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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 2008

No 1670

£15 million 'loss' brings worries over council jobs, services and taxes

# Icy chill could descend following bank collapses

## Tory leader welcomed to Arran

The leader of the Scottish Conservative Party spoke of the importance of the union between Scotland and England to the country's financial stability at the annual lunch of the Arran Conservative Club.

Around 80 people gathered to hear Annabel Goldie MSP speak about the credit crisis at the Kinloch Hotel on Friday afternoon.

She argued that keeping the United Kingdom together is crucial if we are to successfully manoeuvre through the recent breakdown of British banking.

Ms Goldie said: 'I think that with the crisis in the financial markets we can see how much Scotland benefits from being part of a global unit.'

'The cross-party agreement at Westminster is crucial to the stability of the UK financial markets which rely upon us standing together to face these global challenges.'

Margaret Godfrey, the secretary of the Arran branch of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, said: 'It was an honour to have Ms



Annabel Goldie, leader of the Scottish Conservative Party, right, with Lady Jean Fforde, the president of The Arran Conservative and Unionist Club., b42go101

Goldie speak here today. She has been to Arran many times before but this was the first time she has spoken to this group. She is always a very interesting speaker.'

Ms Goldie said that it always a joy to come to Arran despite the rather problem-

atic autumn weather that meant it was a rather stormy ferry crossing on Friday morning.

'It is a beautiful place and I have been here many times before,' she said, 'both in my role as an MSP and for holidays.'

North Ayrshire Council has been forced to admit that a large part of its budget is at risk from the collapse of the Icelandic banks.

Now a question mark hangs over jobs, frontline services and council tax charges.

NAC had £15 million of deposits with Landsbanki and Glitnir in Iceland and now faces losing the lot – the highest loss of any individual council.

Council officials have stressed that, despite the financial crisis, employee wages and frontline services on Arran and elsewhere will not be affected.

Alasdair Herbert, assistant chief executive (financial services) at North Ayrshire Council said: 'At this stage, no council services or wages to council employees will be affected by this issue.'

However, Councillor David O'Neill, the leader of North Ayrshire Council, was unable to rule out possible rate

By JENNIFER LYON

increases as a result of the banking collapse. 'Discussions are ongoing at Scottish and UK government level to pursue a guaranteed return of investment,' said Councillor O'Neill. 'In terms of potential council tax increases and effects on the communities of North Ayrshire, while no detrimental impact is envisaged at this time, the matter is being closely monitored.'

North Ayrshire's financial adviser was Sector Treasury Services, which has been quoted as claiming that it passed on its concerns about the Icelandic banks to its 250 local authority clients earlier this year.

'The council has a £5 million deposit with Landsbanki and a £10 million deposit with Glitnir bank in Iceland,' said Mr Herbert. 'These deposits were made within the past 12 months and were made in accordance with the council's approved

investment strategy.

'These were short-term investments and at the time, these banks provided a good return at minimum risk. The council has a range of short-term investments spread over Europe and the UK amounting to some £50 million. All of this is within our treasury management strategy.'

At the time of going to press, NAC was hoping to receive some clarification of the situation from a meeting with politicians at the Scottish parliament on Wednesday.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'I think it is too early to say if the money can be saved and if so, if all or some of it and when it will be returned. That is why we want the UK government to guarantee the deposits of all UK local authorities with money deposited with Icelandic banks, to ensure there is no adverse effect on jobs and services. I hope that progress will be made at today's meeting.'

## Brodick to get two zebra crossings

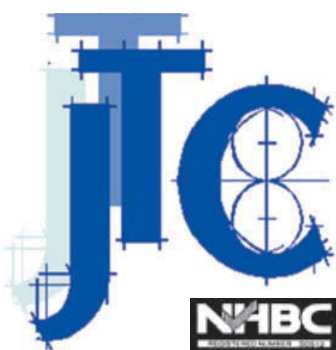
The council has confirmed the locations of two zebra crossings for the centre of Brodick after recent calls to improve pedestrian safety in the village.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We are introducing two zebra crossings on the main A841 road in Brodick. One would be close to the pier to replace or supplement the

pedestrian island opposite the Douglas Hotel.

'The other would link the public car park adjacent to the putting green to the bank and post office on the landward side of the A841. These require a legal traffic order so there will be a consultation. We hope to install the crossings before the spring.'

Other safety measures being implemented in Brodick and across the island include chevrons being placed on the sharp bend at Brodick Golf Club and a new 20 miles per hour speed restriction on the roads near Arran's primary schools when the children are arriving in the morning and leaving in the afternoon.



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# Castle plant disease 'out of hand'

A disease that has been ravaging plants in Brodick Castle gardens for seven months is getting out of hand.

Rhododendrons and magnolias are worst affected and these are two of the jewels in the crown of the castle gardens.

Administrator Ken Thorburn said: 'I'm afraid at the moment we are losing the battle. *Phytophthora kernoviae* or sudden oak death was identified here in February and we have been trying to eradicate it ever since.'

'Head forester Andy Walker takes leaf samples every fortnight and sends them to Edinburgh for analysis. If the disease is confirmed Andy tags the bush and we have to exclude the public then burn the infected plant within 30 days.'

'The Lower Rhododendron Walk is already closed to the public and part of the Middle Walk is infected.'

## Outbreaks

A spokesman for the National Trust for Scotland said: 'Measures to control potentially fatal plant diseases are putting important gardens at risk. Significant areas of the beautiful Brodick gardens have been cleared as a result of the current method of managing these outbreaks.'

In February the Banner reported that the gardens would remain open but visitors were restricted from certain areas and had to ensure that their boots were clean and dogs kept on a leash to prevent spread of the disease into private gardens.

Richard Luxmoore, senior nature

conservation adviser for the trust, said: 'This disease could pose a serious threat to Scotland's countryside as it is known to infect heather and blaeberrys as well as garden plants.'

Four trust gardens on the west coast of Scotland are affected but Brodick seems to be the worst. Ken Thorburn said: 'We are in the vanguard of the battle. We have taken on additional staff and a team of four gardeners are working flat out to clear and burn the infected plants but we are not containing it.'

'A 20-man European Plant Inspectorate team came here in July to see the devastation for themselves. Instead of slashing and burning we have to see if we can take a more measured approach.'

## Compensation

An NTS spokesman said: 'This disease is already having severe impacts on a small number of Scotland's important heritage gardens and their viability as key visitor attractions which support tourism in rural areas. We are asking the government to put in place financial compensation for nursery businesses and owners of affected land.'

Ken Thorburn said: 'We are looking at installing artificial shelter belts in the cleared area below the Bavarian Summerhouse but we are not allowed to replant the same species for three years.'

Head gardener Colin Totty's message for visitors is: 'Keep strictly to the gravel and grass paths; keep your dog on a leash and take no plant material such as leaves or shoots out of the garden with you.'



As a reward for his brave actions, 11 year-old Josh MacDonald from Brodick was let loose on the controls of West FM last Saturday afternoon.

# Brave Josh saved sister from speeding lorry

An Arran High School pupil was nominated for a bravery award after he put his own life at risk to save his sister from a speeding lorry.

Josh MacDonald, aged 11 from Brodick, was nominated by his dad for a West FM Community Award in the child bravery category.

Dad Colin MacDonald said: 'In October last year, Josh's sister Georgia, who is three years younger, ran out into the road onto the path of an oncoming dumper truck. Josh boldly stepped in front of the lorry and pulled his sister to safety just in time before it hit them.'

'The driver of the truck was on his mobile phone and remained blissfully unaware, only myself and a few neighbours saw the near catastrophe, which took place on mainland Ayrshire.'

Whilst Josh didn't win the top prize at the awards ceremony last Saturday, the radio station invited Josh and his sister into the studio for a day.

Presenter Mel Walker interviewed Josh live on air and then he spent the afternoon in the company of the well-known musical duo, The McDonald Brothers.

As a special treat the brave young-

ster was allowed to take over the controls of the airwaves for a few moments.

'We are all extremely proud of Josh and his selfless act. It was the most amazing thing I have ever seen a child do when the adults in the situation were not in control,' said dad Colin. 'I would urge anyone using a hand held mobile phone when driving to think seriously about the implications. If things had gone differently that day, I could have lost one or even both of my children because of someone else's careless attitude to road safety.'

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# ARRAN BANNER

# Soldiers take over castle

Over 800 soldiers were on parade at Brodick Castle last weekend.

They were part of a large collection of model soldiers owned by Bill McNaught of Sannox and assembled over many years. The soldiers were on display in administrator Ken Thorburn's office.

To add to the atmosphere a selection of recorded military band music was being played in the background. The models were laid out in two basic formations; trooping the colour and beating retreat.

## Models

Bill said: 'It's just a hobby that I have been working at for over 40 years. I've got about 10,000 models scattered up in the attic and they rarely see the light of day.'

This is the second year that Bill has put on a display at the castle and it was attracting a lot of interest from visitors. Although they could be described as toy soldiers they are all perfectly intact with no legs or arms missing, unlike those in children's toy boxes. Bill has meticulously hand painted them and there is even a model of himself in uniform and on horseback from the time when he served in Strathclyde Police Mounted Branch.

To complete the attention to detail, the display of Trooping the Colour also has a model of HM The Queen in the Ivory Mounted Phaethon coach being drawn by two horses.



Bill McNaught with his display of Trooping the Colour being admired by four students from America. They are Paul Holmer from Chicago, Bethany Hill from North Carolina, Jacqueline Marino from New York and Zach West also of New York.

b42mod02

# Milestone is a winner

The Isle of Arran Brewery's first bottle conditioned beer was named one of the champion ales at the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival on Saturday.

Judges at Troon Town Hall chose Arran Milestone, a dark amber beer, as the best bottle conditioned ale.

Gwen Billson and Elisabeth Roberts from the Cladach based brewery travelled to Troon for the event.

'I was absolutely thrilled when I heard that we had won,' said Gwen. 'The judges came by the stand before hand to let us know that we were one of the ten beers shortlisted. After a brief chat I told them that I hoped we would win, and we did.'

There were more than 100 beers on offer at the festival - most of which are listed in the Good Beer Guide.

There were examples of all British beers including Scottish milds and English bitters.

The Arran Milestone was launched in 2006 to mark the 1000<sup>th</sup> brew on the island.

It is described as a dark, bottle conditioned, amber brew with a subtle balance of malt and floral hop character.



Gwen Billson from the Isle of Arran Brewery with the award-winning bottle conditioned beer, the Arran Milestone. b42bee01

# Police Files

## Road Accident

A 17-year-old Whiting Bay man was charged with alleged driving without due care and attention after a road accident in Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay last Tuesday evening.

A passenger in the man's vehicle was taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital with minor injuries and another vehicle involved in the collision was extensively damaged.

## Drink driving

A 55-year-old man was stopped in his vehicle and reported for alleged drink driving in Shiskine last Thursday evening.

# BBC investigate RET on Arran

The BBC was on Arran this week filming a segment for the Sunday Politics Show about the proposed Road Equivalent Tariff for ferry fares.

Derek Cranshaw, a BBC cameraman said: 'We thought it was interesting that Arran had been excluded from the RET pilot scheme so we decided to come to the island and find out some local views on the scheme. It's interesting to see that many people on Arran don't want the RET to be implemented here.'

The Road Equivalent Tariff aims to link ferry prices to the cost of travelling the same distance by road.

'Arran and the RET' will appear on The Politics Show this Sunday on BBC one at 12pm.



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# MSP tells Rotarians about his work

Arran Rotary club had two special guests at their meeting in Auchranne on Tuesday night.

The speaker for the evening was Kenneth Gibson MSP and Rotary assistant district governor Bruce McPherson was also present as a guest.

Kenneth's speech was about the workings of the Scottish parliament and the issues being tackled at this time.

He said at the beginning that he would try not to get involved

in party politics and to his credit he rarely did. Kenneth talked about the fact that there are 15 bills being brought to the Scottish parliament after the recess and one of these, dear to the heart of Arran people, is the issue of the possible closure of rural schools.

The talk was very entertaining, informative and interesting and emphasis was put on our local MSPs accessibility and willingness to discuss is-

ues on any subject and help wherever possible. He also explained that even if he did not know the answer he would find out. Kenneth Gibson was at his most impressive answering questions put to him on a variety of issues.

He has a particular interest in drawing attention to the disease Lupus, which has a terrible effect on the lives of sufferers and their families and yet is not well known. He is also part

of a working party on the issue of crime, drugs, alcohol and prisons and in finding ways of tackling this major problem for us all.

It was a fascinating insight for Rotarians and questions could have gone on for much longer than the time available.

It was also a real pleasure to have old friend Bruce McPherson on this occasion. He is a very loyal visitor to the Arran Club.



Kenneth Gibson MSP and Rotarian Jim Lees. b42rot01

# Superweed could be controlled by insect

A superweed that is spreading steadily over Arran could be brought under control by introducing plant-eating predators from Japan, scientists believe.

Japanese knotweed can be found all over Arran and it has the capacity to penetrate tarmac and can invade watercourses.

Now a team has identified natural predators from its native home that could also control it in Britain.

The plans have been submitted to the government for approval and it will be the first time that biocontrol – the use of a natural enemy to control another pest – will be used in Europe to fight a weed.

The large bamboo-like weed can be seen in most villages, particularly along beaches and it is believed to be spread by the removal of soil from one site to another.

In the past, fly tipping and transportation of soil containing root fragments have been a major cause of the spread.

Dick Shaw, the lead researcher on the project, from Cabi, a not-for-profit agricultural research organisation said that in Japan, the original home of the knotweed, the plant is common but it does not rage out of control like in Britain.

### Natural enemies

He said: 'In 2000, we went out to Japan to see whether the plant had any natural enemies that it had lost when it came here. We found that it had a lot; there were 186 species of plant eating insects and about 40 species of fungi.'

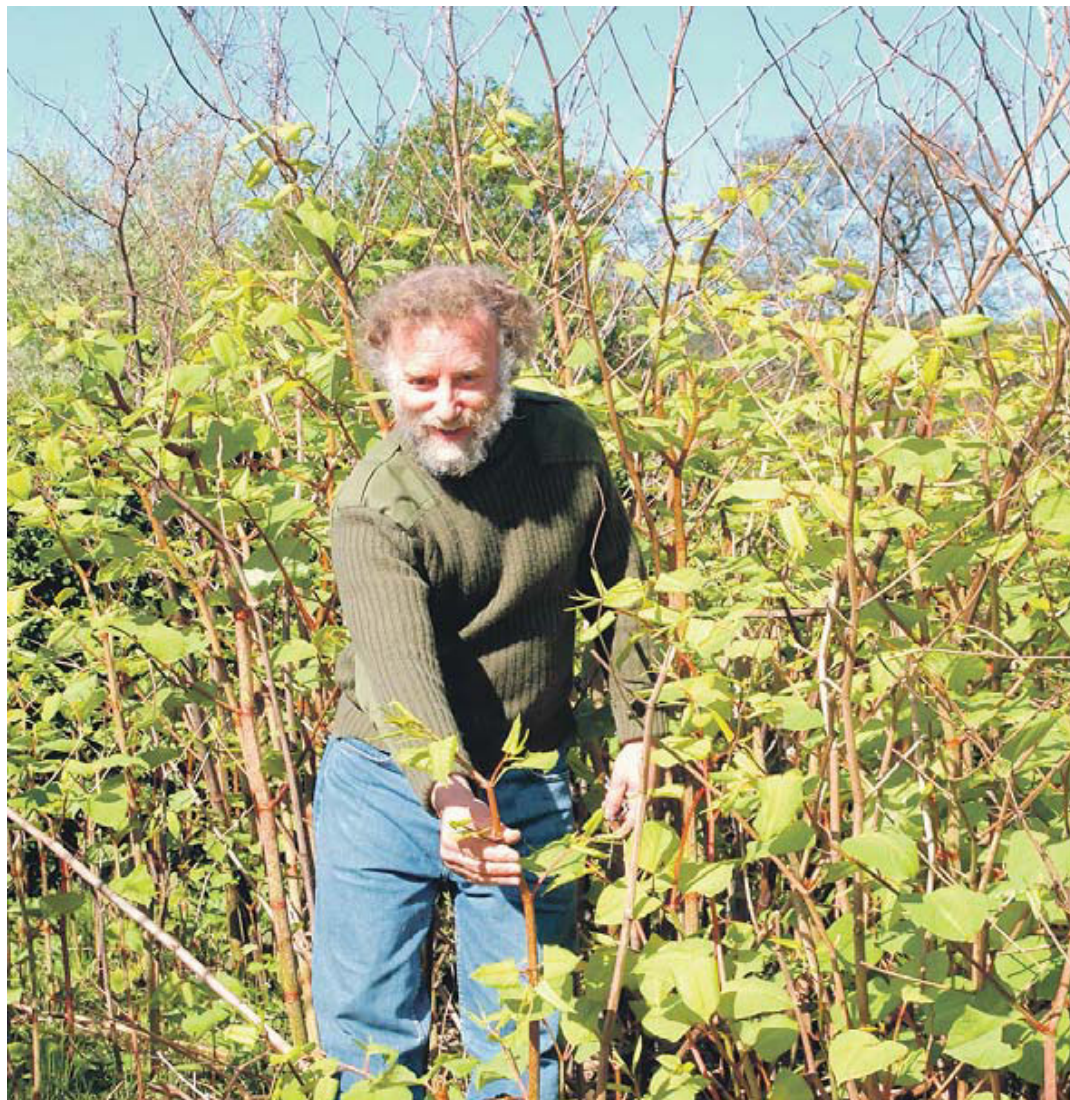
A sap-sucking psyllid insect *Aphalara itadori* was found to be the most effective.

Mr Shaw said: 'Successful experiments showed that the psyllid will not eradicate the weed entirely but they do bring them under control.'

Japanese knotweed was introduced to the UK from Asia in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as an ornamental plant and the only part of Britain to be free of the pest is the Orkney Isles.

The plant grows rapidly in spring, as much as two centimetres a day, and can reach a height of three metres.

The plant is very difficult to control and spray chemicals must be applied repeatedly and carefully where there is no risk of runoff to watercourses.



Ian Leader from Brodick alerted *The Banner* to a large infestation of Japanese knotweed at Invercloy last May. b42jap1

# Arran livestock sales

United Auctions had forward 1,086 store cattle and 8,275 store lambs and feeding sheep at their Kildean auction mart in Stirling on Wednesday October 1.

British Blue bullocks £645/head, 141p/kg Bellview. Limousin cross heifers £575, 128p Bellview. Black and white bullocks £515, 108p Bellview. Texel cross lambs; Moor £52.50, Lenamhor £48.80, Auchenew £45.60, Kilpatrick £41.80, Creagraineach £41, Whin £35, Margenaish £30. Suffolk cross lambs Whin £47.50. North Country Cheviot lambs Cosyden £40.80. Cross lambs Ceithergaithe £37. Mule lambs £32.20 Creagraineach. Blackface lambs Margenaish £24. Cross ewes; Auchenew £27, Ceithergaithe £25.80.

United Auctions had forward 1,262 store cattle and 172 cast cows and 8,021 store lambs and feeding sheep at their mart on Wednesday October 8.

Texel cross lambs £44 Cnoc. Cheviot cross lambs £43.50 Cosyden. Suffolk cross lambs £40.50 Sheddock; £40 Swallowbrae. Cross lambs £29 Whin. Mule feeders £32.50 Kilpatrick. Texel cross feeders £32 Kilpatrick.

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# Future looks bleak for Highland dancers

Arran Highland Dancers will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year but the future looks bleak, as they have so far failed to recruit new members.

There are now only two Highland dancers left on the island and the group may be forced to disband.

Fiona Clarke, aged 15, has been dancing since she was seven years old and Heather Snowdon, 11, became interested in traditional Scottish dancing after she moved to the island five years ago.

Fiona's mother, Liz said: 'Unfortunately for as long as I can remember our numbers have been dwindling. This was the first year for some time that we did not have an entrant in the Brodick Highland Games dancing competition.'

### Disband

'Looking back over the years our numbers have never been high but we have always managed to keep going. This is now a last ditch attempt to recruit more members before we are forced to disband.'

A dancing instructor from Ardrossan teaches both girls every second Saturday morning. Liz explained that financially it is no longer viable to pay Anne-Marie to teach only two dancers.

An open session has been organised for Saturday, October 25 to try and allow younger girls and boys to come along and see what Highland dancing entails.

This first lesson will be free and traditional highland dances like the Fling and Reel will be demonstrated by a group of dancers from the mainland.

Heather's mum Yvonne said: 'The girls really enjoy Highland dancing and it would be so sad if they had to give it up. We hope to see as many people at the open session as possible.'

'Once you get a taste of the dancing you might just find it is something you really enjoy.'

Anyone of any age is welcome to come along to the open session next Saturday.

It will start at 11am in Brodick Church Hall and finish at 1pm.



Fiona Clarke, at the back, and Heather Snowdon are the only two Highland dancers left on Arran. b42dan01

# VisitArran grows in influence

The tourism organisation VisitArran was formally launched in May 2007 and since then has been working to improve the tourism business of Arran.

The board of local directors has particularly aimed to increase visitors during the winter months and to inform and retain previous visitors to the island.

Last year, revenue growth from tourism on Arran apparently increased by eight per cent compared to that in Scotland as a whole which was only half of one per cent.

Director Gerard Tattersfield said: 'We regard this growth as a primary indicator of the health of Arran's tourism sector and of VisitArran's success.'

'Anecdotal evidence would tend to suggest that things have been getting more difficult during 2008 which is a good reason for working together in promoting the island to obtain our share of the market. VisitArran has developed a comprehensive tourism development plan detailing how it could support an £8million increase in revenue from tourism over the next three years.'

'This business plan represents a major contribution by the VisitArran board in thought, time and effort and is the basis for future activity and measurement of success.'

Earlier this year VisitArran was instrumental in attracting several national events to promote Arran within the UK and supported both the Wildlife and Outdoor Festivals.

More than 60 local businesses are now members of VisitArran.

## Friday club restarts

The new session of the Lamlash Friday Club will begin on Friday, October 24 at 2pm in Lamlash Church Hall.

The speakers at this first meeting will be Mr Dick Sim and Mr Alistair Hendry.

Old and new members are most welcome.

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**Are you interested in housing related issues?**

**The Housing Forum meets twice a year to identify and discuss local housing challenges, and to contribute to the development of the Local Housing Strategy. This is the strategy that details how these housing challenges will be tackled in North Ayrshire.**

In the past forums have discussed topics such as regeneration, homelessness, special needs housing, pressured area status, as well as affordable, and rural, housing need.

The Housing Forum is a popular, and important event in the Housing Services consultation calendar. The next forum has been scheduled for Friday 31 October 2008, in the Seamill Hydro. To allow you to participate, we can help with transport, childcare and will cater for your dietary requirements.

If you are interested in joining the hundred or so volunteers, professionals, community representatives and interested individuals who make up the Housing Forum's membership, please contact Loraine, who works in our Development & Strategy Team. Loraine will be able to answer any questions and requirements you may have, and note your interest in the forum. She can be contacted on 01294 324031.

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# Heart attack patients on Arran to benefit from new service

New specialist centre to be provided in Clydebank

People on Arran who suffer a heart attack because of a blocked artery will soon be diagnosed and taken directly to a specialist heart treatment centre on the mainland.

The new Optimal Reperfusion service is to be introduced in January 2009 and will be provided by a specialist centre at Golden Jubilee National Hospital in Clydebank.

Explaining the new service, Andrew Docherty, interventional cardiologist said: 'All heart attacks are not the same and many people will continue to go to their local hospital for safe, quality care. The service is for patients whose heart attack is due to a blocked artery.

'Paramedics can quickly detect this from the equipment routinely carried in ambulances. This means that suitable patients are brought straight to the specialist centre for treatment using balloon angioplasty. The clinical benefits are undeniable.'

West of Scotland Regional Health Boards have agreed over £2million funding each year to provide the new service which includes additional ambulance cover.

Kenneth Gibson, Arran's MSP said: 'This vital service will offer real benefits to patients in Arran and is an excellent example of partnership

working between health boards and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

'For people at high risk following a heart attack caused by a blocked artery, this programme is a significant step forward. Evidence shows this is the best form of treatment available, saving more lives, reducing strokes, further heart attacks and angina.'

After treatment in the specialist centre, patients will either be discharged or more likely transferred to Ayr or Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock within 24 hours.

The Ayrshire and Arran cardiac service will then follow up the treatment.



## Fundraiser for tsunami victims

A couple from Lochranza are organising a special fundraising day to raise money for people who are still suffering from the effects of the tsunami.

Joyce and Iain MacLean are holding a jumble sale and dance in Corrie Village Hall on October 25.

Joyce recently spent several weeks in Sri Lanka. She said: 'I was able to see at first hand the ongoing effects of the devastation caused by the tsunami in October 2004. Communities, particularly on the south coast, are still struggling to rebuild their lives.'

Iain is currently preparing to travel to Southern India in January and all money that he raises will be distributed amongst various charities.

The schedule for the day is a jumble sale from 2pm until 4.30pm with the usual stalls and cream teas followed by a dance in the evening from 8pm. A number of local musicians will be playing on the night and Joyce and Iain ask people to bring their own drinks and enjoy the evening.

## Shiskine kids run for fun

Primary six and seven pupils from Shiskine Primary School proved just how fit they are last week as they took part in a fun run.

Teacher Susan Dobson said that the run was organised to mark the end of the children's fitness block in PE.

The pupils set off from Shiskine Golf Club and crossed the finishing line at Blackwaterfoot Harbour where they were presented with medals for completing the course. b42run01NO

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER Saturday 18 October, 2008

Serious questions must be asked of North Ayrshire Council which has lost more than £15 million by investing in high-risk foreign bank accounts. Eight local authorities across Scotland are under fire to explain why apparent warnings about the safety of the Icelandic banking system were ignored.

NAC had £15 million of deposits with Landsbanki and Glitnir and now face losing the lot.

Despite the American credit ratings agency, Moody's, cutting the rating of the of Landsbanki in February and fellow agency Standard and Poor announcing that Glitnir was a high risk in May, the council made no attempt to reduce its exposure.

These warnings would have been passed on to North Ayrshire's financial managers but still they continued to invest in Iceland. Why? Like many other councils, NAC employ Sector Treasury Services to act as financial advisers. It is understood that they too passed on warnings about Icelandic banks' prospects earlier this year.

North Ayrshire Council owes its taxpayers a full explanation on why it chose to ignore these warning signs.

This week the council was quick to reassure local government employees and north Ayrshire residents that this should have little effect on wages and service provision. But surely a loss of £15 million cannot go unnoticed?

Arran is apparently being taken over by alien invaders!

These unwelcome invaders do not come from outer space but other parts of the world. This week Japanese knotweed and *Phytophthora kernoviae* are just two named on Arran.

In many ways this island has a unique ecosystem. It has developed its own natural balance of plants and animals over time.

Luckily some of Britain's worst alien invaders have yet to make it across the Firth of Clyde. Arran is mercifully free of grey squirrels and Dutch elm disease.

When species from other ecosystems are introduced they can create havoc with the established plants and animals. Now, for the first time in Europe, scientists are pursuing the idea of introducing a non-native species of insect to Britain to deal with a problematic superweed. Japanese knotweed is rife on Arran and it is extremely difficult to keep under control.

In Japan, a sap-sucking psyllid insect *Aphalara itadori* was found to be the most effective way of reducing the size of this plant that can grow to several metres high in a matter of weeks.

The insect may be harmless and beneficial in its natural surroundings but what about here in the UK? One has to wonder whether we are opening a Pandora's box in trying to combat this one plant. With the introduction of one alien species to control another surely we could get into a never-ending cycle of introducing new species to control the last.

When there are no established natural controls like predators to keep the non-native species in check, how do we know this will not lead to a natural catastrophe?

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!' (Isaiah 30:18)

## 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.net

## Letters to the Editor

### Red squirrels and unique opportunities for Arran

Sir,  
The Scottish government must take some credit for their red squirrels in South of Scotland (RSSS) Project that has brought together landowners and a number of organisations to try to stop the spread of squirrel poxvirus carried by the invasive grey variety.

At present we are very lucky to have relatively large numbers of the red squirrels on Arran with none of the alien greys, which must surely present the island with some unique opportunities for both tourism and conservation projects.

In order to kick-start Arran's

interest in this area, I have organised a meeting at the Ormidale Pavilion on Saturday October 25 from 11.15am to 12.15pm, with the option of visiting Brodick Castle's grounds thereafter to view the red squirrels in their natural habitat.

There will be no charge for entry to the meeting itself, and discounted entry to the castle grounds is available.

There will be a presentation and discussion about the red squirrel, and how Arran could benefit from conservation and tourism opportunities from its position as a refuge from greys and their squirrel poxvirus.

Anyone with an interest in the squirrels, tourism or nature conservation will be very welcome on the day.

Further details can be obtained

from myself on 0777 913 2450 or by email via philiplardner@scottishtories.com

Yours,  
**Philip Lardner**  
(Scottish Conservative and Unionist Candidate North Ayrshire and Arran)

### Zip slide completed

Sir,  
I recently completed a 200-foot sponsored zip slide to raise funds for the Anthony Nolan Trust.

I felt very ill when I saw the huge crane towering above me but I did get up there eventually. A quick case of cold feet followed but I did go and screamed all the way!

Money is still coming in and I hope that I have raised £1,100 although it may be more.

Can I say a big thank you to

family, friends and colleagues for all their encouragement and listening to my jitters!

Yours,  
**Jan Murchie**  
2 Ladeside Terrace  
Shiskine

### Care for neglected animals

Sir,  
The Arran branch of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would like to thank all those who contributed to the collection at the Coop in Brodick on Saturday, September 27.

We managed to raise a magnificent £512 for much needed care for neglected animals.

Yours,  
**Christine Drennan**  
Treasurer Arran SSPCA  
Whiting Bay

The 'Iron Lady' got her 'Handyman' on Friday September 26 when Barbara Willock was married to David Bingham by the Reverend Angus Adamson at The Kildonan Hotel in front of their friends and family. They met while living in Glasgow and moved to Arran together over a year ago. The couple will continue to reside and work on Arran.



Andrew Bambridge recently graduated from Buckinghamshire University with a BA (Hons) degree in music industry management. Andrew is preparing to start his training with the Metropolitan police force in London. His parents who live in Shiskine wish him all the very best for the future.



Klaus Fleitmann and Ilka Schorsch, both of Dortmund, were married at Lamlash register office on Friday October 3. They met at a whisky tasting in Dortmund and this is the fourth time they have holidayed here. They particularly like the Arran malt whisky and have one of the first bottles produced by the distillery in Lochranza. Klaus is a salesman and Ilka is a teacher. b42wed01

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## Halloween lunch will fund vital transport lifeline on Arran

The Arran branch of the British Red Cross is hosting a Halloween Lunch in the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot on October 29 to raise money for the charity's vital transport project.

This Red Cross transport project is a lifeline for people who cannot get about easily or have difficulty using public transport.

The door-to-door service allows people on Arran who require assistance to travel to medical appointments on the mainland.

Peter McCarthy, Red Cross operations director, said: 'With the valuable support of Red Cross volunteers, no charge is made for the use of this vital service so I'd urge people to come along and lend your support to this year's lunch.'

### Transport Project

The annual Halloween Lunch in support of the Red Cross transport project will be begin at 12.30pm. Tickets are available from the Book and Card Shop in Brodick or telephone 01770 850230.

## Opening meeting of Kilmory WRI

Phyllis Picken, the president of the Kilmory branch of the SWRI, welcomed old and new members to the opening meeting of the new season on Monday October 6. Silver trophies won at the annual Arran SWRI Show were passed around and admired.

Phyllis then introduced two well-known local ladies, Diana Riddell and Isabelle Adamson, who gave readings of their own poems. Phyllis Picken and Mairi Duff won the competitions for a limerick and a funny hat. A report from federation representatives was also given.

The Kilmory community bus will leave the village hall at 6.40pm for the Rural Rally at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot on November 6. The next meeting of the Kilmory branch will be on November 10 when Sheila Gilmore will demonstrate the art of cake decorating. The competitions will be a rich Jamaica loaf and a holiday souvenir.

# Chips are down in Catacol



Jon Baker, Stewart and Karen McKay and Catacol Bay Hotel owner Norman Bond on the first night of the new Arran Poker League. b42pok01

The chips were down in the Catacol Bay Hotel on Monday night as the first games of the new Arran Poker League began.

The poker matches have been organised by the hotel owner Norman Bond who said he wanted to hold something original during the winter months. The games will be part of a

national poker league so for winners on Arran there could be an opportunity to take part in games on the mainland.

### Explain

Nine people arrived for the first night and they played two games of poker.

Stewart and Karen McKay from the Nuts Poker League were on hand for one night

only to explain how the league operates.

'The whole idea was really just to get people out on a Monday night,' said Norman. 'A lot of people in Catacol and Lochranza said they would be quite interested in taking part in a poker league so the idea kind of started from there.'

Participants pay £2 to enter

but they do not play for cash, instead the winner of each game will get a bottle of wine.

The first winner on Monday night was Jon Baker from Lochranza.

The league will take place every Monday night at 7.30pm during the winter and poker players from across Arran are welcome to attend.



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| Melville Castle Hotel            | Dalkeith, Edinburgh | £200     |
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# Arran's new 12-year-old malt



Richard Henderson, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, presented the Queen's Award for International Trade to former distiller Gordon Mitchell in June 2005. b27dis4



Robin Laing entertained with songs about the whisky business. b42dis02



From left, Isle of Arran Distillers sales manager Jaelyn McKie, deputy chairman Douglas Davidson, distiller James McTaggart and whisky expert Jim Murray. b42dis05

## From stumbling infant to one of the

Arran's first 12-year-old single malt whisky was launched in Lochranza last Thursday night.

Isle of Arran Distillers hosted a special ceremony in the Eagle's Nest restaurant at the visitor centre with an invited party of 50 guests from Arran and overseas.

Company chairman Mike Pierce said: 'We have one of the best distilleries in the world here. Our team has brought it from the stumbling infant that it was 12 years ago to what it is today.'

### New Malt

Deputy chairman Douglas Davidson added: 'We are pleased to welcome Jim Murray back to taste this new

malt. He is the top whisky writer in the world and was here for the opening in 1995 and launch of the 10-year-old malt two years ago.

'He has just got back from America and I was sweating buckets that he wouldn't make it across the Atlantic in time.

'In previous years we have launched most new products at major whisky fairs such as Paris, Berlin, Tokyo and Toronto but I wanted to bring this launch back home to Lochranza.'

Singer/songwriter Robin Laing then entertained the company with a series of songs and poems loosely based on the whisky industry.

He said: 'It's a bit difficult to

find a subject for a song that combines Arran and the history of whisky but I do know one about an illicit distiller who had a still at Balmichael in the 1800s.

### Excise Men

'Paul Campbell was his name and he got into a fight with the excise men who came to arrest him. They took him away to gaol in Glasgow but he escaped from the fishing boat on the way because the skipper McArthur spoke Gaelic as did Campbell and he made his way to America for a new life in the liquor trade in New Orleans.'

An excellent buffet meal followed and then came the great moment.

Jim Murray rose to his feet

and prepared to take the first taste of the new malt.

He held the whisky and the company in the palm of his hand with a bravura performance for several minutes.

This was not a moment to be rushed.

Distillery guides approached each table with a tray, bottle and six glasses. Everyone held their small tulip-type glass and listened intently as Jim said: 'Don't shake it or the spirit will go against the cold glass. Keep it dead still and hold it to your breast; get it up to body temperature.'

### Steadily Climbed

While the temperature steadily climbed he explained: 'This distillery has a special

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# whisky launched in style



Isle of Arran Distillers chairman and vice chairman, Mike Pierce, left, and Douglas Davidson. b42dis01



Head distiller James McTaggart noses the new malt before the company join him in a tasting session. b42dis04

## best distilleries in the world

place in my heart. I tell people all around the world about it.

'It has been one of the most important developments in the Scotch whisky industry in the last 50 years. I stuck my neck out a few years back and said this distillery could be something special.'

### Appearance

He recalled the official opening back in 1995 when a pair of golden eagles were spotted soaring over Creagan nan Caorach and how 10 years later at the launch of the first Arran 10-year-old malt two eagles had once again made an appearance. 'People still ask me how the hell I had arranged that,' he joked.

As the minutes ticked by he

added: 'Arran is the new part of Scottish whisky history. This place does things the right way. I taste over 1,000 new whiskies a year and do not give awards just because I know people.'

'Well,' he joked to Douglas Davidson. 'Are you going to let me taste it now?'

He raised the glass to his lips and sipped. A hush fell over the room. After a few moments he said: 'Ignore the first mouthful. Close your eyes and concentrate on the flavours; move it around and then swallow.'

'Now, actually this isn't bad; a bit orangey. Who thinks its a clean whisky? I definitely get oranges. Does anyone get marzipan? On the nose I think this is exceptionally good;

there is a degree of bitterness on the finish which is quite unlike Arran. I didn't expect it to be quite so intact at 12 years old.'

### Well-rounded

The following day Douglas Davidson told the Banner: 'It was a well-rounded and happy evening. Jim did a great job; he gave the 12-year-old a mark of 91 which is an extremely good score. We had friends here from Dortmund, British Columbia and south Wales for the event.'

The next big day for Isle of Arran Distillers will be a whisky festival at Inveraray Castle in May when all 16 distilleries in the whisky coast trail will be exhibiting.



Jim Murray acclaims the first taste of the Arran 12-year-old malt. b42dis03

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# Welfare of birds must come first

Birdwatching and twitching by Jim Cassels



The number of people interested in birds rises continually and it is vital that birdwatchers take seriously their responsibility to avoid any harm to birds. b42bir01NO

There are more than a million members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and very few call themselves birdwatchers.

There are many more people who put out food for the birds: they do so out of love for the birds but would shy away from the title of birdwatcher.

How do you become a birdwatcher? Look out of the window. See a bird. Feel a moment's pleasure and you are a birdwatcher.

That's it. The rest is only a matter of degree.

Today's birdwatchers are a powerful force for nature

conservation. The number of people interested in birds rises continually and it is vital that birdwatchers take seriously their responsibility to avoid any harm to birds.

Birdwatchers must also present a responsible image to non-birdwatchers who may be affected by our activities and particularly those on whose sympathy and support the future of birds may rest.

Some points to bear in mind: **Welfare of birds must come first.** Whether your particular interest is photography, ringing, sound recording, scientific study or just watching birds, re-

member that the welfare of the bird must always come first.

**Habitat protection.** Its habitat is vital to a bird and therefore we must ensure that our activities do not cause damage.

**Keep disturbance to a minimum.** Birds' tolerance of disturbance varies between species and seasons. Therefore, it is safer to keep all disturbance to a minimum, particularly in the breeding season.

**Breeding birds.** In terms of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 disturbance at or near the nests of birds is a criminal offence.

**Rare migrants.** Rare mi-

grants or vagrants must not be harassed. If you discover one, consider the circumstances carefully before telling anyone. Will an influx of birdwatchers disturb the bird or others in the area? Will the habitat be damaged? Will problems be caused for or with the landowner?

**The Law.** The bird protection laws, as embodied in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, are the result of hard campaigning by previous generations of birdwatchers. As birdwatchers, we must abide by them at all times and not allow them to fall into disrepute.

**Respect the rights of landowners.** The wishes of landowners and occupiers of land must be respected. Always follow the Scottish Access Code.

**Respect the rights of other people.** There are many other people who also use the countryside. Do not interfere with their activities and, if it seems that what they are doing is causing unnecessary disturbance to birds, do try to take a balanced view. While flushing gulls when walking a dog on a beach in winter may do little harm, in the breeding season, the same dog would be a serious disturbance to nesting shore birds or a nesting gull colony.

When pointing this out to a non-birdwatcher, be courteous, but firm. The non-birdwatchers' goodwill towards birds must not be destroyed by the

attitudes of birdwatchers.

**Keeping records.** Much of today's knowledge about birds is the result of meticulous record keeping by our predecessors. Make sure you help to add to tomorrow's knowledge by sending records to your local recorder.

Then there are twitchers! The Concise Oxford Dictionary lives up to its name when it calls twitchers 'bird watchers who try to get sightings of rare birds'.

For lurking within that one-line description is the twitcher who hired an aircraft and pilot to fly along hundreds of miles of coastline on the off chance he'd spot a speckled eider duck, and the scores of twitchers who regularly put jobs, mortgages and marriages on the line in pursuit of something that has probably flown away by the time they get there.

In Orkney, there was a very rare oriental turtle dove. On the first day after the report of the sighting, there were 27 carloads of twitchers on the ferry, four charter flights from England and dozens on scheduled flights - one extremely portly enthusiast spent over £500 on adjoining seats to ensure his place on a busy flight.

'Bizarre' was one of the kinder descriptions given by a local resident to the sight of a couple of hundred twitchers with tripods in pursuit of a dove

desperately looking for peace.

Rest was not forthcoming. In the space of ten days around 1,000 twitchers came and went.

The very rare turtle dove went, too. Another twitching story, this time at a wedding.

The twitcher had just cleared the legally binding stage of the proceedings, when his bird hotline paged him with the news that a rare shrike from central Asia had been reported in a Dorset village. The wedding was in Bedfordshire.

'I'm nipping home to change my suit,' he informed his new bride - and headed off for Dorset, turning up at the reception four hours later.

'It was a once in a lifetime bird. Birds don't give you warning and you've just got to go when it happens. There was nothing I could do about it.'

He declines to elaborate on what followed. Suffice to say that as far as that relationship went, like the rare bird, its days were numbered.

*Enjoy your birding but try not to develop a twitch!*

*Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk*

## Nature notes and happy memories from a summer visitor

A regular Arran visitor from Newcastle has sent the Banner some observations on the island's wildlife as seen on his 2008 holiday.

John Wilson of Kingston Park said: 'The flowers in Glen Rosa were wonderful this summer. Harebell, bog asphodel and cross-leaved heath and several other species of flower were abundant.'

'I put this down to there being no sheep in Glen Rosa this year. This was the first time I have not seen any red deer near the summit of Cir Mhor. My personal deer detector, the dog's nose, did not sense any either.'

### Fewer Red Deer

'Has there been a large scale cull of red deer I wonder. If there are fewer red deer perhaps some of the deer fences

could be removed from the hills. While descending from Beinn Nuis I was very sorry to see a red grouse fly into a deer fence. It had heather woven into it at six feet but the grouse flew into it at three feet. Surely the authorities could put heather at all heights on deer fences. They take an enormous toll of grouse, capercaillie and many other species of moorland birds across Britain.'

'Walking up Glen Sannox I noticed many large patches of dead bracken on the north side of the glen. It crossed my mind that the bracken had been treated with a glyphosate weedkiller. It was suggested to me that it was more likely that the bracken had died naturally which seems a more probable explanation. I noticed that the local authority on Arran, to its

credit, is much more restrained in its use of glyphosate than my local one in Newcastle.'

### Statistics

'I had a fascinating conversation with an avid bird watcher at the high point on the Lochranza road, a good place to see birds of prey. As buzzards are now Britain's most common bird of prey it would be interesting to know if there are any statistics suggesting that kestrel numbers are falling in response to the rising buzzard population.'

'The Clachland hills provided a delightful nature experience; the distinctive sound of bees feeding on the extensive heather near the high point of the path. I cannot recall when I last experienced the whole air being filled with a really loud buzz from hundreds of bees.'

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# Former church organist dies aged 93

## Reita Murray 1915 - 2008

Margaret White Murray – affectionately known as Reita – who died at the age of 93 on Sunday September 28 at Montrose House, Brodick had a long connection with Arran.

Having holidayed in Arran with family since the early 1960s, Reita and her husband Bob moved to Arran and reopened the village shop in Lochranza in 1974 when Bob retired from Timex in Dundee, which had until then been their home town.

### Brought Life

They made a success of running the shop and brought life to the village, restarting the Bridge Club.

The Reverend Jimmy Dow, who was then the minister in St

Bride's Church in Lochranza, discovered that Reita was a competent pianist.

He invited her to play the organ in the church on Sundays. From then on, she played regularly for many years retiring only when she reached the age of 80 in 1995 and her sight had started to deteriorate.

Reita was also a talented artist and cook, winning prizes at the Arran Show for painting, jams, and displays.

She realised a lifetime's ambition on Arran at the age of 67 by being given a principal role (Hebe) in the Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production of HMS Pinafore under Heather Gough's direction.

Reita kept her bright person-

ality and elegant appearance into her 90s and often appeared in photos in *The Banner* enjoying events in Montrose House where she lived for the past seven years.

### Predeceased

She was predeceased by her daughter Jean in 1984 and her husband Bob in 1988.

Her daughter and son-in-law, Greta and Kenneth, six grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren survive her.

Her grandson Captain Gavin Pritchard of the Royal Navy brought his ship HMS Kent to Brodick on an official visit last year.

Gavin takes over as Captain of HMS Endurance in Antarctica later this month. **KB**



Reita Murray photographed last year at her grandson Gavin Pritchard's wedding to Kirsty Murchie. b41rei01NO



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- Gordon Bros** - Lamlash
- Bay News** - Whiting Bay
- Bay Stores** - Whiting Bay
- Co-op** - Invercloy, and Shore Road, Brodick
- Alexanders** - Brodick
- Arran Transport** - Pier Building, Brodick
- The Harbour Shop** - Blackwaterfoot
- Bilslands** - Brodick
- Ocean Breeze** - Kildonan
- Book and Card Centre** - Brodick
- Pirnmill General Store** - Pirnmill
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# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, October 21, 1988

### Go west young man!

Matthew Laird, architect and freethinker, left Arran this week.

At the age of 74, Matthew, who has never done anything conventional in his life, is off to be new technical director of a new company in Peterborough, Ontario.

His long-term plan is to manufacture energy saving housing units.

He first came to Arran in 1921 and since the last war has tried many ideas, which have been perhaps before their time.

Matthew was also an architect and has designed more than 40 of Arran's buildings, mostly houses.

Strongly opinionated and seldom in agreement with the bureaucrats many of his more imaginative designs were not accepted by those who held the purse strings.

The planned new visitors centre at Brodick Castle is just one example of this.

He leaves the island with just a little bitterness that he has to go to Canada to get the backing for what he believes is environmentally sensitive yet a potential commercial success.

Matthew and his wife Peta, who died some three years ago, built a house Dhunan Orchard at the very end of the Corriegills road.

Energy saving housing is his most recent success and for the

past four years he has lived in a hexagon-framed house.

Here they bred pigs and goats, had a fruit farm and farmed organically before anyone else had heard of such a thing.

### Big test for Arran rugby

Arran Rugby Club is about to face its stiffest test yet.

This year the team was promoted to the Glasgow District first division and so far they have been winning all their matches.

Now coach Ken Scotland says the wins over Whitecraigs and Glasgow University are not necessarily an indication of how well Arran will do in the league.

Saturday sees the first of three tests being played; Irvine at home, then Hamilton Academicals away on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then Allen Glens at Lamlash on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

'These games are against the strongest teams in the league,' said Ken, 'We want to see as many people at these games as possible to cheer on the teams and help them to victory.'

### Advice Service prepares to open

The Arran Information and Advice Service in Park Terrace, Lamlash is preparing for its official opening on November 14.

Charles O'Halloran, chair-

man of Citizens Advice in Scotland will be officiating at the opening.

Centre manager Christine Bailey and part-time assistant Jan Scofield are taking delivery of advice packs to cover all manner of queries from consumer, legal, social and employment matters to how to deal with dangerous animals.

### New councillors

The newly elected office bearers for the Isle of Arran Community Council are: John Sillars- chairman, Stef Holmer-vice chairman, Alan Marsh-secretary, Victor Iutz-treasurer, Jim Lees- press officer.

### Biography

'God's Conman' a biography of the late Reverend James Currie is to be published on October 22.

Written by William Caffrey, extracts have been printed in this week's Glasgow Herald telling the same surprising facts about the Reverend James.

How the man who appeared so confident was really so shy that at university he ate his lunchtime sandwiches locked in the lavatory.

It also tells of how in a fit of depression he gave up the ministry and retired home to Arran.

He only returned to the church after persuasion from his mentor, the headmaster of Keil School.



Matthew Laird from Corriegills left Arran this week to pursue a new venture in Ontario.

b42twe02

### Disco

Rugby Club licenced disco with Charles Currie on October 14 in Shiskine Hall.

Bus leaves the Shurig at 8.30pm, PHT at 8.45pm, Brodick Coop 9pm, returning after dance.

### Kilmory Public Hall refit

The Kilmory Public Hall committee are looking for contractors wishing to tender for upcoming refurbishment work in the building.

The hall requires extensive upgrading of its toilets to comply with the Health and Hygiene Act.



Hamish and May Cook announced this week that they are preparing to retire from their shop in Whiting Bay. For 34 years the couple have run the grocery store and post office but they say it is now time for them to close. b42twe01



Mike Bailey will be hosting folk song writing workshops at the Burlington Hotel in Whiting Bay. b42twe04



Conservation consultant Carol Crawford leads farmers in group discussion in one of Arran's new 'Wildlife Corridors'.

b42twe03

**BANNER****WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

**Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park** 11am - 4pm  
**Trout fishing** Loch Garbad, Boat or Bank  
**Hawk Walks** Lamlash  
**Arran Heritage Museum** Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm  
**Fitness Assessments, Gym Induction, Personal Training** Auchrannie Spa & Gym

**SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER**

**Blackwaterfoot Junior Football** coaching, 10.30am - noon  
**Arran Dancers** Arran High School 11am - 4.15pm  
**Karate** Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm  
**Learn to Salsa** KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am  
**Family Games Kids & Adults** Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
**Fun in the Spa Pool** Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
**Youth Cafe for all High School Pupils** Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 10pm

**SUNDAY 19th OCTOBER**

**Alcoholics Anonymous** St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm  
**Family Games Kids & Adults** Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
**Open Folk Session** Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
**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  
**Darts Single Competition** Kinloch Hotel 4pm

**MONDAY 20th OCTOBER**

**Senior Fitness** Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am  
**Over 50's Badminton** Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm  
**Quiz** Cameronia 9.30pm  
**Citizens Advice** Open 10am - 2pm  
**Badminton** Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
**Cardiac Rehab** Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm  
**Core Strength** Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm  
**Circuit Training** Auchrannie Spa, 6.00 - 7.15pm  
**Citizens Advice** Open 10am - 2pm  
**Summer Bridge** Arran High School, 6.45pm  
**Weight Wise** Hospital Bungalow 5pm - 5.30pm  
**ABS Class** KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm  
**Aerobics Class** KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8pm

**TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER**

**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  
**Citizens Advice** Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)  
**Pulmonary Rehab** Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm  
**Open Music Session** Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm  
**Body Conditioning Class** KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm  
**Country Dancing** Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
**Shapers** Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm  
**Indoor Bowling** Auchrannie Hall 7pm

**Indoor Bowling**  
**Brodick Toddler Group**

Corrie & Sannox Village Hall 2pm - 4pm  
 Church Hall 10am - noon

**WEDNESDAY 22nd OCTOBER**

**Mixed Hockey** Auchrannie Hall, 7pm  
**Jnr Rugby Training** P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm  
**Aquafizz** Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am  
**Circuit Training** Auchrannie, 6pm  
**Yogalates** Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am  
**Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy** 10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm  
**Kickboxing** KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm  
**Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training** Ormidale Park, 7.30pm  
**Arran Brass Rehearsal** Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
**Core Strength** Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm  
**Transition Arran** Shiskine Hall 8pm

**THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER**

**Senior Fitness** Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am  
**Senior Aerobics** Auchrannie 9.30 - 10.30am  
**Citizens Advice** Open 10am - 2pm  
**Badminton** Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm, Adults 7.30 - 9pm  
**Lochranza Craft Club** Hall, 2pm  
**Outdoor Run** Auchrannie, 6pm  
**Pilates** Auchrannie Studio, 6pm  
**Aerobics** Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm  
**Coffee Morning** St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm  
**Cardiac Rehab** Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm  
**Keep Fit** Kildonan Hall, 7pm - 9pm  
**Table Tennis** Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm  
**KA Jog** KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm  
**Legs, Bums & Tums Class** KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm  
**Cricket Practice** Sannox Oval, 6pm  
**Arran Junior Singers Practise** Whiting Bay School 6.45pm  
**Shiskine Cubs** Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
**Scouts** Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm  
**Embroidery Group** Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
**Lamlash Cubs** Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm  
**Junior Scottish Country Dancing** Lamlash Church Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
**Brodick Bridge Club** Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm  
**Indoor Bowling** Auchrannie Hall 7pm  
**Outdoor Boot Camp** Ormidale Park 7pm

**FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER**

**Arran Pipe Band Practice** Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
**Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning** 10am - 12pm  
**Aquafizz** Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am  
**Citizens Advice** Open 10am - 2pm  
**Circuit Training** Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm  
**Seniors Badminton** Auchrannie Sports Hall, 2pm  
**Arran Ceilidh Dancers** Lamlash Church Hall 8pm

**SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER**

**Car Boot Sale** Kilmory Hall 2pm  
**Jumble Sale in aid of tsunami victims** Corrie Village Hall 2pm to 4.30pm  
**Dance with local musicians (BYOB)** Corrie Village Hall 8pm

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 Arran Banner 01770 302142



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### UNISON General Meeting

To be held on Monday 20th October at 5pm,  
Council Office, Lamlash.

To advise members of the details of the latest pay offer and of the Unions position.  
All members encouraged to attend.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\* between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays.

Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below within the specified time from the date of publication of this notice. Any representations received will be open to public view.

\*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

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

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

Application No: N/08/00786/PP Address: Breadalbane Hotel, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8SE Proposed Development: Demolition of existing hotel and erection of residential development comprising 10 dwelling houses with associated access and parking

Application No: N/08/00750/PP Address: Site To The South Of Aros Beag, Shiskine, Brodick, Isle Of Arran Proposed Development: Erection of two detached single storey dwelling houses

Ian Snodgrass  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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Further enquiries and Applications to:  
 Chester Wilkes: General Manager,  
 Marine Operations.  
[chester@stehrgroup.net](mailto:chester@stehrgroup.net) Ph: 0061 886212900

**Applications CLOSE for the above position: COB, Friday 31st October 2008**

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You will work as part of a multi-disciplinary team providing support in an educational and home environment to vulnerable young people and their families as directed by the School Pupil Support Co-ordinator and agreed with the Head of establishment. The successful candidate will be an effective communicator with excellent interpersonal skills, a Higher National level or equivalent qualification and experience in a relevant field for example education, social work, community, mental health, youth work, childcare and early education. You must have a working knowledge of relevant policies and guidelines regarding support for children, be aware of current practices in supporting young people (3-18 years) with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and have knowledge and understanding of child development. You must also be able to adopt a problem solving approach to challenging situations, work as part of a multi-agency team and adapt to changing circumstances. A current driving licence with access to a motor vehicle is also essential for this post as is the ability to work effectively in several different work locations. The successful candidate will be subject to vetting by Disclosure Scotland. This is a childcare position under the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003, which makes it an offence to apply if the applicant is on the Disqualified from Working with Children List. Ref: NAY0195

View further job information and apply online at:  
[north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk)  
 Tel. (01294) 324650 for general enquiries.  
 Completed application forms must be submitted by close of business on closing date: 31 October 2008

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**BANNER RECRUITMENT**

**Visit Arran Support Manager**



Island time ... in no time

Initially this will be a 6 month contract but as our 3 year Business Plan is implemented there will be need for permanent staff.

The successful applicant will report to the Chairman and be required to work a flexible 20 to 30 hours per week advancing several key Visit Arran objectives including:

- Various Marketing Programmes including the "Arran Passport", Brochure, and Ferry Poster.
- Manage the Visit Arran CalMac ferry desk.
- Maintain and develop the content of the Visit Arran Website and Extranet.
- Development and support of a Visitor Payback Initiative (VPI) for 2009.
- Set up regular communications with Participating Businesses.

The successful applicant will require excellent communication skills to work with public sector agencies, participating business, specialist interest groups, community leaders and the Visit Arran Directors. They will be educated to degree level preferably and be living on Arran. They will have a proven management track record in one or more of the following areas: *Tourist Industry, Event Management, Marketing or Market Research, or the Public Sector.*

Request more information or submit CV's to: [info@visitarran.org](mailto:info@visitarran.org)

**BANNER RECRUITMENT**

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# Crucial away win for Arran

**Hughenden 8  
 Arran 35**

Arran's senior rugby team secured their first away win this season in a crucial game against Hughenden RFC in Glasgow on Saturday afternoon.

Coach Bert Ramage was relieved that Arran had won. 'The team played really well,' he said. 'As a unit they are beginning to look much more controlled with the ball. We really needed this win and I am really pleased with how well we played.'

Arran showed straight away that they intended to run the ball when Mark Wetton and Craig Ingham both attempted to reach the line.

Good ball handling from the forwards in the first 10 minutes took Arran closer to the line and one last gasp push from Martin Ross gave Arran the first try of the day.

Frazer Barr converted to make the score to 7-3.

An ingenious burst of energy

from Iain Keen 10 minutes from half time allowed him to slip through the home defence and score between the posts for Arran.

A conversion from Frazer Barr took the island boys lead to 11 points.

Arran's captain Murray Picken was penalised for a tackling a player in the air but Hughenden failed to capitalise on it.

Murray retaliated seconds before half time with a speedy dash down the left wing to take Arran further into the lead.

### Real Pressure

Frazer Barr's trusty boot secured the two-point conversion to leave the score 21-3 at the break.

In the second half Hughenden stepped up their game and began to apply real pressure in the scrums and steadily made ground.

In what could have been a real blow to the team's success, George De Mendonca was given a red card for head butt-

ing a player in the ruck.

With Arran down to 14 men Hughenden should have made valuable ground but the away team's defence was too strong.

In typical powerful McMaster style, Niall pushed his way down the field and passed to Murray Picken. A quick chip to Mark Wetton led to a fourth try. 28-3

Minutes later Hughenden finally grounded the ball to score their only try of the day.

Seconds before the final whistle Arran proved that they weren't finished yet when Ben Tattersfield ran halfway down the pitch to score the last try of the day.

Iain Keen converted to give Arran the 35-8 victory they were hoping for.

*The Arran Banner's* man of the match was Donald 'Addie' Adamson. Today (Saturday) Arran are playing Braidholm at the Ormidale Park in Brodick. Kick off is at 12pm.



A powerful tackle from Martin Ross and Murray Picken helped Arran to secure a crucial away win against Hughenden on Saturday afternoon. b42rug01

## McKinnie wins McKinnie Cup for the third time

Donald McKinnie secured a hattrick earlier on this year when he won the annual McKinnie Cup for the third time.

The cup that bears his family name was played for at Brodick Golf Club back in early August of this year.

The annual McKinnie golf competition is held every year but the report of the 2008 match has taken a little longer than usual as the main prizewinner disappeared off to Canada.

Donald is the first member of the family to win the cup three times and this year it was with a magnificent 37 points.

He snatched the cup from his cousin Bobby Watt and Iain MacDonald was third.

The first lady this year was Isobel MacDonald followed by Elaine and Kate Nichols in third place.

The Robin McKinnie memorial quail is awarded to the team with the most points and this year it was also the team with the most players.

The team of Rosie, Elaine, Isobel, Jim and Len completed the course in a new McKinnie record of four hours and 28 minutes.

There was also a husband and wife pairing this year with John and Kate Hartley but *The Banner* is told that this was a mistake and will not happen again unless the Rosa Burn freezes over!

The third team, Bobby, Colin, Kate and Mary, were a noisy bunch and were subjected to numerous warnings about their behaviour – at one point the club secretary threatened to send them a letter but was dissuaded from this by mummy (Auntie Jean McKinnie).

Auntie Jean presented the 15 prizes to the assembled golfers, which was lucky this year as there were 15 entries.

Suggestions have been put forward to make it more of a family day next year with bowls and a picnic, with golf only for Len Hartley!



Donald McKinnie is presented with the McKinnie Cup by his Aunt Jean McKinnie.

## Calling all badminton players!

Matthew Johnson from Brodick is starting a new badminton club this Monday night.

He said: 'It is my intention to start a badminton club at the Auchrannie Spa Resort from Monday October 20. It will hopefully run throughout the

winter season. Everyone of all ages and abilities are more than welcome to attend.'

### Session

The session will begin at 7pm and finish at 9pm. It will cost £3 per person. Please come along and have a go.

## Brodick and Lamlash bridge

Results from Wednesday October 8:

N/S: 1 I Martin and D Hamilton +490, 2 J and J Beattie +410, 3 H Boyd and L Paul +290.

E/W: 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie +2230, 2 V Iutz and E McNiven +1610, 3 E McKellar and I McArthur +1440.

### Lamlash Bridge Club

Results Monday October 13:

N/S: 1 A Bilsland and T Martin +3340, 2 P Adamson and J McBride +1210, 3 I McArthur and E McKellar +1020.

E/W: 1 J Barclay and J McArthur +370, 2 D and M Bruce +280, 3 E McNiven and E Paul -50.

**SPORTSDESK**  
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