enjoy coming here, please join us on Friday 15 March at 7pm in the Lesser Hall of the Village Hall, or on Saturday 23 March at the Putting Green Shed at 10am.

On the Saturday, please bring waterproof clothing, garden gloves and secateurs. Black bags and pick-

er-uppers will be provided. Look forward to seeing you with a spring in your step!

Yours,  
**Jan MacGregor, Whiting Bay Improvements**

## Meeting in favour of new pier

Sir,  
I write regarding your recent editorial and the letter from Ian Ferguson.

I broadly sympathise with the tenor of your editorial.

My only criticism would be that it did not reflect the view of the meeting which was, despite the concerns reported, broadly in favour of the proposed pier development.

I am not as sympathetic to Ian Ferguson's letter on behalf of the Arran Public Transport Group. I confess I have not heard of this group before and would like to know how it is constituted. In short who and what does this group represent?

The fact is Brodick Pier has now passed its sell by date. The maintenance costs are around £300,000 - £500,000 per year and we cannot forever pour public money into a pier which will not meet the future needs of the Arran service.

The argument that the money should be diverted to provide a more accessible mainland port is financially flawed. A port at Hunterston/Fairlie would have to provide reliable road and rail access, car parking, loading ramp, and terminal buildings.

The cost of providing the above would dwarf the sum proposed for Brodick and leave the problems of Brodick unresolved. Any such terminal would involve a longer sea journey, extended onward journey times to major routes and all hospitals currently catering for Arran.

Also announced at the CMAL meeting was that a new ferry for Arran is hoped to be a reality by 2016.

This proposed ferry will have a deeper draft allowing for reduced running costs and

Continued on Page 9

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# Letters to the Editor



AMRT took part in a first aid course Picture by David Hogg

## First aid course for AMRT

Arran's Mountain Rescue Team took part in a two-day first aid course recently to refresh their knowledge of these vital skills.

### Compulsory

The course is a compulsory part of every team members training program and must be refreshed and kept up to date every three years.

On the first day of the course team members were assessed on basic life support and refreshed their skills on the use of a defibrillator.

A spokesman for AMRT said: 'These are all crucial casualty care and essential skills needed for us to work together in a real life emer-

gency situation.

'The second and final day of the course involved mock rescue scenarios outdoors and putting together everything we had refreshed and learnt from the previous day.

'Thanks to grant aid - public donations and fundraising - these types of training courses can be undertaken and the team can use these essential skills in real life rescues.'

This May Kirstie Smith, AMRT member, will be taking part in the Goatfell hill race and is aiming to raise £1,000 for the team.

You can sponsor her at [www.justgiving.com/kirstieSarran](http://www.justgiving.com/kirstieSarran)

### Continued from Page 8

greater manoeuvrability, giving the ship's masters more control when accessing Ardrossan harbour.

Currently the disruption on the Arran route is approximately 3percent and any reduction on this figure would be of great benefit.

The downside of deeper water is that there will inevitably be a longer walk from terminal to ferry. However the walk will be no longer than the distance from central station entrance to the platform that services Ardrossan Harbour.

Although longer, the walk to access the ferry itself will be level, unlike the present steep access to the Caledonian Isles. I am convinced that an exceedingly steep gangway is as much a deterrent to elderly or disabled passengers as a longer level access.

I was asked after the public meeting 'Did I know that the island demographics indicated a large elderly population'. My answer is that I am aware of that fact and have been for a considerable time.

The only sobering fact that has changed over the past few years is that I now contribute to that demographic.

Yours,  
Jim Lees, Sannox

## Welcoming positive change

Sir,  
You were right to point out in your editorial the vocal carping minority at the CMAL's New Pier meeting and I completely agree with your observations and comments.

Fortunately Robbie Brown, speaking from the floor, was able to reflect the positive outlook of the majority of attendees and I believe, the island in general. The good folk from CMAL were informing and consulting on the new pier development which in itself is to be praised.

The development is a £17million pound infrastructure programme for Arran with short-term benefits in jobs and expenditure during the construction phase and the longer-term benefit of a state of the art harbour development, which will encourage tourism and commerce.

It was previously explained that the new development had to be in deeper water to prevent disruption to service during spring tides and al-

low the deployment of new deeper draft more economical ferries. This requires the need for a 270 metre walk.

The new development also allows for two ships of the Caledonian Isles size.

The 'spare' dock could be used for small cruise ships or other commercial operators, again providing significant economic benefits to the island.

In summary, this development is one of the biggest improvements in island infrastructure in a long time, bringing short term and more importantly long term economic benefits.

Of course it is not perfect. However, most people appreciate that in a time of severe economic constraint, a major infrastructure project

that delivers 90percent good stuff, is as good as it gets.

All concerned with making this project happen should be commended.

Yours,  
Tom Tracey, Brodick

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## ARRAN SUPPER CLUB

What does it mean to be an Arranach?

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# get your garden



At the tail end of winter, after the endless rain that we have suffered this season, most of Arran's gardens will be looking a little desolate.

But spring is just around the corner – March 21 is the first official day – and before you know it those bare flower beds and wilting lawn will be reviving and starting to look lush and green again.

Early spring is the time for planning and preparation. Even if the weather outside is stormy, you can still enjoy being a couch

potato and get ahead with your garden planning!

Keep a notebook or diary that you devote to gardening matters. Start jotting down any changes that you want to make in the garden, different planting or bed designs, and plans for starting a vegetable or wild garden.

Spend a few blissful evenings with seed catalogues from the major nurseries to gain ideas, and if you are planning a garden makeover, watch some gardening programmes

for practical guidance on design and planting.

Before you start serious work in the garden this season, there will be some spring-cleaning to be done.

Garden sheds can be in need of tidying, and it's important to safely dispose of any out-of-date fertilisers or sprays.

Next, check your tools

and equipment. Book your lawn mower in for a service, and check that trimmers and power tools are working after being laid up for the winter. It's both frustrating and dangerous if you find that leads are worn or a vital piece of kit is malfunctioning.

Replace any worn-out hand tools, and explore



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# ready for spring



garden centres to see what's new on the market that might help to make garden chores easier.

Finally, it's time to get outside. Most lawns will be looking a little sad after the winter months, so one of your first tasks will be to rake through and spike your lawn before adding any fertiliser.

Assess whether you might need to re-sow or over seed any worn areas, prepare them early, and make sure that they are protected from birds and the hazards of pets and

family. Pruning is a job for early spring, and most roses and climbers will need a trim in March. It's also



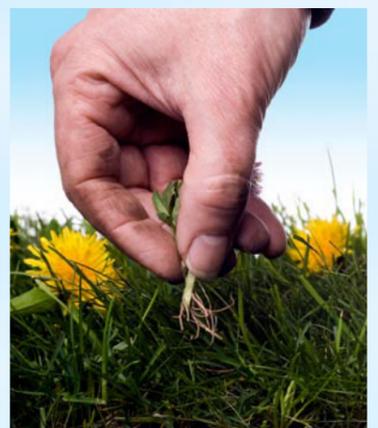
your opportunity to replace any worn trellises or to put up wire supports for climbing plants that might otherwise overwhelm you with enthusiastic growth before you've had a chance to secure new shoots. Again, get expert advice if you are a novice gardener and are not sure about when and how much to cut back roses, shrubs and climbers like clematis.

Weeding needs to start early so that you can keep on top of it.

It can be a backbreaking chore, so the tip is 'little and often', to ensure that you don't find yourself faced with flowerbeds that are already overgrown with weeds. Be careful about treading on and impacting soil that will still be wet and cold after the winter months, but as soon

as the weather is warmer, start clearing any debris off your beds, and lightly fork in compost and manure.

All the preparation done, your garden will be ready for planting those new perennials that you have ordered, and for sowing the seeds that will bloom throughout the summer.



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# Scotland's national tree: Scot's Pine v Arran Whitebeam

The following few notes may help some readers to come to a decision on this interesting question.

It will mean we'll have to delve a little into botany and geographical distribution but it's a fascinating subject nonetheless!

As pointed out in the article in last week's Banner, the number of native Scot's pines growing in the country is but a tiny proportion of the total world population. They are

**Tony Church of Lamlash enlarges on the current debate on the national tree of Scotland. Will the Arran Whitebeam pip the Scot's Pine to the prestigious title?**

common trees right across the northern part of the Eurasian continent and stretch as far as the eastern side of Siberia.

It has been considered that the Scottish population(s) might be defined as a subspecies but apparently there is very little difference

in Scot's Pines across their vast range.

The species has perhaps been around for some millions of years in very much of the form that it is seen today.

After the last period of glaciation it slowly spread into the Scottish landscape and was probably very common over much of the northern half of Scotland for a time. And then we came along and cut most of them down.

These days the surviving remnants don't amount to much more than one per cent of the original maximum.

On the other hand The Arran Whitebeams (and there are now three different 'species' involved – the third one was only recognised in the last few years) are totally restricted to a tiny area of Scotland in the NW of Arran centred on Glen Catacol.

They are considered to be hybrid derivatives of the Rock Whitebeam (rare on Arran) and the very common Rowan. These hybrid events have probably happened only in the last few thousand years since the last of the glaciers melted away from the Scottish landscape. So in an evolutionary sense they are very recent events.

But what is really special about the biology of the



Flowers and leaves of *Sorbus arranensis* (Arran whitebeam). b11tree01

Whitebeams is that by some obscure biological process some of these hybrids have become stabilized and are able to act like normal outbreeding species in forming fertile seeds.

The essential difference is that the fertile seeds that germinate into trees are genetically identical to the parent tree.

This is unlike the Scot's Pine in which all of the trees will be slightly different – just like you and me! On the other hand all of the Arran Whitebeams would be just like having loads of you or me.

Another point to consider is that there are many more of these hybrid derived Whitebeam 'species' scattered more or less throughout the British Isles especially in the western more hilly parts many of which are equally as rare as the Arran ones.

It may be a good reproductive strategy in some

ways but being in effect clones of the original mother tree it may mean that they cannot compete very well in the landscape especially with one of the original parents, the Rowan.

In the end I would think Scot's Pine will win hands down in the vote for Scotland's national tree, given its common name and the fact that Scotland is the only place in the British Isles to have surviving native populations.

But some thought should be given to the beautiful images one has of lonely Rowans scattered across the Scottish mountainsides covered in red berries in the autumn.

Arran is very special for its endemic Whitebeams but it might make more sense for it to be an icon for the island.

There is, after all, only one type of plant that has the word Arran as part of its scientific name and that's one of our Whitebeams - *Sorbus arranensis*!



Scot's Pine. b11tree04

## Latest Arran Bird Report published

The 2012 Arran Bird Report has now been published.

Arran Bird Recorder Jim Cassels said: 'If you are a member of the Arran Natural History Society, you get a copy of the report as part of your membership. If you were at the Arran Natural History Meeting last week, you may already have a copy.'

In 2012, almost 300 contributors submitted almost 7,000 records on 160 species, one of which had never been recorded before on Arran.

From all this information The Arran Bird Report 2012 has been produced.

### Species

Jim added: 'This annual report is a 'must' for anyone interested in the birds of Arran. It includes information on all species seen on Arran, a month by month summary of what was around last year, the impact of weather on birds, information on ringed birds and reports on some of Arran's bird projects.'

'The uniqueness of Arran is reflected throughout the report, including the number of UK protected birds that share our island with us, as well as the differences between here and even the adjacent mainland.'

This latest version of the annual bird report is now available directly from Alan and Jill Hollick of High Kildonan alanandjillhollick@gmail.com.

By Easter copies should also be available from shops and other outlets throughout the island.

**arrantrust**

tourism and conservation working in partnership

**Gala Dinner**

**Guest Speaker: Alistair Hume**

**Sat 20th April 7 for 7.30pm**

**At Brambles Restaurant,  
Auchrannie Resort, Brodick**

**Tickets £35 available from Arran Trust office  
- 302043 or info@arrantrust.org. Also available  
from Book & Card Centre**

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## Jamie leads out the teams at Murrayfield

Eight-year-old Jamie Hardie led out the team mascots before the Six Nations rugby match at Murrayfield on Sunday 24 February.

Jamie is the son of Jimmy and Kirsteen Hardie and grandson of the late Netta and John Hardie of Brodick.

He plays full back for Bannockburn RFC in the Central Scotland Rugby Pathway.

Mum Kirsteen said that he was as proud as could be to meet his heroes.

Scotland beat Ireland by 12 points to eight.



Jamie Hardie leading out the mascots and teams at Murrayfield. b11rug01

Got a story for **The Arran Banner?** call  
**01770 302142**



**A Short-eared Owl was seen at File Breugach.**

Picture by Bill Cowell.

February was a little colder but much drier than January with less than half the rain of January. The last fortnight of February was particularly dry and settled.

Winter visitors were to the fore including: a Greenshank at Clauchlands on the 1<sup>st</sup>, three Goldeneye off Blackwaterfoot on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a very bedraggled solitary Waxwing in Lochranza on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 13 Purple Sandpiper with over 70 Turnstone at Kildonan on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a mixed flock of around 50 Fieldfare and Redwing at Auchenhew on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Wintering wildfowl were still present in numbers including: 76 Teal at Kilpatrick Point on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 20 Wigeon at Auchenhew Bay on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a mixed flock of around 350 Greylag with 30 Pink-footed Geese in the Shiskine Valley on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Other flocks included 70 Curlew at Glenkiln on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 40 Lapwing at High Clachaig on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north including 150 Common Gull at Blackwaterfoot on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 300 Herring Gull at Kilpatrick Point also on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was the first report of returning Lesser Black-backed Gull, which move south for the winter, with two at Kilpatrick Point on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Calm seas were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: 12 displaying Red-breasted Mergansers off Carlo on the 14<sup>th</sup>, two Red-throated Divers in Whiting Bay on the 17<sup>th</sup>, four Black-throated Divers off Machriewaterfoot on the 19<sup>th</sup>, on the same date over 150 courting Eiders in Machrie Bay, five Great Northern Divers off Balliequine on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 13 Common Scoter off Cosyden on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species.

There were some more unusual garden birds and some species on their northerly migration including: ten Long-tailed Tit at Cordon on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a male Blackcap at Sandbraes on the 9<sup>th</sup>, two Goldfinch at Kilpatrick on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a Great Spotted Woodpecker at Glenloig on the 20<sup>th</sup>, six Siskin at Shiskine on the 24<sup>th</sup>, a Lesser Redpoll in High Kildonan on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a male Bullfinch at Margnaheglish also on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Other sightings included: a male Goosander at Lochranza on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Dipper at Margnaheglish on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a Short-eared Owl at File Breugach on the 15<sup>th</sup>, two Little Grebe



**A winter visitor spotted at Clauchlands, a Greenshank.**

Picture by Arthur Duncan.



**Three Goldeneye were seen near Blackwaterfoot.**

Picture by Brian Couper.

**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels

**FEBRUARY**

by Fisherman's Walk on the 16<sup>th</sup> and a Red Kite by Cnocan Cuaillach on the 18<sup>th</sup>. This Red Kite last month had been the first report since April 2011.

Finally, there were some signs of approaching spring with reports of garden birds in song throughout the island towards the end of the month, plus nesting Fulmars on the cliffs at Bannan Head on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Golden Eagles displaying over Lochranza on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Grey Herons building nests in Whitehouse Woods on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 16 Black Guillemot in breeding plumage at Brodick pier on the 27<sup>th</sup> and a Collared Dove nest with two eggs in Kildonan on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

March could see the start of the arrival of our summer visitors like Wheatear, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Sand Martin, even Swallow and House Martin, but their arrival will be dependent on the weather. Keep an eye out for these migrants and let me know when you first see them.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the "Arran Bird Report 2012" and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)

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# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday 20 March, 1993

### Phyllis is champion driver

Phyllis Picken won the Arran heat of the WI Woman Driver of the Year competition. Angela Chalmers came second and Marjorie Climie third.

They sat their tests in a Vauxhall Belmont car. Phyllis goes forward to the regional finals at Strathclyde Park in May.

### Phone codes changing

Next Wednesday all Arran's telephone codes will change to 0770 and each exchange will have a six digit number. Next year the code is due to become 01770.

### Ormidale Park surgery

Brodick Golf Club has applied for outline planning permission for a new doctor's surgery in a corner of Ormidale Park.

### Upgrade for Lamlash Hospital

The Health Board has been awarded a build project grant for Arran War Memorial Hospital of £400,000 to improve and upgrade facilities.

The bungalow adjacent to the hospital is be-

ing converted to an outpatient department for consultation clinics and ante-natal classes.

### Improving sight lines at cemetery

Stewart Lambie and Jack Watt have been clearing a site near the old Brodick cemetery. Cutting back the rhododendrons and birch trees has removed the blind corner for road users.

### Drift Inn are pool cup winners

Eleven pool teams took part in the 1993 Knockout Cup held last Sunday at the Kinloch Hotel. Eventual winners were the Drift Inn who beat Lagg 5-4 in the final.

### Lamlash win Winter League

Lamlash Golf Club have an unassailable lead in this year's Winter League/Duncan Trophy. The Lamlash boys have defended the cup in grand style again for the ninth year in succession.



The Arran contestants in the Woman Driver of the Year competition. b11twe02



Science teacher Ian Parker as Superman for Red Nose Day. b11twe03



Woodcarver Marvin Elliott with the totem pole he made for the Arran Folk festival, helped by local teenagers for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. b11twe04



Arran winners in the 1993 WI Woman Driver of the Year competition; Phyllis Picken, Angela Chalmers and Marjorie Climie. b11twe01

## Archie takes a rest

Archie is going to take a well-earned rest.

The cheeky black Labrador with the trademark red bandana has been gracing the pages of the Banner for over four years since February 2009 in the Where's Archie feature.

He followed in the paw prints of Murphy who was the Banner Labrador from May 2007 until his death in April 2008. Between them, Murphy and Archie had their photos taken by the roving Banner reporter at over 300 locations on the island for readers to guess their whereabouts.

Now Archie declares that he is putting his paws up, but may be available by negotiation for celebrity photo-shoots in exchange for a biscuit.



# Where's Archie?

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Last week Archie was taking a rest on one of his favourite walks on the forest path above Lamlash Golf Course. This week he is in the dead centre of one of Arran's villages, but do you know which one?



If you think you know then post your answer on the website [www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk) Or email us at: [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# Whats on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF ARRAN BREWERY

## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank fishing  
Brodick Castle, Garden Open Daily 9am-Dusk

## Saturday 16th March

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.  
Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am  
Shiskine Hall Auction Shiskine Hall, 2pm for 2.30pm start  
1934 Club opening ceremony Kilmory hall, from 6pm

## Sunday 17th March

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm  
New AI-Anon Meeting Call 601206 for details  
Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Folk Music Session Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm  
Folk night Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm  
Cocaine Anonymous Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm – 3.30pm  
Pool Finals Day Kildonan Hotel, 3pm

## Monday 18th March

Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park 6am  
Over 50s Badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
Morning Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Breathe Walk Class Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm  
Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Volleyball Club Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm  
Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & improvers, Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2-4pm  
Lunch Club McKelvie Road, Lamlash 12 noon  
Annabel Goldie Surgery MSP Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 11am – 11.45am

## Tuesday 19th March

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Youth Club Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
Rotary club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
Streetly Dance pre school Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm  
Streetly Dancing Classes P1-S7 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 3.45pm – 6pm  
Youth Club Brodick Hall, 6.30 – 8pm  
Rowan Singers Lamlash church hall, 7.30-9.30pm  
Weight Watchers St Molios Church Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
Junior Hockey Club Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
Auchrannie Winter Bowls Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm  
Healthy Outdoors 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre  
Cricket Practise Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm  
Scottish Country Dancing Brodick Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners Lamlash high school car park, 5.30pm  
Arran Golf Pass AGM Brodick Golf Club, 7.30pm

## Wednesday 20th March

Hockey Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
Tae Kwondo Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm  
Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm

Senior Badminton Arran High School, 8-9pm  
Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Aquafizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners Auchrannie Spa Car Park, 5.30pm  
Arran Abs Runners - advanced Auchrannie Spa Car Park, 6pm  
Northend Football Training Lochranza, 7pm  
Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park, 6am  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club AGM The Clubhouse, 7.30pm  
Elderly Persons Forum Ormidale Pavilion 11am  
Friends of Brodick Castle Castle Tearoom 2.30pm  
Music Festival Community Theatre, from 10.15am

## Thursday 21st March

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Lochranza Craft Club Lochranza Hall, 2pm  
Youth Club Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm  
Live Country/Folk music Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm  
Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm  
Brodick Bridge Club Brodick Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm  
Auchrannie Winter Bowls Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm  
Ladies Netball High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm  
Arran Abs Runners – beginners Kinloch Car Park, 5.30pm  
Lunchbox Ormidale Pavilion, 12.30-2.30pm  
Weight Watchers Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm  
Machrie Golf Club AGM Machrie Hall, 7.30pm  
Arran Heritage Museum AGM Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Music Festival Community Theatre, from 9.30am

## Friday 22nd March

Aqua Fizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
Lochranza Kids Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Adults Badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Outside Boot Camp Whiting Bay Park 6am  
Music Festival Community Theatre, from 9.30am

## Saturday 23rd March

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.  
Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am  
Garage Sale 1 Hillside Terrace, Lamlash 12-4pm



# Recruitment



## Weekend Staff

• Retail •

Competent and experienced shop staff required for flexible weekend work in our retail unit at Brodick Pier. The ability to work alone during very busy periods is essential. Hours are Saturday/Sunday (rotating shifts, one day per week until October 1st), 9.30am till 5pm. Additional piece-rate work (at the premises or at home) may be available. Contact Graham or Janis : 01770 303699 or email only graham@arrangraphics.com



## HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED

We are looking for reliable and conscientious housekeepers for various locations across the island. Competitive rates of pay. If you are interested please contact Jane on 303 113 or call into our office at The Douglas Centre.



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## leisure

### Employment Opportunities with KA Leisure

#### KA CAMPUS ARRAN

KA Leisure provides opportunities for the local community and individuals to be 'more active more often' through access to facilities and delivering programmes for sport, entertainment and recreation.

We are currently recruiting for the following positions to join the team at KA Campus Arran.

- Activity Co-ordinator (job reference L625)
- Campus Assistant (job reference L626)
- Relief Fitness Instructor (job reference L627)

**For job descriptions and recruitment packs please contact 01294 316 457 Or Human Resource Department at The Magnum Leisure Centre, Harbourside, Irvine, KA12 8PP.**

*Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2003, as amended applies to this post.*

**www.kaleisure.com**  



## What's On at KA Campus Arran

### Fitness Studio Memberships

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## Property

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## Public Notices

**NOTICE OF EXAMINATION FOR THE MODIFIED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (AS SUBMITTED)**  
On 15 February 2013, North Ayrshire Council submitted to Scottish Ministers the above plan for examination. Copies of the plan are available for public inspection during business hours at every public library in North Ayrshire and at Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE. The plan can also be viewed by visiting www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/localplans.  
Scottish Ministers have appointed Mrs Jill Moody DipTP MRTPI and Mr David A Russell MA (Hons) MPhil MRTPI as the Reporters to undertake the examination. The Reporters have been provided with summaries of the issues to be assessed at the examination. The summaries can be found at www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=qA341424  
Further guidance on the examination process is available from the following website: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396852.pdf or by contacting Jayne Hollas on 01324 696454 or via Jayne.Hollas@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Development Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk \*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash.  
Written representations may be made to the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 05.04.13. Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)**  
Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development  
13/00086/PP; Woodside, Pirnmill, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Formation of 2 dormers to rear of detached dwelling house  
13/00100/PP; Site To The North Of Vedo Mare, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of detached dwelling house and formation of vehicular access

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



**Lamlash Bowling & Tennis Club**  
**A G M**  
Tuesday 26 March 2013 at 7pm  
Bowling Clubhouse, Lamlash  
*All Welcome*

**ARRAN RIDING CLUB - EGM**  
Saturday 23rd March 1pm  
Lamlash Fire Station  
To adopt Annual Accounts

**Annabel Goldie MSP regional MSP for the West of Scotland is holding a public MSP surgery on Monday 18th March, from 11.00am - 11.45am at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick.**



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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
SUNDAY, 17th March:  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parishes of North Arran :**  
Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine  
**Independent but working together.**

Minister, Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times,

to which all are invited.

**Sunday 17th March**

Brodict Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Lochranza.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.  
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash**

**"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"**

Sunday 17th March  
Kilmory 10 am  
Mr. Tony Butcher  
**Lamlash 11.30 am**  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Rev. Ross Mitchell  
In both churches:  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday 17th March  
Mass 11am

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005).  
**Sunday 17th March 2013**

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. Also, there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods. All most welcome.

Arran Baptist Church  
Sunday 17th March  
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodict

11am Morning worship  
Tea/Coffee after the service  
Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday  
At 7.30pm, for details telephone 860 232

Everyone very welcome.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER**

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Services as follows  
Shiskine 11.00am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodict 7pm (Church behind post office)  
Mr Daniel Paterson  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
Sunday 17th March  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodict  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodict  
Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday 20th March 7pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodict  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am.  
For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223 or 302779.

**SALVATION ARMY**  
House Group/Bible Study.  
Monday 2.30pm. If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

**BIRTHS**



**TWINS**

Murray and Hayley Stewart are proud to announce the arrival of Murray Roydon 7lb 2oz and Zara Lilly 6lb 11oz on 7th March 2013  
First grand children to Murray and Joan Stewart of Blackwaterfoot and Roy and Carlyn Smith of Newton Mearns.

**DEATHS**

**"TOMMY" CAMPBELL**

Longstanding resident of Pirmill, died peacefully at The Erskine Home, Renfrewshire on Friday 8th March 2013 aged 82. His celebratory Funeral Service will be held at 12noon on Monday 18th March at St.Bride's Church, Lochranza and after for refreshments at the Catacol Bay Hotel, to which all are warmly invited.

Family flowers only please.

**ELIZABETH WILKIE**

Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing home on Sunday, 10th March 2013. Betty, in her 92nd year, beloved wife of the late Duncan, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother of the family. Funeral took place on Thursday 14th March.



**Golf**

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Results:  
Sunday 10 March.  
16 played in the final round of this year's Winter Cup on a cold and breezy day.

Scoring was good and the CSS stayed at 63. The winner on the day was Malcolm Penrycott (0)62, 2nd Nicol Auld (2)63, 3rd Ronnie Mann (11)65 BIH.

Malcolm also won scratch and had the only magic two of the day.

The overall winner of the Cup was Jamie Ainsworth who had a combined best three scores of 11 under par.

Congratulations to Jamie on lifting his first trophy!

Fixtures:  
Sunday 17 March, Final Winter Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay. All welcome - a very good turnout is needed to overcome the rather large deficit in the scoring this year! Players will be paired up and teeing off between 10.30am and 11am.

Sunday 24 March, Hunter Buidael.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Results:  
Thursday 7 March, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 9 played, CSS 70. Silver: 1 and Scratch Alice Anderson 87-16=71, 2 Elizabeth Kelso 91-19=72. Bronze: 1 Esther Henderson 106-35=71, 2 Fiona Scott 98-24=74. Congratulations Esther on winning the medal.

Gents:  
12 Hole Medal & Winter Cup Final 16 played CSS 42. 1 W Paton 44-4=40, 2 J Morrison 46 - 5 = 41, 3 L Jones 52 - 10 = 42. Scratch W Paton 44, magic twos S Black, L Jones, D K Henderson and A Kerr(2). B Sherwood won the Winter Cup with net score of 43bih over J Culpan.

Fixtures:  
Sunday 24 March Shiskine Grand Shoot Out.  
Saturday 16 March, Lochranza v Shiskine at 1.30pm.  
Sunday 17 March, 18 Hole Medal, 1pm draw and tee-off.

**MEMORIAM**

**LENNOX**

In loving memory of my brother Jackie Lennox who died - 16th March 2012. I sadly miss my brother Jackie and he is always in my mind. Love your sister Betty



**Jamie Ainsworth with his first golf trophy, winner of the Whiting Bay Winter Cup last Sunday.** 02\_b11golf01

Sunday 24 March Shiskine Grand Shoot Out.

**Brodict Golf Club**

Results:  
Wednesday 6 March.15 gentlemen played on a pleasant although cold day. 1 Charlie (I never win anything) O'Neill 72-14=58, 2 Ken Barclay 84-20=64, 3 Wolfi MacKroner 76-11=56.

A grand total of four twos shot by Charlie(2), John, and Brian.

Well done to all. No scandal or gossip this week but do bow down to our new lead, Charlie. Still three rounds to play; anything can happen.

Sunday 10 March, Brandon and Winter Cup, 18 played, CSS 66. 1 D McKinnie (9)64,

2 L Hartley (17)66, 3 G Hendry (5)67 (acb). Scratch E McKinnon 70. There were eight twos, Ewan McKinnon had two. First Class DM McKinnie. Second Class Len Hartley.

Fixtures:  
Sunday 17 March, Clochen-dichter Final Round.

Sunday 24 March, Winter Cup.

Sunday 31 March, Winter Cup Final Round.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Results:  
Tuesday 5 March, Winter Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 63, 2 David Price 66, 3 Denise Sherwood 67. Scratch Brian Sherwood 72. Twos from Ron Woods.

Fixtures:  
Tuesday 19 March, Final day of the Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12pm.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday 10 March, final day of Winter Cup CSS 62. Sweep 1 D Price 73-11=62 (bih), 2 B Sherwood 71-9=62, 3 A Smith 71-8=63. Best scratch A Smith and B Sherwood 71. Magic twos, D Logan.

Winner of Winter Cup 1 John Adams, 2 S Beardsley.

Monday 11 March, Monday Cup yellow tees. Sweep 1 E I Cannon 76-18=58, 2 D Crawford 78-11=62, 3 I Buchanan 77-14=63 bih over A Smith. Magic twos L Hartley, I

Buchanan, I Buchan.

Fixtures:  
Saturday 16 March Medal Sweep.  
Saturday 23 March Jubilee Trophy 18 hole, open to all. Sponsored holes.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Sunday 24 February, Stableford - 37pts to Stableford. 1 Stuart Cree 42pts, 2 Raymond Burke 37pts BIH, 3 Mark Wren 37pts. Best Scratch Ian Bremner 30pts Stableford.

Twos from Drew Wales at the 16th, Raymond Burke at the 14th, Paul Jameson at the 16th, Mark Wren at the 16th and Alan Smith at the 12th.

Sunday 10 March, Glenburn Cup. 1 Mark Wren 72-10=62 BIH, 2 Graeme Andrew 73-11=62. Best Scratch Ian Bremner 71. Overall winner of Glenburn Cup Ian Bremner 256. Runner-up Raymond Burke 257.

Fixtures:  
Sunday 17 March, Lamlash v Whiting Bay, Winter Friendly at Whiting Bay, 10.30am for 11am start.

Thursday 21 March, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

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# Sport

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# Danny is pool champion head boy

2013 Pool Champion of Champions Danny Head with runner-up Rob Davidson. 02\_b11pool02

Danny Head of Whiting Bay won the 2013 Arran Pool League Champion of Champions final last Sunday in Whiting Bay Golf Club. Eight players, all the champions of their own teams, competed on two tables, one borrowed from the PHT plus the club's own table. Following a round robin tournament in two groups of four, Danny defeated Rob Davidson of PT1934 by three games to one in the final.

Danny was presented with the MacLean Quaich by pool league secretary Eddie Picken. The trophy was given to the Arran Pool League in 2004 by Isabel MacLean in memory of her late son Gary who had been a keen pool player before his untimely death in June 2003.



The eight finalists in the pool Champion of Champions tournament in Whiting Bay Golf Club; from left, Jamie Ainsworth, Danny Head, Rob Davidson, secretary Eddie Picken, Dennis Smith, Dougie Bell, Phil Milland, and front, Sandy Kelso and Dave Nicholson. 02\_b11pool01

## League and cup double for PT1934 Pool Team

Last Thursday, the PT1934 pool team added the 2013 league title to the Knockout Cup that they won last month. They beat Whiting Bay Golf Club by seven games to three, while the PHT beat Mac's Bar by eight games to two to end up just one point behind in second place. The semi-finalists for finals day to be played at Kildonan Hotel on Sunday 17 March at 3pm are, singles: R Buchan, D Smith, A Picken and D Head; doubles: G McLeod & D Hackett, D Nicholson & R Hughes, N McMaster & J Picken, K Jackson & B Hamilton.

### Final league table

	P	W	D	L	Pts	GoB
PT1934	11	8	2	1	18	8
PHT	11	7	3	1	17	5
Mac's	11	6	2	3	14	8
W/B Golf	11	5	3	3	13	7
Catacol	11	1	1	9	3	1
Kildonan	11	1	1	9	3	3

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