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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY 16 JANUARY, 2016 No 2046 60p

Rare moss find halts castle hydro plans

Pledge that adventure playground and walled garden revamp will still go ahead

REPORT
by **HUGH BOAG**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A rare moss could scupper plans by Brodick Castle to generate its own energy.

It is one of a series of setbacks to have hit National Trust for Scotland plans to build two micro hydro electric plants in the castle grounds, which are now under review.

Trust bosses say more work will need to be done to test the viability of the £2.7 million micro scheme following a change of circumstances, which are outwith their control, as well as the announcement of far-reaching proposals about the charity's future.

Reform

This week the trust announced significant proposals to reform its structure and generate new income, and while there will be staff losses at the trust's headquarters in Edinburgh as it tries to cut 10 per cent off running costs, bosses insist staffing levels at

individual properties won't be affected.

The trust has confirmed it is pressing ahead with plans for a major makeover of the walled garden and a new adventure playground.

Abandoned

However, it seems likely that if the hydro scheme eventually gets the go ahead, one of the proposed sites will have to be abandoned after a rare moss was found at Garbh Allt. The second site is at Corrie Burn.

Nat Edwards, the trust's assistant director (south) said: 'The financial profile we had built for the schemes has to be revisited following the UK Government's decision to change national subsidies for renewables projects. This all but removes feed-in tariffs which in turn would have offset some of our upfront development costs.'

'Given that it seems unlikely that a National Grid connection is possible before 2020, we may have to build

Continued on page 2



Arran young naturalists learn how to feed our feathered friends

Youngsters at the Young Naturalists' Club spent the day last Saturday learning how they can give our feathered friends a helping hand this winter, before making birdfeeders. The club, for six to 11-year-olds meets every second Saturday of the month at the ranger centre at Brodick Castle. 20_b03bird01



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New Homes on Arran

We have several properties nearing completion, and land also available for bespoke development

Superfast broadband is now available on the island

Householders will not be automatically connected

The first 1,400 premises in parts of Brodick, Lamash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay are now part of the new fibre optic network.

This is the start of the roll-out and more will follow in these communities and in other Arran villages in the coming months, giving superfast broadband speeds of up to 80 Mbps.

However, householders and businesses should be aware that they will not be automatically connected and need to contact their service provider who will be able to upgrade their service at extra cost.

The Banner reported in November last year that work on the first of the new fibre cabinets, which are appearing across the island, had been completed.

It is part of a £146 million investment, funded by the Scottish government, the UK government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and BT, which finally sees Arran able to enter the modern digital age.

Engineers from BT's local network business Openreach have now completed wiring up a fibre cabinet in Brodick,

three cabinets in Lamash, three in Shiskine and one in Whiting Bay, and those people who have subscribed are already able to enjoy the fastest internet speeds available on Arran. Work is currently being undertaken on cabinets in Corrie and Lochranza, which are expected to go live as soon as work is completed.

More work should start later in the year for Pirmill, Kildonan and Sliderry.

The new service is the result of two subsea cables which were successfully put in place between Blackwaterfoot and Campbeltown, and Corrie and West Kilbride at the end of 2014. In addition to these subsea cables more fibre cables have been laid across Arran to ready the network for Openreach engineers to then build the local network, which brings the services to people's homes and businesses.

Stuart Robertson, HIE's director of digital, said: 'It's great to see availability of next generation broadband arrive for the first homes in Arran and slightly ahead of schedule. More will follow soon because of the public in-

vestment. As roll-out reaches our communities it's important to stress people aren't upgraded automatically. To obtain a fibre-based service you have to order it though an internet service provider.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'I am delighted that Arran is now receiving the investment it deserves. It has been a long time coming and – initially – I had to persuade HIE to include Arran in the programme. Now that so much hard work is coming to fruition, HIE and BT are to be congratulated for bringing vital service to the island.'

'At present plans are to cover 97 per cent of the island, with an area around Machrie omitted for topographical reasons. I am pressing BT to look again at this and I have no doubt they will respond positively.'

To find out if your premises is able to be connected to the new network, prospective users can enter their postcode or telephone number on the interactive website at www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen which will indicate if the service is available, imminent or in a planned area.



Work goes on in Brodick to install the superfast broadband cables. 20_b03broadband01

Rare moss halts hydro plans at Brodick Castle

Continued from page 1

an internal grid to utilise and share power from our own hydro schemes. If we are unable to use the majority of the power we generate ourselves, doing this would mean that the trust would be characterised as a supplier under the Electricity Act and this brings onerous costs and responsibilities.

'In addition, it is now highly improbable that we can go

ahead with the specific hydro scheme proposed for Garbh Allt. This is because our vegetation survey discovered a rare form of bryophyte, or moss, in the water which is likely to result in SNH and SEPA objecting to the scheme. As a conservation charity this is something we must take very seriously, although a possibility still remains of finding some sort of mutually agreeable solution.'

The Banner first reported the plans in June 2014. Mr Edwards added: 'We are going through our financial profiling, with more screening and scoping to go though, and we will be looking at other potential options, such as involving a third party, to develop our hydro proposals.'

'Irrespective of that, we are still working up other

ideas that we hope will genuinely enhance the property as an attractive and inspiring place for visitors. These include the development of the castle's walled garden and a new large-scale play area that will be a real draw for families.'

Meanwhile, the trust is set for radical changes following a review of the 85-year-old charity led by the Board of Trustees, Chairman Sir Moir Lockhead and Chief Executive Simon Skinner.

The charity proposes to reshape itself around a number of pivotal priorities over the next three to four years. Changes to ways of working and investment in modernised administrative systems and simplified processes will, they hope, deliver estimated operational savings of around 10 per cent a year, which could be redirected to conserving heritage properties, improving visitor experiences and priority projects.

The entire programme of change would be self-funding and at the end of three years would lead to a more sustainable model. The aim would be to bring in an extra £8-10 million per annum of additional investment income for the charity thanks to these efficiency changes, more paying visitors, increased numbers of members and growing donations.

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Trying to solve the mystery of time capsule found at Glenashdale Falls

'I was intrigued when I got home, so I put my find on Facebook and the response I got was tremendous'

A man is trying to solve the mystery of a time capsule he found in Glenashdale Falls.

Keen amateur photographer Fraser Aitchison was taking photographs at the foot of the raging Whiting Bay falls this week when the capsule literally fell on him, hitting him on the shoulder.

The cylinder was covered in mud, but when he cleaned it off he realised this was no rock or lump of wood.

Indeed, it turned out to be a sealed brass tube which has

been painstakingly engraved around the whole object, some of it in English and some in a foreign European language or languages. The capsule is hollow and there are contents inside.

The capsule, which is eight inches long and one and a half inches wide, is clearly marked with the words Glenashdale Falls and has the date August 3, 2014. It then has the grid reference of one of the tributaries of the Glenashdale Burn.

Fraser, who lives in Whiting Bay, told *The Banner*: 'It was all a bit surreal. I was under the waterfall and I heard a scuffle and realised a badger had become trapped, as I tried to free it this object hit my shoulder.'

'I was intrigued when I got home, so I put my find on Facebook and the response I got was tremendous. A lot of people did a lot of work, and I am grateful to them for their help.'

Fraser now believes the

capsule was designed by a Belgian conceptual artist who he is trying to make contact with.

'I just want to find out what he wants me to do with it. I am happy to send it back to him or I will rebury it in Glenashdale Falls, as I presume he did not expect it to be found so soon.'

If anyone has any knowledge of the capsule, please get in touch with *The Banner* and we will pass on any information to Fraser.



Fraser with the time capsule he found. 20_b03capsule01



Colin with the message in a bottle which travelled all the way from Northern Ireland.

Message in a bottle is found on Arran beach

Whiting Bay residents Colin and Maggie Fraser found a message in a bottle while out walking their aunt's dog Beano on the beach at Kingscross Point.

When they got home, they opened the bottle to discover that it had been launched into the sea by a six-year-old boy from Northern Ireland on Monday October 5. Inside the bottle, the message read: 'Dear finder of my message in a bottle, my name is Adam. I am 6 years old. I have blond hair and short hair. I like to watch rugby. RSVP.'

Colin and Maggie have since written a postcard to Adam, telling him who they are and where they found his message in a bottle.

The story of Greenpeace

A film about the beginnings of Greenpeace is to be shown in Lamlash Fire Station on Wednesday January 20, at 7.30pm.

Hosted by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), the film being shown is 'How to Change the World - the beginnings of Greenpeace'. Everyone is welcome to come along to see this entertaining and inspiring film. In 1971, motivated by their vision of a green and peaceful world, a small team of activists set sail from Vancouver, Canada, in an old fishing boat.

Their mission was to 'bear witness' to US nuclear testing at Amchitka, a tiny island off the west coast of Alaska, which is one of the world's most earthquake-prone regions. Amchitka was the last refuge for 3,000 endangered sea otters, and home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other wildlife.

Even though their old boat was intercepted before it got to Amchitka, the journey sparked a flurry of public interest. The US still detonated the bomb, but the voice of reason had been heard. Nuclear testing on Amchitka ended that same year and the island was later declared a bird sanctuary.

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STILL SMILING: Ben Tattersfield and Martin Ross.



One of the teams trek through the snow on Goatfell.



Team members battle their way through a blizzard.



Nicol Hume and Darryl Urquhart-Dixon with rescue dog Ruby battle their way through thick snow.



One of the team checks their position with the summit in the background.

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Nicol Hume and Darryl Urquhart-



Ideal training conditions for mountain rescue team

Pictures by Lucy Wallace and Kirstie Smith

Winter has officially reached the Arran mountains, as these pictures show.

But for the brave members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team it represented a good training challenge.

The first training exercise of 2016, which took place last Sunday, was a ridge walk and navigation exercise which involved two groups of team members setting off from different locations. One started in Glen Rosa and the other at the Goatfell deer fence, meeting up in the middle at North Goatfell before both groups headed back down via Coire Lan.

The deer fence group went to the summit of Goatfell then on and around Stacach ridge, while the other group took on The Saddle and North Goatfell.

One of the team said: 'It was a great day's training in some wild conditions.'



The depth of the snow can clearly be seen by these footsteps.



A team make their way up Goatfell.



Dixon with rescue dog Ruby.

Nominations closing for Scottish Youth Parliament by-election

Time is running out for young people to make their voices heard on the national stage.

North Ayrshire Council is looking for potential candidates to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs), by standing in the Cunninghame North by-election next month.

But the deadline for nominations closes today (Friday) and anyone interested in putting themselves forward is urged to act quickly.

Anyone aged 14-25 living within the constituency, which covers Arran, is eligible to stand for the by-election. Two members will be elected to represent Cunninghame North.

The voting will take place from February 1 to February 5 with the two successful candidates then representing Cunninghame North until March 2017.

The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically-elected voice of Scotland's

young people and members are committed to ensuring young people are heard by the decision makers.

MSYPs identify the views of young people from North Ayrshire and take these issues to the Scottish Youth Parliament to ensure the voices of young people are heard nationally.

Young people will be expected to meet up with the other three MSYPs from North Ayrshire monthly for one evening or afternoon to discuss what they have been doing in their role as an MSYP.

There are also four MSYP sittings on the Executive Committee of North Ayrshire Youth Council (once every four weeks) and attending Cabinet meetings that take place four times a year during school time, as well as attending the full Youth Council three times a year.

Becoming an MSYP allows young people to travel around

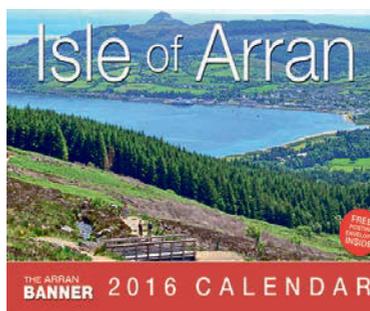
Scotland, meet new people, campaign for issues that matter to them, increase self-confidence, learn new skills and enhance their CV. On average, it will take up about five hours per week attending meetings and consulting with local young people.

Anyone interested in standing for the by-election should contact Donna Anderson on danderson@north-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than Friday, January 15. Arrangements will then be made to meet all candidates the following week and complete their manifestos before the election in early February. Following an online vote, results will be announced on the evening on Friday February 5.

Christmas draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club Christmas draw were: 1st prize Jane Gillespie, 2nd prize Tom Doig, 3rd prize Mary Johnson.

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Cycle challenge to raise funds for new hospice

The first of a series of fundraising events in 2016 to build a new Scottish hospice will be a challenge cycle round Arran.

The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in Glasgow is raising funds to build a new £21 million hospice at Bellahouston Park with a series of fundraising events, the first of which will be the Arran Cycle Challenge.

Starting from Brodick, the cycle on Saturday June 4 will allow participants the choice of a 55-mile circular route around Arran or a figure of eight route using the String road. Following on from the Arran Cycle challenge will be the Three Lochs Way on Saturday June 11, which is a 34-mile hike taking in Loch

Long, Gareloch and Loch Lomond.

The foundation work on the new site, which was donated by the Glasgow City Council, will begin in June. The old building, based in Carlton Place, has become too small and outdated. The new purpose-built, larger and more modern building will allow the hospice to include young people in its care plan for the first time and to provide modern home-style comfort for patients and their families.

Rhona Baillie, chief executive of the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, said: 'Our new hospice will be a major step forward in the provision of palliative care in Glasgow. We work with more than 1,200 patients and families every

year, offering individualised, person-centred and family-focused care. Working in partnership, we ensure compassionate care is co-produced with patients and families and only after careful discussion to choose the most appropriate way to look after patients.' To take part in any of the challenges, contact Caroline Watson on 0141 429 5599 or

email caroline.m.watson@ppwh.org.uk. To donate to the Prince and Princess of Wales Brick by Brick Appeal, visit <https://donate.ppwh.org.uk/give.aspx>



Brodick pupils are put through their jump routines.

Skipping fever helps Brodick pupils raise charity cash

Last month the P6 and 7 pupils of Brodick Primary school held a 'Jump Off' event at the school to which parents and fellow pupils were invited.

They had been training for the event throughout the term, learning skipping techniques and creating their own skipping routines. The event was held to raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and involved the pupils learning about the work of the BHF and the cardiovascular benefits of skipping.

The 25 pupils in the class managed to raise a terrific £818, which was divided between the BHF and the school, with the school keeping 20 per cent of the total.

The pupils hope to purchase more playground equipment with their money to further promote fun physical activity. The BHF will receive 80 per cent to help fund its life-saving work.

The most heartening outcome of all is the impact the

'Jump Off' has had on the rest of the pupils in the school as everyone is skipping.

The staff and children of P6/7 would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported them and helped to make their Jump Off event such a success.



Ayrshire carers encouraged to apply for short break funding

The first deadline for applications for a £100,000 fund for the carers of autistic adults is approaching and carers in Ayrshire and Arran are being encouraged to apply now.

The autism short breaks project, delivered by the National Autistic Society Scotland, Autism Initiatives and Scottish Autism, has been set up to help the carers of autistic adults to have fun, relax and take a much-needed break from their caring roles.

Carers in Ayrshire can apply for the funding from the Autism Short Breaks Project before Friday January 22 by visiting autismshortbreaks.org.uk. Grants of up to £300 are available and the leading autism charities want carers to be indulgent, adventurous and creative when planning their short break.

Jenny Paterson, director of the National Autistic Society Scotland, said: 'It's not possible to look after someone else if you're not looking after yourself, that's why short breaks for carers are so important. We support amazing individuals who start their day at 7am by washing and dressing the person they care for, and get to bed after midnight. They don't have a lot of time to themselves, so we want to make sure the breaks they do have are really special.'

Funding for the autism short breaks project comes from the creative breaks fund and is provided by the Scottish Government. In total, the programme has awarded just under £1million to 68 projects from Orkney to the Scottish Borders, which will collectively benefit more than 4,000 carers and their families.

Autism short breaks project funding applies to families and carers of an adult with autism (over 16 years of age). The carer may be someone under the age of 16. To find out more and make an application, please visit autismshortbreaks.org.uk

Friends of Brodick Castle meeting

The January meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle will take place on Wednesday January 20 in the castle tea-room at 2.30pm.

The speaker on the day will be Terry Southall who will give a talk on bird migration.

All members and new friends are welcome.

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Drama event for Brodick

Teenagers with an interest in drama are in for a treat next month.

Gallery 37, a free creative arts programme for 14 to 19-year-olds is coming to Arran. Co-ordinated by Impact Arts Ayrshire, and led by professional artists, those attending can learn new skills in film, animation, performance and much more.

Young people can attend on a drop-in basis if they would like to come for part of a session and try out some new activities. The sessions will run on the following dates and times: Friday, February 5, St Brides Church Hall, Brodick from 7pm to 9pm; Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7, Brodick Hall from 11am to 4pm, followed by a celebration showcase from 4pm to 5pm.

For further information contact Impact Arts Ayrshire on: 01294 273051 or email mail@impactarts.co.uk

Got a story for The Arran Banner?
Call 01770 302142

Musical donations sought for Ugandan charity trip

A brother and sister team are urging Arran residents to donate craft items and musical instruments which they will take to Uganda.

Lucy Cartledge and her brother Lionel are going on a two-week mission to Kititi next month, where they hope to teach locals life skills to survive and prosper in the war-ravaged country. They will be teaching craft and music skills to the woman and children as part of the Planting for Hope Uganda charity.

The UK-based charity works in Kititi, a small bush village in south east Uganda that is desperately poor and lacks any access to employment, education or medical care. The charity has recently bought a school and has placed some sponsored children into education, as well as teaching some basic farming skills to a co-operative of women.

Lucy, a retired music teacher who lives in Cordon, Lamlash, is also hoping to work with the chil-

dren of the village using music. Any musical instruments that are donated will be left at the school in Kititi for anyone interested in learning music.

Lucy is looking for simple instruments such as tin whistles, recorders and the likes.

One of the aims of the charity Planting for Hope is to teach crafts and trades to the villagers so they can earn an income and support themselves.

Donations of craft items such as paper, glue, fabric, card and related items will be very useful in helping the residents start a new enterprise that will help them earn a potential income.

If you are able to donate any craft items or musical instruments, Lucy can be contacted on 01770 600416 or she can be emailed on lucy.cartledge@virgin.net. If you are able to make a cash donation her JustGiving page is at www.justgiving.com/skillsforkititi-2015



Lucy Cartledge who is looking for musical instruments to take to Uganda. 02_b02uganda01

Entries open for music festival

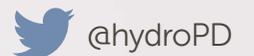
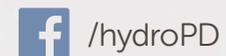
This year's Arran Music Festival will take place in the Lamlash Community Theatre on Wednesday February 24 until Friday February 26.

The syllabus has been emailed to all schools so those interested should contact the school to obtain copy. A limited amount are also available in the Book and Card Centre in Brodick and the Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot.

Closing date for entries is Friday January 22 and anyone with questions should contact Donna Gold or Lorna Buchanan. Donna is also happy to email a copy of the syllabus on request.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Lights out for energy plan

So a bold plan by Brodick Castle to generate their own electricity and sell the rest to raise much needed cash has hit the buffers.

Which is a shame as it seemed as if the two micro hydro plants, which would use the plentiful water supply running off Goatfell, was a renewable energy scheme everyone could get behind.

Sadly, a rare moss – understood to be less than the size of a dinner plate – could stop half of the scheme in its tracks.

The National Trust for Scotland says that the government has also effectively moved the goalposts since the scheme was first mooted by removing feed-in tariffs which would have offset some of the upfront costs.

The scheme is not dead. Indeed the trust says it is looking at other potential options, such as involving a third party, although who that would be is not entirely clear.

It also says it may be able to agree some sort of 'mutually agreeable solution' to the moss problem at Garbh Allt. But with both Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) against it, we will not hold our breath.

But in a week when the trust announced a radical review of the way the charity is run, it was heartening to receive confirmation that it is still committed to other developments, which are part and parcel of the Brodick Castle Signature Project.

The castle urgently needs to bring in more money and the adventure playground planned, along with the first major makeover of the walled garden in more than 50 years, gives castle bosses something positive to look forward to in 2016.

The charity say that while it is looking to make 10 per cent savings a year, with headquarter jobs to go in the restructuring, individual properties such as Brodick will not see any staffing cuts.

Clearly there are challenging months and years ahead for the National Trust for Scotland and for Brodick Castle, but I think we would all agree. It is an island treasure which must be preserved at all cost.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

press policy

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Letters to the Editor



Council should be responsible for flood defence

Sir,

I refer to the front page of last week's Banner which asked the question: 'What now for the Fisherman's Walk'?

As I write this letter I am watching members of Brodick Golf Club repairing the turf dyke that runs north to south between the Cloy and Rosa Burns.

The North Ayrshire Council officials and their consultants ordered the removal of sand from part of the beach to fill bags to place around the site of the old coup to prevent it leaking into the sea. This action, which they were warned against, resulted in that part of the beach rapidly eroding.

The turf dyke is the now the last line of defence in preventing the sea not only covering the golf course but submerging the road, the A841, and flooding the adjacent houses.

The problem could be alleviated by strengthening the dyke and raising the height, and as the council was responsible for the path known as the Fisherman's Walk being washed away will the council please now take action. It could be redirected along the top of the improved turf dyke.

Surely the council can't allow a community golf club to be responsible for the flood defence for a significant part of Brodick village. Yours,

Lindsay Keir
Brodick

Wildlife fears

Sir,

Because of the kindly worded 'tight scheduled set' to lodge views on the proposed wind turbines on Holy Isle, it has compelled me to write further to my previous letter of December 19, 2015.

Naturally, I was very pleased to learn that the Arran Community Council are strongly against the development on the Holy Isle and submitted a lengthy objection against the plans. They will



The repaired turf bank which was breached during the recent storms. 20_b03letters01

do a splendid, unyielding job, to support the Arran residents and thousands of friends and regular visitors who see this development as totally wrong and mainly as a financial gain for other people worldwide. The Arran Banner is an excellent paper which is produced very professionally. If it wasn't for the paper many people around the world would not be aware of issues close to their heart.

You can read an American survey that wind turbines are slaughtering millions of birds and bats to the tune of about 30 million birds and 50 million bats per year. Other countries throughout the world like Germany, Spain, Scotland etc have equally disturbing turbine bird and bat slaughter figures; endangering their very existence.

Is the Rokpa Trust aware or care about adding to the destruction of wildlife? The monks have strong ethics and it is enlightening and surprising to read their Ten Precepts and 5 Golden Rules - the first of which is 'Refrain from killing creatures' and the last 'Refrain from accepting money'.

How could anyone sleep on the Holy Isle with ecological death traps on their doorstep?

Yours,
Edward Jackson
Glasgow

Charity thanks

Sir,

Could I please use your columns to say a big thank you to everyone who donated to

the Christmas lights appeal at my house this year. A total of £100 was raised and a cheque for that amount has been forwarded to the charity Get Kids Going, where it will be put to good use.

Yours,
Bernie Jackson
Whiting Bay

Tackling loneliness

Sir,

It is fantastic news that the Scottish Government is taking the issue of loneliness seriously. It is a blight on our society and has far-reaching impacts on physical and mental health to individuals, as well as significant knock-on effects to health and social work departments throughout Scotland.

While this is an issue facing all age groups, it is particularly prevalent among our older population. With people living longer and families living increasingly global lifestyles, many older people can go many days, indeed weeks, without seeing or speaking to another individual.

It is incredibly sad to think of someone in their later years simply existing day to day and not having the opportunity to enjoy their life. This is only set to become more of an issue in the years to come with the number of over-65s set to rocket.

The Holyrood Equal Opportunities Committee concluded loneliness is as damaging to health as poverty and poor housing, and called for a national strategy and publicity

campaign to combat it. For such a deep-rooted and significant issue, it is vital that these discussions turn into action sooner rather than later.

While talks of a national strategy are at an early stage, it is important to recognise the direct, local and simple things that can be done that have an overwhelmingly resounding impact on the lives of people suffering from social isolation.

Charities such as ours play a vital role in re-engaging older people in society and help them live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

Our network of more than 1,000 volunteers in Scotland allow almost 800 older people from the Borders to the Highlands, as well as on Arran, to make friends and enjoy afternoons out of the house at a time when they would otherwise have nowhere to go and no-one to see.

Our free Sunday monthly afternoon teas work on a very simple premise but the older people who attend them have told us time and time again how important they are in their lives.

To keep supporting these people, and to reach out to more older people in need throughout the country, we need more people to give up a small amount of time to make an immeasurable difference.

Yours,
Valerie Crookston
Scotland Executive
Officer Contact
the Elderly

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Caledonian Isles should be ship shape on her return

Passengers should see the MV Caledonian Isles looking ship shape when she resumes service later this month or in early February.

The ferry is currently undergoing her annual refit and is sitting on blocks at Dales Marine Services in Leith docks.

Major overhaul

Over the next few weeks the 22-year-old vessel will undergo a major overhaul, some of it cosmetic, but the reminder to ensure a trouble free 12 months of service.

Her life-rafts and Marine Evacuation System have

been removed and have been sent to the manufacturer for annual service.

The worn and damaged passenger seating is being removed and will be sent for recovering. The after-bow thruster engine fuel pump and governor have been landed for full servicing by the manufacturer.

There will be a high pressure fresh water wash of the hull which will then be repainted along with the funnels. There will also be an inspection below the waterline to see if any repairs are re-

quired. All the ramps will be serviced and the engine room machinery, due for servicing, will be refurbished.

All fire fighting and safety systems will be serviced and thoroughly tested. Every electrical circuit on the vessel will be tested to ensure that it is safe to use. One of four alternators will be completely stripped down for a full overhaul, as part of a running programme that sees every alternator overhauled in four years.

All of the vessel navigation equipment will be serviced again to ensure a year of trouble-free operation. As part of the essential vehicle ramp maintenance the hydraulic cylinders will be dismantled and inspected and serviced as necessary.

Refurbished

The passenger lounges will be refurbished with the older carpets and flooring being replaced, and where there are damaged tiles, these will be removed and replaced. All of the catering equipment, from the galley oven to the bean-to-cup coffee machine will be serviced and repaired if required. Curtains will be



Hydraulic cylinders will be inspected and serviced on the vehicle ramp.



MV Caledonian Isles at Leith dock for her annual refit.

either dry cleaned and then treated with a special fire retardant chemical or, if older, replaced.

After the completion of all repairs, the systems are tested

at the dock, then the vessel is cleaned before going onto sea trials and resuming service.

The MV Hebrides has been drafted in for the second time to cover the Ardr-

san-to-Brodick ferry route while the MV Caledonian Isles is away for her refit.

The ferry usually operates from Skye on the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert triangle.



The little auk which was rescued on Arran.



New ranger volunteer Jackie Kemp. 20_b03auk02

Jackie comes to the rescue of little auk

The newest volunteer of the Arran Ranger Service has undertaken his first wildlife rescue mission.

Jackie Kemp, who is now a full-time volunteer at Brodick Country Park, helped rescue a storm-battered little auk. He then took over on the ferry to Ardrossan where it was picked up by the Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue service in Beith, where it is recovering well.

The small seabird, which is the size of a starling, was found last Friday on the coastal path at the north end of island by two local ladies who carried it to safety in their rucksack. It was probably blown inland by the strong east winds.



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Pupils were determined to have fun despite the weather.



A valuable lesson that bicycles and deep mud do not mix well.



The windswept pupils reach the cairn on Clauchlands Hill.

A wet, windswept week at Arran o

Report by Brian J Donlin
That time of year has come round again when Arran High School gives its S1 students the fabulous opportunity to visit the Arran Outdoor Education Centre for a week of adventure.

Held last month, this would prove to be a week like no other, as the group not only had to contend with the thrilling activities that were put on by the wonderful staff at the outdoor centre but some 'inclement' weather to boot!

The week started with a day of team games and challenges

around Clauchlands Hill with the pupils tasked with escaping a deadly spider – who may, or may not, have been Shelob of *Lord of the Rings* fame. They had to erect shelters to survive the elements, and start fires to stave off the cold and wet. This admittedly was the greatest challenge of the three.

For the next three days the S1's undertook three separate activities each designed to afford them not only the chance to challenge themselves but to discover more about the island they call home.

Groups were given the

chance to do a day's mountain biking on the trails around Brodick and Clauchlands Hill, an activity full of smiling fac-



Pupils enjoy the views over L...

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Getting geared up for action.



A pupil approaches an incline on the mountain bike trail.

Not yet wonderful outdoor centre

es, notably more smiling faces on downhill sections, despite the weather!

They could also opt for an



Whiting Bay and Holy Isle.

'Adventure Day,' the mysterious name designed to excite and enthral the pupils. Each of the groups of youngsters got to work with an instructor to select an adventure they would like to undertake. Activities ranged from abseiling, climbing, exploring the new path work at Drumadoon and Kings Cave. All resulted in the pupils achieving the outcome of the week and testing themselves and discovering new things about Arran.

The children could also work on the Land Initiative Project, helping to raise fencing to pro-

tect the new orchard – those trees will provide a lasting memory of the work the pupils have carried out.

To wrap the week up, a wonderful, but very wet and windy, night was spent at cloud base, sharing stories and jokes and enjoying a night 'away from it all' in the wilderness above Whiting Bay.

However, Friday had to come and the group offered its warmest thanks to the wonderful team at the outdoor centre and returned home tired but full of stories and memories of a week well spent.



Pupils help to drive in poles at the new orchard in Whiting Bay.

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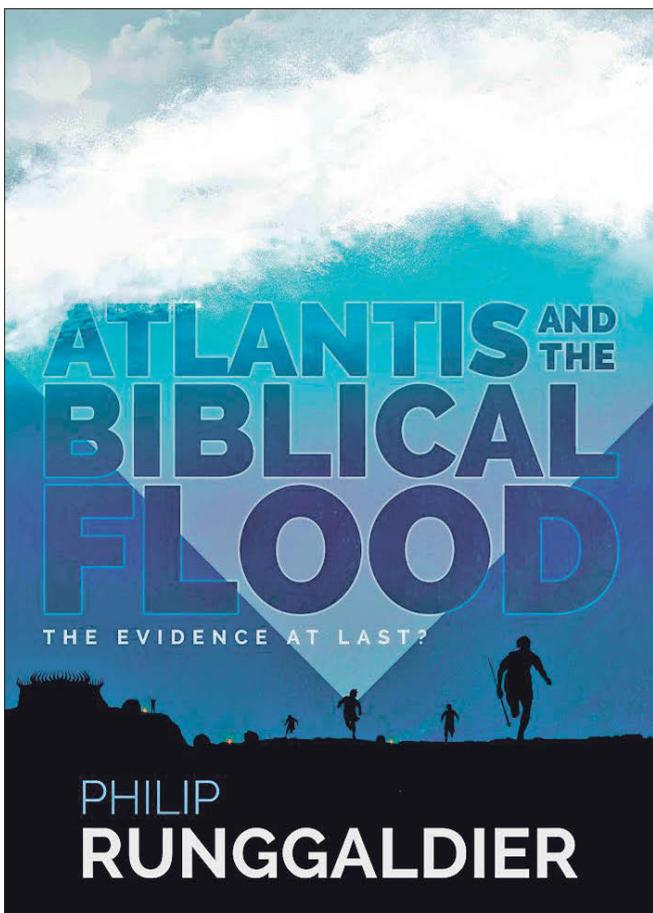
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Atlantis, Arran and the biblical flood



The cover of one of the e-books published about the great flood.

Author investigates ancient local legend

An author has published a series of three e-books outlining his research into the causes of the great biblical flood and how it would have affected Arran and its Ice-Age inhabitants.

In his books, Philip Runggaldier, an author and geography graduate with an interest in ancient texts, presents his evidence for a great flood happening more than 15,500 years ago that saw the demise of 75 per cent of western British and Irish people in the space of a day and a half.

According to Philip an Arran local legend tells the story that ancient sea god Mananan was able to row his boat right up to his fort on the flat basin of Glen Cloy, which he believes can now be shown to be based on fact.

His evidence shows that 15,000 years ago, towards

the end of the last Ice Age, a huge glacial lake had formed within the Irish Sea Basin that was 10 to 15m (33 to 50ft) above current Irish Sea levels. The lake was known as Llyn Llion, 'the lake of floods', and was high enough to inundate much of lowland Arran and allowed boats to land upon Glen Cloy.

Not long after, around 14,500 years ago, the lake burst southwards, causing a mega-deluge that killed many of the Stone Age inhabitants of west Wales, the West Country and southeast Ireland. Philip claims the deluge is thought to have been the source of the biblical flood.

In a separate novel called *Forgotten Atlantis*, which is described as 'Stone Age fiction, but based on new factual evidence and ancient manuscripts', the author, who lives



Author Philip Runggaldier.

in Wiltshire, explores the story of how Ice Age man entered Britain 45,000 years ago and joined together on a dry Celtic shelf that he believes fits the description of Atlantis.

In a third e-book called *Llyn Llion*, Philip presents his hypothesis on the large glacial lake responsible for the great flood, which he says is sure

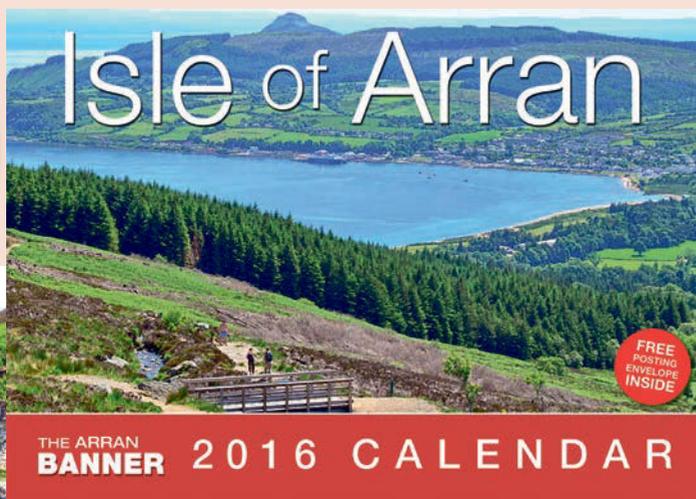
to 'alter our perception of the last ice age and of the nature, culture and accomplishments of our early ice age ancestors'.

The three e-books are available from iBooks, amazon-kindle store and from the author himself, whose website can be found at www.philip-runggaldier.co.uk/

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Iain Johnston MBE - 27 June 1933 to 10 December 2015

Auchrannie's Iain was one of life's true gentlemen

Many tributes have been paid over the past few weeks to Iain Johnston. He was an inspirational visionary whose lasting legacy is the Auchrannie Spa Resort, but perhaps his greatest accolade is to be remembered as one of life's true gentlemen who enriched the lives of those around him.

His life began in the simple surroundings of a council house in the Knightswood area of Glasgow on June 27, 1933.

However, he spent most of his upbringing and a significant part of his life in the south side of the city, moving just shortly before the war to a fourth-floor tenement in Shawlands. The Johnston family survived one very near miss when a German bomb landed a mere 200 yards further down the street and, due to the disruption, Iain and older brother Forbes received an unusual primary education in various parents' houses around the Shawlands area with the older pupils teaching the younger ones.

Perhaps as a direct result of the near miss, at the height of the Glasgow blitz, the Johnston family moved to nearby Langside, where Iain, much against his will, was sent to piano lessons, which he loathed, being much more interested in playing football with his pals.

With money fairly tight at home, Iain completed his education at Shawlands Academy, and left at 15 to look for a job, having gained a fourth year school leaving certificate.

Working life

An elderly relative suggested the bank might provide a good steady career. And so Iain began his working life at 16 with the Union Bank of Scotland in their Mont Florida branch for the princely sum of £100 a year less deductions.

At least the branch was a mere stone's throw from Hampden Park, home to his beloved Queen's Park Football Club, whom Iain followed religiously on a Saturday afternoon, his geography of Scotland informed by a first-hand knowledge of pret-

ty much every lower league football ground the length and breadth of the country. Iain didn't particularly enjoy the bank at Mount Florida, his superiors kept him on a tight rein and he had to study in his own time for his banking exams, which he duly completed. However, all this firm grounding in financial matters was in later years to stand him in good stead.

National service

At 18 Iain completed his two years national service in the RAF, stationed at Dyce near Aberdeen, before returning to the bank and was posted to the Foreign Department in St Vincent Street, Glasgow. He then decided to sit his entrance exams for the civil service, which he duly passed and spent several years working for Customs and Excise in various parts of the UK, before being posted back to Glasgow and appointed to control the bonded warehouse in Glasgow run by Long John Distillers. As his father had died some years before it was good timing to return and be at home for his mother.

A colleague suggested he might get involved in property and over the next few years in his spare time Iain bought and improved properties, hands-on, painting, papering and plastering and built up a fairly extensive property portfolio.

At weekends much time was also spent on Arran, which had been the Johnston family holiday destination since childhood, visiting Forbes and Eileen who had bought the Harbour Shop in Black-

waterfoot. A chance remark by the late Lawrence Crawford was about to change his destiny. 'When are you putting your offer in, Iain?' he asked, referring to the Post Office and licenced grocers in Blackwaterfoot, which had just come on the market. A 'crazy idea' was his first reaction. But with his mum at the time terminally ill, indeed dying a short while later, Iain didn't relish the prospect of living alone in Glasgow and began to think being nearer to family might be a good thing.

His career going no-where fast, having turned down promotion at work several times because it meant relocating to London, Iain duly handed in his notice with the Customs and Excise and moved to Blackwaterfoot in 1978.

Brilliance

For the next five years, with the help of Mary Hamilton and Janette MacAlister and latterly Forbes, he ran the Post Office and shop. Iain enjoyed life on Arran and also along with Forbes was instrumental in forming the Arran Gilbert & Sullivan Society, where thanks to those much loathed boyhood piano lessons, his brilliance as an accompanist were greatly appreciated.

In 1983 the shop was sold and Iain had the intention of taking life a little easier, when again someone suggested he should consider taking up the vacant post of Island Tourist Officer. He applied and to his surprise was duly appointed and spent 18 months in the post.

One of his concerns was that Arran, being very much

a weather dependent destination, didn't have much in the way of wet weather facilities for its holiday makers and he mooted the idea of building a new swimming pool, which at the time caused quite a stir in *The Banner* letters page.

Again not wishing to be idle with Forbes he purchased part of Pelegrini's Cafe in Brodick and turned it into a stationer's and bookshop. Tragically the very day the offer was submitted Forbes died very suddenly.

Best friend

A truly terrible blow for Iain, as not only was Forbes his closest relative, but his best friend. However, bravely with sister-in-law Eileen, Iain decided to go ahead and with nephews Gordon and Alan having just completed business studies and keen to get involved, the Book & Card Centre became a reality.

With the boys at the helm, Iain soon found time to think about another project. He didn't have to wait long. The Auchrannie Hotel came on the market. With Ronnie Mann a fellow Tourist Board Committee member, and owner of the Whiting Bay Hotel, then on the market, Iain set about planning development of Auchrannie.

Ronnie's hotel experience and accountancy background coupled with Ian's business acumen was to prove a brilliant combination. Here was Iain's opportunity to put his money where his mouth was and promote not only better wet weather facilities for the island but, despite its unpredictable climate, promote Arran as an all-year round holiday destination.

It goes without saying, that a huge part of the success of Auchrannie since its purchase in 1988, transformed from a small relatively unknown 12 bedroom hotel, with the addition of the subsequent spa development in 2001, to become now a first class, if not world class resort, was also due to the drive and sheer hard work put in by Linda.

It is no coincidence that Iain and Linda had first met and married in 1986 when Linda was the local High School PE



Iain Johnston MBE.

teacher also with a desire to provide indoor sport facilities and a second swimming pool for the health and well-being of island youngsters. Their marriage may not have endured, but testimony to the affection and respect they had for each other, they remained friends as well as business partners and indeed, extremely close next door neighbours.

Of course both Iain and Linda would be the first to stress the Auchrannie success story is down to thousands of people who have given much and at least a dozen others who were and are pivotal in maintaining its success.

Since 2010, due to ill health, Iain had to take a much more back seat role in the continuing development and success story that is Auchrannie Spa Resort. However as Linda says he remained keenly interested with all the goings on and always wanted to be informed 'when they were about to spend lots of money'.

Zest for life

Iain, despite poor health and failing mobility maintained a tremendous zest for life and still enjoyed travelling, holidaying abroad latterly with Eileen, continuing to enjoy experiencing new places and cultures. Sadly Iain's last major holiday was with Alan to Palma some three years ago. It was quite an undertaking and extremely brave on Alan's part. But with the help of a hired electric buggy to get around, it was just possible.

Family remained the most

important part of Iain's life and he greatly appreciated all the support they willingly gave. He hated having to go into hospital and his main priority to be able remain at home and thanks to an amazingly dedicated team of carers, Mhairi, Alison, Martin, Linda and Isobel amongst others, Iain was from then on able to do so.

To his nearest and dearest he could occasionally be described as a 'stubborn old git', whilst always managing to remain utterly charming at the same time.

Legacy

He leaves behind a great deal in the way of achievements to the good of this island. His legacy will perhaps in due course be, to be remembered as the man whose vision and foresight gave us Auchrannie and changed the perception of Arran as a modern tourist destination forever. Someone honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with a well deserved MBE for his services to tourism.

The depth of respect for Iain was perhaps best seen by the hundreds who turned out for a celebratory memorial service held at Auchrannie in the days before Christmas.

There the Rev Angus Adamson told the congregation: 'First and foremost Iain will be remembered as one of life's true gentlemen in every sense of that term. Personally it was a joy and privilege to have known him, and I'm pretty sure you all feel that too, for I'm sure he enriched each of our lives for the better.'



Iain outside the newly completed spa resort in 2001.

Long wait ends with sight of grey phalarope after 27 years

The weather in December was characterised by regular, sometimes storm force Atlantic fronts sweeping across the island. It was wet and unsettled with only an occasional dry frosty day. The rainfall

was similar to December last year but this year the mean temperature was some two degrees warmer than last year.

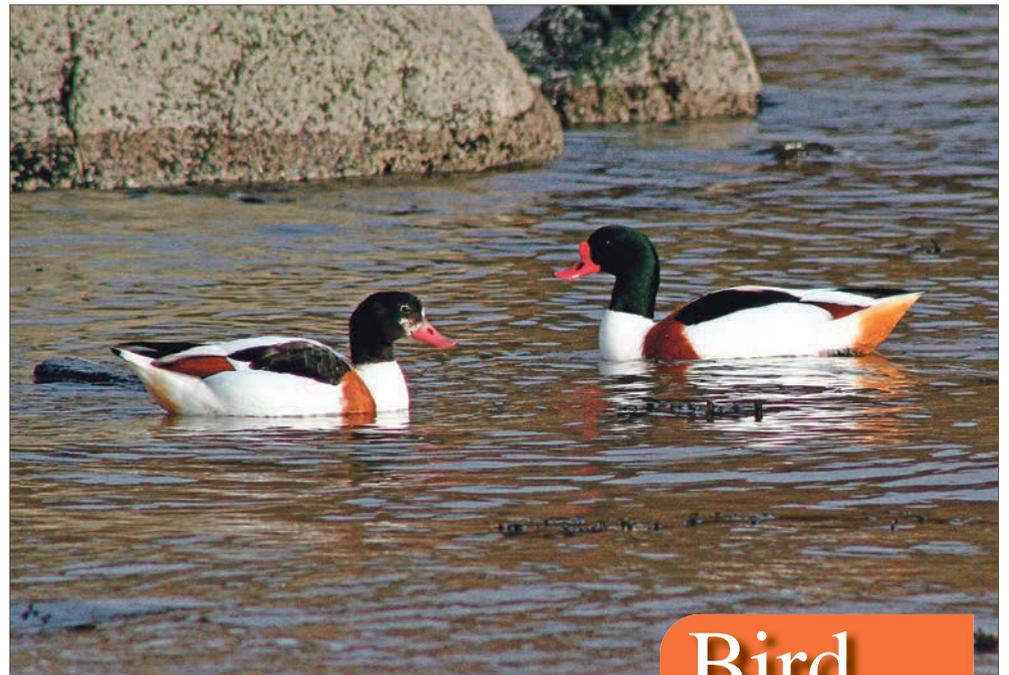
This unsettled weather was almost certainly responsible

for the grey phalarope feeding in a sheltered inlet on Kildonan shore on the 6th. This Arctic breeding species, which spends the winter off the coast of South America, had been driven into the Firth of Clyde by the storms. This is the first Arran record of this species since 1989. The weather may also have been responsible for the eight fulmar on Drumadoon cliff on 12th. These are oceanic birds in the winter time, returning to the cliffs to breed in the spring. Also this month there were reports of hundreds of gulls along the west coast. For example the mixed flock of herring gull, common gull, black-headed gull and kittiwake at Kilpatrick on 2nd was estimated at over 300.

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: a long staying white-fronted goose in Slidery; 65 wigeon on Cleats Shore on 2nd, 80 teal at Kilpatrick Point on 12th, 286 greylag geese in Shiskine



The storm driven grey phalarope on Arran in December, the first record since 1989. Photo: Chris Southall



Shelduck returning after their autumn moult.

Photo Angela Cassels

on 13th, 25 pink-footed geese in Shiskine on 20th, 13 whooper swan at Sandbraes on 25th and two goldeneye at Merkland Point on 27th.

Other reports of winter visitors included: on the 2nd seven twite on Cleats Shore, five yellowhammer in Slidery and nine fieldfare in Kildonan; a brambling in Slidery on 4th; five purple sandpipers in Kildonan on 15th and a greenshank at Clauchlands on 22nd. Groups of wintering birds included: 28 turnstone in Kildonan on 6th, 12 great northern diver and 16 black-throated diver at Cosyden on 13th, 82 oystercatcher and 37 curlew at Clauchlands on 22nd, 14 redshank in Whiting Bay on 27th and 71 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 29th.

Safe refuge

Gardens provided a safe refuge for some birds and among the more unusual records received were: a stunning male yellowhammer in Shiskine on 9th, six long-tailed tit in Lamlash on 10th, a male blackcap in Margnaghlish on 21st and two great spotted woodpecker in Lamlash on 30th.

Other interesting records this month included: a moorhen at Corriecravie on 1st, a dunlin at Kildonan on 13th, a jack snipe at Hazelburn on 14th, a merlin at Kildonan on 23rd, two goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 27th, two lesser black-backed gull at Kildonan also on 27th and a gannet in Whiting Bay on 31st. Both these last two species are normally far to the south at this time of year.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

DECEMBER

Despite the unsettled weather there were signs of normal bird activity. After their autumn absence for their post-breeding moult, shelduck returned to the island, first to Cleats Shore on 2nd, to Kildonan on 12th and to Clauchlands on 29th. In addition, there were reports of courting red-breasted merganser including in Cosyden on 13th.

Finally, here is a date for your diary: the weekend of Saturday, January 30 and Sunday, January 31 for the Big Garden Birdwatch. That weekend stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species. Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK and over 30 on Arran

took part in this valuable exercise. For more information or to get the form, visit the RSPB website Big Garden Birdwatch <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/> or phone 01767 680551.

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 jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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Purple sandpiper are well camouflaged regular winter visitors. Photo: Brian Couper

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 20 January, 1996

Electric shocks

Residents in four houses at Ladeside, Shiskine found they were getting electric shocks from the oddest of places in their homes this week. Taps, household appliances, metal objects. Even when the electricity was switched off at the mains they were still getting electrical shocks. With the electricity off it was found that there was still a charge of 15 volts. Assuming an earth leakage somewhere the Hydro Board called in Ronnie Haggarty to make an immediate search in view of the urgency.

Castle resignation

Mrs Olive Raymond, administrator of Brodick Castle, is to retire before the start of the 1996 season. It is believed that Mrs Raymond will leave the island after her spell at Brodick Castle ends following her long employment as the Castle Administrator since August 1989.

Maiden speech

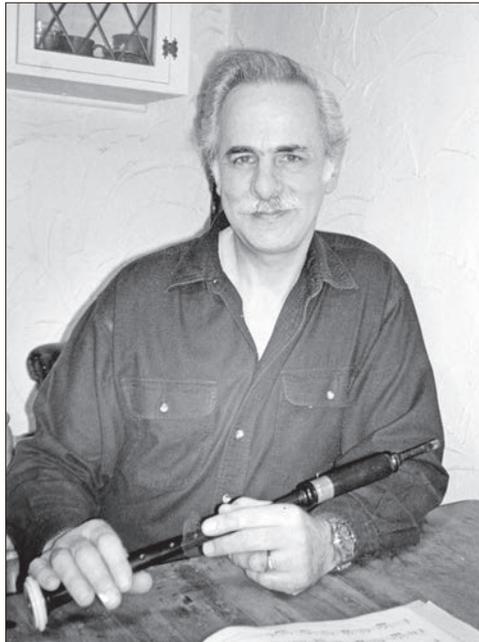
Making his maiden speech in the House of Lords last week was the new Lord Advocate, Lord MacKay of Drumadoon. Brought up in Edinburgh and still living there, Donald MacKay holidayed when young at Blackwaterfoot and now owns a cottage in Lamlash. Thus the choice of an Arran name for his title.



The Burlington Hotel, for too long an eyesore in Whiting Bay, has finally found new owners. John and Doreen Lamont are no strangers to Arran having spent most summers at their home in Dippen over the past 13 years. After extensive refurbishment, the hotel will re-open with a restaurant and bistro in the capable hands of Robin Gray who previously worked at Creelers in Brodick. b03twe03

Arran singles

The Arran Singles Group held an impromptu meeting at Steamers Bar on Wednesday evening. All who attended the first meeting reported much interest from friends and colleagues who were eager to hear what had gone on but were too apprehensive to go themselves. Organisers wish for everyone to know that these meetings are light hearted social gatherings, providing the opportunity to meet other people in pleasant surroundings and it is not a pairing exercise.



Arran piper Niall MacDonald has been invited to Antigua to perform at the country's inaugural Burns Supper which is being organised by fellow Arran resident Bill McLaughlin. b03twe04

Below: With a decision on the Charters Towers development imminent planning officers Bob Forest and Mick Lee show the councillors a model of the proposal during a site visit. b03twe02



Last Sunday night Ron and Barbara Stewart prepared to leave The Lagg Hotel after 16 years for their new home at Dippen Lodge. They are shown here with daughter Jill and the imposing painting that they were given by regular customers. b03twe01



A new leaflet 'Arran for Cycling' has been launched by Strathclyde Regional Council roads department. Here seen at the launch is roads chairman Councillor Charlie Gordon (centre) with Sheila Gilmore holding the bicycle. b03twe05

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF
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BREWERY

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodrick Castle, Garden Open
Arran Brewery
Arran Brewery tour
Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
9am-Dusk
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 12.30 - 5pm, Sat 10-5
2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
Open all day

Saturday 16th January

Army Cadets
Over-21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets – Surgery Brodrick,
Live music from Arran Ceilidh Band
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Ceilidh Dancing
Yoga
Chamberlain & Hayward

Auchrannie Road 11am-1pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am-11am
Fiddlers, Brodrick from 7.30pm-9.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-noon
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
Brodrick Church Hall, 7.30pm-9.30pm
Brodrick Church Hall, 9am-10am
Brodrick Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 17th January

Family Games
Fun in the pool
AA Meeting
Open Session – All musicians and singers welcome

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodrick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodrick 2.30pm

Monday 18th January

Over-50s Badminton
Badminton
Live music – North Country Winters
Morning Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit Training
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Citizens advice
Lamlash Aerobix
RunArran JogScotland Beginners
RunArran Mixed Ability
Bridge Club
Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers
Yoga
Tae Kwon-do
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie 5pm-5.45pm
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals
Arran Ferry Committee public meeting
Arran Antiquarians AGM

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodrick, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am-1.30pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Whiting Bay, 5pm
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm-7pm
Brodrick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7pm-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall 3:45-4:30pm
Brodrick Church Kitchen 6:30-7pm
Brodrick Hall, 7.30pm
Brodrick Hall, 2pm

Tuesday 19th January

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets – Surgery

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodrick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am

Rotary Club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
RunArran Run Coaching
Open Cricket Session
Non- competitive bridge
Lamlash Drama Club
Winter Bowls
Scottish Country Dancing

Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-1pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash, 5.30pm
Brodrick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
Brodrick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm-9pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Brodrick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 20th January

Rock and Pop Bingo
Tae Kwon-do
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Arran Vets – Surgery
Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
RunArran Mixed Ability
JogScotland Beginners
Yoga-Arran
Live music
Drift Inn Quiz
Mixed Hockey
Dog classes
Knitting & Crochet drop in group
Winter Warmers
Friends of Brodrick Castle
Arran elderly forum
COAST film - The beginnings of Greenpeace

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran high School Kids – 6.30-7.30pm Adults – 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodrick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Brodrick, 9am - 10.30am & 6pm-7pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Brodrick, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodrick from 8pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Brodrick Library, 4pm-6pm
Lochranza Centre, 11am-2pm
Brodrick Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodrick, 11am
Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm

Thursday 21st January

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Vets – Surgery
Ladies Hockey
RunArran Mixed Ability
Cardiac Rehab
Burger & Quiz night
Winter Bowls
Embroidery group

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
9am-10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
Brodrick, 6pm
Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Brodrick Library, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Friday 22nd January

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Live music
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Quiz
AA Meeting
Live music
Tae Kwon-do
Burns Supper
Jazz Cafe

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am-10.45am
Church Hall, Brodrick 7pm-9pm
Fiddlers, Brodrick, 8pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Fiddlers, Brodrick, 8pm
Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm-8.30pm
The Douglas Hotel, Brodrick, from 7pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm-11pm

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Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Care at Home Assistant | Ref: NAY01038

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www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council



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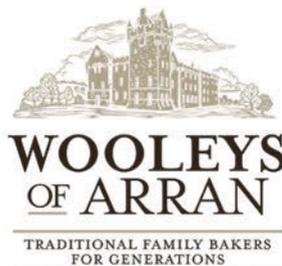
Contact: Lochranza Centre CIC 01770 830 637

For application form: Email info@lochranzacentre.co.uk

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invite you to a Public Meeting with

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CMAL

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in Brodick Hall

Monday 18th January

7.30pm

All Welcome

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 Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 05.02.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

15/00773/PP; Site to North of Dunard, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Renewal of unexpired planning permission N/13/00033/PP for erection of detached dwellinghouse with attached garage.

15/00790/PP; Darach, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Demolition and erection of 1 1/2 storey timber & stone clad dwelling house.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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Four Beautiful Original Paintings of Arran Views by the talented local artist, Pat McDonald. Titled, "Lochranza", "High Corrie", "Red Roof" and "Bennan Head", all four paintings are in perfect condition and signed by the artist front and back. We purchased these paintings back in 2007 through the Arran Art Gallery in Whiting Bay, so they come with an excellent provenance. The paintings are now for sale at £300.00 each or £1,000.00 for all four, an absolute bargain. Tel: Allan 700405

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A few acres of agricultural land/woodland to buy. Aspect and condition not important. Cash available. arranlandwanted@gmail.com

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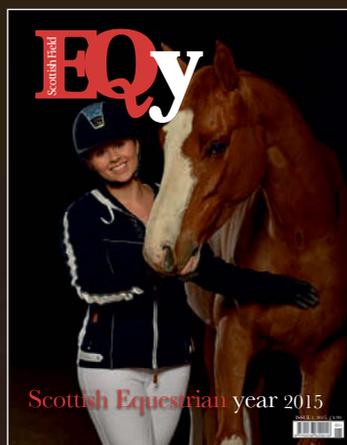
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 17th January
Holy Communion (Said), 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY:
Sunday 17th January
at 12.00 noon
in St Molio's Church, Shiskine.
With Arran Brass.
Preacher: Rev Lily McKinnon.
Offering to Christian Aid.
Coffee and tea after service.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodict, 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 17th January
12noon

Joint Christian Unity Service in St. Molios Church, Shiskine. There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 17th January
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 17th January
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodict
Afternoon Service 1.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 17th January
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodict
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 17th January
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodict 6pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 17th January
There will be no service in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church at 10.30am as Arran Churches Together are celebrating The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in St Molios' Church Shiskine at 12noon.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 17th January
Morning Mass 11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring – 830622, 820223

DEATH

P'ANSON - Irene
Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Wednesday, 6th January 2016. Irene, aged 97 years, loving mum of Mike, Grandma of Nathaniel, Douglas and Melonie, Joseph and Karen, Great Grandma of Damian, special friend of Barbara. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn, on Wednesday, 20th January at 1:00 pm to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to R.N.L.I.

ENGAGEMENT



Neil and Jerry Arthur
are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Harriette to Jonathan, son of Richard and Pauline Powell of Suffolk on Sunday 20th December 2015.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU
Jean gives many thanks for the cards, messages and flowers after the death of Roger. A special thanks for the practical assistance from friends who gave their time during the Christmas period.



The golf calendar was all but wiped out over the last week due to the weather and waterlogged courses around the island. Only Machrie Golf Club played any competitive matches. Elsewhere we catch up with some of the competition prizegivings following New Year competitions.

Machrie Golf Club

Winter Cup, played Tuesday, January, Winter Cup, 11 played. 1 John O'Sullivan 81-19=62, 2 Brian Sherwood 77-10=67, 3 John Pennycott 79-10=69. John Pennycott also got the first magic two of the year.

Tuesday, January 5, Winter Cup, five played. 1 Sally Brookes 92-23=69, 2 Alastair MacDonald 80-10=70, 3 Phil Betley 80-9=71.

Will all members note that the new 1st hole is now in use for competitions, medals and casual golf.

Bridge Club results

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows – Aggregate competition at Brodict on Thursday, January 7 were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Morag Gardner and Eendy McNiven, 3 Craig and Irene McMillan. E/W 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough.

Match points at Lamlash on Monday, January 11. 1 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar, 2 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 3 Tricia Martin and David Campbell.



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Shiskine members with birthdays in the New Year so far are: Gordon Wilson, Iris Robertson, Martyn Ker and Clare Buchanan.



Above: Martyn Ker with Fiona Scott and Iain Robinson, winners of the D S Bannatyne Shield at Shiskine on January 2.



Right: Club Captain Iain Murchie presents trophies for the backwards course competition, held at Lamlash on January 2, to ladies winner Susan Buchard and gents winner Callum Rae.

Charity match to be annual event

The charity football match held at Whiting Bay just after Christmas looks set to become an annual event.

As reported in the Banner, the staff from Armitage Groundworks took on County Carpets and guests in a charity match on Sunday, December 27 to raise funds for the Ayrshire Heartstart initiative.

The game was played in good spirits and there was a large crowd to cheer on the boys in both teams. The football itself was a mixed bag with a few people struggling

after indulging over Christmas.

County Carpets were the victors and earned the bragging rights after a 4-2 win. David Morrison scored a brace and brother Danny Head got one as well. DJ Tom McGarrigle completed the scoring after coming on and scoring with his first touch of the game.

Armitage guests Greg McCrae and Babbies MacNeil were on the scoresheet for the losing team. Danny was given man of the match, but

was also given donkey of the match.

Players and supporters then went on to Felicity's for refreshments and a raffle which raised more than £640. Special thanks to Tim, Jill, Struan, Rachael, Tom and Felicity for organising a great day and after its success will hopefully become an annual event. Thanks must also go to Johnny Kelso for being the day's compere, Tom for doing the music at night and all the players and supporters who made generous donations.

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The youngsters watch Jordan Clarke and Armin Mazic practice their shooting. 20_b03rocks03

Slam dunk as basketball stars bring their skills to Arran

Three giant basketball players made a special visit to Arran this week to promote the sport.

The players from Scotland's only professional basketball team Glasgow Rocks were at Arran High School to hold an activity and health session with senior primary school pupils.

The basketball stars were 6ft 7in forward Will Hall from Sheffield, 6ft 7in guard/forward Armin Mazic from Croatia and 6ft 2in guard

Jordan Clarke from Canada, who were all making their first trip to Arran. They were joined by Ayrshire Tornados coach Jordan Thomson, who is keen to see an Arran team in their junior ranks.

Pupils from P5 to P7 from Lamlash Primary and P5 and P6 from Whiting Bay Primary attended the half-day Jump2it roadshow, a health and citizenship initiative being delivered to primary school pupils all over Scotland.

Jump2it promotes the bene-

fits of leading a healthy lifestyle by eating the right foods and getting plenty of exercise while also highlighting the dangers of smoking and alcohol. The pupils also had the chance of learning new basketball skills and drills in the coaching that follows the roadshow.

The Glasgow Rocks compete in the British Basketball League. Formerly known as Scottish Rocks and Edinburgh Rocks, they are the only BBL team to be based

in Scotland, playing at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

The Ayrshire Tornados are one of Scotland's leading amateur basketball clubs, based across Ayrshire and now play their home games at Dalry Primary School.

The club has several adult and junior teams and coach Jordan told *The Banner*: 'I will be back over to do more basketball coaching with youngsters here. I would love to see an Arran team getting involved.'



Glasgow Rocks stars Jordan Clarke, Armin Mazic and Will Hall with Ayrshire Tornados coach Jordan Thomson at Arran High School. 20_b03rocks01



Armin Mazic attempts a basket throw from the half way line. 20_b03rocks02

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