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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2014 No 1989 60p



Demand to end harmful fishing practises in new Arran MPA

A community conservation group has vowed to fight to get the best protection for the waters around Arran. There has been outrage and anger from the Arran public since Marine Scotland revealed its management proposals for the new South Arran Marine Protected Area. According to The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) the government body's proposals offer very little actual protection as notoriously harmful fishing practices, such as scallop dredging and bottom trawling will be permitted to continue. And there are fears that if no measures are taken against these activities the whole exercise will be seen as a huge waste of public money and time. Members of COAST made their feelings clear at a public consultation drop event held in Whiting Bay Hall on Tuesday. COAST manager Andrew Binnie said: 'People cannot believe how weak their management proposals are. I showed a chart outlining the zones within the MPA at a recent meeting in Brodick which, to the audience, just resembled a jigsaw puzzle

designed to appease dredgers. 'Marine Scotland has failed to include a management option for no dredgers or bottom trawlers in the MPA as demanded by COAST and have only made minor alterations to their previous proposals. 'Not only are these proposals completely unworkable, our experience of the No Take Zone means they will also be completely unenforceable. 'The Scottish government must allow our depleted seas a chance to recover. Marine Scotland and many coastal stakeholders have spent millions of pounds since 2010 working towards what we hoped would be a coherent and effective MPA network around Scotland. 'These proposals, if implemented by Richard Lochhead, the minister responsible, will only be paper parks. 'The severely degraded Clyde needs far more than a mere box-ticking exercise. 'It seems at present that the minister is going to completely ignore the 1,400 written responses he received from the public last year on the Arran proposal alone, as well as the various obligations Scotland

Continued on page 2.



COAST supporters make their feelings known at the Government consultation event in Whiting Bay this week. 20_b48mpa01

Two seriously injured in one-car crash

An elderly couple were badly injured in a car crash on Arran on Wednesday night. Emergency services The 90-year-old driver and his passenger, aged 87, were hurt in the accident involving one car at Kingscross

Bridge near Whiting Bay around 5.50pm. Emergency services attended and the two people injured were initially taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash. They were later transferred by air ambulance to Crosshouse Hospital

in Kilmarnock where they were described as being in a 'serious but stable' condition. Investigations The Whiting Bay road remained closed on Thursday morning as investigations into the accident continued.



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Demand to end harmful fishing practices in new Arran MPA

Continued from page one has under European and Scottish law. We will continue to exert pressure on the Scottish government to keep its word and put effective management in place for the South Arran and other Marine Protected Areas.'

Mr Binne said coastal communities and individuals from many parts of the west coast had contacted COAST in despair at the baffling complexity and weakness of the proposed management measures.

Howard Wood COAST's chairman said: 'The proposals only confirm my belief that this is a case of regulator capture; the government is far too close to the mobile fishing industry and its policies

favour this sector. It does not fully appreciate the harm that mobile gear causes to other marine users and the environment.

'More seriously Marine Scotland officials have concealed a government-commissioned economic report into the future of Scotland's inshore fisheries since April from all stakeholders except the fishing industry. This report should have been available to all coastal communities to inform proposed MPA fisheries management decisions.

'In my opinion our elected representatives should haul the senior government officials responsible before a parliamentary committee to answer for this whole debacle.'

'COAST urges the Government to recognise that MPAs must exclude scallop dredging and bottom trawling if MPAs are to live up to their name. Local communities and the general public are bewildered and angry by the proposed continuation of these practices within MPAs.'

A Marine Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We allowed COAST to share the hall with us at the public meeting held in Arran. We welcome its views and have noted its concerns.

'The current preferred management approach would achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features and would reduce the footprint of trawling and dredging considerably.'

Office shuts

The Isle of Arran Homes office will finally close its doors next week.

The office will be moving into North Ayrshire Council's offices in Lamlash replacing the current office in Springbank, Brodick, as previously reported in The Banner.

The move will take place on Monday 1 December and the organisation will continue to be open to the public on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm.

Housing and property officer Neil Wilkinson will be available for contact in the Lamlash office from Wednesday 3 December. Care and repair officer Christine McDonald will also be based in the Lamlash office.



Andrew Binne of COAST picks up the award in Edinburgh. Photograph by Simon Williams

Top conservation award for COAST

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has won a prestigious national award for its marine conservation.

Recognised worldwide as one of the UK's leading community marine conservation organisations, COAST has been acknowledged for its outstanding success in promoting sustainable marine management around Arran by winning the 2014 Nature

of Scotland Award for marine conservation. The award is sponsored by Marine Scotland. Now in their third year the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds awards were hosted by TV presenter Chris Packham at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh last week.

COAST led a 13-year campaign for the establishment of Scotland's first No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay in 2008 and

a three-year campaign for the establishment of a marine protection area (MPA) around the whole of the south of Arran. The South Arran MPA, the only entirely community-led marine protected area in Scotland, was designated by the Scottish Government, alongside 29 others on 24 July 2014.

Andrew Binne, COAST manager, said: 'Arran and COAST have been at the

forefront of community-led marine conservation for nearly 20 years. During that time we have established Scotland's first No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay and just this summer, the South Arran Marine Protected Area.

'We are thrilled to have our work recognised by this prestigious award which would not have been possible without the fantastic support from Arran residents.'

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It pays to advertise in the Banner

Skinny Blue cheese first for small Arran creamery

Half-fat product tested in market

A small Arran creamery is proving to be a big cheese when it comes to innovative products.

The Bellevue Creamery has developed what it believes to be a first in the UK, a half-fat blue cheese.

The cheesemaker in Blackwaterfoot has been working for months to develop the new product from semi-skimmed milk.

Creamery boss Calum Chaplin first revealed his plans in The Banner earlier this year.

Now, after a good deal of experimentation, the finished product has just gone on sale at the Island Cheese Shop in Brodick.

Justifiably proud Calum said: 'I am not aware of another blue cheese with less than 50 per cent fat in Britain.'

'There are plenty of low fat cheeses which have between 10 to 20 per cent less fat than

normal, but most of them are cheddars.'

The new Skinny Blue certainly lives up to its name.

An average Skinny Blue has just 13.7 per cent fat per 100 grams, compared to 28.5 per cent in a full-fat blue.

Calum first experimented with no fat milk but he said he ended up with a 'solid product' that didn't have the consistency of blue through it.

However, he said they had had more success when they tried semi-skimmed milk as they were able to get 'maturation right through the cheese'.

Plans to create a half fat camembert have been abandoned because Calum said: 'Camembert doesn't work. We just couldn't get the consistency with each batch.'

And since cream is added to Brie production, there are no plans for a skinny Brie.

Instead the creamery is con-



Willie McNally with the newly produced Skinny Blue. 20_b48blue01

centrating on the Skinny Blue which went on sale in Brodick earlier this month.

It is available in a half moon pack or cut to order from the full 1.8 kilogramme matured cheese.

'We are very much testing the market to see if people like it and are keen to get their feedback. It is early

days but most of the feedback so far is surprise that there is not a great deal of difference in the texture and flavour of a full blue.'

He said: 'There are those who are mindful of their intake of animal fats, for health or diet reasons, who with the half-fat version are still able to enjoy a good product.' All

Bellevue products are still made with milk produced by Arran Dairies from Arran's three milk-producing farms.

'We think it is very important we use only Arran produce in Arran products.'

The new line will be reviewed early in the new year with a decision taken on whether to go into full pro-

duction and sell and market it with the creamery's other products across Scotland and beyond, as well as introduce it to the hotel and restaurant market. If the decision is to 'go national' it should be in the shops by early summer.

The reduced fat version is slightly more expensive since there is 20 per cent less yield from each batch which takes 12 weeks to produce.

The creamery is gearing up for its busiest time of the year with 25 per cent of its annual turnover generated in the run up to the festival season.

'We felt it was a good time to launch the product as we know there is a decent level of footfall to really gauge how popular the product could be.'

Calum said they had up-scaled production at the creamery but there remained just himself and dairy technician Willie McNally. 'We just have to work faster,' he joked. Bellevue's main line of products are on sale at the Christmas markets in Glasgow and Edinburgh as well as pop-up Christmas markets around the country.

New lounge approved at distillery

A new VIP lounge and office development at the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza has been given the go-ahead.

The smart lounge, with a veranda on the ground floor, will be used for small conferences and as a meeting room for international importers and distributors as well as for the new gold distillery tour.

The building will also house three offices and a blending room and store in the attic and will be very much in keeping with the other buildings on the site.

North Ayrshire Council planners approved the plans with several minor conditions, including that construction works should take place outwith the bird breeding season from February to July.

This in the interests of minimising disturbance to any birds within the area, in particular golden eagles which nest near the distillery and which are sensitive to human disturbance.

Christmas fayre raises £1,700

The Save the Children Christmas Fayre raised a terrific £1,768 earlier this month.

Held in Brodick Hall on Saturday 8 November the event attracted record numbers.

The hamper winners were Jill Hargan and Philomena Campbell, both from Brodick.

The 'find Santa' winners were Catherine Roy and Marjorie Climie and the quiz winner was Christine

Milne from Lochawe. Organisers would like to thank Diana Hamilton for providing delightful background music and thanks also go to the committee and all who supported the event.

Poppy Scotland Club draw winners

The Poppy Scotland collection in Lamlash raised £453.17 for the charity.

Thanks went to everyone who helped collect and those who donated.

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club October draw were: 1st prize, Rachel Mercer, 2nd prize, Isobel Kerr.

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Pizza isn't nuts - she's just gone

Hong Kong student is studying which is the smarter - Arran's native red squirrel or the grey incomer?

A major study is under way to establish if Arran's red squirrels are any smarter than their grey cousins on the mainland.

Chinese student Ka Yee Chow, known as Pizza, has spent nearly three months on the island studying the intelligence of red squirrels.

It follows a similar study she undertook last year into grey squirrels.

Pizza is studying animal behaviour in the psychology department of Exeter University where she has been for the past two years.

She previously spent a year

at University College London.

The 28-year-old from Hong Kong has spent the last two and half months studying Arran's red squirrels.

A guest of the National Trust for Scotland, she has been carrying out her studies within the grounds of Brodick Castle and Country Park and has been staying in the castle. The study is intended to find out the problem-solving ability of the animals.

By using a puzzle box which contains nuts, the squirrels must work out how to get the nuts from the box in order to



WORKING TOGETHER: Head ranger Kate Sampson with Pizza outside the ranger centre



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crazy for Arran's red squirrels



INTELLIGENCE TEST: one of the Arran's red squirrels at the puzzle box demonstrating its quick wits

ing of the Arran red squirrels until she was pointed in their direction by leading squirrel expert, Peter Lurz of Edinburgh University.

She came to Arran specifically at the time of year when the squirrels are most active gathering food to recover in the late winter to early spring. And she says she was not disappointed studying the 24 out of 35 red squirrels who came to the box. Now Pizza will return to Exeter this week to evaluate her studies and carry out more research.

So from her initial findings, which squirrels does Pizza think are the more intelligent? But she laughs: 'I want to remain politically neutral.'

But she has been invited back to Arran next year to

present her findings in a talk to the Natural History Society.

Pizza said: 'The environment here is so lovely and the people are really friendly.'

Head ranger Kate Sampson said: 'The more information we can find out about our red squirrels, the better.'

'Pizza has helped us pinpoint the locations of the squirrels in the park which means we can leave their habitats undisturbed by any tree felling being carried out.'

'It is also good to have an academic element to our understanding of the environment and hopefully by working together we can encourage other researchers to come and investigate our wildlife.'

be able to retrieve the food.

Pizza has been up from dawn foraging around the paths of the country park on the lookout for telltale signs if there may be squirrels around. She then places her puzzle box and waits. She said the red squirrels, the UK's only native squirrel, are smaller and said to be more shy than their grey cousins, originally a visitor from America.

But Pizza said: 'I realised they may be different to work with than grey squirrels, but I knew that I would just have to be patient. As it turned out,' she said, 'they are not that shy and they are very beautiful.'

She found seven separate

locations in which to study the squirrels. She said that the established thinking was that grey squirrels may be superior to the red.

But she said: 'Having watched them working on the puzzle box, I have come to the conclusion they have intelligence.'

'The same squirrel would come back time and time again throughout the day once they knew food was available.'

The box had to be modified to take into account the smaller red squirrels. It also had to be sterilised to avoid any contamination between the species.

Pizza admits she knew nothing



WOODLANDS: Pizza in one of the locations she has sited her puzzle box. 20_b48red02

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Singers' backing for opera stars of the future

The Arran Singers are supporting the talented opera stars of the future.

Last Tuesday the new and impressive Arran choir, which grew out of the amalgamation of the Lochranza Choir and the Rowan Singers, presented a very generous cheque, a donation of £1,000, to Arran Theatre and Arts Trust towards next year's Arran Summer Music School.

The music school was

started five years ago by Peter Alexander Wilson, a highly respected teacher at the Royal Northern College in Manchester, to nurture the young talented singers of that college and to share that talent with the people of Arran.

During the last five years the students have not only developed their music skills but have given a splendid opera gala during the McLellan Arts Festival

and joined with Arran choristers in an oratorio.

To date, they have sung Handel's Messiah, the Mozart Requiem, Haydn's Creation, Mendelssohn's Elijah and the Faure Requiem.

However, all this comes at a price and, although the students pay a fee, it does not cover the costs of all the accommodation, food and, of course, the world class teaching which they receive. Every year Arran Theatre

and Arts Trust will have to raise about £5,000 to make up the shortfall, so this handsome donation from the Arran Singers was deeply appreciated.

The Arran Singers themselves are doing much to bring good music to Arran and will be giving a Christmas concert on the afternoon of Sunday 7 December at 2.30pm in Brodick Hall – an afternoon of joyous Christmas music for everyone.



Margaret Shaw and Diana Hamilton of The Arran Singers hand over the cheque to Heather Gough and Peter Wilson of the Trust. 20_b48sing01

New trustees keep friends group together

A charity set up to raise funds for Brodick Castle has been saved at the 11th hour.

There had been fears that the Friends of Brodick Castle may have to disband if new trustees could not be found.

However, after a last ditch plea, which included an article in The Banner last month, five new trustees came forward at the annual general meeting last week which will allow the group to continue.

The friends have been fundraising for the castle for more than 18 years.

Chairwoman Ann Hollingworth said: 'This is just splendid. I would have been really sorry if the group had had to close but you can't keep operating without new people.'

'I am delighted to welcome the new trustees who are some new and some well-kent faces. The new and younger blood gives the friends hope for the future.'

At the meeting held in the castle tearoom, Ann reported on the variety of speakers who had entertained members in the past year, the success of the day-trip in May and the short holiday in September.

The financial report showed that the National Trust for Scotland received more than £2,000 from the friends to support the buggy, which runs from the castle gate to the visitor centre for less abled visitors, and other activities.

The friends then tucked into a magnificent afternoon tea provided by the trustees, whilst being entertained by Vivace. These singing ladies took them on a journey with songs from Europe and America, their accomplished performance being much appreciated.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 21 January at 2.30pm at the castle, when Lucy Wallace will give a talk entitled 'Look at Wildlife'. Everyone is welcome, whether members or not.

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Clarification

The family of PC Tony Collins would like us to correct two errors in the story which appeared in The Arran Banner, Saturday 18 October, on page 9.

PC Collins was not Lam-

lash born, he was born in Plymouth, Devon.

The accident was not on December 29, 2013 but on November 29, 2013.

We apologise for these errors.

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Nachos are Tam's tastiest treat

The unusual haggis nachos at the Auchrannie have in recent times always been a popular choice with diners.

But they are about to go stellar after they received a stunning review in the national press.

Tam Cowan, who now writes his popular restaurant reviews for The Sun gave the Cruize Bar Brasserie at the Auchrannie Resort 29 points out of 30 in a review last week.

And he was particularly impressed with the haggis nachos which he describes as 'one of the tastiest wee dishes' he's eaten in 2014... and he's had a few.

He also praised the fact that the menu was 'packed' with lots of Arran's own produce. He even gave the restaurant team an extra point for service.

The review puts them joint second with three other top restaurants across the coun-



Chef Craig Beddie with Cruize floor manager Donna Quinn with haggis nachos (left) and supervisor Gail Young with a pizza (right) and the rest of the Cruize team.

20_b48cruize01

try in the Noschar (food Oscars) for the year.

And Tam was not just impressed with the food - he

heaped praise on the whole resort, comparing the Aspa to Gleneagles, which is now his second home from home.

Auchrannie executive director Linda Johnston said: 'The team, including 'Nacho Man', head chef, Craig Beedie, are delighted to have been given such a wonderful review from Tam.'

It is a great accolade for the team and something else to put Arran and Auchrannie on the map.'

Craig said: 'The haggis na-

chos have been on the menu for two years and are always popular, and the review can only help boost their sales.'

Craig has worked at Auchrannie for around eight years.

He first started at Auchrannie in 2001 as sous chef in the fine dining Garden Restaurant, and after serving his apprenticeship, was promoted to head chef in 2003.

In 2005, Craig decided to take a break and ran his own business for a number of years with his wife Holly, before the lure of Arran brought them back to Auchrannie in 2010.

Since 2010 Craig has headed up each of Auchrannie's restaurants and launched the Eighteen69 Scottish Tapas restaurant in 2014 before taking the reigns as head chef in Cruize Bar Brasserie.

Linda added: 'Cruize is Auchrannie's busiest restaurant, serving over 90,000 meals a year - an average of around 250 per day - and Craig gets a real buzz from making sure that each and every meal is freshly prepared, and also tastes and looks great.'

Live music every month

A new season of live music starts this weekend at the Al-tachorvie in Lamlash.

Apart from December there will be live music on the last Sunday of every month starting tomorrow (Sunday) at 2.30pm.

The first gig will feature one of Scotland's most talented and versatile performers Seonaid Aitken.

Seonaid will be joined by Stephen Coutts on guitar and Andy Sharkey on double bass.

Arran audiences will remember her from last year when she was here with her band Rose Room.



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Dawn amongst the cream of the crop



Dawn with the fabulous hair style she created at the final in London.

An Arran hair stylist recently competed in one of the hairdressing industry's most prestigious competitions.

Dawn Anderson was there when the finalists for Wella Professionals TrendVision 2014 gathered at The Roundhouse in London's Camden for a night of creativity and inspiration.

Dawn, who was brought up on the island and attended Arran High School, follows in the footsteps of her hairdresser mum Alice.

Dawn left the island to pursue her career more than three years ago and now works as salon co-ordinator at Browns in Lockerbie.

As previously reported in The Banner, Dawn made it as a finalist in the young talent category as one of four Scots winners at the regional heats in Edinburgh.

Alongside her fellow finalists, Dawn spent the day battling it out at the Wella World Studio in London, where she recreated her look in front of a prestigious panel of judges.

The evening's grand final event saw more than 800 hairdressers gather to watch and be amazed by some of the biggest names in the business.

A spokeswoman for Wella said: 'Congratulations to Dawn who made it so far in the competition, beating off over 900 entries to make it to the grand final.'

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THE ARRAN BANNER

End harmful fishing practices

I think we all thought the fight to protect the waters around Arran had been won when the South Arran Marine Protected Area was announced in the summer.

How wrong we appear to have been. Despite overwhelming support for what is Scotland's first MPA proposed and developed entirely by the community group COAST, it seems a lot of work still needs to be done.

Marine Scotland has drawn up three sets of proposals as to how the exclusion zone around the entire south of the island is to be managed. Sadly they appear to offer very little actual protection.

It looks like notoriously harmful fishing practices such as scallop dredging and bottom trawling will be permitted to continue.

And there are fears that if no measures are taken against these activities the whole exercise will be seen as a huge waste of public money and time.

The Scottish Government and Marine Scotland are currently holding public consultations around the country, which visited Arran this week, on the proposed management options for the new MPA network. But how many consultations do we need?

The public have spoken with 1,400 responses on Arran alone that they want to see the waters around Scotland's shores better protected.

COAST, who are to be congratulated on winning a national award this week for their work in marine conservation, know they must keep up the pressure in the coming months to make sure the new MPA is effective.

And with the continued backing of the people on the island let's hope it is a fight which can be fought and won.

... and in the red corner

The battle lines have drawn. Are red or grey squirrels the most intelligent?

That's what a student who has spent three months on Arran is trying to find out. Nice work if you can get it. But while some may see it as a frivolous exercise, really the more we know about the UK's only native squirrel the better.

We are indeed fortunate on Arran to have a red-only healthy colony and early signs are that they proved they can beat the puzzle box set by student Pizza.

I'm backing the reds.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The prophet of the Most High will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him, and to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.' (Luke 1: 76-77)

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

Forgive time difference

Sir,
In reference to P E Yates' letter in the 22 November edition with regards to Remembrance Sunday, I agree it is a pity that St Brides Church holds their service one hour prior to the rest of the country but maybe pressure of work means that the Reverend Angus Adamson has on that day five services to conduct.

I think it should be forgiven if the time be incorrect but its best that people, at some point in their busy lives, remember those who lost their lives and if you attended the service that day you would have noted not coffee being drunk or biscuits being eaten but a silence and time to reflect.

Prior to the appointed time of 11am at the memorial every year a lone bugler plays *The Last Post*, there is a two minute silence followed by reveille.

This same bugler plays every 11th of November, Armistice Day in Brodick.

Yours,
Alan Reid RHG/D
Ex Queens Lifeguard
Trumpeter
Brodick

Good old day

Sir,
The article in issue 1985 of November 1, about the Aldersyde Hotel, takes me back to 1960 when I first visited Arran.

On driving past the hotel we saw some of the yachting fraternity out on the balcony with silver service on the tables.

Then one summer doing B&B in the old Whitehouse Hotel, we dined each evening in the Aldersyde where you were always greeted by Cameron and the dining room was a pleasure to dine in.

My normal haunt was Altachorvie, yes we were known locally as 'Chovies', that goes back to the days when Ross Mackenzie drove the bus for AC Lennox, my visits were sometimes three times or more a year - the good old days.

Yours,
Miss W Hughes
Glasgow

Dinner thank you

Sir,
Arran Mountain Rescue Team would like to thank all who attended our 50th anniversary dinner on Saturday 15 November.

Thanks to the Kinloch Hotel for providing an excellent meal and venue, to those who kindly donated raffle prizes, Isle of Arran Distillery, Taste of Arran, The Douglas Hotel, Angella Elliott-Walker and finally to our guest speakers Sam Handley and Alan Andersen.

A great evening was had celebrating 50 years of the Arran rescue team.

Yours,
Kirstie Smith
ARMT

Hospice support

Sir,
As secretary of Kilwinning Friends of the Ayrshire Hospice I thought your readers may be interested to hear of support from local Arran businesses for a recent fundraising effort on behalf of the Ayrshire Hospice.

A Scottish Tapas and Quiz evening held in Kilwinning on Friday 21 November raised £835 which will be forwarded in full for the ongoing work of the Ayrshire Hospice.

This event was so successful because of the generous support of three businesses on the island, namely the Arran Cheese shop, Wooleys of Ar-

ran Ltd and Arran Provisions. Support for fundraising efforts for the Ayrshire Hospice are greatly appreciated and on this occasion the Arran businesses have contributed to the success of the event and the sum donated to the Hospice.

Yours,
Ann W Partridge,
secretary of Kilwinning
Friends of the Ayrshire
Hospice

Polytechnic poser

Sir,
Being cursed with the unfortunate habit of actually reading displays on walls, I found myself standing mystified in Whiting Bay Village Hall.

On the wall there is an old photograph of the 'Polytechnic' at Auchencairn, which is obviously a general store or produce merchant.

I have asked numerous people in the hall, at the museum and in the library, but no-one has been able to explain the use of 'Polytechnic' to describe a general store.

Is this an old Scots usage, local to Arran or just a Whiting Bay anomaly?

One of your readers must surely be able to enlighten me.

Yours,
Gordon Potts, Lochranza

Here is a different take on our popular 'The Banner on Holiday' feature - Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has taken last week's Banner to work.

Mr Gibson who is convenor of the Scottish government finance committee is obviously catching up on his local news ahead of the visit to Arran by the committee on Monday.

A series of workshops will be held at Arran High School in the morning ahead of a meeting of the full committee in the afternoon.

Please send your photographs to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ.



MSP says you can count on The Banner

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From Russia with Love

VisitArran hosted a group of 11 buyers from the Ukraine and Russia last weekend.

The trip was arranged in partnership with VisitScotland's international department, who set the itinerary, and Good Cause Travel, based in London.

The MICE (which stands for meetings, incentives, conferences and events) buyers were a mixture of agencies and direct corporate clients who regularly book incentive trips around the world. The purpose of the Arran 'famil-

arity trip' was to boost their business potential to Scotland, and Arran specifically, for next year.

Arran is a new destination for these groups and although time was tight, they managed to visit a variety of businesses on the island including the Arran Community Theatre, Arran Aromatics, Island Cheese, the distillery, the Old Pier Cafe, Brodick Castle and the Auchrannie Resort - as well as taking a muddy walk to Machrie Standing Stones.

VisitArran executive di-

rector Sheila Gilmore said: 'It is hoped that when they do return they will consider incentive possibilities such as path building, planting, etc - as legacy work is something that these buyers are particularly interested in.'

VisitArran's Sheila Gilmore, far left, with the Ukrainian and Russian visitors. 20_b48visit01



The visitors hold hands around one of the Machrie Standing Stones.

Bridge club results

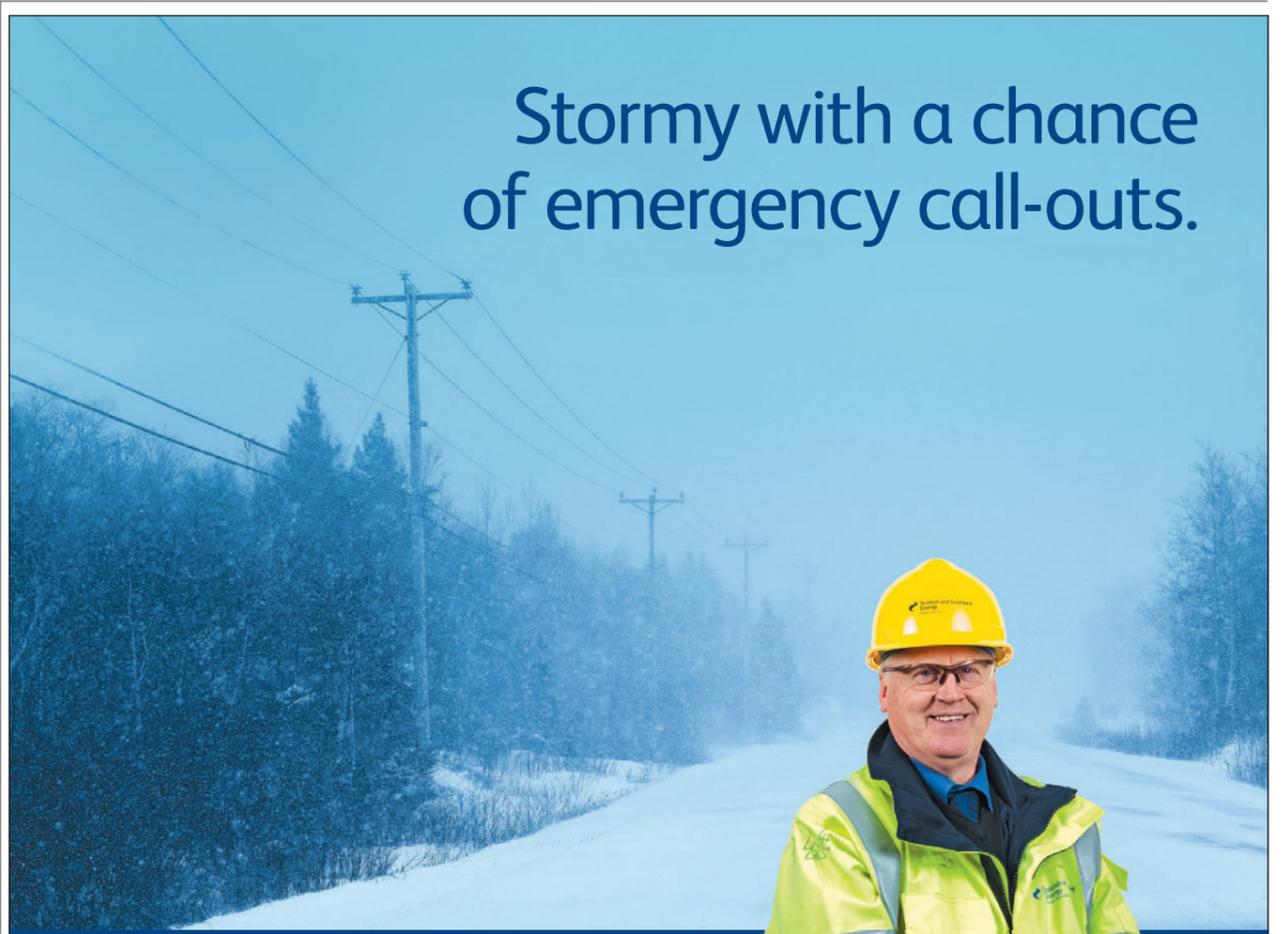
The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club were as follows: Thursday 20 November from Brodick. N/S 1 Morag Gardner and Eendy McNiven, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Fiona and David Henderson. E/W 1. F and A Davidson, 2 Alison Bilsland and Margaret McGill, 3 I Muir and S Mathieson

Monday 24 November from Lamlash. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Janette McBride and John Baraclough, 3 Margaret McGill & Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 3 Jan and John Beattie.

The results from Brodick on Thursday 13 November were as follows: N/S 1 Michael and Vic Iutz, 2 Douglas Bruce and Jim Peacock, 3 Elizabeth McKellar and Linda Trickett. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

In Lamlash on Monday 17 November the results were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Linda Trickett and Pat Adamson, 3 Elizabeth McKellar and Margaret McGill. E/W 1 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

Stormy with a chance of emergency call-outs.



Forecasting winter weather isn't easy. That's why it's always best to prepare for the worst.

Gales, blizzards and floods often uproot trees, bringing down power lines and causing power cuts. That's why we have teams of engineers all over the country. They turn out in all weathers to restore power to as many people as possible as quickly as possible. But sometimes it can take longer to reconnect you, especially if you live in a remote area. So, just in case the weather turns bad, here's some good advice from one of our local engineers.

ssepd.co.uk | Helpline: 0800 300 999

Archie Kennedy

Be prepared for bad weather.

Make sure your mobile phone is charged. Keep a torch where it can be easily reached and a battery powered radio tuned to your local station.

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Killer Queen number from Arran band

Arran High School was one of eight North Ayrshire schools to participate in this year's Bandfest, held in Dalry, an event at which schools perform contemporary music for an audience of several hundred.

Arran High School band was conducted by musical director Dave Payn and performed Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody to an exceptional standard.

The 17 young Arran musicians who participated were: flute Alison Proven and Lucy Walsh, clarinet Iain Clarke, Fiona Rennie and Tabitha Thorburn-Eddy, bass clarinet

Fraser Blain, alto sax Saskia Thorburn-Eddy, trumpet Lois Ashley, James Smith, Innis Thorborn and Daisy Urquhart-Dixon, horn Jessica Deamazeux and Fraser Mackenziem, trombone Gabrielle Allison, percussion Myles Johnson and Emma Shaw, timpani Abbie Jackson.

The Arran musicians joined in a rousing massed bands finale to play three One Direction numbers; Live While we're Young, One Way or Another (Teenage Kicks) and What Makes You Beautiful.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gib-

son, who attended the event said: 'The Arran High School band were excellent and a tribute to the island. Indeed all of the bands were very, very good and thoroughly entertained the audience.'

'It was a tribute both to the hard work of the young musicians and the dedication of musical director Dave Payn. I hope that more young people take up the playing of musical instruments and that Arran High School band and the other North Ayrshire school bands go from strength to strength in the months and years ahead.'



Dave Payn conducts the Arran musicians at the Bandfest event.



The new colour coding of the hospital departments.

New signs will help find the way around hospital

Visitors to University Hospital Crosshouse will soon find it easier to find their way around the hospital, thanks to a new signage system. Based on a colour-coded system, the new signage is simple and easy to understand.

The Kilmarnock hospital is

regularly used by Arran residents attending appointments on the mainland.

Janice Gillan, head of clinical support services (East), said: 'The existing signage has been used since the hospital opened in 1981, and so needed to be replaced. Poor

signage had also been highlighted in a recent Older People in Acute Care (OPAC) inspection report.

'Visiting hospital can be a stressful and worrying time, and we want to make the experience as easy as possible. Our new signage will help patients and visitors to our hospital to find their way easily, whether they are attending clinic appointments or visiting a ward area.'

The hospital will be divided into five different colour-coded zones. When visitors first enter the hospital, they will be able to check which zone they want to visit. When moving around the hospital, there will be clear signs telling visitors which zone they are in, and which zone they are entering.

Ms Gillan added: 'All of the existing ceiling signs will be removed, and all new signs will be at eye level. This makes it easier for those living with dementia, as well as those with sight impairment or learning difficulties.'

'Our welcome desk staff will still be on hand to help any visitors to the hospital, and will be able to provide a simple colour-coded map.'

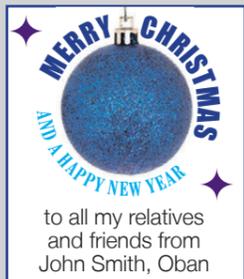
Work to replace existing signage has started and is expected to last two weeks.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 13th December

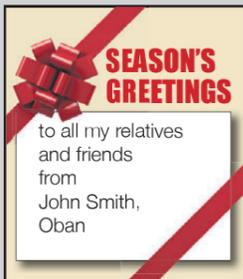
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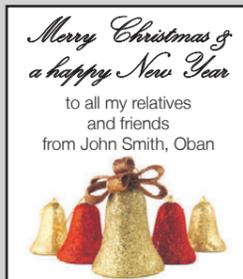
to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban

B



to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban

C



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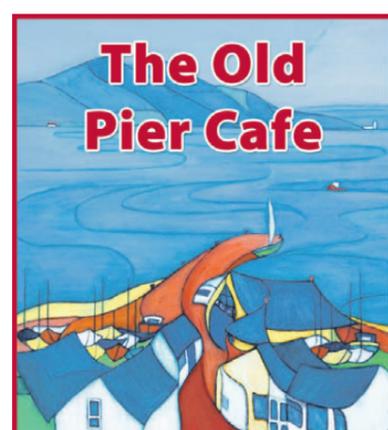
Telephone: 01770808366



The Old Pier Cafe

Closed from Monday 1st December until Wednesday 17th December

Open for business on Thursday 18th December



Christmas *on Arran*

*your essential guide to
festive shopping, dining and
entertainment this Christmas*

In the coming weeks the Isle of Arran will get well and truly into the festive spirit as Nativity plays, pantomimes, festive gatherings and special shopping events take place.

If you are looking for somewhere unique to do your Christmas shopping this year then Arran has it covered.

It may only be November but how many times have you searched for that perfect Christmas gift only to find it was sold out two days before?

Arran is the perfect destination for shoppers as the island has some superb stores, boutiques and

gift shops packed with beautiful, original gifts that are perfect for all your loved ones.

Coming up with something different each year can be a challenge but Christmas should always be fun!

From 9am on Friday 5 December to closing on Sunday 8 December, there will be massive savings to be found during the ShopArran weekend - Arran's Christmas shopping extravaganza.

A co-operative of island shops will be offering massive savings and special offers to encourage people to buy locally this Christmas.

Now in its third year, ShopArran is designed to promote what's on offer right here, on our doorstep.

So, don't overlook the fabulous selection of shops on Arran and get out and about next weekend and do all your shopping here this year.

All ShopArran members are offering fantastic reductions and it is an idea opportunity to get your festive shopping done.

On the following pages is a list of all the stores taking part and what discounts and special offers can be found throughout the ShopArran weekend.

Brodick Castle in the Snow by Andrew Surridge

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Taking part in the ShopArran event for the first time is the newly opened **Wee Arran Art Shop** at the Douglas Centre in Brodick.

As an artist herself, it struck owner Kelli Smith that there was no dedicated art supply shop on the island.

Through experience she learned that mail order could only go so far, and the tactile experience of buying art supplies cannot be replaced.

Arran needed an art shop, and now it has a truly fantastic one.

High quality arts products don't have to be expensive and there is a great selection of paper, paint, and brushes that make ideal gifts for the artist in your life.

Or why not get creative yourself this Christmas with a cracker making kit; £4 will make 10 crackers big enough to fit an Arran Aromatics miniature inside.

There are some lovely wooden decorations that come with paint and ribbons, perfect for hanging on the tree. And bring out your artistic side this year by creating your very own Christmas cards using blank cards with

envelopes. The shop may be wee, but there are plenty of materials to help you get crafty this Christmas!

There is a treat in store for shoppers during the event as **The Boathouse** in Brodick is not only offering a 10 per cent discount on all purchases over £30 but there will be lots of other special offers too.

Specialising in the most sought-after children's Christmas gifts - many of which can't be found on the mainland due to the huge demand - the Boathouse stocks them all.

Tracy also makes her very own beautiful cards and tree decorations that will have pride of place in any home.

The Boathouse has so much to offer that it is a one-stop shop for all your children's gifts this festive season.

For nearly 25 years **Arran Aromatics** has been making specialist body care products on the island and it continues to be one of the most popular places to buy gifts, all year round.

All the toiletries and candles are made on the island, using only the finest and most natural ingredients where possible.

Their luxurious body lotions, shampoos and bath foams all make ideal gifts and the unique fragrances all developed on the island are a perfect reminder of the beautiful isle of Arran.

Throughout the ShopArran weekend there will be a 25 per cent discount on everything in store.

So why not visit Home Farm and explore the deluxe, heavenly scented world of Arran Aromatics and find your favourite fragranced products for the ones you love.

Truly unique handmade gifts can be found at **Pooch Boutique** and Art Studios at Cladach.

Within its integrated art studio, three talented women produce truly gorgeous items.

Nici Boni of Pooch produces leather handbags and cushions.

Carol Atkinson and Assja Baumgartner also share the



workspace, contributing to the great choice with Arran Gems' designer jewellery and accessories, metalwork and sea glass objects by Assja B and ceramics, fused and stained glass treasures by Kez Ceramics.

The ladies at Pooch are dedicated to Arran and stock the beautiful work of talented local crafts people.

During the ShopArran weekend, the boutique will be offering customers discounts increasing relative to the sale totals.

ARRAN AROMATICS
SCOTLAND

Christmas Special **20% OFF**
5th, 6th & 7th December
Home Farm, Brodick

Warm your home this winter with our fantastic home fragrance selection.

Brand New Heritage Collection to celebrate 25 Years of Gifting

Perfect gifts for Christmas...

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The Wee Arran Art Shop
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Creative crafts, Christmas gifts and festive inspiration

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The Boathouse

Loads of more great offers in store
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The Curtain House

Lamlash, Isle of Arran www.arrancurtainhouse.com Tel: 01770 600723

Beautiful xmas decorations & home accessories

10% OFF ALL PURCHASES

plus other offers

Discount applies Fri 5th to sun 7th 10am to 5pm



ShopArran WEEKEND
5-8 December

find the perfect gift at the perfect price
 with amazing offers and discounts during ShopArran

Everything in store is made on the island so come along and enjoy a piece of Christstollen and a warming glass of glühwein while you shop.

Visit the fantastic **Isle of Arran Distillery** in Lochranza during the ShopArran weekend and get 10 per cent off all purchases in their fabulous gift shop. For the whisky lover in your life the shop has everything to make their Christmas wishes come true.

From the new limited edition whisky made with Visitor Centre exclusives to the much-loved Arran malt, there are whiskies to suit every palate. Festive hampers, beautiful glassware, branded clothing, gift packs and miniatures all make excellent presents. Throughout the weekend there will be lots of special Christmas offers, whisky tasting and tours, and lots of delicious treats to tantalise the taste buds in Casks cafe bar. Enjoy Kate's homemade shortbread and taste of whisky over the ShopArran weekend.

Offering a fresh escape from the norm, **The Curtain House** has many stylish ideas to help create a home that is beautiful and practical. This lovely Lamlash boutique is another island store taking part in the brilliant ShopArran weekend and it will be offering a 10 per cent discount on all purchases over £20 and many special bargains. There are decorative accessories, sumptuous cushions from voyage decoration and lots of fabulous and unusual Christmas decorations and gifts just arrived in store to kick-start your festive cheer. The Curtain House sells some of the most unique decorations you will ever see, many with a seaside twist which is perfect for an island Christmas.

Beat the stress of Christmas with a trip to sample the authentic smells and sounds of Asia and Arran less than an hour from the mainland. Feel the worries lift as the ferry leaves Ardrossan...extend that feeling amongst the smells and warmth that await in **Arran Asia** on Brodick seafront. Indulge in a cup of mulled wine as you browse through the hand-crafted jewellery, clothes, crafts and crystals sourced from Arran, India, Nepal and Thailand. Lucky dip available if you spend £15 with the chance to win a Celtic silver ring or crystal wrap-around bracelet. Listen to the hypnotic sounds of Himalayan singing bowls with a demo at 3pm on Friday and Saturday of ShopArran. Once heard never forgotten!

New stock of winter woollen jackets, hats, shirts and hoodies, all made in Nepal and designed to keep out the harsh Himalayan nights. Special offers galore while a range of stress-busting oils will ensure year-round relaxation. For all you need to keep out the stress and the chill visit the magical Arran Asia - where the exotic meets the Clyde.

There is nothing nicer than giving handmade gifts produced here on the island at Christmas time. At **Made in Arran** in the centre of Lamlash, this unique store has been selling local crafts and quality gifts for nearly 20 years. Within the shop there is also a lovely cafe selling delicious homebaking, freshly prepared lunches and afternoon snacks. Throughout the ShopArran weekend Made in Arran will be offering all customers a free tea/coffee and a scone when they spend £30 on gifts in store. It's definitely worth a visit during the festive season, so pop in and see for yourself just what's on offer at Made in Arran.

The Isle of Arran
DISTILLERY
 Lochranza

VISITOR CENTRE - DISTILLERY TOURS
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10% OFF in the Shop
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Pooch Boutique
A Celebration of the Handmade

Pooch by Nici Boni
 Leather handbags and accessories

Arran Gems by Assja B.
 Designer jewellery and sea glass objects

Kez Ceramics
 Ceramics, fused and stained glass

Various Invited Local Artists and Crafts People

Cladach (behind the Wineport), Tel. 303 682
 Open every day until Christmas 10.30 am - 4.30pm

Made in Arran
 Lamlash

Local crafts, quality gifts

Spend £30
 get a **free**
 tea/coffee
 and a scone

ARRAN ASIA
 BANGKOK - BRODICK - DELHI - KATHMANDU

Shop Arran Weekend
 Friday 5th December -
 Sunday 7th December

Mulled Wine & Lucky Dip - Will you win the silver ring?
 Special offers and more

SINGING BOWL DEMO/WORKSHOP
 3PM FRI AND SAT
COME HAVE A GO OR JUST SIMPLY RELAX!

SHORE ROAD, BRODICK
WWW.ARRANASIA.COM



BUNTYS

10% OFF 5-7th December
*Some Restrictions Apply

01770 302132
Merry Christmas from Buntys



As part of the ShopArran weekend **Jolly Molly** in Brodick, which sells truly gorgeous gifts and accessories for the home, will be offering a 10 per cent discount on everything in store.

With a huge range of items from quirky clocks, unique glassware, lamps, and silverware, there is always something lovely to buy to make your home or a friend's look really special this Christmas.

The shop also has many unusual gift items not found on the high street that make ideal presents - keepsakes, decorations, accessories, scarves, bags and gorgeous souvenirs of Arran.

Pop in and enjoy a glass of bubbly while you browse in this amazing store.

The **Red Door** girls have been busy getting the shop ready for Christmas.

There is a huge array of lovely items now in stock including great new ranges of jewellery, scarves, snoods, handbags and gifts – perfect for those looking for inspiration this Christmas! The trusty favourites are still there too, from luxurious leather handbags and fingerless gloves, to timeless wooden toys.

There is something for the whole family in Red Door, so

pop in for some gift ideas or to start getting your list ready for Santa.

Just in case you needed another reason to pop in, visit over the ShopArran weekend and receive 10 per cent discount on all purchases plus a free gift.

With its contemporary collection of goods for the home, **Friday's Child** at Home Farm is a fantastic place for Christmas shopping.

Throughout the ShopArran weekend it will be offering 'big bargain bundles' of goodies to save you lots of money.

There are creative and crafty kits for keen young minds and kitchenware that will see you fighting to cook the Christmas dinner on December 25. Gorgeous glasses and funky barware make entertaining a doddle.

And for those looking for something really unusual take a look at the wooden watches - a really quirky gift.

There are also gifts with a Scottish twist as well as delicious natural cake mixes, puzzles, games, stationery, and sweets to fill even the biggest stocking.

At Home Farm there are some tasty treats on offer at the **Isle of Arran Cheese Company** during the ShopArran weekend.

Hampers bursting with cheese, oatcakes and chocolates are its speciality and they make the perfect gift for all ages. As well as its own Arran Blue, Camembert and Brie made in Blackwaterfoot and a range of flavoured cheddars, the shop also stocks an extensive range of high quality British farmhouse cheeses that make a perfect addition to any festive table.

No Christmas dinner would be complete without a delicious selection of cheeses made here on the island.

Pop in during the ShopArran weekend, there will be discounted hampers on offer and a free cheese - worth £4 - with every £20 spent.

Taking part in ShopArran is the wonderful **Buntys** in Brodick, which will be offering a 10 per cent discount to all customers throughout the weekend - with just a couple of restrictions on certain items - as well as a complimentary glass of something and delicious nibbles for all customers.

Laura from Buntys imaginatively sources all her beautiful



Isle of Arran Cheese Shop

Christmas Gift?
Fantastic Arran Hampers
Delivered anywhere in the UK
Call in and order or go online at
www.ARRANCHEESE.com
Orders being taken NOW for Christmas

RED DOOR

Christmas Shopping Weekend
10% DISCOUNT PLUS FREE GIFT
5th - 7th Dec
Open everyday until Christmas
One Stop Christmas Gift Shop

Red Door, Brodick, Isle of Arran Tel 01770 303549
www.reddoorarran.co.uk
GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

Jolly Molly

10% off
Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December

Come and see our amazing Christmas decorations and beautiful gifts

Brodick, Isle of Arran
01770 302162 www.jollymolly.co.uk

friday's child
SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND FRI 5TH, SAT 6TH AND SUN 7TH

DO YOU NEED KIDS STOCKING FILLERS IN ONE SIMPLE BUNDLE? A QUIRKY BUNDLE FOR THE EVER-TEXTING-TEEN IN YOUR HOME? IS YOUR DAD DIFFICULT TO BUY FOR? WE'VE COLLECTED SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE PRODUCTS INTO BIG BARGAIN BUNDLES

PLUS 10% OFF JOSEPH JOSEPH AND OTHER IN-STORE OFFERS

OPEN 7 DAYS • 9.30AM – 5.30PM • HOME FARM • BRODICK • KA27 8DD • 01770 303987

BIG BARGAIN BUNDLES
THE PERFECT EASY GIFT
DISCOUNTS, PRIZES AND IN-STORE SURPRISES

ALL Joseph Joseph 10% OFF

facebook.com/FridaysChildArran



gifts for the home as well as rescuing unwanted pieces of furniture and giving them a new lease of life.

Offering a great selection of home accessories, Buntys has delightful stocking fillers and Christmas decorations as well as hand painted furniture which looks great in any home.

From smaller items to beautiful mirrors and larger pieces of the home there is just so much on offer.

Buntys is just how a contemporary Christmas ought to look and you are certain to find plenty of gifts for friends and family.

Taking part in this Christmas shopping extravaganza is the **Arran Active** store at Cladach. Full of great gifts for all lovers of the great outdoors, this is your one-stop shop on Arran with lots of luxuriant gear to keep you warm from head to toe this winter.

There are longer-length fleece-lined waterproof coats from Craghoppers – already on offer at exceptional prices – and 3-in-1 jackets from Berghaus and Sprayway. Rab and Mountain Equipment down hoodies and bodywarmers are a perfect Christmas treat for a loved one. And Icebreaker merino base layers are simply the best thermal underwear – if you have never tried them, now is the time.

Hats come in all shapes and sizes from fleece-lined animal hats to the bizarre Christmas tree and Christmas Pudding hats.

And don't forget everyone's favourite Christmas gift – socks! New for this year are Darn Tough merino socks, the warmest socks out there and with a genuine lifetime guarantee.

Luxury winter boots from Merrell; the brilliant Sealskinz waterproof hats and gloves; Buff headgear; cosy fleeces from The North Face – there really is something for everyone. And that includes the kids with an expanded range of clothing and footwear for children.

But it's not all about clothing. Arran Active has practical gifts in abundance. From Leatherman multi-tools to Petzl headtorches and quality binoculars, it has something for that difficult man (or woman!!) in your life.

And if you are tempted to buy any outdoor gear online, talk to Arran Active and it will price-match where possible while you enjoy a glass of their excellent mulled wine.

The much-loved **Old Byre Showroom** has two fantastic outlets; the main one at the Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie is where the shop, pottery and restaurant Café Thyme were revamped two years ago. The second is the popular Byre at Brodick in the centre of the village.

Both shops stock a large range of Barbour jackets in

all the latest styles, all below RRP so you're better buying one here than anywhere else, gorgeous Seasalt, Braintree and Mudd and Water clothing and accessories, lots of lovely Scottish and Irish knitwear and a lovely selection of organic and fun clothing for children.

Sheepskin boots, slippers and gloves make ideal Christmas gifts and there are Old Byre own-label woollen hats, scarves and gloves, Bertie Girl Harris Tweed bags, 'Aye phone' and 'Aye pad' covers, boxes of socks, scarves, leather handbags and lots more interesting items.

Throughout the ShopArran weekend it will be offering 10 per cent off all your shopping, as will Simon Thorborn's pottery.

At Café Thyme at the Machrie site remember there's two great lunch offers to choose from. There will also be live music throughout the weekend.

Whether you choose the Byre at Brodick or the Old Byre Visitor Centre you're sure to find the solution to all your Christmas gift dilemmas.

Arran Active Outdoor Shop
 Christmas at Arran Active
10% OFF
 All purchases over £25 from 5 – 8 December

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies while you browse our range of gifts for all the family

Down Jackets & Bodywarmers for Him & Her
 Craghoppers Long Jackets – **Half Price**
 Merrell Winter Boots – **£25 off**
 Craghoppers Fleeces – **Half Price**
 Warm Brasher Socks – **3 for 2**
 Sealskinz Waterproof Gloves
 Icebreaker Merino Baselayers
 Winter Lined Trousers – **20% off**
 North Face & Berghaus Waterproof Jackets – **20% off**
 Headtorches, Multitools, Swiss Army Knives, Books
 Fun hats for all ages (& fairly traded too!)
 Gift Vouchers

OPEN 7 DAYS Mon - Sat: 9.30 - 5.00 Sun: 10.00 - 5.00
 Cladach, Brodick, KA27 8DE Tel 01770 302416 andrew@arranactive.co.uk

Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie
 Proud to be participating in Shop Arran weekend

Come and browse our gifts suitable for all the family and enjoy delicious lunch deals in Café Thyme

10% off all your shopping in the Old Byre Showroom and Simon's pottery

Quality knitwear, Barbour below RRP, sheepskin and leather, clothing and accessories and Christmas gifts galore.
Also 10% off everything at the Byre at Brodick

2 courses and a glass of wine
 £12.95
 or buy 1 pide get the
 2nd half price
 with some free live music!

www.oldbyre.co.uk
 Tel: 01770 840227 lorna@oldbyre.co.uk

What's On in Shiskine

Sunday 07th December

Village Tree Lighting Ceremony
5pm at Blackwaterfoot Play Park

Wednesday 10th December

Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens Christmas Party - Kinloch Hotel

Monday 15th December

Best Dressed House in the Valley!
Judging takes place this week

Tuesday 16th December

Shiskine Primary School Christmas Concert
Shiskine Hall at 7pm

Saturday 20th December

Last day for ordering your turkey!!
Call the Arran Butcher on 01770860354

Sunday 21st December

Christmas Jumper Competition Adults & Kids
4.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel Public Bar
Followed by the Christmas Mega Mackerel Lottery!

Wednesday 24th December

The Village Childrens' Christmas Party (0-12 years) at Shiskine Hall 3-5pm

Christmas Eve Service
St Molios Church 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!!

Boxing Day

Texas Scramble at Shiskine Golf Club
10am until 2pm
Book your tee off time
01770 860 226

Tuesday 30th December

Charity End of Year Quiz
Kinloch Hotel at 9pm

Hogmanay

Hogmanay Hoolie, Shiskine Hall 10pm until late
Tickets available from Blackwaterfoot garage

New Years Eve Dance at Kinloch Hotel
SOLD OUT!

New Years Day

Happy New Year!

Christmas comes to life in Shiskine this December

Christmas is always a magical time of year on Arran.

Twinkling lights, the taste of spicy mulled wine, frosty mornings and Carol concerts at night - it really is the happiest time of the year.

And in the Shiskine Valley this year there is so much to do throughout December for the whole family as the community gathers to celebrate Christmas and New Year.

Tree lighting

The festivities will begin on Sunday 7 December with the village tree lighting ceremony at Blackwaterfoot Harbour - definitely one of the best ways to kick-start the celebrations.

Senior citizen party

On Wednesday 10 December the Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens will be holding their Christmas party at The Kinloch Hotel.

Best dressed house

Judging will begin on Monday 15 December for the 'best dressed house in the valley' competition, so make sure all your deco-

rationations are up by then.

Shiskine Primary School is holding its ever-popular Christmas concert on Tuesday 16 December at 7pm in the village hall.

Christmas jumpers

And on Sunday 21 December it is the very unique, yet very exciting, kids and adults Christmas jumper competition in the Kinloch Hotel followed by the Mega Christmas Mackerel Lottery.

Children's party

The Shiskine SWRI children's party will take place on Christmas Eve between 3pm and 5pm in the village hall.

Texas scramble

On Boxing Day the annual Texas Scramble will be played at Shiskine Golf Course and on Tuesday 30 December there will be an 'end of year' charity quiz in The Kinloch Hotel at 9pm.

Hogmanay Hoolie

And to round off another great year, the Hogmanay Hoolie will be taking place as usual in Shiskine Hall from 10pm until late.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Shiskine at Christmas



THE HARBOUR SHOP
BLACKWATERFOOT
TOYS, GIFTS, DECORATIONS,
GIFT VOUCHERS & MUCH MORE

10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR GIFTS
EVERY SATURDAY TILL XMAS
(exclusions apply)

SHOP OPEN LATE TILL 6PM
ON THE 12TH AND 19TH DECEMBER

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sunday 12pm - 4.30 pm
01770 860 215

SHISKINE HALL
HOGMANAY HOOLEY

From 10pm on 31st December 2014
to 1am on 1st January 2015

All tickets £5
Admission by ticket only
(BYOB)

Tickets on sale at Blackwaterfoot Post Office

Family Event: Ceilidh, Games, Raffle
All under 16s to be accompanied
by a responsible adult

THE ARRAN BUTCHER

Buy now for the Festive Season

Last Turkey order date
Sat 20th December

A FESTIVE FEAST FOR ALL THE FAMILY

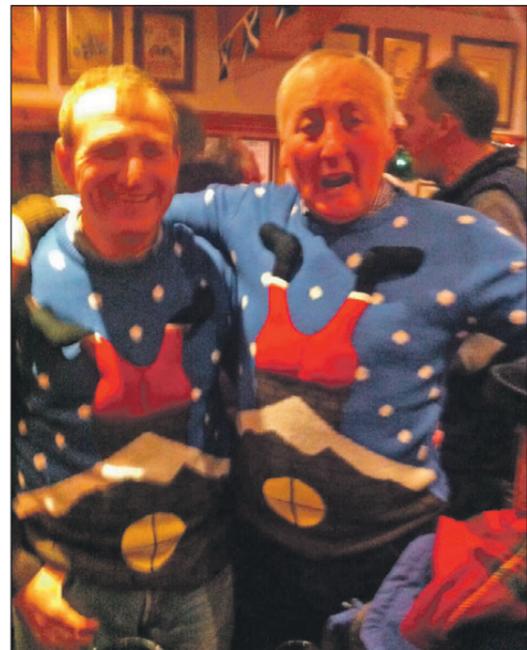
Christmas Turkeys & all the trimmings
Succulent Roasting Joints
Delicious Full Sides Scottish Farmed Fresh Salmon
Tasty Gammon, Rich Steak Pies

HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

OPENING HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

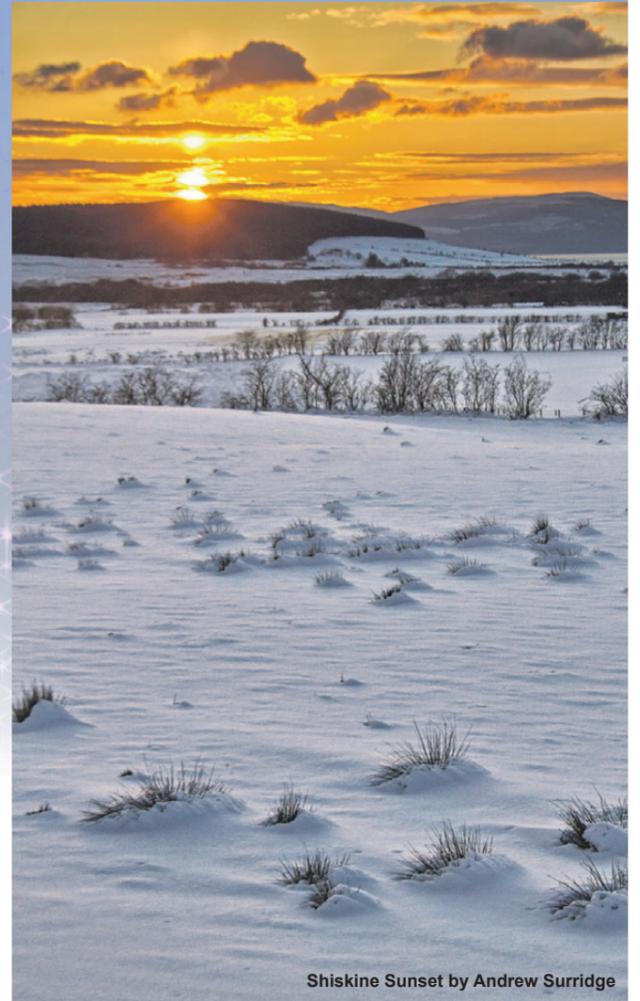
Mon 22nd and Tues 23rd Dec 9-5pm, Wed 24th Dec 9-4pm
Thur 25th and Fri 26th - Closed
Sat 27th Dec 9-4pm
Sun 28th Dec - Closed
Mon 29th and Tues 30th Dec 9-5pm, Wed 31st Dec 9-4pm
Thur 1 - Sun 4th Jan - Closed
Re-open Mon 5th Jan 9-5pm

CALL US ON 860354



Bright entries from last year's Christmas Jumper competition at the Kinloch Hotel.

Time Shines Christmas



Shiskine Sunset by Andrew Surridge

 **Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club**

Everyone Welcome
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Clubhouse
Open daily 11am-3pm

Come along and have a lovely winter warmer with our special seasonal offer
12 HOLES FOLLOWED BY HOMEMADE SOUP WITH TOASTED SANDWICH FROM ONLY £20!

Call 01770 860226 or email bookings@shiskinegolf.com



C&C CAMERON
BLACKWATERFOOT

Wish all our customers a Merry Christmas & a prosperous new year.

GARAGE OPENING TIMES - Tel 860277	SHOP OPENING TIMES - Tel 860220
24th Dec 8:30 – 17:30	24th Dec 9:00 – 18:00
25th & 26th Dec closed	25th & 26th Dec closed
27th Dec 9:00 – 17:00	27th Dec 9:00 – 17:30
28th Dec closed	28th Dec 12:30 – 5:00
29th & 30th Dec 8:30 – 17:30	29th & 30th Dec 9:00 – 17:30
31st Dec 8:30 – 17:00	31st Dec 9:00 – 18:00
1st & 2nd Jan closed	1st & 2nd Jan closed
3rd Jan 9:00 – 17:00	3rd Jan 9:00 – 17:30

Normal hours resume Mon 5th Jan
Shop home deliveries available please call or ask in store.
Thanks for shopping local.

BEST WESTERN
Kinloch Hotel
Isle of Arran

DECEMBER DEAL

20% off our lunch menu

from 12 noon - 2.30pm
From 1st December - 23rd December

* 20% discount off food only
Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran
01770860444

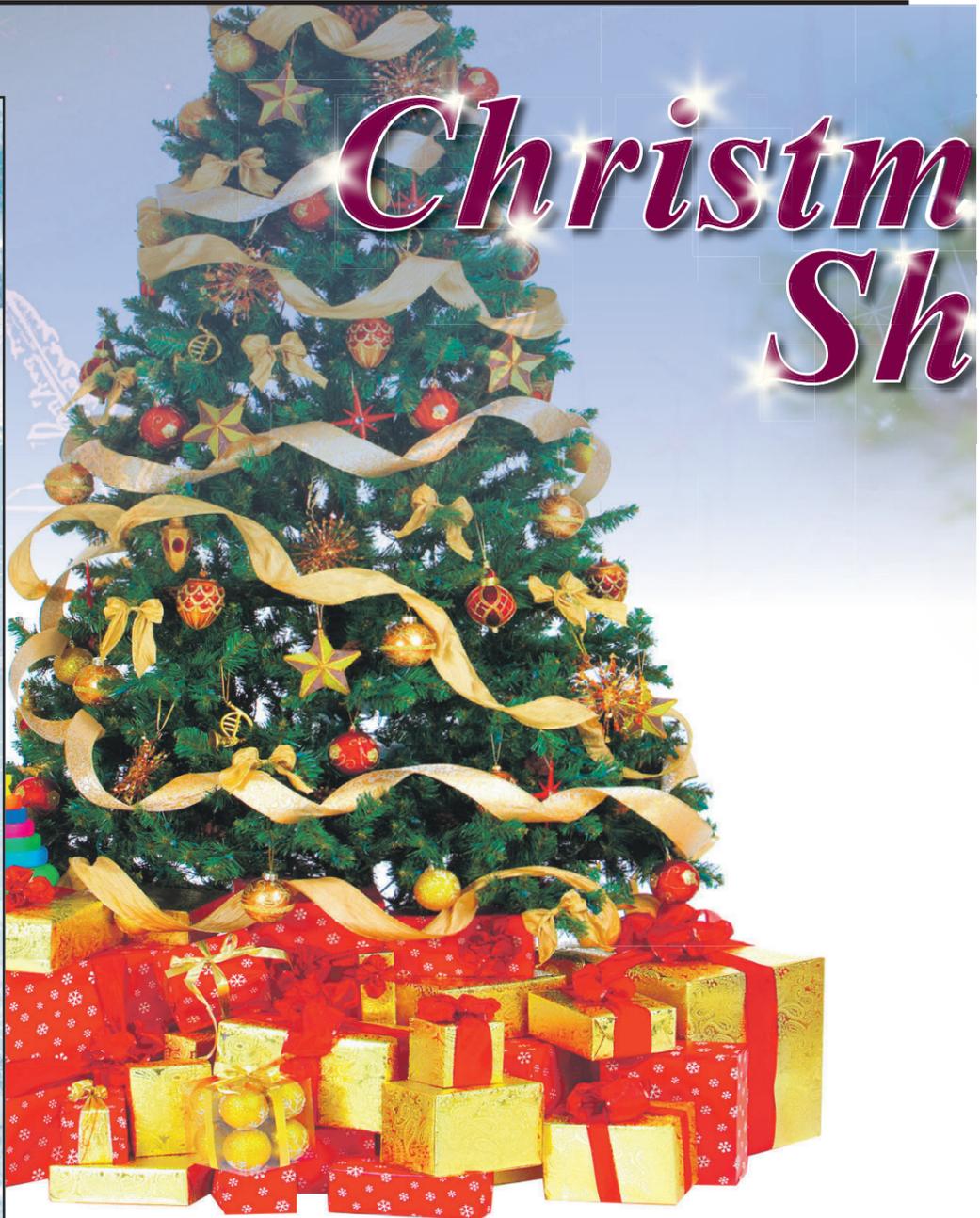
BELFORD MILL

We're ready for Christmas!

GOLF COURSE ROAD, WHITING BAY, TEL: 700293
 OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
 MONDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM SUNDAY 12NOON - 5PM

Hats - Gloves Socks - Scarfs Large Range	Ladies and Gents Thermals	Presentation Boxed Pyjamas £14.99	Slippers and Slipper Socks
Cute Doggy Draught Excluders	Cosy Furry Throws	Glasses Candles Place sets	Turkey foil Kitchen Rolls
Luxury Bath Oils Ideal Gift	Gents Super warm Padded Shirts	Tablecovers Napkins Cushion Covers	Pillows Quilts Bedding Towels

Come and view our extensive range of stock



Christmas Shop

CREELERS

**The Island's Seafood Specialist
Shop and Smokehouse**

Enjoy Creelers Scottish Smoked Salmon, produced in our Smokehouse, using the finest Scottish Salmon smoked in local woodland oak and Lochranza whisky barrels. Order a hamper or choose from a selection of our smoked products in our smokehouse shop or visit us online where you can send a gourmet gift for Christmas.

Home Farm, Brodick,
Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
Telephone: 01770 302797
email: smokehouse@creelers.co.uk
www.creelers.co.uk

With Monday the start of advent it really is time that those who have not yet given a thought to their Christmas shopping to get their thinking caps on. But with so much choice for shopping on Arran there is no real need to think of going anywhere else.

A good start would be the **Belford Mill** in Whiting Bay which has an extensive range of stock this year. And be it hats, gloves, socks, scarves or bigger items like cosy throws, tablecovers or a cute doggy draught excluder, they're all here.

And you'll also find other essentials like luxury bath oils, glasses, candles and even turkey foil to make your festivities complete. And it's open seven days a week till Christmas.

Food and drink are always a firm favourite at Christmas and whether you're looking for gifts or stocking up the larder it is always worth paying a visit to **Arran Fine Foods** in Lamlash.

There you will find a wide range of Patersons chutneys, jams and marmalades, including those just right for Christmas - and there is always a bargain or two. And don't forget the oatcakes.

There is also a wide range of Christmas decorations and gifts for everyone.

Hampers always go down a treat at this time of year and at **Creelers**, the island's seafood specialist, you'll be spoilt for choice. And who doesn't like smoked salmon at Christmas, especially if it has been smoked right here in Brodick in local woodland oak and Lochranza whisky barrels?

Hampers are also available at **Torrylinn Creamery**, home of the real Arran cheese, in the shop or online. All its award-winning cheese is hand made and the Arran-shaped dunlop is always a gift winner. This festive season it can even be paired with an Arran-shaped chopping board.

Or if you want to be more indulgent why not go for chocolate? You need look no further than the **James Chocolate Shop**, open seven days a week in the run up to Christmas. As well as viewing its fine range of Christmas-themed chocolates and fresh cream truffles, customers can watch them being made right on the premises. You can't get a better treat than that - unless there's any to try.

Eleanor's Flowers

**Fabulous Festive
Flowers and Plants**

Christmas Wreaths,
Decorations and Trees

Open 10am - 4.30pm Tuesday - Saturday
1 Auchrannie Road, Brodick 01770 302587/684

island hair & beauty

luxury Christmas gift packs,
gift vouchers, stocking fillers
and treats.

01770 302727

as opping on Arran

One thing no home can be without over the festival season is a Christmas tree - and there is nothing better than the real thing. **The Forestry Commission**, as always, will have local trees for sale at its Auchrannie Road headquarters in a wide range of sizes. They will be on sale from Friday 5 December.

And there's no need to stop there for **Eleanor's Flowers** nearby can complete the festive look in your home with Christmas wreaths, decorations and trees as well. They also have a wide range of festive flowers and plants.

Elsewhere you might just find something that little bit different at the **Footprints** charity shop in the Douglas Centre, which also has brand new stock. It will be open on Fridays and Saturdays during December.

And make sure your pets don't miss out this Christmas. **Petcayr**, which delivers to Arran, is doing some special offers on its last run before Christmas on Sunday 7 December including sunflower hearts, wild bird seed, Chappie complete and Catsan.

Island hair and beauty at Home Farm is waiting to pamper you ahead of the Christmas party season. It also has luxury Christmas gift packs, gift vouchers as well as stocking fillers and treats all available.

At **Alexanders** in Brodick the team has welcomed a new member of staff, Laura Milligan, and is offering some great special offers during December. A gents' barber is now available five days a week and no appointment is needed, so feel free to just walk in.

Visit our Gift Shop & Factory Outlet

ARRAN
FINE FOODS

FREE GIFT
if you spend more than £20
from 16th - 24th December

The Kitchen Shop
Arran Fine Foods, The Old Mill, Lamash
Tel: 01770 600118

Open 7 days 10.00-4.00pm

Forestry Commission
Scotland

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Forest Office,
Auchrannie Road,
Brodick

Friday 5th - Monday 22nd Dec
and Saturday 13th Dec.
Open Midday until 4.30pm

FOOTPRINTS
Douglas Centre, Brodick Tel:465022

OPEN FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

For the month of December we are only open:
Friday and Saturdays 11am - 4pm
Donations always gladly accepted

James of ARRAN
JAMES CHOCOLATE SHOP
OPEN 7 DAYS - 10AM - 5PM

Located in the heart of Brodick, where you can see our range of luxury chocolates and fresh cream truffles being made by our skilled staff

Everyone's Favourite Gift

www.jamesofarran.com

Open 7 Days
Tel 01770 302873 and ask about our mail order service

Alexanders
HAIR & BEAUTY

01770 302828
SHORE ROAD, BRODICK
ISLE OF ARRAN, KA27 8AJ

We would like to welcome Laura Milligan as the newest member of the team at Alexanders Hair & Beauty.

Special offers for month of December

- spray tan £15 - Gelicure manicure & pedicure £30
- Eyelash extensions £15 - Make up £15
- Blow dry £15 - Hair Up £20

Gents Barber now available 5 days a week no appointment required just walk in.

Festive Opening Times

Monday 22nd 10-5 Tuesday 23rd 10-5 Wednesday 24th 10-3
Thursday 25th, Friday 26th, Saturday 27th - Closed
Monday 29th 10-5 Tuesday 30th 10-5 Wednesday 31st 10-5
Thursday 1st - Monday 5th Closed

petcayr
by T&G Hutchison

AYRSHIRE'S LONGEST ESTABLISHED PET SUPPLIER
DELIVERING ON ARRAN

Stockists of all major brands and specialists in wild bird feeds and products. Friendly help and advice always available

Wishing our customers on the island a very happy Christmas

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR LAST RUN BEFORE CHRISTMAS
7TH DECEMBER

- Sunflower Hearts 20 kg £34.00
- Bucktons Premium Wild Bird Seed 20kg £16.00
- Chappie Complete 15kg £16.99
- Catsan 20L 2 for £20

01292 281005 www.petsupplies-ayrshire.co.uk
20 Back Main Street, Ayr, KA8 8DB

The ideal gift...

2015 Calendars

Isle of Arran
BANNER 2015 CALENDAR

Arran Banner
Isle of Arran
£7.75 (inc. UK P&P)

to order visit
www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call
01371 851 868

BUY ONLINE UK DELIVERY

THE **Real** ARRAN CHEESE

HAMPERS

Original OAT CAKES

XMAS & NEW YEAR SHOP HOURS
Closed 24 - 28 Dec
Open 29 & 30 Dec - 10am to 3pm
Closed 31 Dec - 4 Jan
Open as usual from 5 Jan 2015

WWW.REALARRANCHEESE.COM



Festivities on the island

LITTLE ROCK
FRIDAYS@LITTLE ROCK

This Friday our new **BURGER & NACHOS** night launches.
5PM-8PM

Leading up to Christmas, why not pop in and sample our new selection of **Beers, Wines, Prosecco and Cider.**

every week until Friday Dec 18th

fIDDLERS'
MUSIC BAR & BISTRO

Shore Road, Brodick
 01770 302579
 Open 9am 'til late

FIDDLERS' FESTIVE FAYRE
 A La Carte Lunchtime & Evening Menu
 All dishes individually priced
 Traditional, Vegetarian & Vegan Options
 All Freshly Prepared
 Optional Festive Party Pack £4.75 per head
 Mulled wine, Chestnuts, Mince Pies & Cracker!
 No Deposit Required for Bookings
 Free Live Music - see Website or Facebook

www.fiddlersmusicbar.com www.facebook.com/fiddlersmusicbar

It's nearly Christmas and it is time to eat, drink and be merry.

Many will be looking forward to a traditional day of turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day.

But over the festive season the island's restaurants and cafes come alive and it is worth venturing out to sample some of their fine Christmas fayre and soak up the festive atmosphere.

And where better to start than at **The Drift Inn** in Lamlash. With a delicious new winter menu and a two-course lunch for £10 in front of a roaring fire and hot mulled cider, what is not to like? In the evenings after

THE DOUGLAS **OPEN ALL DAY**
 Hotel • Bistro • Bar **for BAR MEALS**
 www.thedouglashotel.co.uk
 Tel: 01770 302968 **NIBBLES & SNACKS**

Speciality Coffees & Teas Last few spaces left for our
 delicious **Christmas Party**
HOME BAKING **Nights**
 Cocktails, Wines & Whiskies

Served noon-4pm Please call to book
THE ARRAN SUNDAY ROAST
BUTCHER £9.50 PER PERSON

BISTRO OPENS AT 6PM DAILY FOOD SERVED UNTIL 9.30PM
 OUR PUBLIC BAR IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY 28TH NOV FROM 7.30PM FOR A PRIVATE FUNCTION

The co-operative
here for you for life

Check out our HUGE range of cut price electrical goods
Christmas gifts on 3 for 2 offers
 We also deliver Coal, Kindling & Logs to your door

Fantastic offers on coal:
 Traditional House Coal 20kg: 2 for £16
 Smokeless Coal 20kg: 2 for £20

Your local main store Brodick has an even tastier choice!
FESTIVE OPENING HOURS
 Christmas Eve 7am - 8pm
 Christmas Day CLOSED
 Boxing Day 7am - 8pm
 New Years Day 8am - 8pm

Let us take the weight off
Shop in store and we'll deliver it to your home, anywhere on the island for FREE!

All you have to do is spend £25





Lamlash in the Snow by Andrew Surridge

dinner there is live music, quizzes and discos galore. And there are still spaces available for its Christmas parties.

Always party central at this time of year is **The Douglas Hotel** in Brodick and this year will be no exception. And in the run up to Christmas why not put your feet up on a Sunday and let the chefs at the Douglas prepare their new Sunday roast with all produce locally sourced from The Arran Butcher.

The hotel bar is open all day and every day for bar meals, nibbles and snacks with the Bistro open at 6pm for a more formal dining experience.

There is also sure to be a real festive shindig at **Fidlers** in Brodick with regular live music during December including appearances by the infectious Arran Ceilidh Band. There's a wide range of festive food on offer

with vegetarian and vegan options always available. And you can spice up your meal with a party pack of mulled wine, chestnuts, mince pies and crackers.

The **Brodick Bar** always gives a warm welcome - especially at this time of year. Christmas lunches and dinners start on Friday 12 December, but don't leave it too late to book or you may be disappointed. You can call to book or pop in and pick up a menu. The venue is also hosting a special Hogmanay dinner on Wednesday 31 December.

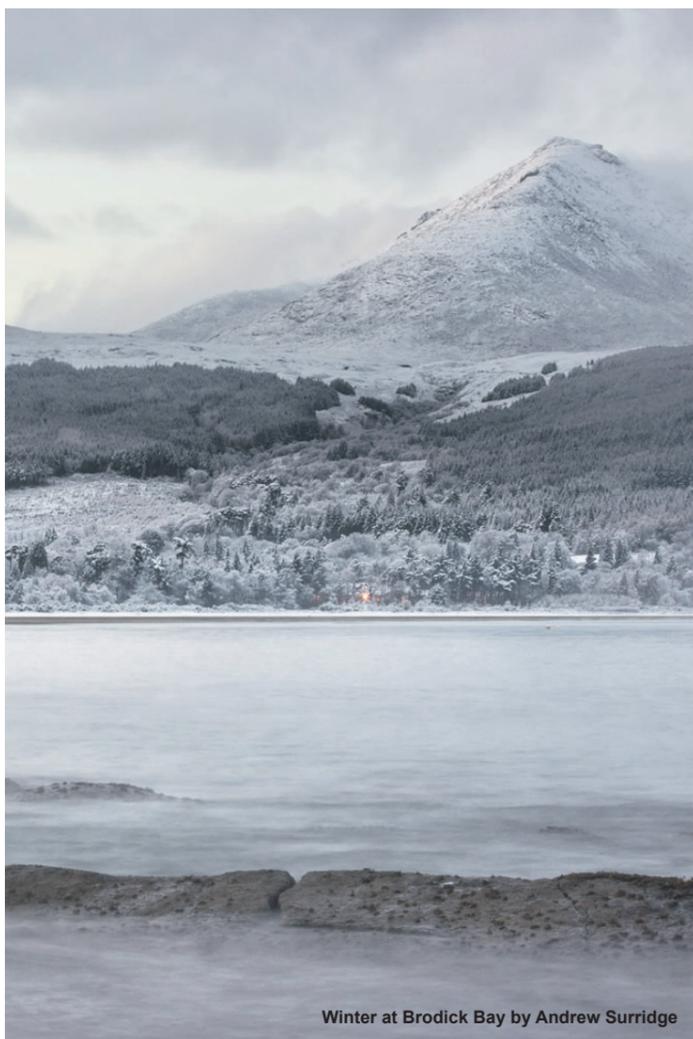
Over at **Cafe Thyme** at Machrie the festive season is already in full swing with winter specials now available including a two-course lunch and a glass of wine for only £12.95, or you can buy one of the delicious pies and get a second half price, so it is well worth a nice drive over to the Old Byre for a December treat.

Back in Brodick it is all happening at **The Ormidale Hotel** this Christmas with a packed line-up of fun events. There are folk sessions, Christmas pop quizzes, a kings of sports competition and as we head for the new year a ticket-only Hogmanay party.

While at Arran's newest eating place **Little Rock** in Brodick it has introduced a new Fridays@LittleRock with a burger and nachos night from 5pm till 8pm until Friday 18 December. And with the cafe now licensed why not pop in to sample its new selection of beers, wine, prosecco and cider.

After all that, it is maybe time to head home, but not before stopping off at the main **Co-op** in Brodick, which will only be closed on Christmas Day over the holiday season.

As well as the fine new range in the new-look store it has some fantastic Christmas gifts on three-for-two offers, cut-price electrical goods and fantastic offers on coal. And remember the store now delivers free anywhere on the island.



Winter at Brodick Bay by Andrew Surridge

The Ormidale Hotel

Christmas programme

DATE	WHAT'S ON	BAR OPENING
Fri 19th December	Christmas Lunch (bookings only)	4pm - 1am
Sat 20th December	Disco 10pm	12pm - 1am
Sun 21st December	Folk Session 9pm	12pm - 12am
Mon 22nd		4pm - 12am
Tues 23rd	Xmas Pop Quiz 9pm	4pm - 12am
Weds 24th Christmas Eve	Xmas rock 'n' pop bingo 9pm	4pm - 1am
Thurs 25th Christmas Day	Open Lunchtime Only	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Fri 26th Boxing Day	Xmas GK Quiz 9pm	4pm - 1am
Sat 27th	Disco 10pm	12pm - 1am
Sun 28th	Ormidale King of Sports Competition - from 2pm (*)	12pm - 1am
Mon 29th	Darts 'n' Doms Tournament 8pm	4pm - 12am
Tues 30th	Pop Quiz	9pm
Weds 31st Hogmanay	Hogmanay Party - tickets only from 9pm (**)	4pm - 2am
Thurs 1st Jan New Years Day	Quiz of the year 9pm	4pm - 12am
Fri 2nd Jan	Ormidale LP club 7pm	12pm - 1am
Sat 3rd Jan	Disco 10pm	12pm - 1am
Sun 4th Jan	Folk Session 9pm	12pm - 12am

(*) Ormidale King of Sports is an individual timed challenge including 4 disciplines- Darts, Beer Mat Flipping, Street Fighter II (computer game) and ping pong pint glass challenge I will be producing a demonstration video for the Ormidale facebook page.
 (**) Tickets available from Trevor at the Ormidale - £5 each

Bar Meals not available on the following dates:
 19th Dec, 24th Dec, 25th Dec, 26th Dec, 31st Dec, 1st Jan

Telephone 01770 302293
www.ormidale-hotel.com

THE DRIFT INN

LAMLASH
Turn left at Lamlash Bowling Club

Top 5 Reasons to Visit The Drift Inn this Holiday Season!

1. Delicious new winter menu
2. Two Course lunch for just £10 plus other offers on evening meals
3. Live music, Discos and Quizzes galore
4. A roaring fire and hot mulled cider to keep you cosy
5. Enjoy a drink with your meal as we'll help get you home

Festive Entertainment from 9pm
 A full list of entertainment is available on our website
 Live Music from Matt Johnston Friday 28th November
 Disco with DJ Tony Saturday 29th November

Spaces still available for Christmas Parties!
 Call 01770 600608 to book
www.driftnarran.com

BRODICK BAR & BRASSERIE

Our Festive Lunch and Dinner start Fri 12th December

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

2 Courses + tea/Coffee & mince pies - £18.50
 3 Courses + tea/coffee & mince pies - £21.50

CHRISTMAS DINNER

2 Courses + tea/coffee & mince pies - £22.50
 3 Courses + tea/coffee & mince pies - £25.50

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We will be open Sunday 21st & Sunday 28th December for food from 1pm until 4pm
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 Re-opening Saturday 27th December
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Special Hogmanay dinner on December 31st
 Please call to enquire

Book your table now on 01770 302169

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At the Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie
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Arran backing helps put North Ayrshire in the Fair Trade zone

Fair Trade supporters on Arran are this week celebrating the success of North Ayrshire Council in achieving Fair Trade Zone status.

The landmark has been achieved after several years of hard work and with the help of Arran Fair Trade.

Having achieved Fair Trade status is not the end of the matter as the authority needs to renew its status every two years by supplying evidence of new developments and on-going commitment.

North Ayrshire's Depute Provost Robert Barr said: 'I am incredibly proud that North Ayrshire has been recognised as a Fairtrade Zone.'

'This is a great achievement and reflects the hard work and commitment demonstrated by the council, local businesses, communities and consumers to ensure a fair deal for the workers in developing countries.'

'This could not have been achieved if it wasn't for the huge efforts of all our Fairtrade groups, as well as many of our local schools

and churches whose work underpins this success.'

Joe Broussard, chairman of North Ayrshire Zone steering group, said: 'I am extremely pleased and proud that we have gained the Fair Trade Zone status on our first applications.'

'The achievement will encourage us to continue this high standard of work within North Ayrshire.'

At a reception in Cunningham House last week Councillor Barr was presented with a certificate by Mr Broussard and Martin Rhodes of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.

Ghana

Jan MacGregor of Arran Fair Trade gave a presentation on her recent visit to producers in Ghana.

Arran has been working hard and is delighted that the area has been recognised as a Fair Trade Zone.

Jan said: 'We are most grateful to all the shops and catering outlets that currently and faithfully support Fair Trade.'

'We would encourage everyone to choose Fair Trade produce when possible as a practical way of fighting poverty through trade justice.'



Depute Provost Robert Barr holds the certificate beside Martin Rhodes, Director of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum and representative of the North Ayrshire Fairtrade Zone steering group.

Arran Fair Trade's activity

in terms of awareness raising events in 2014 started with very enthusiastic involvement of all the primary school children as part of their World Citizens subject in the curriculum.

'You may have seen the results of their hard work and research in the Co-op during Fair Trade fortnight in February or in one of the schools,' Jan said.

In April Jan and Ute Locatelli walked round the island visiting catering outlets and shops and enjoying Fair Trade produce.

'We are very grateful for the support of all the businesses and some friends who joined us for part of the walk,' Jan said.

Runners

In July Arran Fair Trade supported the Shiskine half marathon, by giving all successful runners a Fair Trade goody bag with a drink, a geo bar, and a banana, kindly donated by the Co-op.

The following month they had their familiar Fair Trade stall at both the farmers show and the highland games, which generated a lot of interest.

While on her 'Meet the People' tour of Ghana, Jan visited a palm oil plantation and processing plant using indigenous palm oil that does not damage the rain



Jan meets some children on her recent trip to Ghana.



Jan and Ute enjoy a break outside the Lagg Hotel during their Fair Trade walk round Arran.



Jan hands out Fair Trade goody bags to the Shiskine half marathon winners.



The Arran Fair Trade stall at Brodick Highland Games.



Jan McGregor gives a presentation on her recent visit to producers in Ghana.

forest, several cocoa farms, where the cocoa beans that go into Divine Chocolate are grown, a banana plantation on the Volta river, where some of the Fair Trade bananas come from, and several craft and fabric centres.

Jan also saw schools, clinics, toilet blocks and bore holes for drinkable water, all paid for by the fair trade premium and chosen democratically by the individual communities.

She said: 'The benefits for the workers and farmers are that they are paid a minimum price for their produce.

'They get support, training and encouragement in retaining their fair trade status and ensuring their product meets the needs of the Western world in terms of standards and design.

'In addition the farmers or workers co-operative receive a fair trade premium, an extra amount of money to invest in their communities on projects of their choice.'

BE HEALTH-WISE THIS WINTER

1. Check when your GP surgery is open
2. Don't run out of repeat prescriptions - order only what you need in plenty of time
3. Check you have cold and flu remedies



BE HEALTH-WISE
THIS WINTER

Don't let ill-health spoil Christmas and New Year.
For more health advice visit www.nhsinform.co.uk



Arran Antiquarians enjoy display of postcards from the Great War



Stuart Gough's display of First World War postcards were both poignant and humorous.

Stuart Gough spoke to 70 fellow members of the Arran Antiquarians about one of his passions, collecting postcards, very appropriately on this occasion, from the time of the Great War.

He explained that the Golden Age of the postcard was between 1900 and 1918.

Indeed, in 1913 a total of 926 million were dealt with by the Post Office. The outbreak of hostilities in August, 1914 was a bonanza for the manufacturers.

They were, of course, the text messages of the day, usually with short content and quick delivery. Any from theatres of war were of course censored.

Post-1913 the subject matter changed and many patriotic and jingoistic items displaying flags of the Allies and portraits of Field Marshall Lord Kitchener himself were printed.

In France the embroidered silk cards became very popular, often containing a small envelope with a message card inside. These were mailed home in a flimsy tissue paper envelope and although the cards survived the envelopes (very valuable to the collector) sadly did not.

Silk cards featuring regimental badges are very much prized items.

At home enlisted men often went to a local photographic studio to be photographed in their smart new uniforms. These pictures were sometimes the only keepsakes mothers, wives and sweethearts had to comfort them.

There was, understandably, a rise in demand for sentimental cards.

Bamforth Publishing, based in Holmfirth, Yorkshire, published very many of these in sets; for example, a set of song cards.

Stuart showed the Antiquarians one and gave a rendition of the printed song – in this instance 'Keep the home fires burning'.

There were some postcards of trenches which showed the folks at home where they

Outbreak of hostilities in 1914 a bonanza for manufacturers

lived, fought and often died. At the opposite end of the scale were the cartoon cards.

Stuart emphasised that each collector of cards makes his choice of themes within a subject, and does not just collect randomly.

He exhibited specimens from 17 different themes.

An interesting one was of four German U-boats.

U21 was the first to sink an allied ship when she sank 'Pathfinder' off St Abbs Head in September 1914.

Lying next to her was U20, which sank the 'Lusitania' in the Atlantic, and the 'Triumph' and the 'Majestic' at Gallipoli.

The Blue Cross animal charity offered to help horses and dogs at the front. They were rebuffed by the British Army, but accepted by the French.

Another section concentrated on the Scottish Women's Hospital. Their founder, Dr Elsie Inglis, offered her services which were also refused by the government. After she was rebuffed she eventually obtained funding from the suffragettes to form and staff a hospital near Paris.

Female-staffed mobile units were also sent to Serbia and Romania where they were much admired.

Dr Inglis served until 1917, when she returned to the UK due to ill health, and died of cancer the day after reaching Britain.

Several postcards feature Nurse Edith Cavell. She served in Belgium and helped more than 200 allied soldiers to escape.

For this she was executed by a German firing squad.

Post war she was repatriated and re-interred in Britain

Other sections covered life in a Canadian training camp; a very non-politically

correct collection of lampoon cards were from Egypt, anti Kaiser Wilhelm cards, and a substantial number from Private Hereford Frost of the Australian Force, who was a very prolific correspondent in the one year he served.

Troops were entertained by concert parties, and one, Lena Ashwell (the first female actor/manager in London), organised these events. She received an OBE for her war work and Stuart had pictures of her, her concert party casts and letters of appreciation to her.

Other displays covered the roles of the Legion of Frontiersmen, the Army Service Corps and the YMCA, who supplied huts, canteen facilities, reading and writing materials, entertainment and religious comfort to those who wished it. Hand drawn postcards were very personal as they were done by the soldiers themselves while on active service.

The last poignant letter was a letter home in January 1919, reassuring his loved ones he was fit and well and due to be home very soon. Sadly, just below was an 'In Memorium' black edged card with the date of his death, February 1919. It was a not uncommon tragedy to survive the war and succumb soon after to the Spanish Flu.

What a great display by Stuart on a subject both sombre and humorous, but one which gave everyone food for thought at this time.

There will be no meeting in December. The annual general meeting and slide show of society's events of 2014 will take place on Monday 21 January in Brodick Hall. All meetings throughout 2015 will be held on the third Monday of each month, commencing at 2pm.

ND

'They were the text messages of the day, usually with short content and quick delivery. Any from theatres of war were, of course, censored'

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Obituary

Sir Thomas Macpherson of Biallid

Sir Thomas Macpherson was a highly decorated war hero who trained on the Isle of Arran on how to kill in hand-to-hand combat.

Colonel Sir Thomas 'Tommy' Macpherson, who has died aged 94, was believed to be the most decorated surviving veteran of the Second World War, with three Military Crosses, and numerous other bravery awards including three Croix de Guerre, and several Papal and Italian medals.

Ronald Thomas Stewart Macpherson, the fifth son of Sir Thomas Stewart Macpherson, was born in Edinburgh on October 4 1920.

His father was in the Indian Civil Service and became a judge of the High Court and chancellor of Patna University.

Tommy won a scholarship to Fettes where he was an outstanding athlete, winning the half mile and taking eight seconds off the school record for the mile. He subsequently gained the top scholarship to Trinity College, Oxford, in Classics but the outbreak of war intervened and, in September 1939, he was commissioned into the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, TA, and asked to raise a platoon from his village.

Macpherson volunteered for the 11th (Scottish) Commandos and went through intensive training on the Isle of Arran on how to kill in hand-to-hand combat.

Many years later, he would return to the island for Com-

mando reunions which were held each year at Brodick Castle, and as a friend of Lady Jean Fforde.

In June 1941, he took part in the commandos' operation against the Vichy French, who were holding strong defensive positions on the Litani River, Palestine. At dawn on June 8, the main body of the force commanded by Major Geoffrey Keyes was landed close to the mouth of the river with the objective of seizing the Qasmiyeh bridge intact.

Macpherson, commanding No 10 Troop, was involved in the most northerly landing. His orders were to take the Kafr Badda Bridge and, after a fierce action, his men captured it intact and beat off a counter-attack of enemy armoured cars. But the Allied assault had been postponed by a day, the advantage of surprise was lost and the commandos took heavy casualties.

When Macpherson returned to Cyprus, as the only officer with a working knowledge of Greek he was appointed military governor of the north-east of the island. In October, promoted to captain, he was ordered to carry out a reconnaissance of the beach in advance of Operation Flipper, the raid by Keyes on Rommel's HQ in Cyrenaica (now Libya).

Macpherson and three comrades embarked in the submarine *Talisman* and were landed in folbots (folding canoes) near Apollonia. For two successive nights the

submarine failed to return to the arranged rendezvous and the men set out to walk to Tobruk. The party had no food, water, maps or adequate footwear and were dressed only in PT shorts.

After they split up, two of the group were captured by the Italians. Macpherson and a comrade reached the outskirts of Derna, where they sabotaged a telephone exchange. It proved to be a bad mistake; they were traced and picked up by an Italian patrol.

Three days later Macpherson escaped but was caught trying to get away on a motorbike.

After the Italian armistice in September 1943, he was sent to the transit camp at Spittal, and Macpherson and a New Zealander exchanged clothes with two Frenchmen, mingled with a party of agricultural workers and got away.

They were captured by a patrol of Austrian Alpine troops and sent to a Gestapo camp on the Polish-Lithuanian border before being moved to an other ranks' transit camp at Toruń, Poland. One night four of them escaped by using one of the towers to shield them from the searchlights.

They were picked up by the Polish Resistance and taken to a factory at Bydgoszcz. The group took a train to Danzig, aiming to board a Swedish vessel. When one of the German security police came and sat in their compartment, they decided to get out at the next stop. No ships could sail from the bombed port of Danzig, so they hid in a lorry as far as Gdynia.

Macpherson and his comrades concealed themselves in a house near the docks for several days before they were smuggled aboard a Swedish ship carrying iron ore.

Macpherson and two comrades climbed down into the hold and tunnelled a hiding place in the iron ore. When the ship reached the limit of territorial waters, a launch came alongside and German soldiers with dogs came aboard. The hatches were lifted and the dogs were sent down into the hold, but the coal dust proved too much for them and they had to be brought out.

Macpherson flew by *Liberator* to Kinloss and arrived home in Inverness-shire in November 1943, almost exactly two years after his capture. He was awarded an MC for his part in the Litani River raid, the Rommel operation

and his successful escape.

After the end of the war in Europe, Macpherson was awarded a second Bar to his MC for his operations behind enemy lines and specifically for a raid on the marshalling yards at Udine. He also received the Medaglia d'Argento and the Italian Resistance Medal.

Macpherson returned to England in September 1945 and was demobilised. He rejoined the TA and was attached to 21 SAS TA from 1947 to 1952.

He joined the Duchess of Kent's household for a spell as a tutor to Prince Edward (later Duke of Kent) and then joined William Mallinson & Sons, a timber company, as personal assistant to the chairman. He was with the company for almost 30 years and became managing director in 1967. During his stewardship, profits substantially increased. While with Mallinson Denny, he was a member of the National Board for Prices and Incomes between 1965 and 1967.



Thomas Macpherson, later Sir Thomas, during the war.



Sir Thomas inspecting army cadets at the heritage museum in Brodick in 2005.

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Youngsters enjoy call of the wild



The youngsters toast marshmallows over a campfire.

First year pupils at Arran High School got off the beaten track last week.

As part of a four-day John Muir award programme the pupils spent last Friday on a walk up Cnoc na Garbad at the south end of the island.

The students spent the day walking through the woodland to the hill top and exploring little used paths, and sometimes no paths, whilst enjoying outdoor activities such as 'hunt the stag' and burn jumping.

Arran High geography teacher Brian Donlin, along with Andy McNamara from Arran Outdoor Centre, have planned another three days of nature activities over the next three weeks including a night in the woods at Cloudbase, path building and pretending to be a slug in a survival game.

Andy said: 'One of the aims of the course is to explore and appreciate places on Arran that many of the children have not been to before.'



The hidden 'stag' emerges from the leaves where he was hiding.



The pupils in Cnoc na Garbad.



LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!
Nominations close on Monday 8 December 2014

Calling all rural heroes

Do you know an Arran based rural business or an individual that deserves to be recognised for making a significant contribution to their local community?

Then why not nominate them to win one of our inaugural Scottish Rural Awards? The awards, affectionately known as the 'Scotties', are a joint partnership between Scottish Field and The Scottish Countryside Alliance and were formed to recognise excellence across a range of 12 award disciplines.

Nominating couldn't be easier – simply go to www.scottishruralawards.org/category

and choose your category or alternatively call 0131 551 7919 and we will post you out a form. You can nominate as many times as you like and each time you will be entered into a prize draw where six randomly chosen lucky winners will receive a bottle of Tomintoul 12 year old Speyside Glenlivet as a thank you from the judges. The awards will culminate in a special celebratory dinner taking place on 26 March 2015 in Edinburgh.



NOMINATE

Each time you nominate you will be entered into a prize draw where six randomly chosen lucky winners will receive a bottle of Tomintoul 12 year old Speyside Glenlivet as a thank you from the judges.

AND WIN

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2014

Nominate now at: www.scottishruralawards.org

The Judges



RICHARD BATH



JAMIE STEWART



RORY KENNEDY



CHARLIE SHENTALL



BRIAN CAMERON



PADDY CREER



THE SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS CATEGORIES:

- BUTCHER OF THE YEAR**
Do you appreciate the best quality meat and good service that you local butcher provides? Does your butcher have a speciality or special recipe?
- BUSINESS START UP**
Your nominee must show innovation, inspiration and passion in their chosen field. They must also have been trading for under 24 months prior to 15 December 2014.
- RURAL HERO**
Sponsored by Chiene & Tait, The Chartered Accountants
Chiene & Tait
You can be a friend, colleague, family member or anyone else, but can't nominate yourself! We are looking for someone remarkable that has really made a difference to others around them
- EDUCATION**
Sponsored by Strathallan School, Forgardenny, Perth
STRATHALLAN
Education is vital to a productive and progressive rural society, so your nominee, either individual or establishment, needs to demonstrate skills for teaching which will benefit others around them, young or old, and the community as a whole.
- RURAL TOURISM** – Visitor Centre or Attraction
Your nomination may be about a specific attraction, place, experience or person that has brought something to life in rural Scotland. We are looking for innovation, communication, service and education as well as fun and excitement.
- HOSPITALITY**
Always important and popular, our hospitality industry has made great strides in recent years. Customer service is key, but so is the role that your nominee plays in the local community if they go beyond the call of duty. Are they ambassadors for local produce who care about where their food is sourced? These are important questions that you can help us to answer.
- BUSINESS DIVERSIFICATION**
The key to thriving in a rural business is the ability to focus, re-focus and even change tack in order to stay ahead of the competition or even the times. The winning business here will be the one that has thought outside the box not only to survive, but to succeed to the benefit of all.
- CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
The SRA take a realistic view of what conservation means and what can be and is being achieved right now. This award will be given to the organisation, business or individual who can go beyond the norm to create, develop, innovate and succeed in enhancing the Countryside by sustainability, protection, rescue, introduction or re-organisation.
- AQUACULTURE AND AGRICULTURE**
Open to all agricultural and aquaculture businesses, this award is about enhancing, protecting, managing and developing the Countryside's rural resources and will especially recognise those whose ultimate goal is to manage effectively and considerately the man-made and wild environment.
- ARTISAN FOOD**
Aiming squarely at food producers, retailers and outlets, this is all about specialists who take a pride in their work. Your nominee should be one that champions 'local food' and supports other local producers. Maybe it's someone who has saved a dying art or promoted a lost skill, but above all it'll be someone that has a story to tell.
- ARTISAN DRINK**
The other companion in nourishing the soul, the Artisan Drink category is again an indication of craftsmanship and aimed at food producers, retailers and outlets. This award is designed to recognise hard work, innovation and experimentation in the development of all beverages. Success is measured by the message and style of the product, company or individual, not necessarily on number of units sold.
- THE SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Specifically awarded to an individual whose impact over time has enhanced the lives or environment of others. Lifetime Achievement does not mean the individual has finished in their endeavours but does recognise that they have committed a significant proportion of their lifetime to that work.

Nominate now at:
www.scottishruralawards.org
0131 551 7910

For further details and questions about who you can nominate or to make your nomination please go to www.scottishruralawards.org/category or call 0131 551 7910

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 3 December, 1994

Waiting is over

Work has finally started on the £1.1 million Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza.

The notion of distilling whisky on Arran appeals to many, but it has been a rocky ride since the distillery was first announced three and a half years ago.

First many of Lochranza's residents were against it on the grounds it was an industrial development. When that hurdle was over it was referred to the Secretary of State and the newly formed Scottish Natural Heritage came in with all manner of objections. One of those was potential disturbance to golden eagles while building.

But now it is through, the funding is in place from promoters Hal Currie and David Hutchison, government bodies and other shareholders, and what many thought would never happen will soon become a reality.

The distillery has been designed by Australian architect Mandy Thomson and will be built by Arran contractor John Thomson Construction Ltd.

Pollution solution

There is continuing concern over pollution making its way into Sannox Burn.

Sannox resident Stanley Mazure believes it is coming from the nearby sand quarry and it has been inspected by the Clyde River Purification Board.

The board's deputy director, Mr Poodle, confirmed the inspector had seen the pollution but had been unable to get formal samples. Quarry owner Iain Thomson insisted the pollution was just silt and not toxic in any way.

But Mr Poodle said: 'What happens is the fine materials settle into the stream bed. They block up the gravel where the fish spawn. Fish need water flowing through the gravel

to keep their eggs alive.'

Mr Thomson said he would be building a deeper settling pond to prevent the silt getting into the river.

Opening early

Work on the new Co-op in Brodick is progressing so swiftly that the opening date has been brought forward from next Easter to the end of February.

The Co-op sign went up this week and fitting out and finishing will begin in January.

The new £2 million supermarket will cover 9000 sq ft and have a staff of 40. Features will include six scanning checkouts, Gaelic signage, non-slip flooring, glare free lighting, a bottle bank and a car park for 64 cars.

Youth project

A new £26,000 youth information project has been opened by Councillor Fergus Clarkson.

Run by community education worker Jim Morrison, Evelyn Broadis has been appointed as an information worker with the aim of being available to children at the high school to answer a range of queries including youth training, rights, benefits and health matters.

This, the 25th such project in Scotland, is experimental for two years.

Striking new bus

The first fully liveried Stagecoach bus began running on Arran on Wednesday.

All white with bright red, blue and orange stripes, it is very striking. Being white it should not be subject to the complaints of looking dirty that Western suffered when they first arrived on the island.

But even more striking is its size. As previously reported in The Banner some smaller buses are also coming into use and, if they are successful, more of them will follow.



Winners at the Lamlash Bowling and Tennis Club annual presentation of prizes held in the clubhouse last Saturday. b48twe02



Nine Arran artists collaborated to mount an exhibition of paintings and sculpture in Brodick Hall to raise funds for Arran's Festival Theatre. Pictured from left are Stan Huyton, Marvin Elliot, James Gorman, Lizzie Pentland, John Connolly and Jeanette McLeod. b48twe03



A windswept Mandy Thomson on the site of the new distillery. b48twe01



Councillor Clarkson, Evelyn Broadis and Jim Morrison (left) at the opening of the new youth information project along with administrative worker Sibbie Sangster and high school pupils Lorna Picken and Claire Jones. b48twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm,
 2pm
 Open all day

Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 RunArran
 Live Music
 Metafit
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing

10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 29th November

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Soup & Sandwiches in aid of Dr Grahams homes
 Santa Sparkle
 Arran Vs Mull
 Disco with DJ Tony

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 12-2pm
 Lamlash Front Green from 11.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, 2pm
 The Drift Inn, Lamlash 9pm

Wednesday 3rd December

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Lamlash SWRI
 Coffee Morning

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-9pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30 - 12noon

Sunday 30th November

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 Live music
 Brodick Christmas Light switch on
 Music from Seonaid Aitken and friends

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Brodick Hall, 3pm
 Altachorvie, Lamlash, 2.30pm

Thursday 4th December

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Men
 Pilates
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 QuiltArran
 Metafit
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Garden Club

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavillon, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 6pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Ranger Centre, 7.30pm

Monday 1st December

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Live Music
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Arran Carol Concert

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 9pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Lamlash Church, 7.30pm

Friday 5th December

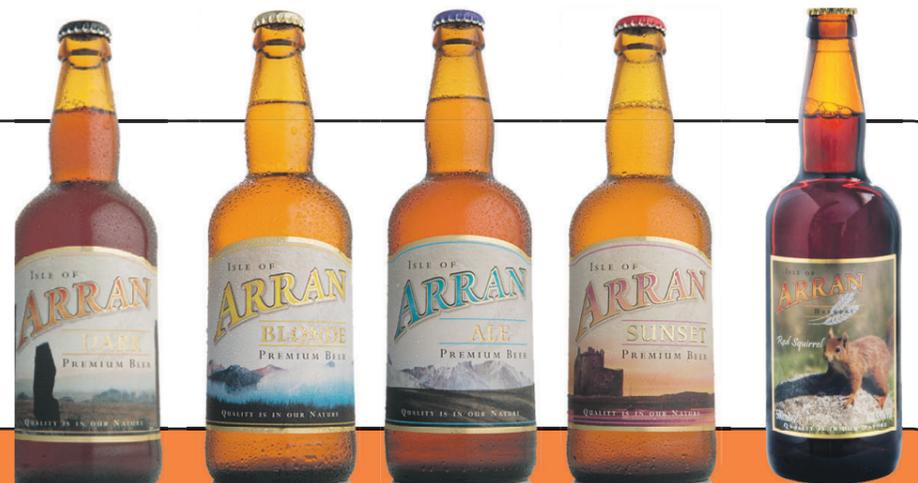
Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 Ceilidh Dance
 AA Meeting
 Eye-Witness stories

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall 7.30-9.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
 Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 7.30pm

Tuesday 2nd December

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm



Recruitment

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This is a permanent position, offering a 40 hours per week contract with 28 days annual leave, commencing January 2015 where 6 weeks full training will be given

Applicants should possess the following skills

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Closing Date for applications Friday 12th December 2014



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If you are interested, please give Lesley Jameson a call on 600 606 during normal working hours or email ljameson@paterson-arran.com

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CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Mrs F R Hamilton of Smiddy Field High Kildonan, Kilmory is applying to create a new croft. 5.01.45131

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW
info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

EVENT TO
PUBLICISE?

THE ARRAN
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Public Notices

AGM

ARRAN ANGLING ASSOC.

Monday 8th December 7.30pm
FORESTRY OFFICES BRODICK

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 19.12.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

14/00669/PP; Studio 4, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Change of use from shop to restaurant including extension to side.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath



Isle of Arran Homes are moving

Isle of Arran Homes is moving into North Ayrshire Council's offices in Lamlash - replacing the current office in Springbank, Brodick to allow us to continue to provide an excellent service to our customers.

This move will take place on Monday 1st December 2014 and we will continue to be open to the public on Wednesdays from 9am-1pm.

Neil Wilkinson, Housing & Property Officer, will be available for contact in the Lamlash office from Wednesday 3rd December.

We hope this will improve the service to our customers who will have the additional convenience of accessing other council services within the same building should they so wish.

Neil Wilkinson will continue to meet with customers in their own home or in the Lamlash office on a Wednesday morning or at other times by personal appointment.

Neil can be contacted on 01770 303700 or by email at nwilkinson@trustha.org.uk

Christine McDonald, Care & Repair Officer, will also be based in the Lamlash office and can be contacted on 01770 302888 or by email at cmcdonald2@trustha.org.uk

EYE-WITNESS

Stories from the West Bank & Israel

Come and hear first-hand from Bronwen Currie (Islay) who has recently returned from the West Bank

What is daily life under occupation really like?

What is the Israeli peace movement doing?

What can we do to promote a just peace in Israel-occupied Palestine?

5th December 2014 7.30pm

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

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Arran Access Trust

AGM

16th of December

at the Ormidale Pavillion at 7.30 pm

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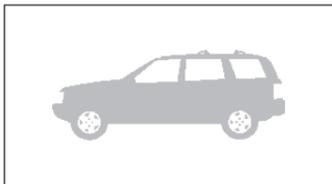
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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
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White wardrobe with mirror
on left door. W-2ft, H-6ft 10
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button start, offers when
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 30th November: Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service. The Annual Church Meeting is to be held on 14th December.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on THURSDAY, 4th December, at 7.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.

ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister: Rev Angus Adamson, Parish assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited

Sunday 30th November

Lochranza and Pirmill Churches. 10.15am Come to Church Sunday Service in Lochranza, Shiskine Church, 12noon Come to Church Sunday Service. Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 11.50am Tea & Coffee & Fellowship, 12noon Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

Church of Scotland Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 30th November

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Both Churches:

Rev. Dr. Ian Macleod

All welcome, including families; children's area Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 30th November Morning Service, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick Prayer Meeting Wed.3rd December 5 Glen Road, Brodick All welcome

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 30th November 2014

Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am. All welcome. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. The Church Christmas Card, to be sent to all members, will be available to be signed, and all proceeds will go to the Glasgow City Mission

Holy Cross Catholic Church Sunday morning 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 30th November

11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick

Tea & Coffee after the service. Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 30th November

Shiskine 11am

(Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie) Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)

Rev Ronnie Christie

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakes meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223



Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday 22 November. Great day out on the links playing in the Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza Match. Sixteen gents were out with some great golf being played. Billy Paton, John Milesi, Andy Gray and Gator fought it out at the dominoes and John Milesi won the Quaich with 27pts - congratulations!

Sunday 23 November. Missionaries v Natives@ Shiskine today with a great turn out of 28 gents. Tough conditions out there with frequent showers but the Natives got the upper hand winning the Jim Allison Trophy. Nearest the pins @4th Alan Bannatyne, 10th Brian Sherwood, 12th John Salton.

Fixtures: Sunday 30 November, Gents Ryder Cup fourballs, 1pm shotgun start. Thursday 4 December, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10.30am tee off.

Sunday 16 November, Gents 12 Hole Medal, 14 played in fine conditions. CSS 41. 1st Class 1 A Kerr 46-7=39(BIH), 2 B Sherwood 45-6=39. 2nd Class 1 W McNally 51-13=38, 2 W Robertson 59-11=48. Scratch Allan Napier 44. Magic twos D Logan and B Sherwood Thursday 20 November, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10



John Milesi with the Quaich he won at Shiskine with Billy Paton, Andy Gray and Gator.

played, CSS 68. Silver 1 and Scratch L Kerr 87-16=71, 2 E Kelso 92-19=73. Bronze 1 P Johnston 94-24=70, 2 F Scott 96-25=71. Congratulations Piet!

Whiting Bay Golf Club

The Stableford from the yellow tees had a good turnout of 13 last Wednesday. The winner was Richard Fletcher who snuck in under the radar, handing in the final card of the day with a nonchalant 'this won't trouble the scoring'. His total of 38 points relegated a crestfallen Keith Kelsall to second place with his score of 37 points. At least Keith can be comfortable in the knowledge that Richard's winter handicap will be trimmed for next Wednesday while his remains untouched! Open to ladies and gents, draws at about 9.30, a good fun morning of golf every Wednesday morning. All welcome.

Fixtures: Sunday 30 November, Captain's Prize. One draw at 10am Stableford from yellow tees.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 18 November, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 39 pts, 2 Campbell Laing 37pts, 3 Mark Sherwood 36pts. Magic two Mark Sherwood.

Fixtures: Tuesday 2 December, Winter Cup tee off 12noon. Saturday 6 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup 12noon tee off.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 22 November, white tees, 12 played, CSS62. Sweep 1 J McConnachie 29+32=61-6=55, 2 B Lewis 35+37=72-10=62(BIH), 3 M Elliot 36+40=76-14=62. Best scratch J McConnachie 29+32=61-6=55. Magic twos Brian Lewis (2) and Jim McConnachie.

Monday 24 November, Monday Cup yellow tees, 11 played. Sweep 1 B Helios 64-7=57, 2 T Cotton 82-23=59(BIH), 3 J McGovern 67-8=59. Scratch B Lewis 64. Magic twos A Burke (3), J McGovern, B Lewis and G McDonald.

Fixtures: Saturday 29 November, medal round, 8.30am

and 12.30pm shotgun start. Monday 1 December, Monday Cup yellow tees 12 noon start.

Arran Golfers Association

Arran Golfers Association Winter League/Duncan Trophy 2014-2015. Second round at Whiting Bay Golf Club Sunday 7 December. Draw: Whiting Bay v Machrie, Brodick v Corrie, Lamlash v Shiskine. Tee off time will be 10am for all games, can everybody please arrive early enough to give time to get to your respective tees. Whiting Bay will delegate tees on the day, please make sure fairways are clear before teeing off at 10 am exactly.



like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Happy 18th Birthday Elliot

Love from Mum, Dad and Gran XX

DEATHS

TURNER - ERIC

Died 11th November 2014 aged 83years. The family would like to thank everyone for all the messages and acts of kindness during this sad time.

Very special thanks to the wonderful team of people at Cooriedoon, who treated Eric with compassion and empathy and so gave him back his dignity and sparkle, which allowed him to enjoy a few treasured months on Arran with his family.

RUSSELL - IAIN

Peacefully, after a long illness, on Monday 24th November. Iain, father of Andrew and Duncan, Grandad to Olivia and Harris. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, by Dregghorn, KA11 4EP on Wednesday 3rd December at 1pm. Friends welcome. Donations in lieu to Alzheimer's Scotland, alzscot.org or RNLI.

MEMORIAM

MACKENZIE, JAMES

Ten years have passed since that sad day Dad, but in our hearts you are always here. All our love, June, James and family.

ANNA LOGAN

Who passed away 20th November 2013. A whole year without you in our life's but your beautiful smile will forever shine on in our hearts. Sorely missed, Hazel and family.

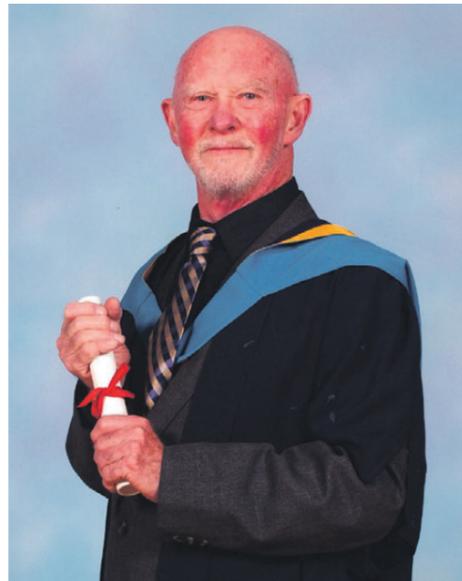
MEMORIAM

MacKenzie

In loving memory of James -
Died 28th November 2004

10 years have passed but you will always have a special place within our hearts
Mum and all the family

Newsdesk
01770 302142



Congratulations to Alan McBain from family and friends on Graduating from Open University with a bachelor of Arts (HONS) in history.

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Pride as Liusidh is picked for Scotland U20 squad

Concussed Cougar ready to make her return

Arran rugby player Liusidh McMaster has been picked for the Scotland under 20 squad.

The 18-year-old student was selected as one of the forwards following open trials last month.

She will be part of the 26-strong female squad.

While she attended the first training day last weekend in Edinburgh she was unable to participate after she suffered concussion in a club game earlier this month, but hopes to be back playing next week after seeing her doctor.

It will be followed by training camps next month and in the first three months of next year leading to two matches

later in the spring against teams representing the air force and the Czech Republic.

Liusidh, who was born and brought up on the island, now plays for the Royal High Corstorphine Cougars and Edinburgh University while studying at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in the capital.

Liusaidh told The Banner: 'I'm delighted to be involved in the programme again this year. Standards are being raised all the time.'

'With more publicity and investment in the women's game as a whole so trials were a big step up from last year.

'As a player I am excited for the season ahead both the club and university seasons are just over half way through now. I'm really enjoying playing at a higher level this year. Playing on a Wednesday for the university team as well as on a Sunday for RHC Cougars in the Scottish Premier League means I'm getting twice the number of games.

'This has been physically challenging but hugely beneficial.

'With the university promotion into the British Universities premiership last season we are playing against top sport universities across England and it's great

to be able to compete with these big teams and future internationals.

'Similarly with the Scottish Premier league, playing with and against senior Scotland women's squad players is great experience and crucial in preparing for our own international fixtures at the end of the season.

'There have been joint training sessions with the senior squad over the last few weeks but the whole team came together for the first time last weekend following selection.

'Although I couldn't participate it's exciting to come together as a group of players and see where the strengths

lie.

Head coach Alex Laybourne said: 'It's a programme that has been building momentum for the past few years- proof in the five ex U20s who were selected for the starting team to play Italy in the Women's Autumn Internationals - and now with more investment and resources available we are only going to build from here.'

'I'm really excited about the depth and breadth of talent we saw at the trials. We've had to make some tough calls over the course of the last few weeks to come to a final squad for the season of 26.'



Liusidh McMaster has been picked for Scotland's under 20 squad.

Arran go top of the league after tough Uddingston test



The jubilant Arran team after their victory.

Arran 4 Uddingston 2

The Arran Ladies hockey team sit proudly at the top of the league after knocking Uddingston off the top spot in a tough match in Brodick last Saturday.

Arran scored pretty quickly showing fighting spirit from the off. By half time they were 3-1 up.

Their opponents were not used to losing nor having anyone ever scoring against them.

Arran played very defensively in the second half after Uddingston scored making it 3-2. The opponents were aggressive and, to be honest, had much better skills but Arran Ladies fought with sheer passion and rarely gave up. It was

pure determination and fight which gave Arran a final score of 4-2.

Arran's goals were scored by Anne Watts with two, Lorraine Hewie and one from Judith Ross.

Dame of the game deservedly went to goalie Pauline Reid.

Captain Victoria McNicol said: 'We are now half way

through the season and sit top of the league with one game in hand as the team have no match this weekend.

'The continual cheers from the sidelines kept us fighting and we really appreciate all the support.'

'Thank you to Sally Brookes and Derek Shand for umpiring.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.