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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2012

No 1885 59p

Shopkeepers seek answers to ferry disruptions

Concern voiced over loss of income

When the papers are late, Arran newsagents can lose up to 80percent of their income.

For three consecutive days last week, the Caledonian Isles stayed in Brodick overnight.

This meant that newspapers did not arrive in the shops until much later in the day.

Tim and Bev Hodkinson run Bay News in Whiting Bay and they are fed up with losing business.

Tim was keen not to criticise CalMac, and explained: 'If the papers arrive at 11.30am, we lose one third of our takings; if they arrive at 2.30pm, we lose half; if they arrive at 5pm, we lose 80percent of our takings.'

Now Tim has posed questions to CalMac and has given the Banner the answers from the Public Affairs Manager.

Tim asked: 'Who makes the decision on cancellations, and how early can the decision be made?' CalMac answered: 'The decision on whether to sail or not lies solely with the Master of the vessel, whose right to cancel sailings based on his professional judgment is

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

enshrined in law. Any contravention ... shall be an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum and on conviction on indictment by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine, or both.

'We do not take the decision to cancel sailings lightly, but we make no apology for putting the safety of the passengers, crew and vessel first.

'One aspect of sailing in bad weather which is often overlooked is that if the weather is so bad that the crew become ill, then there will be further disruptions to services until they are fit to sail.'

Tim asked: 'Exactly what criteria is used for ferry cancellation?'

CalMac answered: 'Passenger comfort is very important for although the larger ships would be able to sail in all but the very worst weather, it would be unsafe to have passengers thrown about and it would be very unpleasant for

them too. Experience shows that passengers are becoming less tolerant of unfavourable conditions so we are less likely to sail now than we might have done in years gone by.

'As many of the ports were originally built for paddle steamers, our ships have a very shallow draft meaning that the vast majority of the ship is above the waterline and extremely susceptible to strong winds. Strong winds can seriously impede berthing, and it is that which is the biggest reason for disruptions.'

Tim asked: 'Is Gourock still a viable emergency alternative in case of problems at Ardrossan?' The answer came: 'Yes. Gourock is the formally designated Port of Refuge for both Arran and Bute services. There will however be times when all three ports are inaccessible.'

But Jimmy Gordon at Ship House newsagents in Lamlash is also fed up with disruptions.

He added: 'If I had a pound for every time someone asked me when the papers are coming in, I'd have a luxury yacht moored in the bay!'



Santa brings sparkle to Arran's children

Santa Claus dropped in from the North Pole on Saturday to launch the 2012 Santa's Sparkle in Lamlash. Here he gives Banner readers a cheery wave as he pops in to Glenisle Hotel to meet hordes of excited local children. 02_b48san03

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Writer Gray reveals Arran inspiration

World-renowned Scottish writer Alasdair Gray has revealed that Arran was the inspiration for some of his very first stories.

In an interview published this week, the Glasgow based author said: 'The first story in my first collection of short stories – Unlikely Stories, Mostly – was written in the last summer holiday with both my parents on the island of Arran. For two or three years our holiday home was the last house in Pirnmill, a row of houses with primary school and post office on the quietest side of Arran. In long summer holidays there I often regretted having no friend

of my own age and sex, yet enjoyed long walks accompanied by my imagination.'

He added: 'On the three or four miles of road between Pirnmill and Lochranza the only houses are a low white terrace nicknamed the Twelve Apostles on Catacol Bay.

'Just before Catacol the coast road is pinched between the sea cliff and a boulder bigger than a house, steep sided but easily climbable by any boy who likes feeling king of a castle. The top had bushes and turf where I lay one sunny afternoon feeling elevated and private, and here I imagined 'The Star' in a gust of what seemed inspiration.'



The Auchrannie resort is enjoying much better trading in the final three months of this year. 01_b48auc01

Resort finances in good health

The family-owned Auchrannie hotel and leisure complex in Brodick is on course to raise its profits and turnover in its current financial year, after a fall in earnings and revenues in the 12 months to March 2012.

Company accountant Colin Morrison highlighted Auchrannie's much stronger trading performance in its current quarter to December, compared with the same period of last year.

Auchrannie has put back its plans to add bedrooms to its Spa Resort, a project that had been scheduled for this winter.

But Mr Morrison underlined hopes of completing a 20-bedroom extension in time for the anticipated fall in ferry fares between Ardros-

san and Brodick in 2014 arising from the Scottish Government's extension of the Road Equivalent Tariff scheme to Arran sailings.

He also underlined expected trading benefits from a major redevelopment of Auchrannie's spa facilities this winter. Auchrannie was hit by an unexpected downturn in trading in the October to December quarter back in 2011.

However, it is enjoying much better trading in the final three months of this year, with business boosted by special offers and a new booking system, which makes it easier to change room rates quickly according to demand.

Mr Morrison said: 'We are feeling a lot more confident this time this year than we were this time last year.'

Accounts that have just become available from Companies House show the turnover of Auchrannie Holdings, which runs the 28-bedroom Auchrannie House Hotel and 36-bedroom Spa Resort, fell to £4.44 million in the year to March 31, from £4.84m in the previous 12 months.

Pre-tax profits fell to £66,950 in the year to March, from an underlying figure of about £164,000 in the prior 12 months. The reported pre-tax profit for the year to March 2011 was £232,788, but Mr Morrison noted this included a near-£70,000 gain on the sale of a house.

Auchrannie maintains a core of more than 100 staff over the winter with numbers rising to around 130 to 140 in peak season.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears coming to Lamlash

'Who's been eating my porridge?' cried the Little Bear.

Yes, it's pantomime time again on Arran.

Oh no it isn't; oh yes, it is!

The famous Lamlash pantomime this year will be Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Stalwart producer Maureen Smith said: 'Due to unavoidable circumstances, we have two or three of the usual suspects missing from the cast this year.'

New faces

'But we have recruited some new faces to make sure Arran doesn't miss out on the annual panto fun.

'A walk in the woods will never be the same again after you see this lot, and we have a cow too!

'There have been a few cast changes, but we are sure you will still have an enjoyable time. Tickets are on sale now – see advert for details.

'Get in early to avoid disappointment – you know you want toOh yes, you do!

'Hope to see you there.'

Public meeting to assess new Brodick pier plans

A public meeting to discuss the Brodick pier redevelopment will take place in Brodick Village Hall on Tuesday 3 December at 7.30pm.

Organisers Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) want to use the meeting to explain in more detail the plans for Brodick terminal as well as to update island residents on the review into the potential new vessels that will serve the Arran route.

If you have questions that you may wish to have considered prior to the meeting, please contact Ramsey Muirhead (Civil Engineer) on 01475 749920.

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Profiteering from high fuel prices

Last week, the Banner reported on Frazer Barr of Brodick writing to David Cameron and Alex Salmond, asking them to investigate high fuel prices on the island.

Now local businessman Chris Marriott has added his voice to Frazer's.

Chris owns MBS Building and Timber Supplies in Whiting Bay. The retail outlet

also has petrol and diesel fuel pumps on the forecourt.

Chris told the Banner: 'Someone is profiteering out of this, and it isn't us.'

'We have just taken a delivery of 2,500 litres from Gleaner Fuels.

'We have already paid with a cheque at £1.47.6pence a litre for unleaded petrol and will be selling it at £1.50.9pence a

litre. That is a mark up of less than four pence.

'For those people who have monthly accounts with us, it could take about five weeks to be paid for fuel bought today.'

'When you take into consideration electricity, insurance, rates, plus pump maintenance and inspection, we are making nothing out of it.'

'And we have just paid £500 for a new tank inspection required by the government.'

'If we were just a petrol station, we wouldn't be here.'

To add insult to injury for Chris and the other fuel retailers on the island, drivers can buy unleaded petrol from Asda at Ardrossan Harbour for £131.7pence a litre.

A new economic study has found that high fuel prices in rural areas is stifling economic growth and pricing people out of employment.

Chris added: 'Any investigation needs to go a bit further up the line than the retailers.'



Gerald Michaluk and Angus MacRuary of the Arran Brewery Ltd in front of the old Rosebank Distillery in Falkirk.

Arran Farmers Society gathers at dinner dance

Arran Farmers Society held their annual dinner dance at Kinloch Hotel last Saturday night 24 November.

Around 130 members and friends enjoyed an informal social evening with excellent fare and service provided by the Kinloch.

When everyone was seated, society chairman Kenny Bone welcomed the company and introduced Wallace Currie who gave the Selkirk Grace.

After a first class meal Kenny thanked all those who had helped in difficult circumstances at this year's Show and then made a few appropriately witty observations.

The duo Eriskay Lilt then entertained with a variety of music and dancing went on until the early hours.

Next year's Arran Show will be held at Glenkiln on Wednesday 7 August 2013.

Arran Brewery to resurrect Rosebank

The man behind the Arran Brewery plans to breathe new life into the historic Rosebank distillery in Falkirk under a multi-million pound scheme to turn the site into a brewery, bottling plant and 'micro-distillery'.

Gerald Michaluk, who bought the Grade-B listed building from Scottish Canals, also proposes to open the 'Scottish National Brewing and Distilling Centre' as a tourist attraction on the site.

Mr Michaluk remained tight-lipped over how much he had paid for the canal-side site,

but said he remained in talks with four groups of investors over funding for his expansion plans.

News of the latest venture comes just weeks after the Arran Brewery merged with Isle of Skye Brewery and unveiled plans to open a chain of pubs, starting with a branch in a converted bank in Glasgow next year.

Brewing beer at Rosebank as well as on Arran and Skye is part of Mr Michaluk's plans for a ten-fold increase in production as the firm ramps up its exports.

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St Bride's Parish Church in Brodick now has a new floodlighting system in place. 01_b48bro01

Church will be lit up for Christmas

Brodick will be a duller place this festive season without the illuminating cheer of the Christmas lights.

But one small corner of the village will be lit up for the first time - St Bride's, the parish church of Brodick now has a new floodlighting system in place, which will be switched on this Sunday (December 2).

Timed to come on each day at dusk, the new floodlights will illuminate St Bride's during the hours of darkness for the duration of the Advent and Christmas period. They will be dedicated in memory of the late Mrs Betty Ure of Kings Cross, who left a very generous legacy to the work of Brodick Church.

The Reverend Angus Adamson said: 'The symbolism of this is to remind everyone of the significance of the coming of Jesus Christ that first Christmas where he was a light to the world and that his light continues to 'shine in the darkness, and the darkness has never mastered it'. 'Undoubtedly for some, due

to the death of a loved one, there will be darkness in their lives at Christmas time. With this in mind, in conjunction with the Ayrshire Hospice, local Churches across Ayrshire will be holding Light up a Life services during December.'

On Arran a service will also take place in Lamlash Parish Church on Sunday 9 December at 3pm.

During worship there will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one and also to make a donation to the work of the Hospice.

It is hoped that this will give comfort to the grieving, reminding them of the significance of the coming of Jesus, in the words of Charles Wesley's great carol, 'born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth', and the great Christian hope that death is not the end, but a new beginning in God's nearer presence.

Although these events will only be temporary for Advent and Christmas, it is now pos-

sible to remember a loved one in a more permanent way.

For the first time, Arran now has a memorial garden within the Old Clachan Church in Shiskine, recently beautifully restored and rededicated on Pentecost Sunday in June of this year.

The Memorial Garden was set up for anyone from all parts of the island and beyond with any Arran connections, who wishes to erect a memorial plaque in memory of their loved ones.

Details of how to go about this can be found on the Shiskine Valley Community website, www.shiskinevalleycommunitywebsite.org

Such a plaque will shortly be unveiled in memory of the aforementioned Mrs Betty Ure, in grateful commemoration of also leaving a substantial legacy for the work of Shiskine Church of Scotland.

Missing cat

A black and white cat has been lost in the Lamlash Area.

The cat, Pedro, and its owners recently moved from Pirmill.

If found please call 600217.

friday's child

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Heavyweight Scott on screen

Scott Clark of Brodick and Glasgow featured on the BBC Two programme 'Three Men Go to Scotland' broadcast last Friday night.

The three men are Griff Rhys-Jones, Rory McGrath and Dara O'Briain who have made number of popular and humorous television programmes about their travels around the country.

Last week, they were on an adventure round Scotland, using the 16th century travels diary of dictionary writer Dr Samuel Johnson and his biographer James Boswell.

They travelled to Jura, Mull and Skye on a 1904 Bristol Pilot Cutter and a Fisheries Protection ship, taking care to sample the fare from every distillery on the way.

On Skye the three went to the local Highland Games where they encountered Scott Clark taking part in the heavy events.

Forty-year-old Scott, formerly a swimming pool attendant at Auchrannie, is a seasoned and successful competitor at Brodick Highland Games and Shiskine Valley Sports.

The Banner has also reported on him competing at more exotic locations such as the Jakarta Highland Games in Indonesia and the San Francisco Highland Games.



Scott Clark, centre, at this year's Brodick Highland Games, with games chairman Donald McKelvie and commentator Alan Pettigrew. 01_b32one01

Children's lights shining bright despite Brodick's damp squib

Brodick seafront will miss out on the illuminating cheer of the Christmas lights this year but a switch-on will still place on Sunday.

Claire Gilmore, organiser of the Brodick children's Christmas party, said that the lack of lights this year could have meant the kids' party could be in doubt.

So they are hoping as many people as possible will come to the 'switch-on' event this Sunday to help give the kids a party to remember.

'The money we raise at the Christmas Lights

Switch On - usually around £500 - goes towards the children's party,' said Claire.

'With no lights to switch on not only does it leave Brodick looking rather sad and dreary over the festive period but it means we have no way of raising the money we need.'

Event

A 'switch-on' event will still be held at the village hall on Sunday 2 December from 3pm until 4.30pm but the lights will centre on the hall and two large trees outside Billands and the Post Office.

Unique Baptist service

The Arran Baptist Church service is going to be different this Sunday.

South Beach Baptist in Ardrossan is sending a Drama and Music Team who will be leading the service at 11am in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion in Brodick.

South Beach is a large church and has many talented and enthusiastic people in its membership.

Keen

The team are very keen to come to Arran and serve in this way.

Arran Baptist's minister, Rev Vince Jennings who used to be at South Beach, gladly accepted the offer and the Arran congregation are looking forward to the visit. Visitors will be very welcome.

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One of the paintings by T Knowles. 02_b47arc01

Shop seeks painting origins

Banner readers asked to help identify mystery artist

Brodick charity shop ArCaS is appealing for information about the artist behind three paintings given to them in recent weeks.

The three framed pictures all have the signature T Knowles or TDK and it is believed the artist may have lived on the island.

All three of the oil paintings depict Victorian landscapes and were completed in the 1980s.

If anyone has any information about the artist and these paintings please contact ArCaS in Brodick.

Thanks for donors to Marie Curie collection

The Marie Curie Cancer Care collection in Lochranza and Catacol has raised £110 for the charity.

The committee behind the collection wishes to thank everyone who donated.

Around the rurals

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

On Thursday 8 November Morag Monroe brought along her stash of card making equipment and everyone had a very instructive and enjoyable time making greeting cards.

Afterwards our hostesses, Mhairi, Marie and Elma B, presented a delicious supper.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 December at 2pm when Eunice Williams will hold a craft afternoon.

Lamlash SWRI

Everyone at Lamlash WRI enjoyed a great creative evening with a talk and demonstration by Jill Jeffries.

Jill delighted us with her artistic talents and then set us to work on our own painted creations.

Helen MacGregor warmly thanked Jill for a lovely evening and it was great to welcome yet more new members to our group.

During refreshments Jill judged our competition and exhibit and these were

won by Vivienne Haigh and Mary Adams respectively. Our next meeting will be held at the Lamlash Fire Station on Wednesday 5 December from 7.30pm where we will be having a Christmas Fun and Games night.

The competition will be for a Christmas card and exhibition is a Christmas decoration. Could everyone attending please bring a plate of food for sharing.

If you have not been before, please come along and join us, a warm welcome awaits you.

Kilmory SWRI

On Monday 12 November Judith Baines and Gillian Lithgow of Kildonan SWRI gave the ladies of Kilmory SWRI a most informative talk and demonstration on beadwork and bobbles.

Ten very willing members had a go at trying to make a Christmas bobble.

The results may not have been up to the standards of Judith or Gillian but the bobbles will become treasured decorations in our own homes.

The competition for a

homemade Christmas card was won by Mairi Duff and the unusual button by Janet Mulholland.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 10 December at 7.30pm in Kilmory Hall where our guest speaker for the evening will be Colin Totty who will give a talk on Brodick Castle Gardens.

The competitions for the evening will be favourite Christmas decoration and rum truffles.

We intend to decorate the hall for Christmas on Friday 21 December starting at 6.30pm. All willing helpers will be most welcome.

The Annual Christmas Party for the children will be on Christmas Eve from 5pm in the hall.

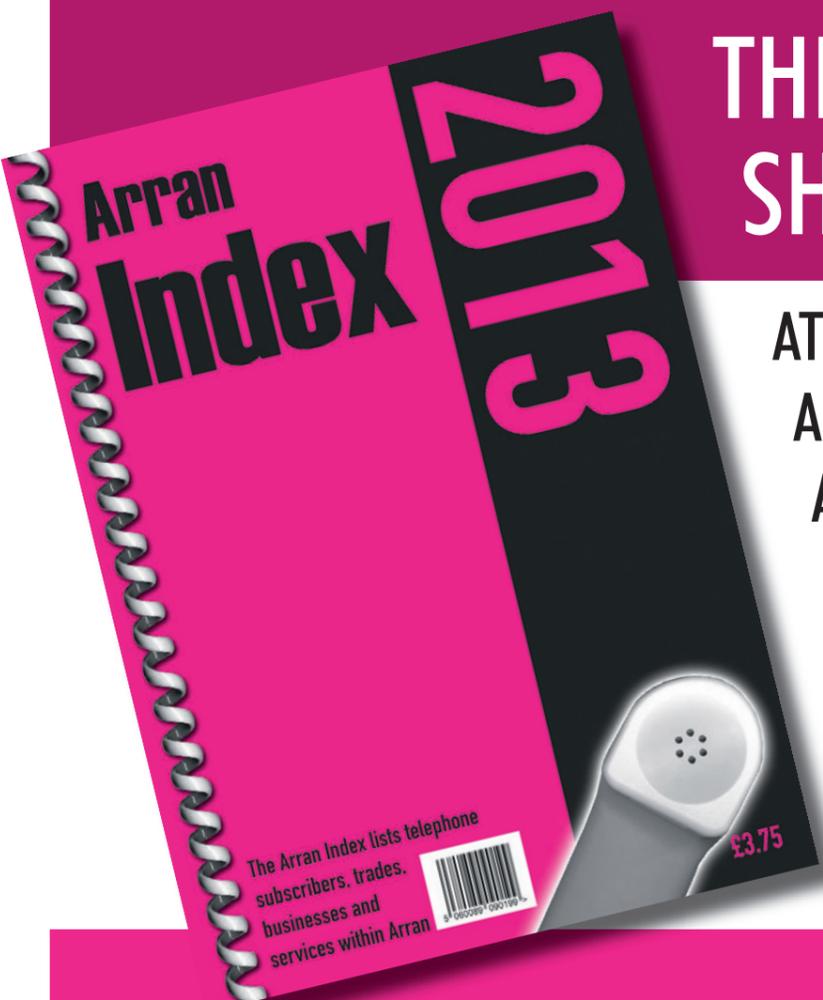
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Dasher dead washed ashore – but where were they buried?

An 89-year-old former RAF pilot has spoken for the first time this week about the part he played in the disposal of bodies from the sunken HMS Dasher nearly 70 years ago.

The man who lives in Saltcoats doesn't want his name to be revealed but after recently reading about bodies from the sunken aircraft carrier being washed ashore at Ardrossan, he decided to tell author John Steele all about his experience after the sinking.

In 1943 he was an 18-year-old member of the Ardrossan Air Training Corps and his father was not only the manager of Pringle's Garage in Saltcoats he was also in charge of the local ARP (Air Raid Precautions).

Stored in Pringle's garage were a number of ambulance trailers that had been designed to carry up to six casualties to hospital and were available in the event of a mass bombing campaign by the enemy.

On Saturday 27 March



The former RAF pilot was involved in the disposal of the bodies from HMS Dasher in 1943.

1943, five minutes after a horrendous onboard explosion HMS Dasher sank with loss of 379 lives just off the coast of Arran.

A few days after the sinking of the mighty aircraft carrier, bodies started to wash ashore at Ardrossan north shore beach.

by **JENNIFER LYON**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The circumstances were so gruesome the beach area was placed out of bounds to the public for a period of almost three weeks.

The ambulance trailers were quickly hitched onto cars and driven to the beach where the volunteer ARP's collected the bodies, helped by Royal Navy personnel.

The 89-year-old from Saltcoats said: 'As a voluntary member of the ARP, I and a number of other ARP volunteers drove ambulance trailers to the north shore beach in Ardrossan. On arrival we could see the bodies lying on the beach.

'The uniforms were badly contaminated with black oil and we placed the bodies on our ambulance trailers and drove them to a building near Ardrossan Harbour.

'Every time we removed bodies from the beach there would always be about six bodies.

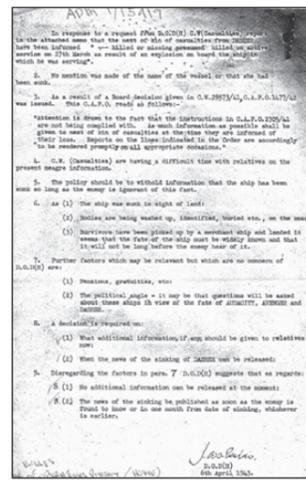
'We removed bodies from the beach on many occasions but it did not happen every day.

He told John Steele that initially they stored the bodies in a building opposite the local newspaper office in Ardrossan but when this was full they were ordered to collect the Dasher bodies off the beach and take them to a small building in nearby Saltcoats. This brick built building was also soon overflowing and the bodies were taken to Kilwinning.

After the three temporary mortuaries were filled, out of respect they were all collect-

ed and taken to Castlecraigs, a prominent building in Glasgow Street, Ardrossan where the bodies were laid out on the large dance floor.

When asked how many bod-



A War Office document states that 'Bodies are being washed up, identified and buried'. But where were they buried?

ies he assisted in removing he replied: 'At least 50, there would be at least this number as each day we were involved in removing them; we were removing about six bodies each time.'

'We did not remove bodies every day. When all the Dasher bodies were removed from the Castlecraigs I do not know where they were

taken to or where they were buried. On joining the RAF I was posted overseas and flew with the RAF in Rhodesia, Egypt and Africa but I've always wondered about those bodies.'

John Steele's books about the sinking of the HMS Dasher are available at various outlets on Arran.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Ferry meeting must be well attended

ONE OF the most important meetings in Arran's recent history will take place in Brodick Hall on Tuesday night.

This public meeting has been organised to discuss the possible Brodick pier redevelopment and the effect it will have on Arran's ferry service.

Organisers Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) want to use the meeting to detail the plans for Brodick terminal as well as to update islanders on the development of potential new vessels that will serve the Arran route.

CMAL, owner of the pier, recently upgraded the proposal of an improved linkspan to a new double berth pier at Brodick.

A new two-berth port is going to be built south of the existing pier and a covered walkway will lead from a new terminal building to the boat.

So far we've also been told that the new pier will be around 150 metres in length, allowing for at least 15 metres of water at the berths on either side.

But the function of Tuesday night's meeting is to allow CMAL to explain the plans in more detail and answer any concerns or queries.

It is vital that Arran's people attend this meeting on Tuesday night.

This will not be the platform to discuss ferry fares or timetable changes but it will be a chance for Arran's people to look at how the design of a new port can benefit the island both for tourists and locals.

A two berth pier is more useful in bad weather – especially when we have two ferries – and it also means that in summer other boats can use the second berth.

But many are likely to question why such an investment is being made at the perfectly fine Brodick pier when Ardrossan causes so many problems in winter.

At the monthly Community Council meeting on Tuesday night, only five councillors attended.

There were four members of the public in attendance, but three of those (including the Banner) were there for work purposes.

Not only does it seem like Arran's community councillors are losing interest in the statutory decision making process of which they are a key part, but the public too has no interest in their role within our community.

For the island to be well represented and all viewpoints are expressed on Tuesday night, we must make sure as many of us attend this meeting. Decisions could be made about the future of Arran's ferries that will affect us all, and if you aren't there, your view won't be counted.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

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



Profiteering nonsense

Sir,
I was shocked last week to read Mr Barr's information on profiteering by local petrol retailers.

I went to my local station and demanded answers.

My powerful physical presence meant that 'Mousy Marriott' had little choice but to supply the relevant paperwork; this week's delivery of 2,500 litres meant an immediate payment approaching £4,000 at a unit price of £1.47 a litre - selling at almost £1.51 grosses a profit on the transaction of less than £100.

There is then pump maintenance, insurance, licence and wages (yes even Pam and Claire get paid) I have no desire to launch a personal attack on Mr Barr - a hard working local lad - and I believe that all Arran residents have a right to voice their opinions in *The Banner*, not just the intelligent ones with lots of hair.

However there is a serious side to belittling and possibly endangering local businesses providing employment.

It is also important to remember that if Mr Barr's letter is taken seriously it will end up in a Government department dealing with retail problems - a department with little clout as opposed to a department dealing with the cartel approach of the oil suppliers and distributors - a more serious situation.

Yours,
Marc Head,
Whiting Bay

Commendable service

Sir,
On a recent November visit to Arran for a holiday/break, my wife and I were staying in a self-catering cottage in Corrie and one day we decided to take a walk along the shore to Sannox, then heading north on the Sannox shoreline.

It was a very blustery day and the rain was heavy, and on our return we called in to The Tea Room at Corrie Golf

Club for some much needed warming-up.

I was very impressed by the welcoming atmosphere by the proprietor, who served us a welcoming hot mug of tea, toasted sandwiches and warming bowls of soup; and who was not put off by two soaking wet walkers with muddy boots dripping over the floor!

It is my understanding that this local business has only been open a short while, and it is refreshing to see such warming hospitality and a good menu on offer.

I do not know the name of the lady that served us, but would have no hesitation in recommending the level of service and good range of simple wholesome food on offer; so please use and support this business!

Yours,

Paul Alderwick,
Gospport,
Hampshire

Temperature warning

Sir,
Following the recent letters regarding the dangers of dog-eating ditches and the unexpected encounter with unmarked steep terrain I feel I should share a rather unexpected experience I had this summer.

After searching the Internet for a suitable beach holiday I settled on the resort of Catacol.

Tempted by pictures of empty beach, sunshine and palm trees this appeared the ideal tropical heaven for a lazy seaside retreat.

After installing myself in one of a row of beach huts just back from the beach it was time to sample the tempting crystal clear waters.

Being a slightly out of shape middle aged chap I had chosen a rather becoming mankini to offer a modest yet stylish look as befits a fashionable yet practical look required in these fashion conscious times.

Keen to enjoy the balmy waters I ran straight from the beach hut across the narrow road narrowly missing being

hit by a Lochs and Glens tour bus keen to get its passengers around the island in as short a time as possible and on to the beach.

I ran along the short concrete diving platform and straight into the welcoming waters.

Imagine my shock and horror to discover that the water was not the tropical bath I had expected but actually was barely above freezing.

Surely there should have been warning signs to prevent the unwary tourist of these icy depths?

I managed to drag myself from this unpleasant douche with only a few jellyfish stings and a certain degree of cold related shrinkage to the local beach Taverna with the distinctive black cat logo.

There I was sympathetically restored to a more appropriate body heat by the application of several bar towels and peaty medicinal drafts by the swarthy continental bar man who went by the name of Bryan whose attentions surely saved me from the onset of hypothermia.

Whilst I was lucky not to meet a worse chilly fate I must warn others to be aware of the dangers of deceptively cold water on the beaches of Arran that were in no way indicated in the glossy tourist literature.

As well as the levelling of mountain areas already called for in previous letters might I suggest that the waters surrounding the island are raised to a more appropriate temperature as a matter of urgency.

Yours,
Ross Shepherd
By e-mail

Service status

Tim Hodkinson of Whiting Bay has sent us a copy of an e-mail he recently sent to Caledonian MacBrayne.

Sir,
A very useful feature on your service status screen would be to display not just the current status but to show the previous status too.

The reason this is important is because many businesses on Arran rely on their goods being delivered daily off the

ferry eg. in our shop, the newspapers.

If a previous ferry was cancelled because the ferry stayed overnight in Brodick for example, then currently our customers look at the website at 8.20am and see everything green and okay but do not realise that the ferry stayed overnight and therefore the newspapers will be late.

This causes unnecessary hassle for us in the shop and unnecessary trips to the shop for customers.

All we are asking is the status is updated as now but also that he previous status is shown below the current status.

This would make life a lot easier for everyone who relies on the ferry for deliveries etc because they would realise that a problem had occurred in the past.

Another feature would be to add a link to ShipAIS.com so that people can see where the ferry is at the moment.

This is a great website for tracking the ferry but obviously again it doesn't show any history so going back to my first point if we could see the current status and the previous status it would make life easier for all concerned.

Yours,
Tim Hodkinson,
Bay News,
Whiting Bay

Bad weather options

Sir,
Regarding the proposed new Arran ferry berth and terminal building etc, I agree with some of the points raised by Mr Ian Ferguson but not to all of them.

He is correct in his surprise that there has been no mention of improvements at the Ardrossan end especially to the south breakwater area and the added protection that would give in inclement weather coming from a southerly, south west direction.

However I do not agree with his assertion that either Troon or Fairlie could be feasible bad weather options because of:

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Letters to the Editor



1. Troon being difficult to access in bad weather causing frequent schedule disruption and a ferry to run aground last November, some of the principal reasons why P&O Ferries (Irish Sea) decided to withdraw their ro-ro Irish freight service from the port (I and others have personally witnessed ferries unable to berth at Troon while the Ardrossan - Brodick service remained on schedule).

Also, Troon does not possess the same excellent transport infrastructure as Ardrossan and crossing times would be longer.

2. Fairlie, slightly longer crossing times, would require mega millions of new infrastructure to come up to speed.

I also take issue with the reported and contentious view put about earlier this year that Ardrossan was 'not fit for purpose' when clearly blame should have been apportioned elsewhere for some cancelled and rescheduled sailings.

Mr Ferguson is perhaps unaware that, since March this year, there have been a number of cancelled sailings due to weather conditions at Brodick.

No port is therefore immune from schedule disruption and island communities inevitably will be cut off on occasion from the mainland.

Our MSP Kenneth Gibson, the SNP led Scottish Government together with Clydeport, Irvine Bay Regeneration Co., North Ayrshire Council

and local councillors must be seen to be more pro-active than what they have been to date, in attempting to agree a formula to secure the required funding for upgrades at Ardrossan.

Funding has already been given to similar upgrading projects for example at Dunoon and Campbeltown with very little return to date.

Improvements at Ardrossan would be justified as the port is the mainland terminal for one of the busiest ferry routes in the UK especially in summer and at peak holiday times.

If the Arran route is regarded as a 'lifeline service' then it surely follows an upgraded Ardrossan harbour entrance must be included in the equation.

Yours,
Jim McCann,
Ardrossan.

Ferry service investment

Sir,
The recently announced plans to develop Brodick Ferry Terminal are welcome, and should in effect make it in every respect an all weather port.

It will be an expensive project, though relatively modest compared to the outlay on such facilities elsewhere.

For example Islay has seen two island terminals rebuilt as well as the mainland one at Kennacraig.

The 'missing link' is what are the plans to improve the 'weather worthiness' of the Ardrossan Harbour approaches or to find an alternative diversionary port?

This remains the 'Achilles' Heel' in terms of service reliability (see Ian Ferguson's letter, Ardrossan concerns, in last week's Banner).

No amount of improvement in onshore facilities will compensate for the lack of an outer breakwater to give protection from the prevailing wind and southerly swell at Ardrossan.

Mention has been made of new ferries with better 'seakeeping' properties - the present ferry was built for this run, and to my knowledge does not lack such properties.

Crossing the firth is not the problem - safe access to Ardrossan Harbour is!

Schedule demands with two ferries operating on a shuttle basis will place even greater dependence on reliability.

A more commercially minded ferry operator would not contemplate investing in two new vessels without prospect of better mainland terminals.

Cancelled sailings may simply mean delayed revenue to a ferry operator - the harm done to an 'off season' tourist business built on 'short breaks' will not be offset by RET.

Unless the problems of the mainland terminal are effectively dealt with, we will be faced with two ferries tied up at Brodick in the event of inclement weather.

Yours,
Robert Kerr
Fereneze
Lochransha

Brodick Christmas card delivery boosts charity fund

Islanders can help local charities this Christmas - and save themselves money - by posting cards intended for Brodick addresses at Bilslands.

Keen to help raise money for the Arran Youth Foundations group, store owner Alison Bilsland suggested that the group's members could deliver cards round Brodick and raise money by doing so.

Costing just 30 pence to send, the cards will be delivered by the children.

AYF's youth work project manager Graeme Johnston said: 'I thought it would be a great project for the kids in the run-up to Christmas and an ideal way to fund some of the group's activities, so I passed the idea on to them. In talking about it, it was suggested that instead of keeping all the proceeds for AYF, the young folk could donate 50 per cent to local charities of their choosing, which we thought was an even better idea.'

The postbox in Bilslands, where staff will collect the postage costs, is available now until Friday 21 December.

Young people will meet up to make deliveries at least once a week, with more regular delivery sessions planned if demand is high in the weeks before Christmas.

Please bear in mind that the Bilslands postbox is only for cards going to Brodick addresses.

Council leads the way towards innovative mapping project

Leader Gibson welcomes national recognition

An ambitious project to give public sector bodies access to the most up-to-date information has gained North Ayrshire Council a prestigious award.

Public sector organisations maintain their own records on addresses, residents and the services that are provided to households.

However, this has often resulted in inconsistency within organisations and across the country.

New systems now allow information to be centralised, providing easy access to detailed and accurate information.

AddressBase, operated by Ordnance Survey, provides this, accessible to all public sector bodies, including the council.

North Ayrshire Council - and in particular Craig Wallace, the council officer responsible for the system - have made great strides in prepara-

tion for the new set up.

This was recognised at the Everything Happens Somewhere awards where the Council received the 'Best Contribution in Preparation for AddressBase' award.

Delighted

Councillor Willie Gibson, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'I am delighted that the council's work has

been recognised nationally and would like to thank the officers responsible for this success.

'Accurate and detailed information is vital to the council and the creation of a national database will help us improve our services, ensuring there is detailed, up-to-date information which is consistent across all of the public sector.'

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Santa's 2012 Sparkle better than ever



Arran Aromatics stand. 02_b48san06

Fun for all at island festive spectacular

Santa was in sparkling form last weekend when he arrived by speedboat at Lamalash pier. This was the second 'Santa's Sparkle' event and it was even bigger and better than last year's. He strode down the pier and was met by two reindeer, courtesy of Arran Riding for the Disabled group. Mounting his trusty steed, Santa was then led by a police car through the streets of the village and into Glenisle Hotel where he entertained a multitude of children with small gifts and cheery words. On the village front green, some 17 local businesses and craftspeople were selling their festive wares inside two marquees to a large gathering of customers.

There was live music entertainment throughout the days, hog roast and barbecue on the hotel terrace, and the highlights of tree lighting by Heather Queen Louise and Queen Louise.

Shankland and spectacular firework display in the hotel gardens. Geoffrey Dallamore of Glenisle said: 'Everyone at the Glenisle was thrilled with how well Santa's Sparkle went this year. 'In fact, we all think that this year's event was the best one yet. 'Everything went as planned and even the weather decided to help out. 'We loved Santa's entrance; first by boat and then riding atop a horse (disguised as a reindeer) with the Riding for the Disabled team. 'And a great big thank you to Arran Events for organising the terrific music which we enjoyed all weekend on the Glenisle terrace. 'Of course, the big attraction is the Glenisle Christmas tree lighting show. We estimate that about 2,000 people were there to watch and it all went off without a hitch. This year better?'

The question that now remains with us is: can we make next year's Santa's Sparkle even bigger and better?'

Readers can view a video of the spectacular Glenisle Christmas Tree Lighting on the hotel's website www.glenisلهotel.com/ santa



Santa arrived at Lamalash pier by speedboat then took to his reindeer mounts. 02_b48san17



Barbecue and hog roast on the hotel terrace. 02_b48san09



Santa's festive parade to Lamalash front green. 02_b48san01



The spectacular fireworks on Saturday night. b48fire02



Lynn Raeburn on Buntys busy festive stall. 02_b48san12



Isle of Arran Distillery stand. 02_b48san08



Santa and his little helper wave to the crowds from Glenisle doorway. 02_b48san04



Excited children wait to talk to Santa in the Glenisle lounge. 02_b48san05

More Santa Sparkle photos on page 12

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Arran gets into festive spirit with Santa's Sparkle



Fish 'n' Ships singing on the terrace. 02_b48san13



2012 Heather Queen Louise Shankland switched the Lamlash Christmas tree lights on on Saturday night. 02_b48san16

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Dispensing mulled wine from Glenisle's stall. 02_b48san14



Wooleys the Bakers stall. 02_b48san07



Isle of Arran Cheese Company stall. 02_b48san11

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 16th December
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The Kirkend sweetie stall. 02_b48san15



Waving to the cheering crowds. 02_b48san02

Bird Notes – Brambling

The Brambling is sometimes described as the Chaffinch of the north, for in the pine and birch forests of Scandinavia it seems to replace the Chaffinch as the commonest bird.

In all plumages, Brambling can be recognised by the obvious orange on the breast extending across the shoulders onto their wings.

In winter the head and mantle are usually a blotchy grey-brown but in some birds these wear away to produce a stunning black head, even before they depart back to their breeding grounds.

In flight they show a neat rectangular white patch down the rump as well as white and orange in the wing.

All Brambling are migratory. They breed from Fennoscandia, through Siberia to Kamchatka and migrate to relatively warmer climates to winter in western and southern Europe, Turkey, Central Asia and northern India.

In winter, vast flocks are formed where food is particularly abundant, for example seeds of beech trees.

Some large roosts have been estimated to contain over 10 million birds.

The number turning up in Scotland each winter varies greatly from year to year depending partly on the successfulness of the breeding season and the availability of food on the migration routes.

On Arran in the previous five winters, only one winter has had more than two or three records of Brambling.

It was the winter of two years ago that we last had an influx of this migratory bird.

That winter there were 35 records between 26 October 2010 and 3 April 2011. The

by Jim Cassels

largest groups were over 20.

Will this winter be a 'Brambling' winter? There have already been two records in October in Arran plus a range of reports from the adjacent mainland so check the Chaffinch flocks around your area for this colourful winter visitor.

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 2011 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk.



Brambling. Photo Dennis Morrison



Be ready for winter. Make sure you have over-the-counter medicines to treat coughs, colds and the flu.

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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday 5 December, 1992



Physiotherapists Lynn Long and Jackie McKie receive new equipment from the Hospital Supporters League. b48twe01



Jamie Crawford, David Hedley, Gail Holmer and Barbara Lawson in the Rosa Arran High School house play. b48twe03

Phone lines shot

Telephone lines in Sliderry were out of action for four days last week after a game shoot on Saturday afternoon.

The telephone wires near Glenree were peppered with lead shot and damaged.

Rusty's seat at Heathfield

A memorial seat to that charming gentleman of no fixed abode, Rusty, was put in place outside the Heathfield Hotel this week.

Rusty died earlier this year and following a village collection the seat was made by Duffion Workshop and placed outside his favourite haunt.

Apple Lodge highly commended

John and Jean Boyd of Apple Lodge, Lochranza have been awarded a Highly Commended status by the Scottish Tourist Board.

Other awards went to Drumla Farm, Kildonan, Cairnfield, Machrie, Willow Cottage, Whitefarland and Norwood, Whiting Bay.

Puss in Boots

Lamlash Drama Club is presenting Puss in Boots as this year's pantomime, starting next Thursday 10 December in Lamlash Community Centre.

Soft seats are priced at £4 and others at £3.

Bute bus contract

It appears to be common knowledge on Rothesay that Arran Transport has won the Bute bus contract, although proprietor Bob Haddow has still not heard officially from SPT.

Merkland milestone replaced

Milestone 55 at the Merkland Caravan site has been replaced this week on behalf of Frances Sanctuary whose husband Anthony died last year.

The stone was carved by Barry McManus of Ardrossan and installed by Ian Leitch of Brodick.

Pirnmill trees planted

This has been National Tree Week and CDC has been marking it with tree planting sessions in over 20 primary schools.

Councillor Tom Knox was assisted by pupil Eileen McLaughlin in planting a sycamore at Pirnmill School.

Drew is bowls champ

Drew Crawford received the Club Championship at Lamlash Bowling and Tennis Club annual dinner and prizegiving in Lamlash Golf Clubhouse last Saturday.

The 1992 Ladies Champion was Mary Cameron.



Councillor Tom Knox and pupil Eileen McLaughlin plant a sycamore tree at Pirnmill for National Tree Week. b48twe02



Brian Boal and the new memorial seat to Brodick character Rusty, outside the Heathfield Hotel. b48twe04

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Last week Archie was contemplating a walk to the King's Cave at Torr Righ between Machrie and Drumadoon. First correct answers came from Sheena of Shiskine and Christine from Bathgate. This week he is heading for the beach, but where do those steps lead?



If you think you know then post your answer on the website www.arranbanner.co.uk
Or email us at: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Haunted cottage remembered as happy family home

'Glenriggart was once a much-loved family home and it's history should not be forgotten'

As part of our spooky Hallowe'en celebrations last month, The Banner paid a visit to a small ruined cottage in the hills above Brodick.

Glenriggart Cottage sits nestled on the hillside above Kilmichael and it is reportedly one of Arran's most haunted houses with various bizarre things reported there in the past 30 years.

These have included the sightings of a ghostly woman with a little white dog standing at the door to the cottage.

But what we must remember is that, haunted or not,

this was once a much-loved family home and it's history should not be forgotten.

In 1986 a story appeared in The Banner that also made reference to the fact that this little pocket of land was disturbed by an other worldly presence.

Haunted

Ena Lambie wrote to The Banner in March that year after a photograph appeared claiming the old cottage was haunted.

She wrote: 'The proper name is Glenriggart and my mother was born and brought

up in that house.

'Her father was Malcolm Gillies who was shepherd to Dr Fullarton of Kilmichael for 30 years and he was awarded the long service medal.

'Malcolm and his wife Catherine raised a fine family of eight children, also bringing up a nephew who had lost his parents, all on a small shepherd's wage.

'My granny took in boarders during the summer months, with the same people coming year after year and becoming family friends.

'My mother used to talk



Glenriggart Cottage is said by some to be haunted but it was once a very happy family home.

of delivering milk from the shepherd's cow to Kilmichael Lodge, also of carrying tea to the shepherd's at the sheep fanks.

'So Glenriggart must have been a busy and bonnie place and IF IT IS haunted, I'm sure it is with the sound of happy children's voices.'

In her letter Ena did recog-

nise that Glenriggart cottage does stand very close to the overgrown ruins of an ancient tomb and this may account for some of the folklore surrounding it.

In years gone by it was believed the spirit of the tomb was disturbed upon the building of the derelict house below it.

Ghosts of a middle-aged couple and young child have been seen in the house; whilst the spirit of the site can generate considerable fear to those who visit the place when it is 'awake'.

But perhaps Ena is right and the only ghosts here are the happy memories of the family who once lived here.



The Gillies family pictured in around 1910. Malcolm and Catherine Gillies brought up their family in Glenriggart Cottage on the hill above Kilmichael. b48cot01NO



Malcolm Gillies, centre, was shepherd to Dr Fullarton of Kilmichael for 30 years and was awarded the long service medal. b48cot03NO

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT

in

Corrie Parish Church on
Saturday 8th December at 7.30
Peter Alexander Wilson,
Tenor.

Crawford Logan, Reader.
Lorna Buchanan Accompanist.
James Hendry, Accompanist.

Katie Conner Soprano,
Lucilla Graham Mezzo-
Soprano,

Louis Hurst Bass,
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call Brodick Castle on: 0844 4932152
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ANNUAL ISLAND CAROL CONCERT

Lamlash Church
Monday 3rd December
At 7.30pm

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Saturday 1st December

Army Cadets,
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Junior Badminton Club
RNLI Shop
Shop Arran
Christmas Market
Darts
Rugby

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16
Lamlash Pier, 10.30am – 12.30pm
All day
Whiting Bay Hall, 11am-2pm
Catacol Bay, 8pm
Ormidale Park, Brodict, 2pm

Sunday 2nd December

Alcoholics Anonymous
New Al-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Open Mic Session
Shop Arran
Folk night
Lochranza Choir Concert

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30 – 6 pm.
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
All Day
Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm
Village hall, 2.30pm

Monday 3rd December

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Ladies Netball
Citizens Advice
Breathe Walk class
Table Tennis
Quiz
Badminton
Lamlash Bridge Club,
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Volleyball Club
Arran junior football Club
Lunch club
Circuit
NFU Scotland AGM
Brodict Terminal Public meeting
Annual Island Carol Concert

Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 5.15pm
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 7-8pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm –7.30pm
Mckelvie Road, Lamlash, 12.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 6-7pm
Kinloch Hotel, 8pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Church, 7.30pm

Tuesday 4th December

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary Club
Melody Movement, Ballet Class 2 ½ yrs up
Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class 2 ½ yrs up
Youth Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
Brodict Hall, 6.30pm-8pm

Zumba Fitness Class
Weight Watchers
Rink Games
Junior Hockey Club 8yrs up
Country Dancing
Rowan Singers Rehearsals
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Healthy Outdoors: Conservation, exercise, well being
Cricket Practice
Open Dart Competition

Arran High School, 6.30-7.30pm
St Molios, Church Hall, 7pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
Brodict Church Hall 7.30pm
Lamlash Church 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
10am-1pm NTS ranger centre
Auchrannie Sports Hall 7 pm – 9 pm
Kinloch Hotel, 8pm-10pm

Wednesday 5th December

Hockey
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Senior Badminton
Yogalates
Aquafizz
Music Mayhem Class Parents & little ones
Kids Games
AYF Film Making Club
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy Services
Arran Absolute Beginners Runners
Arran Advance Beginners Runners
Northend Football Training
Outside Boot Camp
Boot Camp
Dog Agility Class
Arran Theatre & Arts Trust AGM
Coffee morning

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm
Arran high School – kids, 6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30-9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.15pm
Arran High School, 8-9pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Dance Studio 10.45am
Playbarn, Auchrannie, 5-6pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30-6.30pm
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
5.30pm, Auchrannie Spa Car Park.
6pm Auchrannie Spa Car Park
Lochranza, 7pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Outside Kinloch Hotel, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Brodict Library, 5pm
Lamlash Church hall, 10.15-12noon

Thursday 6th December

General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Zumba Fitness Club
Live Country/Folk music
Brodict Embroidery Group
Brodict Bridge Club, Brodict
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Ladies Netball Club
Lunchbox
Arran Yacht Club AGM

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Arran high School, 6.30-7.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Brodict Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm
Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm
Lamlash sports hall, 7.30-8.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 12.30-2.30pm
Ormidale hotel, 7.30pm

Friday 7th December

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Weight Watchers
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Outside Boot Camp
Quiz
Coffee morning
Shop Arran weekend

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 10am-11am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
Corrie/Sannox Village Hall 10.15am All welcome
All Day

Saturday 8th December

Army Cadets,
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Junior Badminton Club
RNLI Shop
Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Corrie & Sannox Christmas Fayre
Corrie Christmas Tree Lighting
Tapas & Jazz café night
Christmas Concert
Knitwear Sale

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16
Lamlash Pier, 10.30am-12.30pm
Corrie Hall 7.30pm – 11pm
Village hall, 1-4pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 4pm
Kinloch Hotel, 7pm
Corrie Parish Church, 7.30pm
Brodict Hall, 10.30am - 4.30pm



To appear in What's On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

Public Notices

Drive Times



**Public Meeting
Brodict Terminal Redevelopment**

Following the commencement of the design development stage of the infrastructure improvements at Brodict Ferry Terminal, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) would like to invite local individuals, groups and businesses to contribute towards the plans. You are therefore invited to attend a public meeting where CMAL will discuss the redevelopment works, as well providing an update on the review of potential new vessels to serve Arran and Mull

**Public Meeting:
Brodict Hall, Brodict, Isle of Arran
Monday 3rd December 2012 19.30hrs**

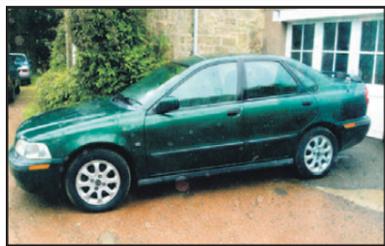
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**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION
AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Corporate 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, Lamplash

Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 21.12.12. 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

12/00634/PP; Dunfion Farm, Corriegills, Brodict, Isle of Arran; Change of use from workshop to additional living accommodation.

12/00627/PP; Kildonan Hotel, Kildonan, Brodict, Isle of Arran; Conversion of 4 hotel bedrooms to form 2 private flats.

12/00644/PP; Rowan Cottage, Auchrannie Road, Brodict, Isle of Arran; Erection of extension to rear and side of detached dwelling house.

12/00624/PP; Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot, Brodict, Isle of Arran; Provision of roads and plots.

12/00647/PP; Site to the North of Silver Fern, Grievies Road, Whiting Bay, Brodict; Erection of detached dwelling house.

12/00604/PP; Redwood, Shiskine, Brodict, Isle Of Arran; Erection of attached timber garage to side of detached dwelling house.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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ALGU Golf

Lamlash Drumadoon, a wonderful win for Liz Kerr.

After going to a keep fit class on Saturday morning Liz arrived at Lamlash warmed up and ready for golf. She won with an amazing score of 4 under par! It was also good to see Sally back on form with two new knees and to welcome Mary Jo Tod as a new member.

1 and Scratch Liz Kerr 78-17=61, 2 Jo Hastings 85-21=64, 3 Mary Jo Tod 101-36=65, 4 Sally Brookes 89-23=66.

It was a beautiful sunny day with no wind and conditions couldn't have been better. We would like to thank Lamlash for courtesy of the course, the greenkeeping



Sally Brookes, Mary Jo Tod and Liz Kerr after the ALGU Drumadoon last Saturday. b48gol01no

staff for their hard work after the heavy rain last week and Stuart and Holly for the catering.

The next Drumadoon will be played at Machrie on Saturday 26 January 2013. Please contact Viv Parks, 870342 with any queries.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 25 November. 10 played in the monthly sweep from the

yellow tees. The winner with an amazing score was Michel Augier (14)54, 2 David Brookes (13)58, 3 John Dick (13)62.

Fixtures: Sunday 2 December, AGA Winter League at Machrie against Lamlash, 9.20am.

Arran Golfers Association

Winter League/Duncan Trophy 2012/2013.

The second round matches will be played at Machrie Bay on

Sunday 2 December.

Draw: Machrie v Corrie at 8.30am, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at 9.20am, Shiskine v Brodick at 11.50am.

Can all team captains remember to leave team sheets for Dougie please!

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 20 Nov Lochranza Hotel Cup 1 David Price 36pts, 2 Brian Sherwood 33pts, 3 Elizabeth Ross 32pts. Scratch David Price 77.

Fixtures: Saturday 1 December Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final tee off 12noon.

Tuesday 4 December Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaiach and Lochranza Match, 28 played. 1 N Henderson 27pts, 2 A Kerr 26pts BIH, 3 Q Oliver 26pts, 4 B Sherwood 25pts. Gator is the overall winner of the Quaiach as he won the domi-

noes in the Kinloch! Nearest the pin at the 4th Hole: Peter Young. Nearest the pin at the 10th Hole: Willie Kelso. Shiskine beat Lochranza 2 and a half to 1 and a half points.

Jim Alison Trophy (Missionaries v Natives). Another great turn out for the golf today, 32 played.

It was a very close match with the Natives just winning 4 and a half to 3 and a half. Nearest the pin at the 4th: W Kelso. Nearest the pin at the 10th: J Morrison. Longest drive at the 9th: C Rae. **Fixtures:** Saturday 1 December, 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup (Gents). Thursday 6 December, 18 Hole Medal (Ladies).

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 24 November, Winter Cup, 13 played, CSS 62. 1 J Adams 68-7=61, 2 B Rooney 76-13=63, 3 D Crawford 79-16=63. Best scratch J Adams 68. Magic twos from P Bremner and J Adams. Monday 26 November, 20 played. 1 R Burke 69-12=57, 2 A

McDonald 64-5=59, 3 B Paul 81-21=60. Best scratch A McDonald 64. Magic twos from R Burke, A Burke and B Rooney.

Fixtures: Saturday 1 December, Winter Cup at 8.30am and 12noon (white tees). Monday 3 December, Monday Cup off yellow tees, 12noon sharp.

Lamlash Golf Club

Results: Sunday 25 November. Winter Stableford - 38pts at Stableford. 1 Billy O'Connor - 41 pts, 2 Ian Bremner 38 pts (BIH), 3 Raymond Burke 38 pts. Twos - Mark Wren at 5th. Best scratch - Ian Bremner - 33 pts to Stableford.

Fixtures: Saturday 1 December. Steak Night at The Gorsebush - £18 for 3 courses

Sunday 2 December. Winter League team game at Machrie - Lamlash v W/Bay.

Thursday 6 December. Yellow Medal - draw at 11am

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
SUNDAY, 2nd December: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service, followed by Annual Church Meeting.
WEDNESDAY, 5th December: Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on **THURSDAY**, 6TH DECEMBER, at 7.30 pm in St Molios' Church, Shiskine. **ALL WELCOME**

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PARISHES OF NORTH ARRAN : BRODICK, CORRIE, LOCHRANZA, PIRNMILL 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 2nd December:
 First Sunday in Advent Brodick Church, 10.30am, Praise service led by ARCO.
 Corrie Church, 12noon, Praise service led by ARCO.
 Lochranza and Pirmill Churches,
 Service at Lochranza Church at 10.15am.

Shiskine Church, 12noon.
 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 2nd December
 Rev. Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches:
 All welcome, including families; children's area
 Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11 am
 Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland (Charity Number: SC014005) Sunday 2nd December 2012 Worship for Advent will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after

the service. All most welcome. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm. All welcome. The Church Christmas Card, to be sent to all members, will be available to be signed, and all proceeds will go to charity.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 2nd December
 Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
 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.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Services as follows
 Shiskine 11.00am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
 Service will be taken by Rev Kenny Boyd
 All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (CONTINUING) ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (CONTINUING)

Sunday 2nd December
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 6.30pm
 5 Glen Road, Brodick
 Wednesday 5th December
 Prayer Meeting 7pm
 5 Glen Road
 All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

December 2nd in Dippin House, Dippen at 11. Enquiries to Judith 820223. All very welcome

BIRTH



Keith and Lorna Thomson (nee Basford) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Murray George Thomson born 7th November 2012 at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital weighing 7lbs 15. A first grandchild on both sides.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

MCKENNA - Peacefully in Lamlash on 26th November 2012 James Mckenna aged 88 years, beloved husband of Maureen, loving Dad of Margaret, Jim and Maureen and a much loved pop of Steven, Kevin, Austin and Ainsley.

MILLER - Elizabeth (nee Ferguson)

Peacefully at Arran War Memorial hospital on Sunday 25th November 2012. Betty, aged 81 years, beloved wife of Hugh, dear mother of Hugh and Scott. Loved by all the family. Funeral service in Whiting Bay and Kildonan church on Friday 30th November at 12:15pm and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Arran Hospital Supporters League.

PARKER - At Randolph Hill, Dunblane on 23rd November 2012, Helen Black Parker, aged 95 years. Formerly of Stepps, Fairlie and Arran (Kings Cross). Wife of the late Alick, mother of Sandy and the late Gordon.

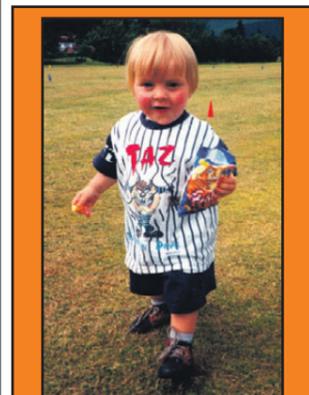
Grandmother of Lorna, Jane Elaine and Stuart. Great granny to Kirsty, Cameron, Andrew, Struan and Murray. Funeral service at Falkirk crematorium on Monday 3rd December, at 11.30am to which all are welcome.

THANK YOU

Thank you

Allan & Gwend Parkin would like to thank their friends and neighbours for all their cards and kind wishes, all very much appreciated. Best wishes to you all.

BIRTHDAY

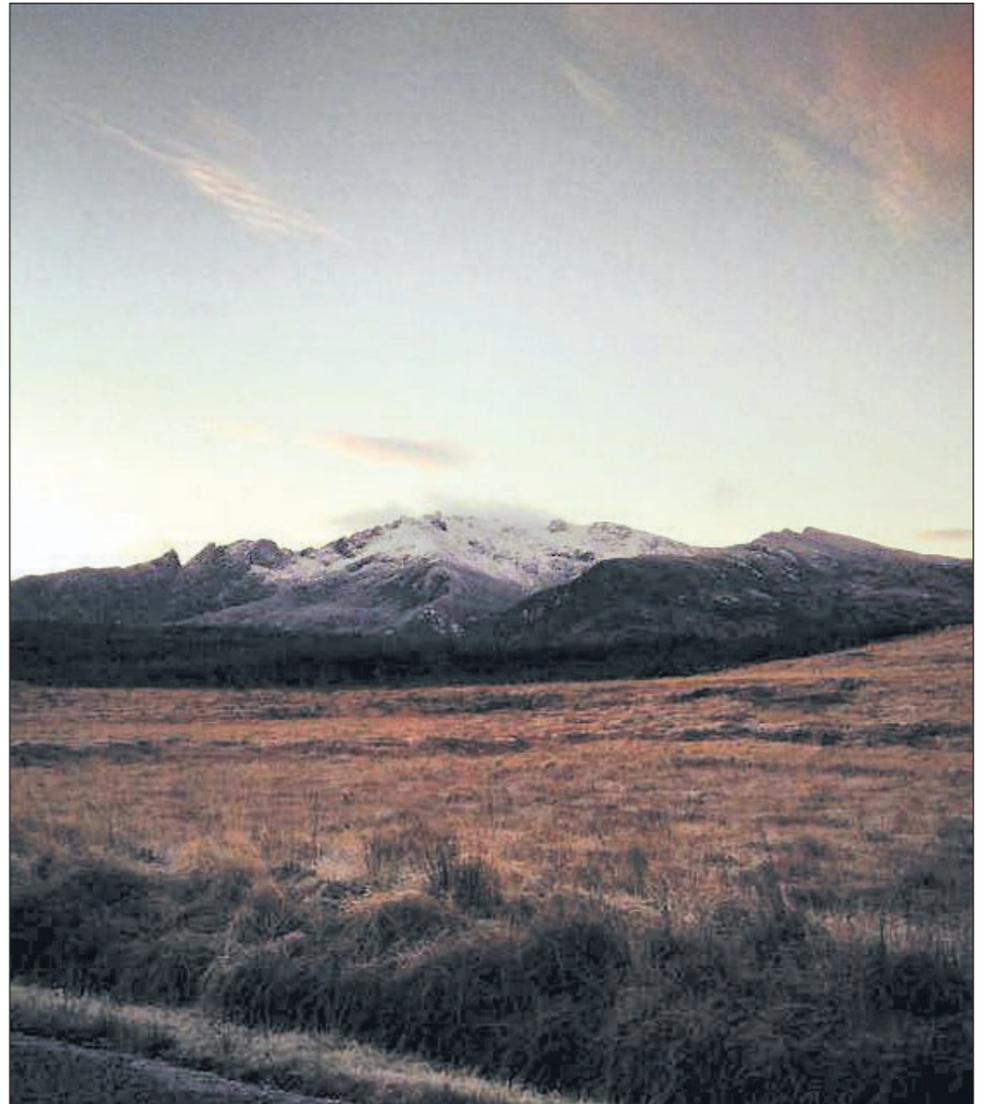


Happy 18th Birthday 'Babbies'
 Love from all your family x

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MACKENZIE, JAMES

Dad, no special day is needed for us to think of you. You are always in our hearts no matter what we do. Love June and James.



The beautiful snow encrusted Arran hills were photographed by our reporter Jenny Lyon on her way to work on Wednesday morning. As she herself said: 'It's not a bad commute to work in the morning. No traffic jams here, just deer and sheep on the roads.'

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PT1934 top pool league

The Kilmory pool team PT1934 have topped the league table this week after an 8-2 victory over Kildonan.

Whiting Bay Golf Club have been pushed into second place with six points – one less than PT1934 - and Mac's Bar are third with another six points.

The full results were: Drift Inn 5 Whiting Bay GC 5 (G), Kildonan 2 PT1934 (G), Mac's Bar (G) 6 Catacol 4.

Below are the preliminary draws for the single and doubles competitions.

Singles prelims to be played by Sunday 9 December: D Prescott (W/Bay) v M Worthington (1934) at Kildonan, J Picken (1934) v D Nicholson (Kildonan) at Whiting Bay Golf Club, G McLeod (W/Bay) v R May (Kildonan) at the PHT, K Jackson (W/Bay) v T Mulholland (1934) at Kildonan, D Head (W/Bay) v P McKinnon (Mac's) at the PHT, P Millard (Kildonan) v L Wilson (Drift) at Whiting Bay Golf Club, J Ainsworth (W/Bay) v L Little (PHT) at the Drift, J Copperwheat (Drift) v P Holmes (PHT) at Mac's and J McKechnie (W/Bay) v I Clarke (Mac's) at the Drift.

Doubles prelims to be played by Sunday 16 December: G McLeod/D Hackett (W/Bay) v L Little/D Hamilton (PHT) at the Drift, K Jackson/B Hamilton (W/Bay) v P Millard/R May (Kildonan) at the PHT, B Donlin/J McNeaney (PHT) v D Head/F Barr (W/Bay) at the Drift, J McIntosh/L Wilson (Drift) v D Smith/E Picken (1934) at the PHT, T Mulholland/S Robinson (1934) v P Holmes/K Hogg (PHT) at Whiting Bay Golf Club, A McDonald/S Kelso (W/Bay) at N McMaster/J Picken (1934) at Kildonan and I Wright/I Clarke (Mac's) v J Ainsworth/D Prescott (W/Bay) at the PHT.

All winners to phone in the result to the PHT on 600418.



Arran are geared up for this weekend's match against Millbrae RFC. 01_b48rug01

Back to business after autumn break

The Isle of Arran's senior rugby team will resume their league campaign this Saturday with a home match against Millbrae RFC.

After a four-week break for the autumn internationals, team officials told The Banner that they are fired up for the game that could help them creep up the table.

Arran's last game was on October 27 when they overwhelmed Lanark RFC 38-0.

The team were scheduled to play Jordanhill Phoenix at the beginning of November but sadly the Glasgow team were unable to raise a team and the fixture has been postponed until February 23.

After a promising start to the season in division three Arran are currently sitting in fourth place behind Uddingston RFC but both teams have 22 points.

Loch Lomond and Oban Lorne RFC are at the top of the table but with a number

of key games in the weeks running up to Christmas, it is hoped that the island's team can end the year near the top of the league.

A good result against fifth placed Millbrae this Saturday will help Arran to move up the table once again.

Please come along to the Ormidale Park at 2pm on Saturday and support the team.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Lamlash Bridge Club for Monday 26 November were:

N/S 1 Trish Martin and Alison Bilsland +4770, 2 John and Mary Dick +4680, 3 Elizabeth McConnell and Pat Adamson +2280.

E/W 1 Janie McClure and Anne McKelvie -1850, 2 Janette McBride and Eendy McNiven -2180, 3 Melvin and Ellie Jones -2270.

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