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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2015 No 2039 60p

Christmas on Arran

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with Christmas ideas

Son flees burning cottage after stove blaze accident

Holy Isle windfarm plans are lodged

A windfarm development on Holy Isle moved a step closer this week with the submission of a full planning application.

The Buddhist monks, who own the island, want to erect six wind turbines, three at each end of the island, to power most of their energy needs.

The application to North Ayrshire Council planning department is for the erection of six 20.2-metre high turbines with associated underground cabling.

The application is in the name of Howard Sargent of The Rokpa Trust, which is based at the Samye Ling Centre in Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire and runs the Holy Isle retreats.

The trust first met planning officials in February last year to discuss the potential for small wind generation on Holy Isle. Planning officers have also been on Holy Isle to discuss the feasibility of the proposals, including site location and relative suitability of turbines of different typologies. They have also visited the Kingspan wind turbine factory, whose turbines the project would use.

It was back in May that the Banner first revealed the wind farm plan for Holy Isle during pre-planning work.

Continued on page 2

REPORT

by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A man has had a lucky escape from a burning farm cottage outside Brodick.

Christian Roots was sound asleep last week when he heard a loud bang in the middle of the night, which he thought may have been caused by the cat.

But when he awoke he realised there was an orange glow coming from the living room. And when he opened the door he was met with a wall of flames and smoke with burning embers dropping from the ceiling.

Gasping for air, Christian managed to make it to the front door where he raised the alarm.

The fire service arrived within minutes to tackle the blaze, which has left the cottage badly damaged, and Christian without a lot of his personal possessions.

'We are just so grateful no one was hurt,' said his mum Rachel Lambie. 'What could have happened if Christian had not been woken up doesn't bear thinking about.'

The fire happened in the early hours of last Friday morning at Burnbank Cottage, one of three holiday cottages Rachel and Stewart Lambie



Christian outside the cottage with the roof and chimney damage clearly visible. 20_b48fire03

have at Burnbank Farm in Glen Rosa outside Brodick.

Christian, 25, has just finished an aboriculture and horticultural degree at Reaseheath College in Cheshire and is staying with his mum on Arran for the winter before returning to Cheshire.

He was using one of the

holiday cottages, which was completely renovated last year.

Christian said: 'I had been doing some tree surgery and when I got home it was quite cold so I put on the wood burning stove as that is the only heating I have.'

'I went to bed and left the

fire burning as usual, but was wakened by a loud bang at around 3.30am. I thought at first it must be the cat, but then I saw a strange orange glow under the bedroom door. When I opened the door, I was met with a wall of fire and smoke and the roof was well alight. I managed to

get to the door and ran to the farmhouse to raise the alarm and phoned the fire brigade.'

Brodick retained firefighters were on the scene in minutes followed by the Lamlash crew, who spent several hours tackling the blaze.

Rachel said: 'The

Continued on page 2



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Approval bid for windfarm plans

Continued from page 1

Since then an ecological assessment, including ornithology, has been carried out along with a bat survey, an environmental report, noise assessments and turbine location plans.

The formal application, which was submitted last week, should be decided by officials before the middle of January next year.

Plans show that development would consist of six Kingspan 15kW wind turbines, with three located at

the south end of the island and three at the north end.

The two proposed sites are about 2.7km apart, separated by Holy Isle's 314m peak, Mullach Mor.

There are two main groups of buildings on the island.

The Centre for World Peace and Health is located at the north end and provides courses and retreats to the general public.

The Inner Light Retreat Centre is located at the south end and is home for long term retreatants.

that this is possible to the island's many visitors. The scale of the proposed development has therefore been chosen so that it will generate most or all of the electricity needs of the island's community and visitors.

'The development will also uphold the Buddhist aspiration and principle of 'living lightly on the earth', through the harnessing of the natural wind resource.

'As electricity is the only energy source on Holy Isle, the community's electricity bill is substantial. The proposed project will therefore also contribute to the financial sustainability of the Holy Isle community and to the considerable benefit that it brings to the Isle of Arran local economy.'

A spokeswoman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'The application by Ropka Trust for the erection of six turbines comprising of three turbines at south end of Holy Isle and three at north end with associated sub-surface cabling, was registered on November 17.'

'The target timescale for the determination of the application would be no later than January 16, 2016. In terms of the council's scheme of delegation to officers, the application would be determined by officers.'



A map showing the site of the three wind turbines at each end of Holy Isle. 20_b48wind01

Mum is full of praise for quick actions of Arran fire crews



Christian at the stove which is thought to have started the fire with the burnt roof above him. 20_b48fire01



Continued from page 1
fire brigade were amazing. They were here in 10 minutes and extremely professional and reassuring throughout. They did their best to save everything they could and Janice Miller was really helpful.'

The fire crews were at the scene until just before dawn, and while they were able to save some of the furniture, Christian has lost all of his electrical equipment including his laptop, TV and hi-fi. Thankfully, he had all his college work saved on a back-up memory stick. All the carpets in the one-bedroomed cottage are ruined and the corrugated iron roof will have to be replaced.

'We don't know what caused the fire, it was maybe a spark in the rafters, but the stove was in the cottage before it was renovated and has never given us any problems,' Rachel added.

Christian is now staying in the main farmhouse and is helping on the family farm until he returns to Cheshire to pursue his career in tree surgery in the spring.

Christian clears the debris at the back of the cottage. 20_b48fire02

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Youth card delivery service returns for Christmas

Arran Youth Foundations will once again deliver Christmas cards throughout Brodick, raising money for the local Salvation Army by doing so.

With postboxes at the Play Barn and Little Rock cafe open from Friday, November 27 onwards, the youngsters will charge just 30p per card and deliver on foot throughout December. The last date for dropping cards in to either postbox is Friday, December 18.

AYF youth work project manager Graeme Johnston said: 'It is always good for young people to do something nice in their local community and for the past few years, the young people of AYF have given up a lot of their time at Christmas to deliver cards.'

Graeme points out that the young people are delivering on foot, so addresses need to be within Brodick village only.

Craft shop bid at Cladach

An application has been made for the erection of a single storey craft workshop at Khartoum, Cladach on the woodland site of a former craft building destroyed by fire nearly 20 years ago.

Mr and Mrs Les McLeod of Whiting Bay run a successful craft business from home and now require larger dedicated premises to sustain and develop their enterprise, according to papers submitted to North Ayrshire Council planning department.

The new wooden building would utilise the concrete foundation floor slab which is still at the site.

A report, in justification of the planning application, states: 'The proposed craft workshop business will benefit from, and in turn benefit the other craft related businesses in the immediate Cladach area.'

Planning officials are considering the application.

Footpath in honour of Arran's most famous son

A proposal has been made to create a footpath to the birthplace of Daniel Macmillan, founder of the global publishing house of Macmillans and grandfather of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

Daniel Macmillan, who is arguably Arran's most famous son, was born on September 13, 1813 in a croft called Achog above the north end of Corrie.

Influence

Although Daniel was to spend most of his life in Irvine, London and Cambridge, he always acknowledged the lasting influence Arran had on him. Harold Macmillan was also particularly proud of the family's humble origins on Arran and kept a photograph on his desk at No 10 Downing Street of the croft at the Cock of Arran which had belonged to Daniel's grandfather Malcolm.

The idea for the footpath came from David Pott of Lochranza. He said: 'I had been doing some historical research on the origins of

the congregational church at Sannox and I was intrigued to discover that two of the founder members of the church were Duncan and Katherine Macmillan who were Daniel Macmillan's parents. Daniel's aunt Janet married the first pastor at the church, Alex Mackay, and, because both his parents died when he was quite young, he frequently came back to visit his uncle and aunt at the manse adjoining the church in Sannox.'

In September of 2013 David arranged some events in connection with the bicentenary of Daniel Macmillan's birth and this included a walk to his birthplace at Achog. Back in 1940, the ruins of the black house were still standing but the area became a training ground for the Commandos and Achog was used as a target for mortar practise. Currently the only access to Achog is via a path near the Cat Stone.

Rubble

'It is just a pile of rubble now, but it is still moving to go there and reflect how a person born in such humble circumstances was destined to make such a global impact,' said David.

'It seemed surprising to me that there is nothing at all on Arran to acknowledge the significance of Daniel Macmillan so I began to conceive of the idea of a footpath with an associated interpretation panel about Daniel's extraordinary life.'

The project has the support of George Macmillan,



The site of Achog above Corrie.

the chief of Clan Macmillan and David believes that if the project could be realised, it would be an attractive addition to Arran's tourism profile.

David is keen to share his ideas with others on the island who might be interested and can provide further details on 830317 or email dlpott@gmail.com



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Routine training exercise turned into 'threat to Scots ferry routes'

A national newspaper was accused by CalMac of getting it wrong this week after the publication warned that Islamic State terrorists could try to hijack a Scottish passenger ferry.

The story on the front page of Saturday's Daily Record

showed what claimed to be Royal Marines carrying out an exercise on the MV Caledonian Isles amidst fears of an attack.

Routine

What the paper didn't point out was that the images were from a regular, routine ex-

ercise carried out by Royal Marine Commandos earlier this year and reported by the Banner in March.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'The picture shows a routine training exercise by Royal Marines, which have been taking place on our ships for

some time and are not in response to any specific security threat to our ferries.'

Yet, according to the paper, and its sister title The Scottish Mirror, the elite Special Boat Service had launched dozens of high-speed boat assaults on ferries in Scot-



One of the photographs from the exercise in March. Photo CPO Tam McDonald (Crown Copyright)

land as they stepped up their training.

They claimed to have been told by unnamed security sources that the SBS had an entire squadron of commandos on standby to deal with the new terror threat from the sea.

And they added that the crack troops had increased the number of maritime exercises in case Isis launch a sea assault.

A spokesman for the Royal Marines said it had not given the newspaper - or its sister paper - any new information.

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Public meetings on in Brodick

Just a reminder that there are two public meetings being held in Brodick next week.

The first is on Monday November 30 in Brodick Hall at 6pm when Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) will be discussing storm resilience with members of the public.

While on Thursday, December 3 at 7.30pm, in the same venue, a public meeting is to be held when the local community will get the chance to meet George Leslie Ltd, who have been awarded the contract to redevelop the Brodick Ferry Terminal by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL).

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Corrie seal makes its third escape bid in two years

The famous Corrie seal has made a bid for freedom again after being washed off its rock.

The seal, a local landmark and Corrie icon, can be seen outside its creator Marvyn Elliot's workshop where it is awaiting more favourable weather before it can be restored to its home rock.

The seal usually takes its annual holidays earlier in the year, having gone for a swim in May this year after particularly stormy weather, but was found washed ashore nearby.

It was in March of 2014 that the seal took its most adventurous holiday yet when it swam over the Firth of Clyde and was discovered on an Ayrshire beach at Turnberry before being returned to its home. Sculptor Marvyn Elliot has said that he will continue to try and fix it to the rock

more securely but he has tried longer bolts, strong epoxy, and everything in between but because it is made of wood the tide comes up and lifts it off its perch and simply shears the bolts and rips apart

the epoxy.

'I'm sure it's doing it for the attention and publicity,' joked Marvyn, who added that he would be reattaching it with stronger epoxy in an effort to stop it roaming again.



At its temporary home, the seal can be seen outside Marvyn Elliot's workshop. 02_b48marvin01

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Lochranza Centre given a new lease of life

An Arran outdoor centre, which had faced the threat of closure, has been saved by two men who have ambitious plans for the future.

The Lochranza Field Studies Centre, previously run by PGL, became Lochranza Centre CIC last month. The directors of the new company are Stuart Blake and Chris Traill, who have managed the centre on behalf of PGL for a number of years.

They have pledged the centre will continue to provide outdoor field studies and activities to school groups, uniformed organisations, universities and families.

The new organisation has been set up as a 'not-for-profit' community interest company and will continue to provide important employment for the north of Arran with around 14 staff.

The centre offers meeting rooms for community groups and supports other Arran organisations such as The Access Trust and First Respond-

ers. They are also interested in other ways that the centre may be able to provide support, facilities and services in the future.

Current considerations include a local geology information trail, village geocache, rhododendron management and squirrel bridges. They are also open to any other ideas the community of the north end may have.

The centre offers educational courses in geology, geography, biology and environmental science. It also provides a range of activities including gorge walking, climbing, abseiling, mountain biking, canoeing, raft building and archery.

The accommodation can cater for up to 100 guests at a time with a range of rooms from twin-bed en-suite to eight-bed bunk dormitories. During school holidays they offer all-inclusive family activity holidays.

With increased visitor numbers to the island they can

provide an important source of group accommodation for any trip or event. They can also accommodate conferences and provide corporate team building activities.

The centre will be holding an 'open afternoon' on Saturday, December 5 from 11am until 2pm.

Chris said: 'Please come along and view the facilities

and meet the staff. Hot mince pies, tea and coffee will be available in the dining room. Weather permitting you may be able to try your hand at one or two activities.'



Bonfire beach clean up in Lamlash

Brenda and Jim Stewart are joined by Julia Masurier at the start of the Lamlash beach clean up on Sunday, after it was postponed the previous weekend due to the weather. Organised by Lamlash Improvements, the trio started by clearing the site of the recent Guy Fawkes bonfire in the village. 20_b48beach01

Colouring book launch

Brodick Library is hosting the launch of a new colouring book written by Cicely Gill and illustrated by Lesley Vanbogerijen.

Produced by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) the story is called 'Kirsty, Jamie and the Pipefish man'. There will be readings for children, and any adults, who would like to attend, from 4pm to 5pm on Tuesday December 1. There will also be crafts available on the day.

Poppy appeal money raised

This year's Poppy Scotland appeal ahead of Remembrance Day raised £629.83 in Lamlash and £903.31 in Shiskine, Blackwaterfoot and Machrie. Brodick raised £1,710.51 through the sale of poppies and wristbands.

Club draw winners

The winner of the October draw of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club was Fiona Hamilton with Avril Cuddihy as runner-up.

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The repainted Pierhead Tavern. 20_b48pierhead08



The new rooftop terrace which will open next spring. 20_b48pierhead06



The Pierhead Tavern team, left to right, Megan McGill, owners Alistair and Jane Howe, Megan jr. Inset: The new look lounge bar. 20_b48pierhead01 and 20_b48pierhead01

Music very much at new look Pierhead Rooftop terrace has splend

If anyone thought they knew the Pierhead Tavern...think again.

New owners Jane and Alistair Howe have completely transformed the pub, universally known as the PHT, making it unrecognisable from its previous guise.

Anyone passing will have seen the huge amount of work which has been required to bring the pub back to life - and there was even more work inside.

The couple even went the extra step of removing part of the roof to create a rooftop beer garden, which has spectacular views over Lamlash Bay, and will be ready to open in the spring.

In the meantime, the couple had been concentrating on getting the inside ready for a soft opening yesterday (Thursday) and the official opening at Santa's Sparkle today (Saturday). Six full and part time jobs have been created with the new bar opening.

But Jane admitted it has not all been plain sailing. She said: 'It may have been hard work and trying at times, but to see it finished makes it all worthwhile.'

Many feared the PHT would never open its doors again

when it closed down in 2104 and planning permission was granted to convert it into flats.

Step forward Jane and Alistair for who the purchase of the PHT represented a complete life-changing decision. Before they came to the island at New Year for a break they had never been to Arran before, but they fell in love with the island and the location and development potential of the PHT.

'But it was not my first thought when I looked through the window of the PHT. It was completely derelict,' Alistair said.

And they were to find it in an even worse state when they got in. One of the upstairs flats had fallen through the roof of the pool room and the other was practically falling into the cellar, the back wall was rotten, the drains and sewers were blocked, there was dry rot, wet rot and mould everywhere.

'Layers upon layers had been put on top of previous ones and when you took them off you knew at the end of it you weren't going to find something good,' Alistair said.

Everything which had been in the building had simply been thrown out the back of the pub and into outhouses - furniture, kitchen equipment and all the

fixtures and fittings.

'We found some nice old photographs, including an aerial shot of the hotel from the 1990s, which had simply been dumped outside. It took a huge amount of clearing,' Jane added.

After eight months of work the results are now visible for all to see. Gone is the public bar and restaurant to make one



Owners Jane and Alistair Howe

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an Holman, chef Liam Atkinson and bar manager Michael Bailey, usually known as Bailey

h on the menu rhead Tavern d views over Lamlash Bay

big bright open room with a space for live music at one end and a woodburning stove, in the reopened chimney, at the other.

One of the few remaining features from the old PHT is the stone feature fireplace wall and the stone surround of the bar. But even that was another arduous chore for Jane who cleaned each one, with a lot of

elbow grease and a scouring pad, to remove years of grime and tobacco stains from the dark days when smoking was allowed in pubs.

New solid oak floors have been laid across the new look bar and modern chairs and tables will provide seating for the 40 to 60 guests the venue can accommodate.

Music is very much at the top

of the agenda at the new PHT and every weekend there will be live music with the Saturday night rock out, followed by more mellow mixes on a Sunday.

The live music starts tonight (Saturday) with Badstone playing rock, blues and soul covers and Jane has other bands booked for the coming weeks as well. And musician Jane, who plays the bass guitar, has even formed the Pierhead Tavern Band which will also be playing regularly in the bar.

The bar will have a pool table available for competitions and a lending library of books, and while the TV will not be on all the time, it will be available for big football matches and other events. The venue will also have conference facilities.

The pub is also installing two showers which will be available to sailors, cyclists and others engaged in outdoor pursuits and a cycle washing area.

'We have listened to what people want and we want to serve the whole community,' said Jane. 'We will have a piano by Christmas and, while we are not serving food on Christmas Day, it would be great to get people round the piano for a good old fashioned sing song in the afternoon.'



e beside the new woodburning stove. 20_b48pierhead04



Megan McGill does some flower arranging. 20_b48pierhead03



Bar manager Michael Bailey pours a pint. 20_b48pierhead02

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

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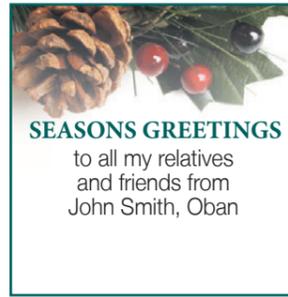
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THE ARRAN BANNER

Meetings that matter

Two public meetings this week strike at the very heartbeat of island life - the weather and the ferries.

The first meeting on Monday night is being held by the power distribution arm of Scottish Hydro to discuss storm resilience.

The meeting is part of SHEPD's partnership with the University of Dundee, which is conducting a study into how communities, including people with vulnerability, cope in an emergency situation such as a power cut.

The company say the meeting in Brodick will help Arran's residents discuss their preparation for winter and to provide feedback on the support they would like to receive from SHEPD during a storm. It will also give people the opportunity to hear from the distribution network operator about shaping an emergency response strategy.

However, perhaps even more important is the meeting on Thursday when port operators CMAL introduce the contractor which will build Brodick's new ferry terminal, George Leslie Ltd, and share the latest information regarding the redevelopment.

This is a project which will affect the lives of each and every one of us. The Banner is still receiving letters about the perceived folly of building the main passenger lounge up a flight of stairs or via lifts, but given the design has now been fully costed by the contractor, it is probably too late to change that now.

But design alterations should, and will, happen during the construction phase, not after it, which is why any representations the public wants to make have to be made now - before it is too late and the building work begins.

George Leslie Ltd will also be an important part of island life during the next two years. Workers from the firm are already hard at work clearing Japanese knotweed at the site, so that works proper can begin in the new year.

The firm has also this week advertised its first island job. It will also make a substantial contribution to the island economy with accommodation needed for workers, sub-contract work for local firms as well as the spending power of those working here.

Here's hoping for a good turnout at both meetings.

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

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If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Ageing population

Sir,
There have been calls recently for Arran to become a 'first class' island. Leaving aside whether this might mean different things to residents or visitors, a barrier to Arran developing economically, is its demography.

A previous article in the Banner (5/10/13) noted that Arran's population had fallen by 7.9 per cent from 2001 to 2011. It was also highlighted that at least a significant part of that fall could be attributed to the greater number of deaths than births attributed to normally residents of the island (418 between 2001 and 2012). This trend has continued with 89 more deaths than births from 2013 to 2014.

If births continue to be significantly less than deaths then the island population will continue to fall. The one factor that could alter this situation is if Arran can attract more people to live there than leave.

Newly released census data helps fill out the picture. Thus, in the year before the 2001 census, 93 more people came to live on Arran than left (344 compared with 251). Similarly, in the year before the 2011 census, 78 more people came to Arran than left (273 compared with 195).

So, it would appear that Arran can attract people to come and live on the island.

It is unlikely, however, that this in-migration is sufficient to counteract the excess of births or deaths but it is likely that that there will be a further, gentle population decline.

These demographic dynamics are also changing the age structure of the population.

Thus, while 22.8 per cent of Arran's residents were 65 and over in 2001 the figure was 30.6 per cent in 2011. This change partly arises from Arran's residents getting older but also from some of those coming to live on Arran being in the older age groups.

There will be contrasting views of what constitutes a 'first class' island. However,

few would regard a declining and ageing population as an ideal foundation. These demographic factors raise the issue of the available policy instruments that could change this situation and, whether these could be agreed.

Yours,
**Emeritus Professor
Bob Osborne
Belfast**

Forgotten Lochranza

Sir,
I once heard Lochranza referred to as 'The forgotten city' - city? Certainly not - but forgotten? - well now, that seems more appropriate. No doubt the omission in any report, of events in Lochranza, was due to the customary breakdown of communications with these more remote regions of the island.

Having read the detailed Banner report on flooding around the island, last Sunday, is it little wonder that some of the residents of Lochranza felt a little bit left out, or indeed forgotten, while they tried to mop up after the Sunday morning deluge. In particular, three houses in a row, at Ladeside, woke up to five inches of water throughout their ground floors. One elderly resident had to move out and is indeed still staying with neighbours.

This is not a first time event at this particular location. Since 2002 and earlier, there has been a file of correspondence building up concerning flood risks in Lochranza. In November 2013 Mr Craig Hatton, corporate director of development and environment wrote to the effect that limited North Ayrshire Council resources were being focused on flooding problems where properties were being affected. Surely this is a prime example of a case where really urgent support is called for.

The issue has been reported to Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the local council staff who acknowledge that they are aware of the problem but it would be nice if the householders in question could be kept in the

loop regarding any progress or proposed action to avoid the same thing happening again.

Yours,
**Wren Gentleman
Larkspur
Lochranza**

One level terminal

Sir,
The cause of all of the problems which the present new ferry terminal proposals will cause could be simplified by CalMac (or whoever) creating a berthing station on either side of the new pier.

The existing proposal showing the boat docking only on the west side of the pier is, I presume, to allow the boat to dock in all weather but by doing so has created an insurmountable problem in trying to establish a safe route for the pedestrian passengers.

This problem could be easily resolved if the pier was designed to allow the boat to dock on the easterly side under normal weather conditions thereby allowing foot passengers to come all the way from Brodick to the new terminal without once having to cross over traffic/bus routes within the pier complex. When the weather forces the boat to dock on the easterly side of the pier then foot passengers would have to do no more than they presently do when the gangway is out of action.

The terminal could now be kept on the one level, no stairs, ramps or elevators or hideously long, in the sky, walkway. The design and building of the terminal would be greatly simplified and being on one level the consequent savings could be transferred to meet the additional fabrication costs in creating the twin dock pier.

Advantages: Foot passengers remain completely segregated from all traffic. Passengers remain on the one level against the present proposal which forces all passengers to make their way up to a first floor level, 16 feet above ground level.

I would guess with up to 25 per cent of passengers being

of limited agility, they will find this a tedious experience. Also the building will be cheaper and faster to construct. Finally what if, God forbid, there is a fire - lifts can't be used and smoke can travel at a frightening speed. The resultant chaos just does not bear thinking about.

Yours,
**Guy Murray
Corrie**

Meeting mix-up

Sir,
Your report of the public consultation meeting on Wednesday, November 11 by Serco regarding its bid to take over the CalMac ferry network comments that there were few present. That might be because it was advertised to take place on Monday November 9 and presumably postponed due to ferry/weather issues. Whilst our Independent Travelling Public Representative Neil Arthur might have known that, no one else did, and I and others arrived at Brodick Hall on the Monday to find it locked without even a notice on the door.

How did it then advertise the replacement meeting? Is that a sign of things to come should it succeed with the bid?

Many of us on the island are not taken in by Serco's gloss and will judge it by its reputation which is hardly glowing - including reports of diminishing standards on the Northlink ferries to Shetland and Orkney. Lifeline ferry routes should not be turned over to companies interested only in profit. As your report mentioned, there is a public campaign led by the main trade union involved, the RMT (backed by the Daily Record newspaper), that is trying to put pressure on the Scottish Government to keep CalMac in public hands. If anyone wants further information or copies of the cards that can be sent to our MSP, please contact me.

Yours,
**Colin Turbett
Rannoch
Shiskine**

Arran Deliveries

**Arran Deliveries
The Parcel Point
Harbour Road,
Ardrossan
North Ayrshire
KA22 8BZ**

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
Daily collection throughout Ayrshire,
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**Tel: 01475 676 255
Fax: 01294 469 492**

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Arran Deliveries
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow G14 0HB**

Open Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Accepting goods destined
for the island

*We deliver the goods
not excuses*

CHRISTMAS ON

ARRAN

With Christmas just around the corner with nativity plays and pantomimes and other festive events all vying for your attention, the Shop Arran event is a good opportunity to catch up on your gift purchasing before the inevitable last minute rush. It is the weekend to take advantage of some very special festive offers on the island and even the chance to win a fantastic Christmas crammed hamper.

The Shop Arran weekend, now in its fourth year, takes place from Friday, December 4 to Sunday, December 6

and offers huge savings and special discounts from a co-operative of participating stores that offer local goods and Arran quality products that are ideal for Christmas gifts or for spoiling yourself or a loved one.

With a wide variety to choose from, such as Arran Cheese, Arran Aromatics health and beauty products to Arran whisky and home accessories from County Carpets, the choices are endless and there will undoubtedly be something for everyone.

For those hunting for the perfect present Fridays Child is the ideal

place to find that unusual or quirky gift and the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot can provide you with everything that you may need to wrap it and also has some gift sets which are perfect stocking fillers. So whether its jewellery from Jolly Molly's or cosy knitwear from the Old Byre or even a leather handbag from the Pooch Boutique, there will be no shortage of festive ideas and treats available at participating stores across the island.

With some shops offering free bubbly and complimentary nibbles as well as

large discounts the Shop Arran event is also offering shoppers the chance to win a massive hamper, worth £600, with products from all of the participating stores. Simply buy an item from a participating store, receive a stamp on your 'loyalty card' and after you have three stamps you are in line to win a bumper Arran hamper which is now so large it has outgrown its basket. For a full list of participating stores and the fabulous offers and events taking place keep turning the pages to see where the smart shoppers will be over the Shop Arran weekend.



Santa's Sparkle
Arran's Christmas Fair

12:30 Santa's Parade
12:45pm to 3pm Meet Santa
2pm, 4pm & 7pm Magic & Comedy
3pm Mrs Claus
6pm Christmas Tree Fireworks
6:15pm & 7:45pm Live music from The Vests
plus fun, games, food & so much more...
All events are completely free of charge

Full schedule and lots of info at:
www.glenislehotel.com/santa

THIS SATURDAY
Noon to 9pm 28 November
On Lamlash Green
Tel: 01770 600559
enquiries@glenislehotel.com

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One lucky winner will scoop the Shop Arran hamper





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





10% OFF 4-6th December
 *Some Restrictions Apply

01770 302132
 Merry Christmas from Buntys

Jolly Molly



10% off
 Friday 4th - Sunday 6th December

Come and see our amazing Christmas decorations and beautiful gifts

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

SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND **ARRAN DISTILLERY VISITOR CENTRE SHOP**
 FIND US IN LOCHRANZA

Open Daily - November to February, 10.30am - 4.00pm
 Distillery Tours - 11.45, 13.15, 14.30



10% OFF all your shopping
 A GREAT SELECTION OF ARRAN WHISKIES BEAUTIFULLY COMPLEMENTED BY A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER PRODUCTS AND GIFTS
 Tel. 01770 830264 www.arranwhisky.com

CASKS CAFE-BAR
 serving light meals, drinks and snacks, the perfect place to relax and savour our Whisky Tasting Flights

Shop Arran for

Arran Active stocks everything to keep the wet and chilly winter weather at bay for all the family! From super-warm down gilets and jackets, soft merino baselayers and cozy fleece hats and socks and gloves which are far from boring! The Darn Tough sock range comes in a variety of natural wool colours and are 'guaranteed for a lifetime'. The huge range of winter footwear now includes trail running shoes. The children's range includes fleecy waterproof all-in-ones at affordable prices from 6 months plus. Practical presents include Leatherman pocket tools and Petzl headtorches, Stanley flasks and incredibly tough Muck wellies which will last for years. If you're still stuck why not pop an ever-popular Buff in his or her Christmas stocking chosen from the newly extended range of Buff neck-warmers and hats. Enjoy a glass of warm mulled wine

while you shop and enjoy 10 per cent off!

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, 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 you children's gifts this festive season.

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. Buntys is just how a

Laura from Buntys imaginatively sources all her beautiful gifts, offering a great selection of home accessories, as well as hand painted furniture which looks great in any home. From smaller items to beautiful accessories and larger pieces of the home there is just so



contemporary Christmas ought to look and you are certain to find plenty of gifts for friends and family. It is also perfect for Secret Santa gifts with great mugs, candles and ceramic burners, to name but a few.

much on offer. Offering a fresh escape from the norm, **The Curtain House** has many stylish ideas to help create a home that is beautiful and practical.

Pooch Boutique
A Celebration of the Handmade

Pooch by Nici Boni
 Leather handbags and accessories

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

Kez Ceramics
 Ceramics, fused and stained glass

10% DISCOUNT ON ITEMS OVER £20

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

The Boathouse

10% off for the Shop Arran Weekend
 Fri 4th - Sun 6th Dec

Loads of more great offers in store
 Cards, decorations
 Children's toys

THE BEACH, BRODICK
 Tel/ Fax 01770 302 868

The Curtain House
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Beautiful xmas decorations & home accessories

10% OFF ALL PURCHASES
 plus other offers

Discount applies Fri 4th to sun 6th 10am to 5pm



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TOYS, GIFTS, DECORATIONS, GIFT VOUCHERS & MUCH MORE

10% OFF YOUR GOODS IF YOU SPEND OVER £20 EVERY SATURDAY TILL XMAS
 (exclusions apply)

SHOP OPEN LATE TILL 6PM ON THE 12TH AND 18TH DECEMBER

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

perfect Christmas gifts

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 and many special bargains. There are decorative accessories, sumptuous cushions from voyage decoration and lots of fab-

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 cheeses, 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.

Funky kitchen and homeware and table games for the all important big dinner are available at **Friday's Child**. There are also popular adult colouring books, including the newest from Johanna Basford, Lost Ocean and a beautiful artists version of Secret Garden.

Puzzles, games, toys and sweets to stuff every stocking are in abundance, and there are also beautiful gifts for new babies, gifts for grumpy grandads, pranks for cheeky boys and stylish

stationery for teens. Friday's Child still have their 'bumper bundles' you've come to know and love but this year they are also offering 10 per cent off everything in the shop and they gift wrap for free too!

Jolly Molly continues to offer an extensive range of affordable gifts and in 2015 extended their range of gifts to include jewellery, scarves, bags and other personal accessories that make ideal gifts. They have their usual extensive selection of gorgeous Christmas decorations which again are a great personal gift or stocking filler. Also lots of other lovely homeware to brighten your home during the festive period. Their exclusive Arran Satnav prints are also a ideal present for posting to those not lucky enough to live on our lovely island. Pop in and enjoy a glass of bubbly whilst you shop!

It's the time before Christmas, and the workshop at **Pooch Boutique** is a hive of activity. Nici is whipping up leather handbags and accessories made from the most exquisite leathers in lush colours, with some of them sporting beautiful fasteners made from locally sourced deer antlers, others sewn with the softest hare sheep leather and combined with Harris Tweed.

Kez (Carol) has worked up a wide range of ceramic plaques, Christmas decorations, pendants and vessels with intricate patterns and sumptuous glazes. A series of sculptures inspired by the organic shapes and textures of sea creatures shows Kez' incredible artistic skills and passion for detailed work.

Assja finally is stocking up with her vibrant beaded necklaces, bracelets and earrings as well as with jewellery and decorative items made from sea glass and drift wood. Na-

ture is also the inspiration for her other copper and silver pieces.

A visit at Pooch will not only give you the chance to buy locally crafted pieces; on items over £20 you will get 10 per cent discount. A wee chat with the makers, some mulled apple juice and Christmas Stollen are waiting for you as an extra treat.

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.



ulous 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.

The Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot has everything you will need for Christmas.

They stock Christmas cards, gift wrap, toiletry gift sets, gift vouchers, gift baskets, chocolates, handmade tablet, macaroon and shortbread, and much more. Why not pay them a visit this Christmas.

Arran Active Outdoor Shop

Christmas at Arran Active

10% OFF

All purchases over £25 from 4 – 7 December





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

New for 2015 – Buff Hats & Neckwarmers

Down Jackets & Gilets from Rab & Montane – up to 25% off

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Fleeces from The North Face, Rab, Craghoppers

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Gift Vouchers





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friday's child

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ARRAN AROMATICS
SCOTLAND

Celebrate the season with Arran Aromatics at Shop Arran

Christmas Special **25% off**
4th, 5th & 6th of December
Home Farm, Brodick

Warm your home this winter with our fantastic new home fragrance; Nutmeg Embers

arranaromatics.com

Arran Aromatics has an amazing new Christmas range 'Moments We Cherish' with their Nutcracker theme they have a fantastic range for Christmas for all the family. Come along and enjoy their fragrances. Get a selfie with one of the Elfies and win a fabulous prize and get your photo on the Arran Aromatics Facebook page. Lot's of fun and Elfies. At the Home Farm Centre Christmas starts here.

delighted to be part of the 'Shop Arran' weekend and offers a pleasurable and unique gift shopping experience in a beautifully lit space.

The gallery is located in Whiting Bay, a short distance from the centre of the village with parking opposite and is currently open seven days per week from 10am till 5pm. Enquiries are also welcome via the website www.arranartgallery.com or Tel: 01770 700250.

offering a 10 per cent discount in the extensive gift shop during the ShopArran weekend. The visitor centre

stop shop for all your Christmas shopping. Casks Café/Bar will be open, the perfect place to relax and savour dishes from Arran's larder



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LOCAL & SEASONAL PRODUCE

BUILD YOUR OWN HAMPER!

POP-UP KITCHEN GOURMET TAKEAWAY

FREE TASTINGS ALL WEEKEND

Along with their popular Arran Jigsaw and Long Weekend board game, **Arran Graphics** has just published their newest book, Rediscovering Arran.

This large coffee-table style book is laden with new images from around Arran, as well as a large section of previously unseen aerial shots. Arran Graphics also has one of the best selections of island-related stocking fillers, from Arran pens and pencils to thimbles, keyrings and badges.

Arran Art Gallery is

County Carpets Arran Ltd in Whiting Bay are delighted to be part of the hugely successful Shop Arran Weekend this year. They will be offering a festive discount of 10 per cent off all home accessories and furniture over the weekend. Please come and join them for a glass of bubbly while you browse. Opening hours: Friday and Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm.

The award winning **Isle of Arran Distillers Visitor Centre** will be

distillery exclusive bottlings, along with other island produce, gifts and souvenirs. The visitor centre has collaborated with local crafts people and there will be a small Christmas market. A one

and try our whisky tastings, along with other Arran Gold hot chocolate or latte. Tours will be running at 11.45am, 1.15pm and 2.30pm. Open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.

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£15
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THIS WEEKEND SPEND £30 & get a Free T-Shirt
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WOOLEYS OF ARRAN
TRADITIONAL FAMILY BAKERS FOR GENERATIONS

Closing at 1pm Sat 5th December for refurbishment... Pop in before 1pm and grab a bargain!

New biscuit range - come along for your free sample.

Serving tea, coffee, soup, filled rolls & savouries for the Christmas shoppers.

Shore Road Brodick 302280

We will re-open Tuesday 8th December at 7am

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Christmas Shopping Weekend
10% DISCOUNT PLUS FREE LUCKY DIP
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Open everyday until Christmas
One Stop Christmas Gift Shop

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GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

ELLAS
Balmichael Centre, Shiskine

is offering **20% discount** on every purchase over the ShopArran weekend

HANDBAGS • JEWELLERY • SCARVES • CANDLES

Arran Art Gallery

Visit the big art gallery by the sea in Whiting Bay for a unique Christmas gift.

- * Original artwork
- * Artist prints
- * Glasswork
- * Sculpture
- * Ceramics
- * Jewellery

Complimentary gift wrap and festive treats for the Shop Arran weekend.

Shore Road Whiting Bay Isle of Arran KA27 8QH
01770 700250 arranartgallery.com

king festive offers



wicker shopping baskets for you to fill, then Bay staff will expertly 'beautify' and wrap your Christmas gift hamper at no extra charge.

Free tastings and demonstrations will be held all weekend with local suppliers - look out for 'flour-and-dough-fun' with bread-maker extraordinaire George Grassi. And to keep everyone warm and well fed during the proceedings, there will be a pop-up kitchen for gourmet takeaway food. Come along and treat The Bay like your own Christmas hamper!

Wooleys of Arran - famous for their oatcakes, have just launched a fabulous new range of biscuits. Pop in while you're out Christmas shopping

for a hot drink and a tasty lunch - and also a free sample of the new biscuits.

Note that the Brodick shop will be closing at 1pm on Saturday, December 5 for refurbishment but will reopen Tuesday, December 8 at 7am with a fresh new look!

Ella's is a beautiful wee shop selling a fabulous selection of jewellery, on trend fashion handbags and scarves, all at incredible prices. Especially in for Christmas are winter wonderland scented sachets and candles - perfect for that festive atmosphere. Based at the Balmichael Centre, Ella's is well worth the visit.

During Shoparran weekend the **Old Byre Visitor Centre** in Machrie will have lots going on, receive 10 per cent off all your shopping from cosy knitwear, clothing for all the family, Barbour below RRP, leather handbags, woollen throws, sheepskin gloves and slippers, boxes of socks and lots of Christmas gift ideas. There will be free Clinique consultations all day on the Saturday with Clinique products on sale, so come and get pampered while you shop. There is

also a pre-Christmas sale in the Old Byre to add to your savings!

Café Thyme will be serving delicious food and there will be live music with Emily Divine on the Saturday from 12noon to 3pm and with Heather McLeod on Sunday from 12noon until 1.30pm (and her artwork for sale). Mark Currie is hoping to join us in the café so there will be added entertainment and cheer!

You will also find Simon's Pottery open this weekend.

The Byre at Brodick will also be offering 10 per cent off everything all weekend and some Christmas goodies, so all in all it's all very exciting.

The Bay Kitchen and Stores in Whiting Bay is excited to be part of ShopArran and will be promoting its new seasonal range of local, artisanal treats - both edible and crafty. Exclusive to ShopArran is their 'Build your Own Hamper' Event. There will be a special wholesale price on lovely

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

10% off all your shopping in the Old Byre Showroom.

Clinique consultations throughout Saturday 5th and products for sale.



Quality knitwear, Barbour below RRP, sheepskin and leather, clothing and accessories and Christmas gifts galore.

Also 10% off everything at the Byre at Brodick

County Carpets (Arran) Ltd Whiting Bay

SHOP ARRAN WEEKEND
4th December - 6th December

10% OFF all home accessories and furniture over the weekend

Opening hours : Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 10am-4pm

Please come and Join us for a glass of bubbly while you browse.



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Book our Christmas party night for £32.50 per person

Includes a bottle of house wine for every 4 people and crackers.
Bookings taken from 1st to 19th December.
View our sample menu on our facebook page

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COME ALONG AND TRY OUR NEW WINTER MENU

WE ARE OPEN TO EVERYBODY. NON GOLFERS & FAMILIES ARE ALWAYS ASSURED A WARM WELCOME TOO!

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 6th 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 16th 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 14th December for the 'best dressed house in the valley' competition, so make sure all your decorations are up by then.

Shiskine Primary School is holding its ever-popular Christmas concert on Tuesday 15th December at 7pm in the village hall.

Christmas jumpers

And on Sunday 20th 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 Wednesday 30th 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.

There will also be a Hogmanay dinner dance at the Kinloch Hotel, tickets £55 per person.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 12th December

SEND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS FOR JUST **£19.99**

A

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban



B

SEASONS GREETINGS

to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban



C

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban



Simply fill in the coupon below with your special festive message and send or hand in to:-

Arran Banner, Brodick Tel: 01770 302142

ONLY £19.99 (inc. VAT.) OPTIONS A,B OR C.

PAY BY CHEQUE / PO or

Phone in your message quoting your Access/Visa Number

Deadline Monday 7th December. To appear Saturday 12th December

*NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
Tel.....

A **B** **C**

PLEASE TICK A BOX FOR THE TEMPLATE YOU WISH TO USE.
*(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

20 words maximum PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY



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

GARAGE OPENING TIMES - Tel 860277

25th, 26th & 27th Dec - Closed

28th, 29th & 30th Dec - 8:30 - 17:30

31st Dec - 8:30 - 17:00

1st, 2nd & 3rd Jan - Closed

SHOP OPENING TIMES - Tel 860220

24th Dec - 8.30 - 18:00

27th Dec - 12.30 - 17:00

28th, 29th & 30th Dec - 8:30 - 17:30

31st Dec - 8:30 - 18:00

3rd Jan - 12:30 - 17:00

Normal hours resume Mon 4th Jan

Shop home deliveries available please call or ask in store.

Thanks for shopping local.

THE SHINES AT CHRISTMAS



What's On in Shiskine

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sunday 6th December
Village Tree Lighting Ceremony
5pm at Blackwaterfoot
Play Park followed by Mackerel
Lottery at the Kinloch Bar</p> <p>Monday 14th December
Best Dressed House
in the Valley!
Judging takes place this week</p> <p>Tuesday 15th December
Shiskine Primary School
Christmas Concert
Shiskine Hall at 7pm</p> <p>Wednesday 16th December
Shiskine & Machrie Senior
Citizens Christmas Party -
Kinloch Hotel</p> <p>Saturday 19th December
Last day for ordering
your turkey!!
Call the Arran Butcher
on 01770860354</p> <p>Sunday 20th December
Christmas Jumper Competition
Adults & Kids
4.30pm in the Kinloch Hotel
Public Bar
Followed by the Christmas Mega
Mackerel Lottery!</p> | <p>Thursday 24th December
The Village Childrens' Christmas
Party (0-17 years)
at Shiskine Hall 3-5pm
Christmas Eve Service
St Molios Church 11.30pm</p> <p>Christmas Day
Merry Christmas!!</p> <p>Boxing Day
Texas Scramble at
Shiskine Golf Club
10am until 2pm
Book your tee off time
01770 860 226</p> <p>Wednesday 30th December
Charity End of Year Quiz
Kinloch Hotel at 9pm</p> <p>Hogmanay
Hogmanay Hoolie, Shiskine Hall
10pm until late
Tickets available from
Blackwaterfoot garage</p> <p>Hogmanay Dinner Dance at
Kinloch Hotel - Tickets £55 pp
call 860444 for tickets</p> <p>New Years Day
Happy New Year!</p> |
|--|---|

SHISKINE HALL

HOGMANAY HOOLEY

**From 10pm on 31st December 2015
to 1am on 1st January 2016**

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

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Open 7 days a week
9am - 2pm
Ideal for Christmas Gifts
Golf lessons
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Gift vouchers

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AND GET 20% OFF**

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Sat 19th December

A FESTIVE FEAST FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Christmas Turkeys & all the trimmings
Succulent Roasting Joints
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Tasty Gammon, Rich Steak Pies
HOME DELIVERY AVAILABLE

OPENING HOURS OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON
Mon 21st, Tues 22nd, Wed 23rd Dec 9-5pm,
Thur 24th Dec 9-4pm
Fri 25th, Sat 26th, Sunday 27th Closed
Mon 28th, Tues 29th, Wed 30th Dec 9-5pm,
Thur 31st Dec 9-4pm
Thur 1st Jan - Tues 5th Jan Closed
Re-open Wed 6th Jan 9-5pm

BLACKWATERFOOT CALL US ON 860354

BEST WESTERN

Kinloch Hotel

Isle of Arran

Hogmanay Dinner Dance

Champagne reception
3 Course meal
Ceilidh and disco
Traditional piper fireworks

Tickets £55 per person
(Ticket only event)

For more information and to book tickets call
the Kinloch Hotel on **860444**

Eat, drink and be merry

CALL 01770 302 968
FOR DINNER & ACCOMMODATION
RESERVATIONS

THE DOUGLAS
Hotel • Bistro • Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve 10am-11.30pm, James Burge from 9pm, FREE

Christmas Day Bar Open until 9pm
Christmas Lunches, 12pm & 3pm **BOOKING REQUIRED**

Boxing Day 10am-12.30pm, James Burge from 9pm, FREE

Hogmanay Open until 2am / Bar Food served until 4pm
7pm Gala Hogmanay Dinner or 10pm Evening Ceilidh
BOOKING REQUIRED

January 1st open 10am -12.30am, food served all day

January 2nd Casino afternoon, from 2pm, Pub Quiz from 9pm

January 3rd 10am-11.30pm, food served all day

From **JANUARY 4TH** CLOSED UNTIL **JANUARY 21ST**
FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

**Café Thyme at the
Old Byre Visitor
Centre, Machrie –**

open 7 days a week
10am – 5pm,
lunches served 12-3pm.

For Shop arran weekend we will
have live music with Emily Divine on
Saturday 12-3pm and Heather
McLeod on Sunday 12-1.30pm.

10% off
in the Old Byre Showroom and free
Clinique consultations on Saturday

Tel:
**01770
840608**

Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends and what better way to celebrate than with fine food and drink. At this festive time of the year when traditional parties and gatherings take place Arran will have something for all tastes, be it an intimate dinner for two or a no-cooking, no-dishes meal for a large group, Arran has it all, and then some.

From seafood to home baking, bar meals to traditional cooking, you will be spoilt for choice this festive season as Arran rolls out tempting special offers to attract your custom. There are enticing discounts, special offers and seasonal menus leading up to Christmas and Hogmanay that can be enjoyed in front of a roaring open fire or while enjoying live music with spectacular views across the many stunning Arran vistas. Truly something for everyone, catering to all tastes and all budgets. Try the recently refurbished Lamlash Bay Hotel with beautiful views over the bay and where a warm welcome always awaits

you. Their three course festive menu priced at £24 includes all of the traditional choices with some very tempting offerings such as the chocolate fondant volcano which might sway

pub grub, Sunday roasts and varied chef specials. With live music including their own band called the PHT Band playing on Hogmanay the PHT is sure to provide visitors

in full view The Green Tearoom is offering £16 for two courses or £20 for three courses on pre-Christmas dinners and for those visiting on Christmas day itself, you can



some away from the more traditional, and equally delicious, Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. Further down the road The Pierhead Tavern has just reopened its doors and is raring to go with its good

with a festive season full of entertainment and festive cheer, not to mention the festive drinks and tempting treats. Staying in Lamlash and with the rolling hills and manicured golf course

look forward to a sumptuous buffet with six different meats and all the usual trimmings. Christmas party nights that include a three course meal with bubbly on arrival and a DJ/disco for your exclusive use is

THE PIERHEAD TAVERN

Our **KITCHEN** will be open for burgers on Saturday, on Sunday for roasts and then with our full menu of **good pub grub** at affordable prices along with our **chef's own specials** on Thursday 3rd December

Sundays - Roasts with mellow music to relax to.

Saturday Night Rocks - live music - see website for line up.

Christmas Day - Bar open 2-10pm

Boxing Day - Full menu along with entertainment from local band **The Drambusters**

Hogmanay - The PHT Band will help bring in the New Year!

www.thepht.co.uk

THE PIERHEAD TAVERN LAMLASH 600418

LAMLASH Bay Hotel
TEL - 01770 600844

En-suite rooms • Wifi • Bistro • Bar Lounge • Functions • Dog Friendly

FRIDAY 27th November • LIVE MUSIC
THE JONNY and BENNY SHOW

Our **Christmas Menu** is now available:
Check our facebook page for details

BAR OPEN DAILY, RESTAURANT OPEN NIGHTLY 5PM- 8.30PM

follow us on **facebook** for daily deals

The Green Tearoom & Restaurant

available for functions, licensed open to the public Tel: 01770 600296

Takeaway and delivery service available
Tel: 01770 600296 Deliveries Tue-Sun 5pm - 10pm
Delivery to Lamlash £3 / Brodick & Whiting Bay £5 per order

PRE - CHRISTMAS DINNERS
£16 FOR 2 COURSES £20 FOR 3 COURSES

NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Sumptuous buffet for mains to include six different meats and all usual trimmings

Bring your own bottle with no corkage charge
£40 per person - £10 deposit

We are taking bookings for Christmas parties
3 course meal with bubbly on arrival £25
exclusive use of restaurant for parties of 20+ with DJ/Disco incl.

erry this Christmas

sure to tempt at £25 per person. Coast bistro and wine bar situated right on the Whiting Bay beachfront continues with its cosy and customer orientated

open on Christmas Day with a four course meal. At the Fiddlers music bar and bistro in Brodick patrons will be taken care of with a choice of either two or three courses, which

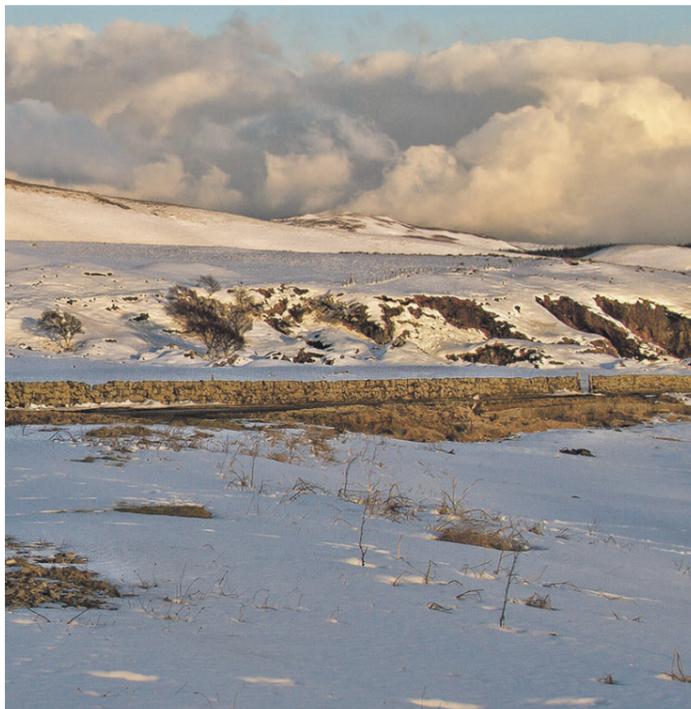
If a roaring fire and pleasant surroundings in a family friendly environment is your thing, the Wineport bar and bistro is the place to be in Brodick. This homely venue, now run by Gina Thorborn, is offering delicious food, home baking and Christmas party nights in their cosy and atmospheric bar and bistro. The Wineport is open from Friday to Monday from 11am to 5pm.

Over at Cafe Thyme in Machrie, the western side of the island's festive drive is boosted by the pottery and wool showroom that adds to the bright and modern cafe that is open seven days a week. Offering traditional meals with a Turkish flair and home grown salads this cafe stands out from the rest as a true original. Rising star Emily Divine and songstress Heather McLeod will be performing at Cafe Thyme over the ShopArran weekend and visitors will receive 10 per cent off at the Old Byre showroom, an opportunity not to be missed.

With free live music, ceilidhs, casino days and a pub quiz The Douglas Hotel will be the place to be this festive season. With events starting on Christ-

mas Eve and running right through until January, this musical venue will please the palettes of patrons with their local larder and locally sourced produce menu that includes the best of what Arran has to offer. If you are thinking of a party night with their impressive buffet be sure to ask about their accommodation offer, taking the hassle out of arranging transport for party weary revellers. Or why not bring in the bells at the Hogmany Dinners and follow it with New Year's Day dook.

If you prefer staying indoors and cosy and enjoy some quality time at home for your nearest and dearest, the local shops will give you a perfect start with fine, fresh ingredients and ready-made treats. Some establishments gearing up for the festive season with the same enthusiasm as the Christmas elves themselves, making sure that you have everything that you need to impress your guests with particularly fine foods and quality produce made from the finest ingredients at affordable prices.



service offering live music every Friday night with the same atmosphere and spirit that has made it so popular. Their Christmas Parties start this weekend, available for lunchtime or dinner, and go right on through to the 8th of January, for those who can stand the pace. Coast is

includes a free drink, with their Christmas menu. On Hogmanay the ever-popular Arran Ceilidh Band are guaranteed to get your feet tapping and a lively introduction to the New Year. Be sure to look out for their two for one pizza special which is incredible value for money.

Forestry Commission Scotland

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Forest Office,
Auchrannie Road,
Brodick

Monday 7th – Wednesday 23rd Dec
and Saturday 12th Dec.
Open Midday until 4.30pm

CREELERS

The Island's Seafood Specialist Shop and Smokehouse

Enjoy our smoked salmon produced on the island using the finest Scottish salmon and smoked using old Isle of Arran Whisky casks. A Christmas necessity whether it be for a gift or a wee indulgence for yourself. Order a hamper or choose from a selection of our smoked products by visiting us in our shop, online or by telephone.

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£4
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Any 3 for 2
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Check out our amazing deals: Cyber weekend 27th - 30th November

FIDDLERS' MUSIC BAR & BISTRO

Christmas Menu
2/3 Course (includes free drink)
Lunch £14.95 / £18.95
Evening £18.95 / £22.95

Hogmanay with Arran Ceilidh Band
(booking required)
2 for 1 Pizza 4-6pm
Take Away Menu
REGULAR LIVE MUSIC

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Bistro & Wine Bar

Boxing Day
All day Breakfast from 10am - 5pm
Complimentary Bucks Fizz

Christmas Parties
28th Nov - 8th Jan
Lunch £16.95 & Dinner £23.95
3-Course Set Menu

Live Music Every Friday from 7.30pm

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Arran treats this C



THE WINEPORT BAR & BISTRO
 Open
 Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Mondays
 11am - 5pm
 Delicious food and home baking served all day
 Cosy bar with open fire
 * Spaces still available for Christmas parties*
 Telephone: 01770 302101

The Co-Operative in Brodick is already geared up for Christmas with a huge amount of savings and special offers for Christmas shoppers. This weekend, dubbed 'cyber weekend' shoppers can take advantage of some fantastic deals like a washing machine for £139.99 or an X-box One with two top game titles for a reasonable £299.99. And the Co-op is the place for all your Christmas larder needs. There's a huge range of party food, perfect for the festive season, and wide range of turkey, meats and all trimmings needed for that all important Christmas Day meal, as well as a new wide range of cheese and fine wines to round off your festive

meal with a flourish. And don't forget the Co-op stock a wide range of Arran produce including meat, fish and cheese, if you want to give your guests a local treat. There are also a host of sweets Christmas treats such as a gingerbread mini loaf, individual mince pies, stollen bites and traditional chocolate tins and biscuit boxes. If your idea of Christmas luxury food includes seafood or you are looking for a great hamper to give someone as a gift then look no further than award winning Creelers, the islands seafood specialist. Well known for their Scottish smoked salmon produced in their own smoke-house they also produce an array of smoked prod-

ucts, available on-line and in store and using their local oak and Lochranza whisky barrel method that ensures that their food awards continually keep rolling in. If you are still struggling to find gifts, large or small, why not visit the producer of the islands favourite gift, James chocolate from the James of Arran chocolate shop. Located in the heart of Brodick, James chocolate is a well loved favourite with their wide range of luxury chocolates and fresh cream truffles that will please even the most discerning chocolate lover. A visit to Arran is not complete without a visit to the chocolate shop. For a little bit of pampering, why not take advantage of a flying two day visit from pop up shop Hourstons Clinique which will be visiting Arran at the Old Byre Visitor Centre and the Douglas Hotel

on Saturday, December 5 and 6 respectively. The 100 per cent allergy and fragrance free products can be bought as gift packs and the trained staff can advise you on the best products for your skin type as well as treating you to a foundation fitting or a mini make up. There are also free gifts with the purchase of two or more items. Still on the subject of pampering, the Auchrannie will be offering a wide range of beauty treatments at their luxurious Aspa which is a perfect treat for that special someone. Day packages or shorter treatments are available and they also offer vouchers in any denomination which will brighten up the day of the lucky person that receives them. Vouchers can be bought at the Aspa or online. There is no shortage of festive activities to get you



the National Trust for Scotland
 a place for everyone
Brodict Castle is holding their first ever Christmas market on 19th & 20th of December
 Why not come along and have a look at what is on offer, from local crafts&kid's fun, to hot food & drink and of course Santa's grotto. We also have Arran brass band and local choir group singing us through the day's and getting us in the Christmas Spirit. The Markets will be open from 1pm till 6pm each day. We also have a competition on for all local kids to draw a poster to advertise the Christmas Market and the best poster wins a prize donated by Jill Hunter from Arran Little Party Co. Please send into the castle (Brodick Castle, Brodick)
Free entry to all visitors



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 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



Christmas Market
 Whiting Bay Hall
 Saturday 5th December
 11am - 3pm
 Teas & Coffee, Stalls and Christmas Gifts and music from the Brass Band
 Charity number: SC024915



HOURSTONS CLINIQUE
 We are here for 2 days Don't miss us!
 Come and see me at the Old Byre Visitor Centre on **Saturday the 5th December**
 Also at the Douglas Hotel on Sunday the 6th of December.
 Skin consultations
 Foundation fittings
 Mini make ups
 And lots more.
 All Christmas gifts available and lots more!
FREE GIFT with purchase of 2 or more items*
 CLINIQUE 100% ALLERGY TESTED 100% FRAGRANCE FREE!
 *while stocks last



CORRIE CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 AT CORRIE HOTEL
 Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th December - 12 noon - 5pm
 Music, Stalls, Santa, Raffle and much much more...
 Christmas meal available in the evening
 * If you would like to book at stall at only £10 (half of the proceeds will be going to the hall) please call Anne on 810273 or 07885 606990

Christmas

in the Christmas mood as Arran plays hosts to various Christmas markets where you and your family can while away the hours surrounded by the sweet smell of festive food and treats while picking up some stocking fillers at the stalls.

Starting on Saturday, December 5, the Whiting Bay Christmas market will have visitors enjoying the Arran Brass Band while browsing the various stalls offering goods, gifts and refreshments. The Corrie Hotel will also play host to their first Corrie Christmas Fayre on the weekend of December 12 and 13 with music, stalls, a raffle and a visit from Santa himself. There are still

stalls available at only £10 if you wish to be included and half of the proceeds will go towards the village hall's coffers.

In another first, Brodick Castle will be holding their first ever Christmas market on December 19 and 20 which has free entry and well suited to youngsters with their craft activities and Santa's grotto. For the adults there will be hot food and drink and plenty to see and do, including Christmas carols and another chance to get to listen to the Arran Brass band.

And finally what would Christmas be without a good panto? So make sure you don't miss Jack and the Beanstalk being

performed by Lamlash Drama Club at the community theatre in Lamlash on December 10 to 12. December is also the month for school concerts and church services so be sure to look at what is on offer at the many schools and churches around the island with the annual Island Carol Concert being held in Lamlash Church on December 7 at 7.30pm.

Also don't forget that the Forestry Commission will once again have real Christmas trees available for sale at their Brodick office, which will make your house look and smell like the authentic Christmas's of yesteryear.



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Lamlash
Pantomime 2015

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

in
Community
Theatre, Lamlash
**Thursday 10th,
Friday 11th &
Saturday 12th
December**
@ 7.30pm
also Saturday
Matinee @ 2pm

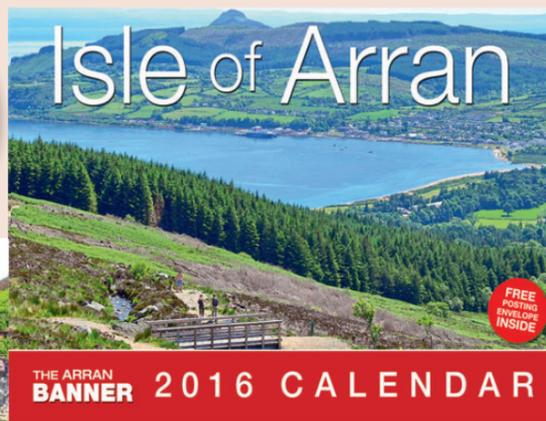
Tickets on Sale
next to KA Office in
Arran High School
on Sat 28th &
Sun 29th Nov
Sat 5th & Sun 6th Dec
from 11am - 3pm
Thereafter at the door
before performances
from 7pm and 1.30pm

Adults £7.50 ~
Conc & Under 16s £5.00
Family Saver ~ 2 Adults
& 2 Children £20.00

Scottish Calendars 2016

The ideal gift...

FROM
£7.95
including P&P



There is something about the Isle of Arran which makes everyone who visits the island fall just a little bit in love with it – or even a lot!

It is more often than not referred to as 'Scotland in miniature' but we like to think of it as being absolutely unique.

We have set out to show some of those unique qualities in our Arran Banner Isle of Arran Calendar 2016 by scouring dozens of images of the island to find the best that represent the light, scenery and places dear to those who also love the island.

order form

I would like to order 2016 Calendars:

Calendar	U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
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Total			£

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Artist Davy Brown at the still life workshop.

The art of still life taught at workshop

'We met at the Ranger Centre with a great sense of anticipation as still life painting was the subject at the October weekend workshop arranged by Arran Visual Arts,' writes Lesley Lockhart.

'Our tutor was to be Davy Brown, a very well-known artist who lives in Galloway. His work is widely collected and exhibited, so we were very lucky to have two days sharing some of his knowledge and expertise.

'Armed with our brushes, acrylics and oil paints, we were all excited and ready to get going and start painting. Davy, who spent many years teaching, settled

us down quietly and spent time talking us about just what it takes to paint a still life. To begin with, we were asked to look very carefully at just what he had set out for us to sketch and paint. It was a very interesting combination of colours, sizes, shapes and proportions. He asked us all about the subtle differences in colour and tonal values between all the objects.

Importance

'Davy explained the importance of the relationships between colours and how they interact. We spent a long time mixing our colours, drawing and painting

shapes, learning as we went. There was so much to find out about and only one weekend to do it in.

'The next morning Davy assembled a still life, which provided a challenge for us all. He told us that we had six hours to make a painting, which seemed like a long time to begin with. We spent a very enjoyable day which simply flew by. It was amazing to see the difference between all our paintings at the end of the day. We had all enjoyed ourselves so much – a group of like-minded people with a very good teacher. We are hoping Davy makes a return visit to AVA.'

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

NHS
SCOTLAND

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

Over 75s reminded to claim free TV licence

TV Licensing and Age Scotland have joined forces to remind anyone celebrating their 75th birthday in the next 12 months that they are entitled to claim a free TV Licence on this landmark birthday.

Anyone aged 75 or over is granted a free TV Licence for their main address and more than four million people across the UK already enjoy the benefits of the concession. Currently, 600 people on Arran have an over 75 licence.

Increased

The number of people aged 75 and over has increased by 89 per cent since 1974, with this age group now making up eight per cent of the UK population.

Comedian Bill Oddie, football manager Sir Alex Ferguson and Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts will all be celebrating their 75th birthdays in 2016.

Anyone over 75 can apply online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/over75info or by calling 0300 790 6073. In addition, if someone else lives with a person aged over 75, their free licence will cover

all viewing in the property.

TV Licensing has been working with advice groups for older people across the UK to make sure anyone who is eligible is aware of the free over 75 TV Licence.

Brian Sloan, chief executive of Age Scotland, said: 'Television can be an important source of news, entertainment and information for older people.'

'We certainly encourage anyone over 75 years old to apply for their free TV Licence if they haven't already done so. Applying is easy and TV Licensing will renew your licence automatically for three years once you've applied, cutting down on the need for paper work.'

Jason Hill, a TV Licensing spokesman, added: 'The free licence is not granted automatically so those who are eligible should apply and get in touch with TV Licensing directly.'

Customers with a free TV Licence are also reminded to contact TV Licensing if there is a change to their name, address or telephone details.'

Free concert to be held in Whiting Bay Village Hall

A free concert is being staged by Whiting Bay Drama Club on Wednesday, December 2 at 7.30pm.

The event in the Whiting Bay Village Hall is called 'Crime, Wine and Fiddles'. The evening will start with a performance of members from the Arran Fiddle Club, before the drama group perform the one-act comedy play 'Armed Robbery for Dummies' by Paul R Roman. The evening will conclude with music from the Arran Orchestra (ARCO).

The drama club recently recruited three new members, two of whom will be on stage at the concert and the other has been working behind the scenes.

The club's Valerie Brown said: 'We are still looking for more new members though, and hopefully we can drum up some interest from people on the evening.'

'It should be a great evening of entertainment for the community, entry is free, and there will be some wine and cheese provided.'

Antiquarians hear of Captain Murchie's nautical adventures

From the exotic, dangerous, amazing and finally back to this island - what an afternoon!

On a wild and wet afternoon on Monday November 16 more than 50 hardy members of the Arran Antiquarians met for their November meeting to hear Captain James Murchie of Blackwaterfoot speak about his life before retirement from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA), writes Norma Davidson.

James spoke to the antiquarians exactly two years ago and his account of life at sea was so fascinating that the group asked him to return with part two. A life of 40 years at sea starting as a cadet and ending as captain with his own command was truly fascinating and left male members certainly, and probably the ladies, very envious of his experiences.

The function of the RFA is to provide logistical support to the Royal Navy and sometimes other services in front line operations.

The navy has a duty of protection, to defend the United Kingdom and her overseas territories and the defence of the UK, merchant shipping and the shipping routes they use. Amazingly, 90 per cent of imports come by sea, and 95 per cent of exports leave by sea.

In 1971 he began his career as a cadet on the Almeida which was a support vessel to HMS Ark Royal and her flotilla. The following year the aircraft carrier was ordered to proceed to British Honduras (now Belize), where a paratroop invasion by US trained troops from Guatemala was anticipated.

Intervention

The Guatemalans long held a desire to invade and assimilate British Honduras. Ark Royal made the 1,500-mile dash across the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico. Two Buccaneer jet aircraft were to be used in defence of the territory, but with this timeous British military intervention the invasion plan was abandoned by the Guatemalans. Belize, incidentally, gained her independence from the UK in 1981.

After a unilateral declaration of independence by

Southern Rhodesia in 1965 a naval blockade was set up to stop oil and other cargoes reaching the country via the Mozambique Channel. Any infringement of this was greeted by a shot across the bows. Cargoes of medical supplies and humanitarian aid were, however, allowed to pass.

Captain Murchie joined one of the support tankers in their blockade in 1973 as a cadet and stayed until he reached the rank of Third Officer. He reminisced about the Maltese crewmen and the surprising fact that Arran whisky marmalade was served in the mess for breakfast.

Kindle

James' uncle Archie had also seen service as a Captain in the RFA.

Did the stories from him kindle a career decision from the young James, wondered members?

He spent a lot of his time in Eastern waters supporting the Australian Navy, whose ship, HMS Melbourne had the unfortunate distinction of cutting two of her escort vessels in two on different occasions, one being an American vessel. He explained the catapult system of aircraft launching from a carrier and also highlighted the fact that every ship must be able to tow another vessel of similar size and how hazardous that could be, particularly in rough weather.

In 1982, he went as First Officer to RFA Resource. This was a reinforced ship with a specially-trained crew and was designed to carry munitions and explosives. This ship saw action in the Falklands War, although James had by then moved on to the Middle East.

In the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war their mission was to protect shipping by assisting the minesweepers, because although the war was a trench war with the use of chemical weapons, it was also a tanker war and the oil routes through the Straits of Hormuz had to be kept open and tankers escorted through at all costs.

Over the years the RFA had used and adapted ships to



Captain Murchie (centre) talking to antiquarian members, Peter Mackay and Liz Dale.

specific tasks with their own specialised crews. In World War I the support ships were often colliers. Today BP oil tankers are fitted for at sea refuelling, dive support ships are used as repair ships, ships are converted as livestock carriers, usually an immense size, with a crew which included trained livestock handlers. We were amazed to see pictures of ships designed to carry other ships or oil rigs on their decks. They partially submerged, manoeuvred into position under their load, discharge their ballast, emerge to the surface and sail away. The damaged Sir Tristram returned from the Falklands in this fashion.

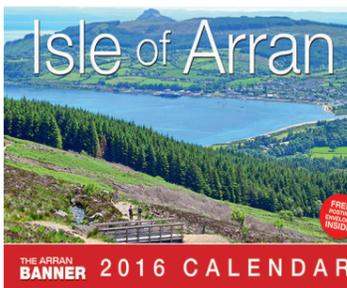
Aerial views

Captain Murchie's talk ended with a selection of lovely aerial views of Arran taken from the helicopter of Captain Murchie's ship while at anchor in Brodick Bay.

From the exotic, the dangerous, the amazing and finally back to this lovely island - what an afternoon!

There will be no meeting in December. The antiquarians next meeting will be the annual meeting, on Monday, January 18, 2016, at Brodick Hall, at 2pm when, after the formal business, there will be a picture presentation of speakers during 2015, and the future programme will be outlined.

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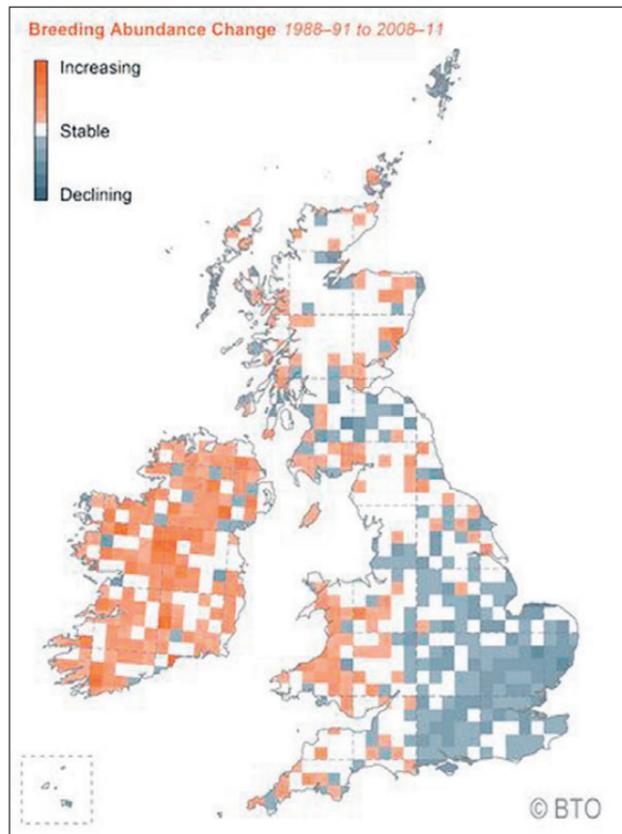
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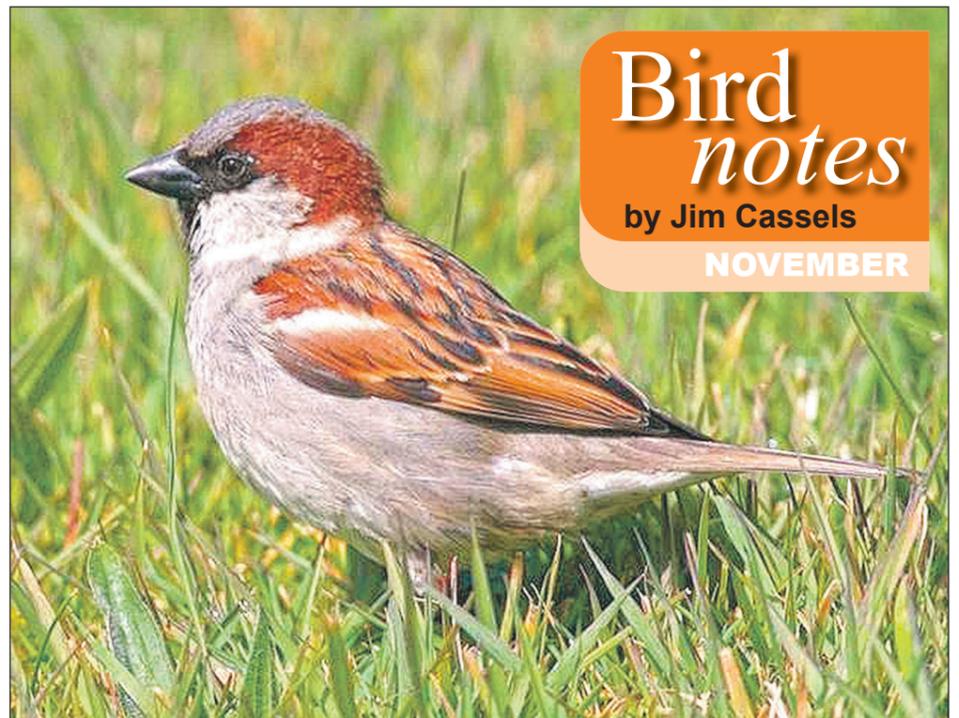
House sparrows still thriving on the island



A map showing the change in abundance of this once familiar species.

Brought up in Ayrshire, I knew this bird as speug. Other dialectal names include sparr, sparrer, spadger, spadgick, philip, spuggy, sprig and spatzie. Their systematic name is house sparrow – *passer domesticus*.

It is one of our most familiar birds. The male house sparrow has a chestnut brown back with black streaks, while the underparts, rump and crown are grey. The nape is chestnut brown, the cheeks are dull white, and they have a black eye stripe and bib. They also have a light wing bar. The beak is a yellow-brown in winter, but black in the summer, and the legs are pale brown. The female is paler and lacks the grey crown, white cheeks, black bib and eye stripe and chestnut brown nape, but has a straw coloured stripe behind the eye. The size of the bib indicates the dominance of the male bird within its community; the bigger the bib, the more dominant the bird.



Bird
notes
by Jim Cassels
NOVEMBER

House sparrow male. Photo Carl Reavey

The house sparrow is strongly associated with human habitations, and can live in urban or rural settings.

Though found in widely varied habitats and climates, it typically avoids extensive woodlands, grasslands, and deserts away from human development. It feeds mostly on the seeds of grains and weeds, but it is an opportunistic eater and commonly eats insects and many other foods.

The house sparrow is native to most of Europe, the Mediterranean region, and much of Asia. Its intentional or accidental introductions to many regions, including parts of Australia, Africa, and the Americas, make it one of the most widely distributed wild birds. Noisy, gregarious and, it seems, promiscuous, DNA research has shown that 15 per cent of offspring are the result of either the cock or hen mating with another part-

ner. These exploiters of man have managed to colonise most of the world, the ultimate avian opportunist.

Having said that, monitoring suggests a severe decline in the house sparrow population in parts of the UK. For example, London is estimated to have lost three-quarters of its sparrows between 1994 and 2000. In England the population is recently estimated to have dropped by 71 per cent between 1977 and 2008. Whilst the decline in England continues, Breeding Bird Survey data indicates recent population increases in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The map shows the change in abundance between the national bird atlas of 1988-91 and the most recent one, 2006-11. The cause of these changes remains a mystery, though many improbable theories have been put forward, ranging from

unleaded petrol to the use of mobile phones.

Here on Arran, the population of house sparrows seems to be thriving with colonies in all of the settlements. With most pairs raising at least two and often three broods a year, numbers by the end of the breeding season can increase markedly. Incubation takes just 11 days, and two weeks later the young will leave the nest.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e-mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

WIN

A LUXURY HEBRIDEAN HAMPER



The Hebridean Food Company, located on the Island of North Uist, Outer Hebrides produces a range of exquisite meat grazed on the the uninhabited surrounding islands. Sourcing an equally wild array of local shellfish. Everyone can discover a taste of the Hebrides with a 20% discount, just enter code: FIELD at checkout (valid until 15 December).

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: **What island is the Hebridean Food Company based on?**



House Sparrow fledgeling. Photo Angela Cassels

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Hebridean Hamper Competition, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is December 4, 2015. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 2 December, 1995

Visitor centre grant

Argyll and the Isles Enterprise are to award a grant of £195,000 to Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd to build a visitor centre at their Lochranza site. The total cost of the centre is to be £800,000 and work will start in the spring if an application for Objective One funding is successful. The developers say the building will create 15 jobs. Another grant awarded by AIE during October was for £5,173 for the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board.

Discovery on hold

The Arran Discovery Centre, planned to be open next summer, but wanted by very few people, may never be built. Costs have escalated so much that the public money which was earmarked for the project is now insuf-

ficient. In total seven public agencies have promised £544,000 but the cost has now risen to £800,000 meaning a delay and an application for a further £250,000. This may be a delay but it may also stop the project as two of the funding agencies will cease to exist on March 31.

Shore ticketing

Now that shore ticketing is an established fact of life, ferry travellers are arriving at the pier later and later. Pier manager Robbie Brown told The Banner: 'Passengers and cars should arrive 15 minutes and half an hour respectively before the ferry leaves.' They are not doing so and Robbie says that late cars are making it particularly difficult for pier staff. He said: 'While the ferry could be delayed for a couple of minutes if really necessary, it would not become a matter of course because people were habitually arriving late.'

Arran water

Manganese deposits, coagulates, dosing, ion exchange, a lot of big and impressive words were being bandied about in Tuesday's community council meeting. There were no fewer than seven scientific experts who had travelled to Arran to impress the council with their erudite opinions. The suggestion was that the public water supply in Arran may not be as good as we would like it to be.

The principal speaker was Jarvis McFadzean, scientific officer for Strathclyde Water who noted that Strathclyde water was gradually meeting the standards set up by the EC in 1990 but that these standards were aesthetic and not health related. He also said that over the next few years £6 million would be spent on improving Arran's water supply.

Lamlash fire station

A site is being negotiated by Strathclyde Fire Service for a new fire station at Lamlash. It is at the corner of the Cordon road. A new station is deemed necessary to accommodate a new and bigger fire appliance.



The winners of the 1995 Arran Golf Challenge are: Iain Murray, Robbie Crawford, Christine Maxton, Darren Thompson and Graeme Tod with club captain Willie Kelso.

b48twe01



There are no foxes on Arran. So where this fox, found by Howard Walker last Sunday whilst walking his dog on Lamlash beach, comes from is anyone's guess. There have been reports of fox sightings from time to time but never a photograph to back up the sighting.

b48twe06



Margaret Mitchell, who will challenge Brian Wilson at the next general election, visited Arran last Thursday as part of a fact-finding mission about the constituency. She visited the Lochranza distillery and is pictured receiving some Arran cheese from Alastair Bilsland of Curries of Brodick.

b48twe03



Mrs Doreen Perkins of Corrie has these swans literally eating out of her hand. Doreen had been feeding the cygnets while they were growing up and now the swans are still happy to feed straight from her hand.

b48twe02



Brodick Cinema in Brodick Hall is almost six months old after opening in June. Here projectionist Jim Park loads a celluloid strip onto a lamp unit at the Brodick cinema. The film reels come in 20-minute spools which have to be spliced together to make a two and a half hour film, including the adverts.

b48twe05

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

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

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

Saturday 28th November

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets - Surgery
Live music from Cast No Shadow
Brodict Castle Visitor Centre
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Ceilidh Dancing
Dr Grahams Homes - Soup & Sandwiches
Live Music from Badstone (Rock & Blues)
Live Music from Scott MacDonald
Disco
Santa Sparkle
Lamlash Christmas Tree switch on
Glenisle Christmas Tree spectacular
Live music from the Vests
Live music from The Jonny & Benny show

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am - 11am
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodict, 11am - 3pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 12noon - 2pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel bar, 9pm
The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
Lamlash front green, 12 noon
Lamlash front green, 5pm
Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, 6pm
Santa Sparkle, 6.15pm & 7.45pm
Lamlash Bay Hotel, 9pm

Sunday 29th November

Family Games
Fun in the pool
AA Meeting
Open Session - All musicians & singers welcome
Brodict Castle Visitor Centre
Live music from Cast No Shadow (Acoustic)

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 2.30pm
Brodict, 11am - 3pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 1.30pm

Monday 30th November

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Live music
Morning Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Arran Vets - Surgery
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit Training
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Citizens advice
Lamlash Aerobix
RunArran Jogscotland Beginners
RunArran Mixed Ability
Bridge Club
Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers
Tae Kwondo
SSE Storm Resilience Meeting

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict from 8pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Whiting Bay, 5pm
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
Brodict Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Brodict Hall, 6pm

Tuesday 1st December

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets - Surgery
Rotary club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
RunArran Run Coaching
Open Cricket Session
Non- competitive bridge
Scottish Country Dancing
Lamlash Drama Club
Winter Bowls

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash, 5.30pm
Brodict Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Auchrannie, 7pm

Wednesday 2nd December

Rock & Pop Bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Arran Vets - Surgery
Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
RunArran Mixed Ability
Brodict Castle Visitor Centre
Yoga-Arran
Live music
Drift Inn Quiz
Mixed Hockey
Dog classes
Knitting & Crochet drop in group
Crime, Wine and Fiddles Concert
Coffee Morning
Lamlash SWI
Brodict Church Coffee Morning
Parkinson support group

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Brodict, 5.30pm
Brodict, 11am - 3pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict from 8pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Brodict Library, 4pm - 6pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon
Lamlash fire station, 2pm - 4pm

Thursday 3rd December

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Vets - Surgery
Ladies Hockey
RunArran Mixed Ability
Brodict Castle Visitor Centre
Live music with Arn Bru
Cardiac Rehab
QuiltArran
Brodict Embroidery Group
Burger & Quiz night
Winter Bowls
Bridge Club
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
CMAL - Brodict Terminal Meeting

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
9am - 10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
Brodict, 6pm
Brodict, 11am - 3pm
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.15pm - 8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm

Friday 4th December

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Arran Vets - Surgery
Live music from the Buchaneers
Brodict Castle Visitor Centre
AA Meeting
Live music
Tae Kwondo
Shop Arran Weekend
Whiting Bay Bowling Dinner and Presentation
Garage Sale

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodict, 11am - 3pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Fiddlers, Brodict, 8pm
Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
Various locations around the island, 9am - onwards
Felicitys, Whiting Bay, 7pm
Quayside, Corrie, from 10am



Property

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Ex resident of the Island, non smoker and references available

Contact: 07972 083166

Public Notices



Public Meeting Brodick Terminal Redevelopment

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) have now awarded the contract to redevelop the Brodick Ferry Terminal, and would like to update local individuals, groups and businesses on the project, as well as introduce the contractor, George Leslie Ltd. You are therefore invited to attend a public meeting where CMAL will present the latest information regarding the redevelopment.

Public Meeting:
Brodick Hall, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Thursday 3rd December 2015 19.30hrs

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

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

15/00684/PP; Site to North East of Oakbank, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of two detached dwelling houses and associated drainage and access.

15/00631/PP; Holy Isle, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of 6 (20.2m high to blade tip) turbines, comprising of 3 turbines at south end of Holy Isle and 3 at north end with associated sub-surface cabling.

15/00667/PP; Kildonan Hotel, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of extension and decking area to front of existing hotel.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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Applications in writing please to:
John Thomson Construction Ltd., Park Terrace, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB
email: mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk

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auchrannie job vacancies

Day Porter

Full time position to be flexible to work any shift pattern between 9am and 10pm. Looking for someone who has customer service experience and must have a valid driver's licence.

F&B Assistants

We are looking for full, part time team members or seasonal for the Christmas Holidays to join our F&B team. We can offer flexible working patterns to accommodate travel.

Reception/Reservations

We are currently looking for customer focussed individuals to join the front of house team. This is a full time position working between reception and reservations. You will be computer literate and have great customer service skills.

All positions will benefit from free leisure club membership and various other discounts.

Full descriptions can be found at www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk



ARRAN COASTAL WAY PROJECT

Post title: Trainee Footpath Worker (2 posts)

Location: Brodick, Isle of Arran

Contract Type: Fixed term – 1 year,

January - December 2016, 37 hours per week.

Salary: Under 21 £5.50 per hour/£10,582 per annum.

Over 21 £6.75 per hour/ £12,987 per annum.

Closing date: Thurs 10th December.

See our website (www.coastalway.co.uk)

or contact us for more details.

Arran Access Trust, Forest Office, Brodick KA27 8BZ,
(01770) 303926,
arran@coastalway.co.uk



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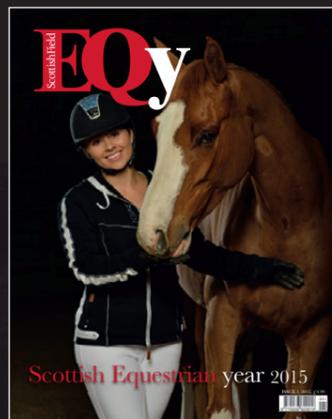
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OVER £30

Large dining room pine table and 6 fabric chairs. 59 x 35.5 Perfect condition - must be seen £65 ono Tel: 600377 Ansonia wall clock £140, 1970s large coca cola mirror £80, Pair of pioneer hpm100 speakers £280, two pine carver chairs £50 each, fly fishing rood, reels etc £50 Tel: 810620

Mothercare cot bed & sprung mattress, white painted/wooden vgc, only occasional use £90, Mothercare car seat & harness, suits to age 5 vgc £50 Tel: 302398

Barbour Men's Duracotton Field Jacket - Olive/Brown. Size Medium (38" - 42"). As new Condition. Tartan quilted lining. Waterproof, Breathable Dropliner with taped seams. Two-way front zip, under studded front. Knitted inner cuffs. Detachable lined hood. Four outer and two inner pockets. Cost £265.00. Will sell for £100.00. Call Alan on 700405.

Craghopper Ladies Parka Coat - Olive. Size 10. As new condition. Waterproof and breathable Aquadry fabric. Attached hood with Faux-Fur trim. Warm Borg fleece lining including hood. Storm flap with inner zip guard. Four external and two internal pockets. Cost £100.00. will sell for £45.00. Call Jane on 700405

UNDER £30

Adjustable leather swivel desk chair (John Lewis) Excellent Cond £30, Stanley tool box approx 35 ltrs with selection of tools, screws etc £12, Mitre saw 1400w £10 good cond, Titan tile cutter good cond £10, Childs Moto scooter suit visiting grandchildren £10 Tel: 302659

Mamas & Papas 03 sport pushchair £30, Ikea white plastic highchair £10 Tel: 302398

Ceramic Christmas Houses £5 Tel: 700546

FREE TO UPLIFT

Wooden stepladder Tel: 302398

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Friday 4th December and
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday, 29th November
Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service, followed by Annual Church Meeting.

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 29th November
Come to Church Sunday Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Church. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 29th November
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
In Kilmory: Sacrament of Communion
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 29th November
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 2nd December
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 29th November
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin von Rensburg

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 29th November
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader of the Church of Scotland 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 Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 29th November
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service. Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BIRTH



Lachlan & Leah Jones are delighted to announce the birth of Ryan on 21st October 2015. Many thanks for all the kind wishes, cards and gifts.

DEATH

GREGORY - ERIC

Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Sunday, 22nd November 2015. Eric, husband of Gill, father of Nell and Dan, and Grandpa to Bethan and Calum. Funeral service at Whiting Bay church on Monday, 30th November at 11:30 am, followed by cremation at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn on Tuesday, 1st December at 1:00pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only, donations if desired to, Arran Hospital Supporters League.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday November 22, Winter Cup, round 2. After the weather travails of the last few days what a pleasure to get back on the golf course.

A cold and bright winters morning saw 12 players compete in the second round of the Winter Cup. Scoring was good with the top five players all matching or bettering par on a day when putting was tricky, mainly because of footprints - some man made and some deer made - on greens that are still soft following the recent deluge. For all that, however, the course is still in good shape and a testament to the efforts of the greens staff. CSS remained at 63. 1 David Brookens 12-61, 2 Wolfi Kroner 15-62 acb, 3 Gus Macleod 11-62.

Best scratch was Jamie MacPherson, 6 with 68 and magic twos were scored by David Brookens @ 4th and Markus Kroner @12th.

Fixture: Sunday November 29, Sweep, yellow tees, usual draws at 9am and 10.30am

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday, November 21, Alan C Bannatyne Quaich and Lochranza Match, 18 played. Sweep: 1 W McNally 31pts, 2 B Paton 29pts, 3 J McNally 26pts. However, G Kennedy, Gator, B Sherwood and B Paton were the four who qualified to play dominoes in the Kinloch and Graham Kennedy was the winner of the dominoes and the Alan Bannatyne Quaich. Well Done! Dan Bremner won nearest the



A regular sight as deer watch the golfers at the Lochranza golf course.

pin at the 10th. Shiskine just beat Lochranza by half point.

Sunday November 22, Jim Allison Trophy, (Missionaries v Natives) 24 played. A very enjoyable day yesterday in wonderful conditions with the course still in great condition for this time of year. Gator (Natives captain) managed to lift the trophy again beating Joe (Missionaries captain) to the Jim Allison Trophy by 1pt. Nearest pin @ 4th, Donald Logan, nearest pin @10th, Brian Sherwood, nearest pin @12th, Joe Faulkner.

Fixtures: Sunday November 29, 12 Hole Medal and Winter Cup. Sunday, December 13 and 20, Ryder Cup 1st and 2nd round fixtures (weather permitting).

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday November, 21, Winter Cup. 1 A Smith 37pts, 2 J McConnochie 32pts BIH, 3 A McDonald 32pts. Magic two S Beardsley.

Fixtures: Saturday November 28, Winter Cup. Ballots at 8.30am & noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday November 20, Yellow Medal, CSS 64, Par 61. 1 Alan Smith 78-12=65. Magic two @ 5th.
Sunday November 22, CSS 66, Par 64, 1 Drew Wales 71-9=62, 2 Mark Wren 77-10=67, Best scratch, Drew Wales 71.

Fixture: Sunday November 29, Winter Stableford 9.30am and noon starts.

Thursday December 3, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday November, 18. Two keen members were available for a game but unfortunately the course was closed. Double rollover safe for another week. Tee off every Wednesday at noon. All welcome.

Sunday November 22, Clochendichter, round 2. On a perfect golfing day, reigning champions Knowe once again top the table after a convincing win over Village. A victory against Street moves Alma into second place. Results: Knowe 5 v Village 1, Alma 4 v Street 2. Table: Knowe 9,

Alma 6, Village 5, Street 4. Fixtures: Sunday, November 29, Winter Cup. Saturday December 5, rescheduled Saturday Cup, arrange own games.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday November 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup. Three played in wellingtons and with the safety boat in attendance. 1 Brian Sherwood 32 pts, 2 Phil Betley 30 pts, 3 Alastair MacDonald 26 pts.

Arran Golfers Association

Sunday December 6, Winter League/Duncan Trophy 2015/2016, second round at Shiskine Golf Club. Draw: Shiskine v Brodick at 8.30am, Machrie v Whiting Bay at 9.20am, Corrie v Lamlash at 11.50am.

Plucky Arran go down fighting

Uddingston 4 Arran 0
Arran Ladies' hockey team put up a tough fight against Uddingston in an away league fixture last weekend but came away empty handed.

Uddingston fielded a team with two players who normally play in the higher divisions and they also had five substitutes.

However, it took the home side 31 minutes to break the deadlock, but scored a second before half time. Arran played better as a team in the second half but Udding-

ston scored twice again. The visitors only had one sub as unwell Pauline Reid umpired the whole game which the team were very grateful for. The final score was 4-0.

Uddingston voted Arran goalie Alison Hollingworth as man of the match and Arran voted Kirstie Barton as their dame of the game.

Arran are away again, this time to Glasgow, to play Strathclyde University today (Saturday) with a 12.30pm pass back for any supporters making the trip.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the aggregate competition held at Brodick on Thursday November 19 were as follows: N/S 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. E/W 1 Eendy McNiven and Morag Gardner, 2 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Ellie Jones.

The results of the aggregate competition held at Lamlash on Monday November 23 were as follows: N/S 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming, 3 Jennifer Wales and Douglas Chase. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Linda Trickett and Pat Adamson, 3 John and Jan Beattie.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the staff of Caledonian Isles, paramedics and Arran War Memorial Hospital for their care and attention following my blackout collapse as the ferry was berthing at Brodick last Wednesday, November 18th.
Donald Burt, Dippen.

BIRTHDAY



Wishing our Dad / Bobo (aka Bruce Patrick) a very happy 70th birthday

With all our love, Ruth, Catherine, Robert, Katie, Liam and Ivy x x x

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Arran Man competitors are briefed ahead of the swim with their bikes lined up on Lamlash Green. Photo Arran in Focus

Arran Man triathlons to be staged again next year

The Arran Man triathlons are coming back next year with a pledge that they will be bigger and better.

Entries for the events open on Saturday January 2 and will next year take place during the weekend of June 25

and 26. The events comprise of a standard, middle and iron triathlon, a marathon and a junior aquathlon. It is their second year after the inaugural event last year.

Mainly centred around Lamlash, the full iron event

sees competitors take to the sea in an open water 2.4 mile swim before a 111 mile cycle around the island twice and finally ending with a 26.2 mile marathon run.

The full iron distance, standard distance and mara-

thon take place on Saturday, June 25, with the middle distance and junior aquathlon on the Sunday.

Four events

A total of 249 competitors, including some local entries, took part in the four events

last year, which organisers, Ha Ha Events, claimed was the largest amount of any sporting event on the island.

Another 200 plus friends and family came with them to Arran.

Described as the flattest and most scenic marathon course in Scotland, due to the absence of a Munro climb, it was very well received by those who regularly take part in the 'circuit' of triathlons that take place during the year.

Last year there was some criticism on the island concerning the organisation of the event, but the organisers

are known to already have been in touch with Police Scotland and North Ayrshire Council over arrangements for next June.

The events take place on the same weekend as other popular triathlons including Celtman and Swissman but organisers describe the Arran event as: 'Easier to enter, cheaper, easier and quicker to get to, no jellyfish, warmer water, and it's got more stunning views.'

For more information, or to enter visit the Arran Man triathlons Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arran-man/

KA Leisure wins gold at RoSPA awards



Alex Murray (left) receives KA Leisure's Gold Award from RoSPA's Errol Taylor.

KA Leisure, which runs the sports campus at Arran High School and facilities across North Ayrshire, has picked up a Gold Award at the annual Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) occupational health and safety awards 2015.

The award in the prestigious scheme was presented during a recent ceremony at the Glasgow Hilton Hotel.

Through the scheme, which is open to businesses and organisations of all types and sizes from across the UK and

overseas, judges consider entrants' occupational health and safety management systems, including practices such as leadership and workforce involvement.

Alex Murray, KA Leisure's health and safety co-ordinator, said: 'We are proud of our record in promoting health and safety in all the sports and leisure venues we run in North Ayrshire and this award is testament to the dedication of staff to maintaining the highest H&S standards.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.