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# Hunt is on for the lost moat of Brodick Castle

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

A team of archaeologists was on Arran this week, hunting for the lost moat of Brodick Castle.

Already research has shown that there is a strong likelihood that a moat ran round three sides of the three landward sides of the castle but it has lain hidden for more than 200 years.

Now archaeologists from the National Trust for Scotland are making their most detailed search yet for the missing moat.

The team spent several days

on the island using ground penetrating radar and mapping where the moat once was.

The trust has hired Dr Olly O'Grady of OJT Heritage to carry out the work.

He said: 'Radar allows you to tell what is underground to great depths of up to three and four metres and the other advantage is it can operate over tarmac and other hard surfaces.'

Leading the work is the trust's head of archaeology Derek Alexander. He said the geophysical study is the 'next stage' after they excavated a small site where they believed the moat to be five



**Pinocchio panto performed at Lamlash**  
The cast of Pinocchio after their opening night performance in Lamlash. Review and more pictures on pages 16 and 17. 20\_b50pino01

years ago.

There they found the rubble from a 13th century wall. He believes the moat could have been partly natural and partly manmade given the nature of the land surrounding the castle.

'The moat is a natural dumping ground for pottery, for bones and anything else that was thrown away,' Mr Alexander said.

The location of the moat also needs to be found because of the developments planned at the castle, including a proposed new visitor centre as part of a £9 million redevelopment masterplan, reported in The Banner in October.

Part of that could see some of the moat being uncovered for display under the visitor centre. But Mr Alexander said: 'Whether we want to uncover it or avoid it we have to know where it is.'

The first castle was built on the Brodick site in the second half of the 13th century and was extended at different periods during the turbulent centuries which followed.

At some point, and it is not yet clear when, a three-sided moat or ditch appears to have been dug round the castle, which sits on a small hill of bedrock, to improve defences.

The first recorded historical evidence of the castle moat is in the writings of Martin Martin, an early Scottish writer who travelled extensively across Scotland.

In his 1695 book A Description of the Western Isles of Scotland he describes the castle as being built in a long form.

He adds: 'The castle is four stories high, and has a tower of great height joined to the north side, and that has a bastion close to it, to which a lower bastion is added. The south and west sides are sur-

**Continued on Page 2**

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# Auchrannie wins commitment to the community award

'This award is very special to the entire team and as a business we are all very proud of how much we are able to support others through the success of Auchrannie'

The Auchrannie Resort has been named the winner of this year's Herald commitment to the community award at a lavish ceremony celebrating the best family-run businesses in Scotland.

Now in its second year, The Herald's Scottish Family Business Awards recognise the very best in Scottish business, the length and breadth of the country and across all industries.

The Johnston family were represented at the ceremony in the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow

by estate manager David Johnston who was accompanied by general manager Richard Small.

The Auchrannie's involvement with a wide range of island charities, volunteer organisations and its close ties with other island businesses were all factors that resulted in winning this prestigious award.

Speaking after collecting the award Mr Johnston said 'This award is very special to the entire team and as a business we are all very proud of how much we are

able to support others through the success of Auchrannie.'

News of this latest accolade rounds off another award-winning year for Auchrannie which has seen it named by TripAdvisor as the number one family hotel in the UK (25th best in the world). DRAM magazine also crowned Auchrannie as its 2013 'Independent hotel of the year', whilst VisitScotland named Auchrannie as the best hotel in South West Scotland at the Thisle Awards.



Pictured with the award are from left, general manager Richard Small, Leanne Scobie, of award sponsor the Grand Central Hotel and estate manager David Johnston.

## Witnesses sought after wall damaged

Police are appealing for witnesses after a section of wall at Brodick Castle was damaged by a vehicle.

Between Friday 22 and Sunday 25 November a six foot section of wall was damaged between the entrance to the castle and country park and Merkland Wood north of Cladach.

Police would like to hear from anyone who may have seen the incident. Contact the police non-emergency number 101 and leave a message for the Arran officers.



Head of archaeology Derek Alexander, left, and Dr Olly O'Grady with the ground penetrating radar equipment.

20\_b50moat01

## Search is on for lost Brodick Castle moat

Continued from Page 1 rounded with a broad wet ditch, but the east and north sides have a descent which will not admit of a wet ditch. The gate looks to the east.'

### Evidence

And this certainly ties in with other historic evidence which suggested the sea facing front of the castle had a steep slope down to the sea.

Remarkably, according to Mr Alexander, there are very few written records in the

castle which make reference to the moat.

The present castle was completed in 1844 but by then the moat had been filled in possibly around 1810 when the long centuries of conflict were over and the castle gradually became a country seat with formal gardens and tennis courts and other improvements.

The latest study findings should be complete early in the new year.

## Boxing Day Dook

The annual Boxing Day Dook will take place at Lamash Pier at 2pm Boxing Day.

There will be a piper, soup, mulled wine and mince pies and prizes for the best fancy dress.

All donations received will go to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Because of the low tide there will be no jumping off the pier this year.

At 3pm there will be a quiz in the Drift Inn in support of the Philippines typhoon fund.

## Midnight in Machrie

The Arran Jazz Cafe Band has released a new CD just in time for Christmas.

'Midnight in Machrie' was recorded earlier in the year with Jon Hollingworth, featuring 15 hits from the band's recent repertoire.

It is available at the usual outlets - Inspirations, and the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, and the Pillar Box in Whiting Bay.

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# Arran cheddar is one of the best cheeses in the world

‘Our employees and local supplying farmers take great pride in the cheese we produce and it’s fantastic to get this recognition’

A cheese made at the Isle of Arran Creamery has been voted one of the best cheddars in the world.

Creamery owner First Milk is celebrating as its extra mature variety was rated best cheddar at the World Cheese Awards 2013.

The creamery won a ‘Super Gold’ title which is awarded by the judges from their selection of Gold medal winning cheddars. With just one Super Gold awarded for the whole cheddar category, recipients of this title are classed as one of the ‘World’s Best Cheeses’.

### Great pride

The creamery’s head cheesemaker Paul Murray said: ‘It is a huge honour to receive the top cheddar award from the judges. Our employees and local supplying farmers take great pride in the cheese we produce and it’s fantastic to get this recognition.’

The World Cheese Awards took place on 27 November in Birmingham, as part of the annual BBC Good Food Show, and 2,700 entries were received from more than 30 countries. The awards bring together buyers and sellers

from the global food industry and this year celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The judges included expert cheese graders, producers, buyers, chefs and food writers. Every entry is judged on taste, aroma and texture.

This award comes at a busy time for creamery owners First Milk as it focuses more on marketing its brands, including Isle of Arran, into expanding international markets.

Isle of Arran cheddar is handcrafted at the Torrylinn Creamery where a small team of dedicated cheese makers follow traditional methods, using only milk from cows that graze the island’s pastures, to create this classic cheddar.

The creamery is owned and operated by First Milk - the UK’s only major dairy company which is 100 per cent owned by British farmers.

The company generates annual revenues of £530 million (2012/13 figures) and is headquartered in Glasgow with eight manufacturing sites across England, Scotland and Wales, employing a total of 667 people.

## Make steps to new charity shop

A new charity shop has opened in Brodick in time for Christmas.

The Footprints Shop behind the Douglas Centre is being run by volunteers to raise money for the elderly.

The shop has brand new clothing and Hotter shoes as well as second hand bric a brac.

It will be open every Wednesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm until Christmas.

Volunteer Michael Fisher said: ‘I hope people will pop in and see us. We have everything from a wedding dress to a T shirt.’

Any donations new or second hand will be gratefully received, and anyone who wants to sell paintings or crafts in the shop can do so, if they make a donation to the new Footprints charity.



Volunteer Michael Fisher in the new Footprints charity shop in Brodick.

It aims to help the elderly with heating bills, offer hardship aid and give to other

good causes.

Michael also runs a prize bingo at the MacKelvie Road sheltered housing in Lam-lash on Friday nights at 7pm.

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# A very Victorian Christmas

The sound of music and song rung through Brodick Castle at the weekend.

The venue held its annual Christmas Carol event which attracted a steady stream of visitors all day, despite the atrocious weather.

As always the castle celebrated the festive season in true Victorian style and throughout the sprawling building visitors found characters from the Dickens' novel about the spirit of Christmas.

Jacob Marley, the Ghosts of Christmas, Bob and Mrs Cratchett and, of course, grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge himself all appeared as visitors passed through the castle.

But it was not all gloom and doom. There were performances by the Brodick School Choir, the Arran Brass Band, Vivace and group of carol performers made up from singers around the island.

**Santa**

And of course, no Christmas event would be complete without Santa in his grotto.

There was also a Christmas market, children's crafts and mince pies in the cafe, meaning there was something for everyone.

Administration manager Chris Mills said they had expanded the Dickens' theme for this year's event and said the feedback had been 'very positive'.



Richard and Anne Hill, Robin Tweeddale (Ebenezer Scrooge), Chris Mills (Jacob Marley) and Diane Wright (lady in waiting) welcomed guests at the castle entrance. 20\_b50carol01



Left: Seven-year-old Hamish Campbell meets Santa and his elf helper Francesca Hollow. 20\_b50carol04



Young singers from Brodick School Choir. 20\_b50carol02



A group of Victorian ladies in the kitchen. 20\_b50carol03

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# Hundreds pay respects in final farewell

## 'His life was full of good and worthwhile things'

*Rev Angus Adamson*

Hundreds of mourners packed a windswept Lamlash Cemetery for the funeral of policeman Tony Collins on Tuesday.

The 43-year-old dad of three was buried with full police honours in the village where his wife Lucy was born and brought up.

PC Collins was one of the three crew of the police helicopter which crashed into the Clutha Vaults in Glasgow two weeks ago, killing six others in the pub.

More than 500 mourners took the long walk up the narrow road which leads to the cemetery to pay their respects joining his wife and sons Ryan, 19, Innes, 12 and six year old Gregor and other family, including his mum and dad Geoff and Margaret, who live on Arran.

As many as 200 police officers attended from every police division in Scotland and beyond. One islander described them disembarking from the ferry as like a 'sea of black and white'.

### Every rank

They were led by Police Scotland Chief Constable Sir Stephen House, deputy chief constables and from every rank in the service, showing the high regard in which PC Collins was held.

The Chief Officer of Scottish Fire and Rescue Alasdair Hay was also there along with politicians Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill and Glasgow City Council leader Gordon Matheson.

PC Collins was a member of the Police Scotland air support unit and dozens of full-time emergency service personnel and volunteers from Arran's coastguard, am-

balance and mountain rescue teams were also there.

Many other friends from all walks of Arran life also made the long walk up the hill to the cemetery.

As mourners waited in the windswept cemetery the hearse carrying PC Collins was driven the mile long closed route to his resting place by three police outriders. A police hat lay beside flowers on the top of the coffin.

It was followed a few minutes later by four family cars, again led by police outriders.

### Lone piper

A lone piper then played as the coffin was carried by six police officers, with their heads bare, through a 14 strong guard of honour and across the crowded cemetery of mourners, in silence and with their heads bowed, to the burial site.

The Rev Angus Adamson invited the large crowd to move closer to the gravesite as he conducted the committal service.

He told mourners, 'After a terrible tragedy there can be few more desolate places to be than standing at a graveside on a bleak winter day.'

'And although we are not in a church building today, there is an old understanding in this part of the west Highlands and islands, that wherever people gather round a minister and the word of God, there is a church.'

There were no hymns sung during the service at the family's wish.

The Rev Adamson said PC Collins' life was 'full of good and worthwhile things,' but said there was also a lighter side to him telling how he was

known as 'Barney' on Arran and how he had discovered the hub of social life at the 'legendary Shiski Disci'

'He was a very sociable person, good fun, with a great sense of humour and liked nothing better than a good party,' he added.

Born in Plymouth in October 1970, he lived in Malpas, South Wales and Limekilns in Fife before moving to Arran with his parents in 1985.

After sitting his Highers at Arran High School, Tony went on to study business at Langside College but always had a burning desire to join the police.

After being turned down because of his asthma when he was 17 undaunted he tried and



The huge gathering of mourners in Lamlash Cemetery.

tried again and was finally accepted at the age 25 and began his training at Tulliallan.

His asthma was to prevent him from fulfilling two more long held ambitions, to become a police diver or a dog handler.

However, mourners heard Tony loved his role as an observer in the police helicopter and twice received bravery awards. He married

his beloved wife Lucy, whom he first met at school, in the Arran Heritage Museum in 2003.

### Memories

As he concluded, the Rev Adamson said: 'All we have for now are the tender, dear and precious memories of Tony as his life touched and enriched ours, but those precious memories are what keep the love alive and vibrant. For

now we must be content to let him go and thank God for the full, happy and rewarding life he gave to us in Tony Collins.'

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Round the Rurals

**Kilmory SWRI**

On Monday 9 December 2013, the ladies of Kilmory SWRI were delighted to welcome Judith and Russell Porter to the monthly meeting.

Judith was the guest speaker for the evening and gave a very interesting demonstration on decorating a cake using jam. Judith started by asking each member to make a greaseproof paper piping bag. This may sound easy and if you follow Judith's instructions, it is!

Judith demonstrated each stage of the process from making royal icing, to preparing, making and using the embossing unit and finally adding the colours to the design on the cake. Judith then presented the beautifully decorated cake to the rural.

Judith was thanked for her visit, the beautiful cake and the handout explaining the techniques used during the demonstration.

The competition for Christmas table cloth was won by Sandra Smith and mince pies by May Macdonald.

Please remember members will be decorating Kilmory Hall for Christmas on Saturday 21 December at 2pm. Everyone's welcome to help.

The annual children's Christmas party will be on Christmas Eve starting at 5pm in the hall where it is hoped there will be a fun-filled time of games, food and especially

a visit from Santa!

The next meeting will be on Monday 13 January at 7.30pm in Kilmory Hall. This will be the birthday party and the competition for the evening will be a £2 decorated parcel.

**Lamlash SWRI**

On December 4 a meeting of Lamlash SWRI was held at the fire station and three new members were among the 23 ladies present.

The company had a most enjoyable and informative demonstration of greetings card and gift box making which was given by two of its own very talented members, Anne Gillies and Hilary Crawford.

The competition winners for the best cards of the evening were Kath Turner and Alison Thomson, and the exhibit was won by Vivienne Haigh.

The next meeting will be held on February 5 when the speaker will be Gary Lewis from the Arran Ambulance Service.

**Kildonan SWRI**

Tuesday 19 November was Kildonan SWRI open meeting with guest speaker Calum McNicol.

Members were given a very enlightening and interesting presentation and talk about his recent adventure when he was chosen to be part of a team of eight like-minded adventurers who were attempting to become the first crew to row

the North Atlantic Ocean in a sub-30 days time. The current world record stands at 32 days exactly. Unfortunately, he said, they did not manage to break the record but undaunted by this he said he would be willing to give it a try again.

Many varied questions were asked of Calum and all were answered with a smile, laugh and lots of detail. Many thanks to Calum for a great open meeting and all who attended, the ladies who donated the home baking and raffle prizes, and the committee for making this a successful evening. The raffle proceeds raised £65 for the Ayrshire Hospice.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17 December at 7.30pm in Kildonan village hall, the theme being Christmas beads and wreaths. The competition is the craft produced on the night.

**Shiskine SWRI**

At our December meeting our guest speaker was Fiona Doubleday, who gave us a very interesting demonstration on willow wreath making. She is now growing the willow on the island and brought in various examples of her work.

The competition of 'best wrapped parcel' was won by Elallie Ryder and the exhibition of 'money box or piggy bank' was won by Marion Brambles.

The children's Christmas party is from 3pm till 5pm in Shiskine Village Hall on Christmas Eve.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 8 January 2014 when our guest speakers will be Janis Heany and Rona Fulton from the Riding for the Disabled Association.



There was great atmosphere among shoppers and staff at Arran Aromatics. 20\_b50shop05



Ann Tattersfield helps customers in Friday's Child. 20\_b50shop03



Two happy shoppers at the Arran

# ShopArran success price weekend r

Businesses say the ShopArran weekend has been a resounding success.

For the second year shops and outlets across the island were offering big discounts over the weekend.

And to get everyone in the festive mood many were offering everything from sweets to mulled wine and mince pies.

Such has been the positive feedback that shopkeepers say they already planning to repeat it again next year.

What has also been encouraging this year is the number of visitors to the island shopping over the weekend, some of whom appear to come just for the ShopArran bargains.

Sheila Barr at Friday's Child at Home Farm said it had been a 'fantastic' weekend.

She said: 'This is the second year of the event and it was certainly better than last year.'

'I know a couple of groups of women come over especially for the weekend to get out of

the city centre and we got a lot of trade, as always, from the Auchrannie and the Douglas hotels. But it was also fantastic to see the number of locals out making it into more than a shopping trip, but a social outing. I am really, really pleased.'

In Lamlash Janelle Paton at The Curtain House was equally pleased. She said: 'The weekend was absolutely great. I did extremely well. I would say 70 per cent of my customers were holidaymakers and Saturday

'I think it is a worthwhile way to get more people shopping locally'

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Cheese Shop. 20\_b50shop06



Sheila Barr with one of her 'big bargain bundles' in Friday's Child. 20\_b50shop02



A busy day in Buntys. 20\_b50shop07

Andrew Walsh helps a customer at Arran Active. 20\_b50shop09



Shopping in Arran Aromatics. 20\_b50shop04



Where did you get that hat. Customers shop in Arran Active outdoor shop. 20\_b50shop01



The pop up shop set up by Ailsa McNicol of The Rock Pool in Brodick. 20\_b50shop08

# ess will see cut repeated again

was the busiest day for them. 'I don't get the footfall of the shops in Brodick, but I think my sales figures will not be far off them. I will certainly do it again next year.'

### Takings well up

Lorna Mansfield, who has the Old Byre Showroom at Machie and the Byre at Brodick, said she did 'very well' and said takings were well up at both shops.

'I think it is a worthwhile way to get more people shop-

ping locally and also to remind them of the wide range of products we have on offer on the island, without going elsewhere. I would certainly consider repeating it.'

At Arran Aromatics shop manager Hazel Roberson said Friday and Saturday had been 'very good' but felt the atrocious weather hit the number of customers on Sunday. She felt the weekend sales had been similar to last year.

'What was brilliant was to

see was the mood of customers and staff which made it a very enjoyable weekend for everyone.'

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran, said: 'The ShopArran weekend is a great draw for the island. The shopkeepers and staff put in a lot of work and it's great to see their efforts being rewarded. Feedback so far from both businesses and customers has been extremely positive - bring on 2014!'

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## THE ARRAN BANNER

### Support your local shops

It is great to see the ShopArran event went so well at the weekend.

Go to any shopping centre, anywhere in the UK, and you will see the same shops again and again, all selling the same things.

Arran is therefore fortunate indeed to have such a diverse range of small shops, but to survive they need support from the islanders.

Of course their best months are bound to be during the tourist season, but they all deserve our support during the winter months when they stay open every day, often just for one or two customers, despite having the same overheads.

For a co-operative of shopkeepers to have got together for the second time for the ShopArran weekend of bargains is a sign of them working together and not in isolation.

I hope everyone reading this went along to support their local shops. But it was also good to hear that people are coming from the mainland just for the event. I suppose Arran may take some time to rival Glasgow as a Christmas shopping destination - but it's a start.

If events like ShopArran and Santa's Sparkle can bring people to the island at what would normally be a quiet time of year it can only help promote the island as a year round destination.

And it seems Arran is leading the way. Last weekend was also the first UK small business Saturday, a grass-roots campaign that encourages people to shop locally and support small businesses in the local community.

That is already happening on Arran, but let's not get complacent. Whether on the island or the mainland, online shopping is set to beat all previous records this Christmas and of course it has its uses.

But if you are looking for something a little different or even a Secret Santa gift, remember your local shop may just have what you are looking for.

If you don't they may not be there next time you want them.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.' (Isaiah 9: 6-7)

### press policy

WE AT *The Arran Banner* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a local newspaper.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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### your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

## Letters to the Editor

### Petrol prices

Sir,  
Your 20 years ago page in a recent Banner brings yet again the focus on Arran's sky high petrol prices and the consequent public dissatisfaction at the lack of response by 'the authorities' to what is really a case of blatant profiteering ignored by such people as are in a position to do something about it.

I am not sure how interested the Arran population is in the real issues, but for the record, here is the background.

In the beginning (1947) a new power station was built at Brodick Pier by 'the Hydro', connected by pipes to the then pier.

This was the start of by far the most efficient way of delivering fuel.

Over the ensuing 50 years the pipes and tanks were developed extensively by BP - as the sole supplier to Arran - including, in the 90s, a brand new ship also servicing Mull.

Then, to the consternation of retailers on Arran and Mull, BP suddenly 'upped and off'. The brutal truth is that populations of five million or so no longer interest major oil companies and refineries.

Filling stations etc are now only viable for BP, Esso etc in populations of 100 million or so. Scotland is well below their attention span.

Enter then Scottish Fuels, understood to be owned by an Irish entrepreneur with, we understand,

The company traded, until recently, under such names as Q8 (Kuwait Oil) GB Oils, but Arran and Mull were an absolutely goldmine and recently, of course, Brogan Oils, which reduced heating oils by almost 20pence a litre on their arrival, sadly succumbed to Scottish Fuels.

The blunt truth is that all businesses strive for a monopoly situation which in such circumstances as this need to be controlled by external forces, such as governments.

Enter then three individuals, councillor Marie Currie, MSP Kenneth Gibson and MP Katy Clark and, sad to say, none of

them has made the slightest dent in the price of petrol. To their eternal shame they all couldn't or wouldn't get to grips with what was a blatant monopolistic abuse of market power.

It therefore fell to me to gee up the Office of Fair Trading to request a Monopolies Commission report, and this is the real nub of the matter.

The request was flatly refused. 'Too small for us,' they said, 'not really in the national interest.' This is Westminster speak for 'sod the islanders, you chose to live there, you take the consequences'.

Whilst it has to be accepted that the government cut their tax take by five pence, they have failed in their duty to ensure reasonable competition and so the price of petrol here is still one of the highest in Scotland.

So there we are, and the question now is could a wrong be righted by an independent government?

The answer to me is obvious - Arran and Mull could not be any worse off than to keep the status quo.

Westminster does not really care a damn about us, should we care a damn about them?

And can I just remind you again about the 'bus fuss' when the OFT, appealed to again by me, backed down for exactly the same reason.

Yours,  
**Bob Haddow**  
**Whiting Bay**

### Box-like building

Sir,  
In a report in the Arran Banner on 30 November the architect for the new ferry terminal was said to describe it as 'castle-like' and 'quite Scottish'.

But the only pictures in my copy showed something box-like and blandly 'international'.

Please print the correct pictures, showing a building design which sensitively responds to its rural location and which reinforces the special sense of place which pervades our beautiful island.

Yours  
**Geoffrey Botterill**

### Squirrels explained

Sir,  
I would like to enlarge on what Ms Totty said about the red squirrels on Arran to the AGM of the Friends of Brodick Castle.

In 1953 when my father died I flew home from Sierra Leone to the funeral and to help my mother pack her belongings from Auchmar part of Buchanan Estate.

Before we left I suggested to her to tell the keepers to collect as many pairs of red squirrels as they could. Grey squirrels had already become numerous on the estate. Cleverly they captured eight, or I think, nine pairs. These came over in a van and were allowed to calm down at Brodick Castle for a night. Then the Brodick keepers took three pairs to different parts of Brodick ie Merkland, Castle Gardens and Corriegills.

Two pairs to Whiting Bay and two pairs to Lamlash and two pairs to Lochranza.

They were seldom seen.

When mother became ill

I came home from Lusaka, Zambia. After she died I remembered how punctilious the estate was to being in a stud stag to give a change of blood to the herd. I wondered if I should do the same for squirrels. I tried everywhere. Certainly it was not from Edinburgh that I brought three pairs but south of the border somewhere.

They arrived and I let them calm down for a night then let them go in my walled garden where I grew my fruit. They dashed out of their cage - one headed for Goatfell, one for the beach, the rest for all the airts - never to be seen again.

I was told there was French blood in them so it was good to hear from Ms Totty that eventually they had met a local squirrel and done what they were meant to do.

The DNA that she took showed west of Scotland and Belgian blood.

Yours,  
**Lady Jean Fforde**  
**Strabane**  
**Brodick**

### Riding group praise support at Lamlash big day



#### The Arran Riding for the Disabled young riders and volunteers who helped at Santa's Sparkle.

The ponies, volunteers and riders from Arran Riding for the Disabled had a starring role at Santa's Sparkle last weekend as they brought Santa from Lamlash Pier along the Shore Road to the Big Top on the front green.

Tabitha, the pony, had Santa himself on top and Dan, fetchingly dressed as a reindeer, brought along the sacks of presents for the children. Santa had even found time to fit in a couple of riding lessons before the big event - all in a secret location in case any of the children saw him!

On the day the group held a raffle for funds and also collected donations from the crowds of people who stopped to say hello to the reindeer/ponies. The fabulous amount of £585 was raised - thanks to all local companies who donated prizes and to everyone who bought tickets on the day.

The group is currently on its winter break and will be starting up again in March. It runs riding sessions for adults and children, for more information check out www.arranrda.btck.co.uk

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# Christmas around the villages

## Megan switches on the Brodick lights

Eight-year-old Megan McCartney won the right to switch on the Brodick Hall Christmas lights on Sunday. She held the winning ticket for the honour of switching on the lights. But torrential rain tried to spoil the party as Megan from Corrie, who attends Brodick Primary School, flicked the switch to light up the hall, accompanied by her big sister Hannah, who is 11. It was a soggy end to a fun day in Brodick Hall which saw a big raffle to raise money for the children's



Megan McCartney braves the rain to switch on the Brodick Hall lights. 20\_b50lights01



His Christmas lights are the talk of Whiting Bay. Bernie Jackson has lit up his home for the 24th year in a row and its all for a good cause. Any donations this year will go to the Arran Mountain Rescue Team. But Bernie says it could be his last, unless he can get his family involved next year.



The stalls did a roaring trade in Whiting Bay hall.

## Whiting Bay market success

A wonderful array of gifts and a warm beautifully decorated hall greeted visitors to the Whiting Bay Christmas market on Saturday 7 December. The added delight of Arran Brass Band playing all the festive favourites contributed to make this a very successful day. Organisers would like to thank the stallholders, the brass band and committee members for a fantastic market and say 'see you all next Christmas'!

Christmas party this weekend. There was entertainment from the Arran Brass Band and tea, coffee, homebaking and many people's favourite spiced cider available.

Organisers would like to thank the generosity of local businesses for a wide range of prizes from local hotels, restaurants and shops.

All the money raised will go to buy presents for the 79 Brodick children up to and including those in Primary 5 who are eligible to attend tomorrow's (Sunday) party and meet Santa. The fun starts at 2pm.



Nicol Hume (far right) conducts the raffle in Brodick Hall. 20\_b50lights02

## Children's party at Lamlash

The Lamlash children's Christmas party will be held on Saturday 21 December at 2.30pm in the High School. The Lamlash SWRI, together with some young mums, are holding the event for all the children of the village from babies to Primary 5 and everyone between these ages is very welcome.

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Lynn Ross at her loom in her Glen Estate home.

# Sheltered housing can be a massive step for anyone. But Isle of Arran Homes says it can provide a safe and secure retirement, allowing people to remain independent and stay in their houses for longer.

## Isle of Arran Homes to hold open

### Julia Le Masurier

Julia is 69 years old and lives at 31 MacKelvie Road. Julia is originally from Cheshire and has lived on the island for seven years.

She moved into sheltered housing after living in various short tenancies since coming to the island. She now finally has somewhere she can call home on Arran

Julia is not what you might first think of as a typical sheltered housing tenant. At 69 years young Julia lives independently and happily at Lam-lash and has no care needs.

There is a social group at MacKelvie Road which Julia describes as 'a laugh and a bit of fun', with game and film nights, coffee afternoons and social nights with entertainment. Although there is no pressure for any tenants to participate, they can be involved as little or as much as

A move to sheltered housing can be a massive step for anyone.

But Isle of Arran Homes says it can provide a safe and secure retirement, allowing people to remain independent and stay in their houses for longer.

Isle of Arran Homes has two sheltered housing developments on Arran, one at Glen Estate in Brodick with 15 flats and one at 31 MacKelvie Road in Lam-lash with 20 flats.

All the flats are on ground floor level and most have a walk-in shower. The flats are modern, warm and well insulated and heating is charged

at a fixed monthly rate.

On site staff provide as much help and support to tenants as they can. They can provide information about claiming housing benefit as home owners may be eligible for housing benefit for six months while their old property is on the market.

Isle of Arran Homes also arranges for authorised contractors to carry out all repairs and maintenance and upkeep of the grounds

The following three case studies tell the stories of some sheltered housing tenants on the island and how they feel about their homes.

These stories from tenants

they want.

For Julia these activities are great. She says: 'This is my home, I can join in the activities if I want, or I can choose to be on my own.'

A further positive for a large

number of sheltered housing tenants is companionship with their neighbours and members of staff who are on duty Monday to Friday. Although Julia has her own very active social life she still appreciates this: 'It's nice to have people around or you may not see anyone all day.'

A lot of the time Julia is out and about on the island, recently having raised money for charity by doing gorge walking, as well as paragliding, also for charity.

Being fiercely independent Julia has the best of both worlds, she can completely maintain her independence but has the peace of mind that if she is taken ill then she knows staff are on hand to assist.

She feels this balance of safety and security, with the ability to remain independent, is the perfect fit for her and her miniature schnauzer Lilly, who both have been 'really happy here' for the last three years.

### Lynn Ross

Lynn is in her late 60s and has been at Glen Estate since 2012 following a serious illness. Lynn has lived on the island for 38 years, when she moved over to set up a weaving studio.

Lynn was unsure about sheltered accommodation before she moved in but has been 'pleasantly surprised' at the amount of independence she has as well as having the care



Julia Le Masurier at home with miniature schnauzer Lilly.

Lillia Lami

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# ng can offer a retirement in on the island day to show what they can offer

really resonate with Ann Reid, coordinator at Glen Estate, Brodick. She said: 'Working daily with our tenants I fully believe that Isle of Arran Homes provides the most practical housing option for many retired people; to have a place they can call home, with no responsibilities for repairs and maintenance, and as little or as much care and support as they need. 'Moving to sheltered accommodation can help older people to remain independent for longer. Some tenants who had misgivings before they moved in are now very happy. 'They have a secure door

entry system and their own private, self-contained apartment,' she said. Ann added: 'That's why I'd urge residents on the island to come along and see us at our open day on the 18 January and get an accurate picture of the accommodation and services we provide - we think you could be pleasantly surprised.' If you would like to learn more about sheltered housing on Arran come along to our open day on Saturday January 18 or you can arrange to visit at another time by telephoning Ann Reid at Brodick on 302716 or Mary Adams at Lamlash on 600100.

support that she needs, which she sees as a great balance. Her family are also 'delighted' at where their mother now lives, taking all kinds of worry from them, with the added bonus of being able to stay in the development's guest rooms when they come to visit. Rates for guest rooms are very reasonable at under £12 per night. Lynn describes her home as 'a safe place to be' and has the choice of joining the many activities on offer. Lynn laughed when asked by a friend if she ever gets lonely, as there is always so much happening: 'There is companionship if needed so I don't feel lonely at all'. She is also very busy with her own personal interests and is just about to publish her first book 'Hand Weaving - The Basics' which will be published by Bloomsbury and on sale on Amazon in the coming months. And there is no rest for

Lynn as she has already started working on her second book.

## Lillian Budden

Lillian moved onto the island 25 years ago and is originally from Hampshire. She moved to Lamlash nine years ago because of mobility problems. Lillian's daughter, Pat, now also lives on the island.

She is very happy at MacKelvie Road and 'loves her wee flat', feeling 'safe and secure' in her own home.

Lillian does as much as she can herself but does need some help with her care. Staff at MacKelvie Road continually assess and refer tenants to the relevant sections of social services and the NHS, if they feel tenants' needs are not being met. Knowing that this is part of an Isle of Arran Homes staff member's role gives great peace of mind to Lillian and her daughter Pat Wooden.

Pat visits her mother regularly at Lamlash and thinks very highly of the development, so much so that if the time came, Pat would happily move into sheltered housing herself.

She said: 'It really does give our family peace of mind knowing that our mum is safe.'

Pat has witnessed the care that is provided first hand, after her mum had a fall and described the on-site and on-call staff as 'wonderful' and categorically believes that her mother is 'more independent than she would be in a retirement home'.

## Witches Bridge to close for roadworks

Important repairs to the Witches Bridge on the Boguille near Lochranza is to take place in the New Year.

The roadworks are scheduled to begin on Sunday 12 January. A road closure is required between 9.30am and 3.30pm that day to ensure the safety of workers and road users.

### Prolonged closure

But North Ayrshire Council bosses say they have done everything they can to avoid a prolonged closure, given the distance of the diversion.

To keep the disruption to a minimum, the road will remain open under traffic signals for the rest of the programme, scheduled to last up to 10 days.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We recognise that the road network on Arran presents very specific issues for road users and can require lengthy diversions.'

'Where there is no alternative to a closure, we aim to undertake work during quiet periods and re-open them as soon as possible. 'As well as keeping the closure to a minimum, we have also been able to reduce the length of the programme by arranging materials to be prefabricated off-site ahead of installation.'

## Saving stamp revival

The Co-operative Food has seen a revival in savvy shoppers purchasing saving stamps in order to help spread the cost of Christmas. Almost a year after The Co-operative launched its pioneering saving stamps trust fund, sales have soared by 40 per cent as hard-pressed customers hark back to the old-school way of saving to finance the festive season.

As an extra incentive, customers redeeming a full saving stamps book with £48 worth of stamps this month receive £50, which means they receive a free £2 bonus.

Commonplace in households in the 60s when food budgets were notoriously tight, saving stamps were a popular way to put a little away each week. Now in 2013, with consumers again feeling the financial strain, the old-fashioned idea of paying for the festive season in advance has come to the fore. The Co-operative, which has three shops on Arran, is the only retailer to provide extra security for its customers' saving stamps, by protecting funds in a trust fund, which is managed by an independent trustee.



Lynn Budden with an Elvis impersonator who visited her Lamlash home.

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 CLOSED 1st and 2nd January

Arran's  
businesses



# Your Personal Christmas messages

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Whiting Bay  
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Wolfi and Gege wish a  
Merry Xmas and very Happy  
New Year to all our family,  
friends, and guests.  
The first available booking  
for Trafalgar Restaurant  
at Easter

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to  
everyone on Arran who  
know us from Jeff and  
Maggie Dawson, Irvine.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Greetings from  
Canada, wishing all  
my family and friends  
a Cool Yule.  
Chrissie Bunyan

Margaret Hamilton  
would like to wish  
everyone a  
**PEACEFUL  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**C.M WEIR & SONS**  
**Machrie Garage**

Would like to wish all their  
customers a very Merry  
Christmas and a  
wonderful New Year

**THE ARRAN  
BANNER**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

From all the  
staff at the  
Arran Banner

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR**

to all friends  
and neighbours  
from Johann  
McHarg

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
The Murchies at Blaimore  
wish their friends and family  
a Merry Christmas & Happy  
New Year & thank them all  
for their support.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
Dorothy and Donnie  
Sym would like to  
wish all friends and  
neighbours a very  
Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

To all my carers,  
friends and  
neighbours - Merry  
Christmas from Pat  
Sillars, LamLash

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
to all my relatives,  
friends, neighbours  
and carers.  
Jean Shaw, Ashlea,  
Kings Cross

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to  
all my friends and  
neighbours.  
All the best Pablo xxx

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**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
Merry Christmas  
and Happy new year to  
Vicky, Ross, Ailsa, Isla  
and Lewis in Whiting Bay  
Love mum & Dad,  
Prestwick

**LADY JEAN FFORDE**  
is not sending any  
Christmas cards this  
year so would like to  
wish everyone a very  
special Christmas  
and a happy and  
healthy 2014

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Seasons greetings  
to all our friends from  
Pat and David  
of LamLash.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
Seasons greetings to  
all my family, friends  
and neighbours.  
B Bremner,  
23 MacKelve Road

**SEASONS GREETINGS**  
Graham and Barbara Tinto  
wish their friends on the  
island seasons greetings.  
A donation is being sent  
this year to the Philippines.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to  
all my relatives and  
friends  
Agnes Boa

# Charity bike ride to raise cash to help Corinne be first bionic mum



Corinne with brothers Davy and Scott and Emma Hutton. The family has links to Arran and Colin Hutton's home in Lochwinnoch is called Kilmory.

More than 40 budding cyclists will take to their bikes on Arran today (Saturday) in a 92km cycle to raise funds to help Corinne Hutton become Scotland's first bionic mum.

The cycle is taking place in aid of Finding Your Feet, a new fund set up by family and friends of quadruple amputee, Corinne Hutton, all of whom have very strong historic connections with Arran.

Corinne, 43, from Lochwinnoch in Renfrewshire became ill in June this year after a bad cough turned into double acute pneumonia. Despite pioneering treatment, septicaemia had poisoned her blood and surgeons were forced to amputate her hands and legs below the knee. She and her family immediately set up Finding Your Feet, a fund to raise money to buy her state of the art prosthetic limbs, making her Scotland's first bionic mum.

Also this weekend, more than 200 people in cities worldwide, including Glasgow, Seattle, Dubai, Singapore, Shanghai and Cape Town, will simultaneously cycle the same distance. The cycling events are taking place to raise £250,000, the amount required to buy Corinne the bionic limbs she needs to regain the life she had prior to her illness. Corinne has a five year old son, Rory, who is the driving force behind her recovery. She attends the gym every day and is determined to run a mile in the new year.



Corinne's first day on feet with her artificial legs.

They chose Arran for the challenge as the Hutton family have been holidaying in Kilmory and Lagg for more than 70 years. Corinne's parents, Colin and Doreen, met as children in Kilmory Post Office and will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on 6 December.

Corinne's grandparents, Jim and Rose McBride, lived in Shannochie, Arran for many

years. Meanwhile, Corinne's father Colin worked at Bellevue Farm in Sliderry in the early '60s and five years ago bought and restored the tractor that he drove during that time. This tractor has won first prize twice in the last three years at the Arran Agricultural Show.

Craig Alexander, friend of the family and organiser of the Arran fundraising event, said: 'The idea for the cycle came about when I heard that Scott was doing a cycling challenge in Dubai. I contacted a few friends who know Corinne and suggested we do something similar in Scotland. Before we'd considered what the weather might do, we'd decided on Arran. Then the Finding Your Feet PR machine got moving and all of a sudden we had a pretty big team. 'We've known Corinne for a long time and knew that if this had happened to one of us, she'd have been the first to step up and do something. Her lust for life has always been a very obvious part of her make up and her incredible energy has spurred us on to complete what could be a very cold, wet but worthwhile challenge.'

You can read Corinne's full story on the Finding Your Feet website at [www.findingyourfeet.net](http://www.findingyourfeet.net).



Corinne views her artificial legs from her wheelchair.

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# Changes to your Brodick Mobile Branch Timetable.



## Monday

Arrive	Depart	Location	Stop
10:15	11:30	Blackwaterfoot	Kinloch car park
13:30	14:15	Whiting Bay	Car park opposite Marriott
14:30	15:15	Lamlash	Bus stop at Gordon's

## Wednesday

Arrive	Depart	Location	Stop
10:15	10:25	Corrie & Sannox	Various stops throughout village
10:45	11:25	Lochranza	Distillery then opposite post box near the hotel
11:30	11:40	Catacol	Opposite hotel
11:45	12:00	Pirnmill	Various stops throughout village
12:15	12:45	Machrie	Machrie Hall
12:50	12:55	Torbeg	
14:45	15:15	Lamlash	Bus stop at Gordon's

## Friday

Arrive	Depart	Location	Stop
10:00	10:10	Shedog	
10:15	10:20	Torr Righe	
10:30	11:15	Blackwaterfoot	Kinloch Hotel car park
11:30	11:40	Slidderly Crossroads	Across from Slidderly Supplies
11:50	12:00	Kilmory	School hall and Creamery
12:05	12:10	Shannochie	
12:15	12:30	Kildonan	Hotel car park
13:30	14:15	Whiting Bay	Car park opposite Marriott
14:30	15:15	Lamlash	Bus stop at Gordon's

Please note all times are approximate depending on traffic.  
Timetable updated November 2013.

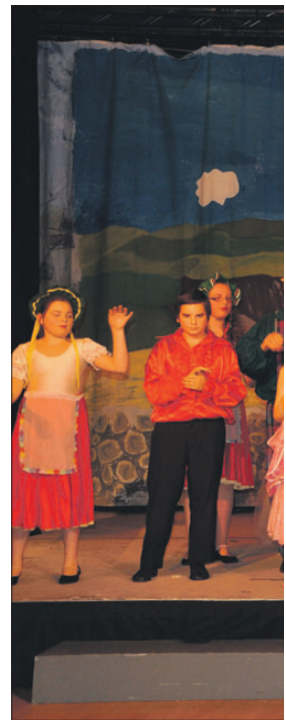
 **BANK OF SCOTLAND**



Dame Risotto takes centre stage. 20\_b50panto15



Pinocchio makes a point to Jimminy. 20\_b50panto06



Above: The cast take a bow at the performance. 20\_b50panto14



The cast perform a slick song and dance routine. 20\_b50panto10



Left: The hilarious clowns in action. 20\_b50panto13

Right: The Blue her little fairy assis Macnamara

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# Pinocchio proves a pantomime treat and that's no lie

**Review by Hugh Boag**  
Pinocchio came to life in Lamlash last weekend in a show full of fun, flavour and colour.  
This was my first experience of a performance by the Lamlash Drama Club and Friends and I was not disappointed.  
Community theatre is about involving everyone and the stage was packed throughout the evening with children and adults of all ages.  
The story itself needs little telling but all the actors put in a sterling effort at bringing the story to life. Not least of all Pinocchio, Nicola Swinton. Hard enough to pull off all the puppet actions, but to spend most of the perform-

ance with a huge false nose can't make dialogue easy but she gave a sparkling performance.  
All pantos must have a good dame and boy did Allan Little give his character Risotto every chance to shine, bouncing well off Jimminy, played by Steve Garraway, her 'husband' the woodcarver Gepetto, Allan Nicol, and circus master Stromboli, played in wicked style by David Patterson.  
But some of the strongest performances of the night came from the clowns, with Jill McKillop, Mary Crawford and young Ryan Wilson in fine form, working hard and drumming up lots of laughs.

The young couple 'in love', which every panto needs, was ably played by Ceile Swinton-Boyle at Marietta, who had the daunting task of a solo which was ably performed along with a duet with Tony, Robert Ingham.  
And I cannot forget to mention the Blue Fairy the 'good and lovely creature' that was Sheila Gilmore and her arch enemy Old Nick, Connor Reid.  
Yes, there were a couple of forgotten lines, but these were dealt with aplomb with some smart adlib.  
But let's not forget the children who brought the whole show to life. The villagers and circus performers were all members of the Arran Danc-

ers and the Streetly Dance group and they proved in their polished performances they had spent many weeks learning the routines.  
In particular the skeletons performing YMCA under ultra-violet light and to 'circus performer' Ross Clelland for his solo acrobatics in front of the stage.  
Of course, all this does not come together itself and praise must go to choreographer Dawn Ulivi and the producer and director Maureen Smith.  
Lamlash Theatre was nearly full on the first night and the actors then still had three more shows to go.  
I bet they were all ready to put their feet up - and that's

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Stromboli is the circus ringmaster. 20\_b50panto03



Risotto and Geppetto encounter the skeletons in the whale. 20\_b50panto11



end of

Fairy with  
tant Daisy  
1. 20\_50panto12



Villagers and dancers look on as the story unfolds. 20\_b50panto08

## Our guide to where to stay on the mainland

Winter is here and as we have already found at the weekend the season of cancelled ferries is already underway. There is nothing more frustrating than being stuck on the mainland when the boat fails to sail and nowhere to stay.

But now help is at hand with our guide to some of the best places to stay on the mainland. But why wait till the boat fails to sail. Why not treat yourself to a days Christmas shopping on the mainland and make a day of it with an overnight stay.

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# Remarkable month for rook spotting

**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER



**Rook.** It was a remarkable month with around 50 and at one stage over 80 of this winter visitor in Sliderry all month. Photo by Angus Hogg

November was about five degrees colder and 40 per cent drier than October.

This colder weather may have had an influence on the arrival of winter visitors. While, unlike last year, there were no records of the irruptive Waxwing, throughout the month there were widespread

reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group of fieldfare was 300 at Kilpatrick on November 12 and the largest group of Redwing was 120 at Cnoc na Dail on November 9.

Other records of wintering birds included: 84 rooks in

Sliderry on the 5th, two yellowhammer also at Sliderry on the 7th and a brambling at High Kildonan on the 21st.

Groups of wintering wildfowl included: four whooper swans at Shiskine on the 6th, 120 teal at Kilpatrick Point on the 7th and at Sliderry 250 greylag geese on the 19th and 50 wigeon on the 29th.

Other groups included: 36 lapwing at Port na Feannaiche on the 3rd, 56 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on the 9th, 26 skylark on Cleats Shore on the 10th, 14 redshank at Kildonan on the 7th and 60 curlew at South Feorline on the 20th. Large groups of gull were also reported including: 150 herring gull at Kilpatrick

Point on the 7th, 300 kittiwake at Machriewaterfoot on the 11th and 400 common gull in Whiting Bay on the 12th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months and these are some of the November reports from gardens round the island: 22 long-tailed tit in Whiting Bay on the 3rd, 30 chaffinch in Corriecraive on the 6th, eight blackbird in Lochranza on the 12th, three robin in Kilpatrick on the 21st, seven coal tit in Margnahelish on the 26th and widespread reports of great spotted woodpecker including the Dyemill on the 19th and Balmichael on the 26th.

A Slavonian grebe in Whiting Bay on the 10th and a water rail on Lakin Farm were only the second records for these species this year.

Other highlights included: a pair of goosander at the mouth of the Iorsa on the 9th, a female merlin on Cleats Shore on the 10th, 10 twite at Machriewaterfoot on the 11th, six snow bunting on Goatfell on the 13th, a kingfisher on the Fisherman's Walk on the 17th, a little grebe off Newton Shore on the 24th, six moorhen on Port na Lochan also on the 24th



**Kingfisher.** Spotted on the Fisherman's Walk. Photo by Dennis Morrison.



**Snow bunting.** Six on Goatfell is the largest record in recent years. Photo by Arthur Duncan.



**Great spotted woodpecker.** Widespread reports from gardens round the island. Photo by Tony Church.

and two common crossbill at High Kildonan on the 28th. Finally, six Gannet off Catacol on the 5th was an unusual record as winter approached.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the "Arran Bird Report 2012" and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



**Slavonian grebe...**only the second record this year. Photo by Brian Henderson.

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**THE ARRAN**

**BANNER**

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**

**Saturday 18 December, 1993**

**Pirmill blaze**

Pirmill lost its Post Office and only shop following a fire which gutted the building and damaged the Anvil Tearoom next door.

The fire began in the occupied flat above the shop. It is believed that somehow embers had fallen down behind the fireplace and had started the main beams in the shop smouldering.

As a result the shop was filling with smoke for sometime before anyone was aware of what was happening. The alarm was raised around 6am and the fire engines from Brodick, Lamlash, Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza all attended and extinguished the blaze.

**Tourism fight**

Arran Tourist Board is fighting merger plans after the secretary of state published a consultation saying the 32 Scottish tourist boards should be cut to just seven.

Under the proposals Arran would belong to the Ayrshire and Arran and Dumfries and Galloway Board.

A final decision should be made early next year and while Arran has accepted the idea of a merger with Ayrshire they are unhappy with the inclusion of Dumfries and Galloway.

The Arran organisation is a limited company and tourism manager Charles Currie said: 'We are not prepared to transfer the assets of the ATB to any other company.'

**Fishing tragedy**

Two fishermen drowned after their fishing boat sank in heavy seas.

The two Ayrshire men had been fishing for prawns to the east of Holy Isle when the tragedy happened.

Their boat, the Copia, lost radio contact with the shore after reporting problems with the vessel's hydraulic winch system, used to recover nets.

Lifeboats from Campbeltown, Girvan, Largs and Troon joined a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter in a search for the men, but to no avail.

An underwater object has now been located between Arran and Troon, although it has not yet been identified as the missing boat.

**Site warden**

A travelling persons site warden job is being advertised by Cunninghame District Council.

The council have an eight-pitch site at Merkland Bridge on the east coast and are seeking applications for post of site warden, who will be expected to live in the accommodation provided at the site.

The advert states: 'He/she will require to have a sympathetic understanding towards travellers and have or obtain a wide knowledge of the traveller's way of life.'

**Listening in**

A lady in Brodick last week was surprised and a little embarrassed when a neighbour said she had just overheard a complete telephone conversation - with a judge, no less.

She had been using a cordless telephone and by chance both sides of the conversation had been picked up by the neighbour's radio.



The interior of Pirmill Post Office after the fire. b50twe03



Brodick Brownies raised £94.42 for their funds in a line of 'pennies' donated by shoppers and passers by. b50twe01



The International Purves Puppets put on two performances of Aladdin in Brodick Hall which were highly professional and thrilling to watch and put an entirely different slant on a Christmas pantomime. b50twe04



This Black Orpington bred by John Dalby of Whiting Bay was chosen as the champion bird at the Brodick Poultry and Pigeon annual show held in Brodick Hall. There were 232 entries by 27 members. Mr Dalby is pictured with judge Jim Hood from Cumnock. b50twe02

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank fishing  
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open Daily 9am-Dusk  
 Arran Brewery Open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm, Sat 10-5pm Closed Sunday  
 Arran Brewery tour 2pm

## Saturday 14th December

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.  
 Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
 Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am  
 Junior Football P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm  
 RNLI Shop Lamlash Pier 10.30-12.30pm  
 Spanner's Blues Band Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Christmas Fayre Corrie & Sannox village Hall, 12.30pm

## Sunday 15th December

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs) Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm  
 AA Meeting Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm  
 Rowan Singers Concert Lamlash Community Theatre, 2pm

## Monday 16th December

Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
 Over 50s Badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
 Senior Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
 Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Yoga Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12noon  
 Lunch club Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm  
 Yoga - Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm  
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
 Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm  
 Metafit Shiskine Hall, 5.15 - 5.45pm

## Tuesday 17th December

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Rotary club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
 Streetly Dance pre school Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm  
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm  
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm  
 Streetly Dancing Seniors Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm  
 Weight Watchers St Molios Church Hall, 7pm  
 Junior Hockey Club Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
 Healthy Outdoors 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre

Lawn Bowls (weather permitting)  
 Food and craft market  
 Winter bowls  
 SFA Early Touch Football  
 Metafit

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm  
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
 P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm  
 Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm

## Wednesday 18th December

Hockey Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Tae Kwondo Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Aquafizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
 RunArran mixed ability Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
 Yoga-Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Sports Club P4-S2s, Arran High School, 6-7.30pm

## Thursday 19th December

Senior Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Lochranza Craft Club Lochranza Hall, 2pm  
 Live music Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm  
 Weight Watchers Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm  
 Yoga Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm  
 Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm  
 Winter bowls Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
 Metafit Auchrannie sports hall, 6pm - 6.30pm  
 Bridge Club Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm

## Friday 20th December

Aqua Fizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
 Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
 Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Lochranza Kids Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Adults Badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Brodick Farmers Christmas Market Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm  
 RunArran Coaching Ormidale Park 9.30am  
 Active Buggies Ormidale Park, 10am  
 Overeaters Anonymous Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 11.30-1pm



[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



# Public Notices

Arran Medical Group

## FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island surgeries will be closed on  
**Wed 25th & Thurs 26th December**  
**Wed 1st and Thurs 2nd January 2014**  
*The surgeries will close at 5pm*  
*on Tues 24<sup>th</sup> & Tues 31<sup>st</sup> December.*

If you require a doctor urgently over this period you should contact  
**NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24**

In an emergency phone 999

*Child Health Clinics will be held on the following dates:*

Shiskine Surgery:	Fri 3rd January
Brodick Health Centre:	Tue 7th January
Whiting Bay Surgery:	Thurs 9th January
Lamlash Medical Centre:	Tue 14th January

Please ensure that you have enough supplies of medication for this period

### 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 Development 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 Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 03.01.14. 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  
 13/00652/PP; Site To West Of Lairghru, Corriegills Road, Corriegills, Brodick; Erection of 2 semi-detached houses and conversion of piggery to form 3 terraced houses.

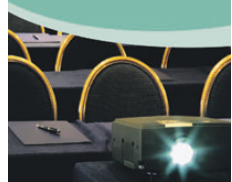
Elma Murray  
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### ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP has vacancies for ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

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You should possess strong communication, interpersonal and organisational skills and be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office packages. The successful candidates will also be required to become proficient in using our specialist software systems for which training will be provided.

Hours: To be advised

For informal enquiries/application pack, please contact Ruth Betley or Jenni Turnbull on 01770 600516. Closing date for informal enquiries 5pm on Friday 27th December.

Closing date for formal applications 5pm Friday 3rd January 2014 which should be sent to:

**Ruth Betley, Arran Medical Group, Lamlash, Isle of Arran. KA27 8NS.**

### Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

#### Senior Social Care Worker (Nights)

33.5 hours per week | £13.52 - £14.81 per hour | Ref: NAY003872

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3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
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# Classifieds

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**Brodick Golf Club**  
 Wednesday 4 December.  
 Twelve played on a difficult day for scoring, there were no twos so the money rolls over. 1 J Reid 77-13=64, 2 L Hartley 81-14=67 bih, 3 G Sillars 91-24=67.

Sunday 8 December Brandon, 12 played, CSS 67. 1 G Hendry [6] 66, 2 R McCrae [6] 67 [acb], 3 G Robertson [6] 67. Scratch G Hendry 72. First Class Brandon G Hendry, Second Class Brandon not awarded.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 December Clochendichter. Sunday 22 December Winter Cup.



**Brodick Golf Club**

**Shiskine Golf Club**  
 Saturday 7 December 12 Hole Medal & Winter Cup, eight played, 1 & Scratch (BIH) W Kelso 47 - 4 = 43 (BIH), 2 B Sherwood 49 - 6 = 43, 3 C Rutterford 53 - 9 = 44 (BIH). Only magic two of the day was by Colin Rutterford at the 7th!

Fixtures: Saturday 14 December, gents 18 hole medal, 12noon tee off. Sunday 15 December, Ryder Cup, shotgun start at 12.30pm.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**  
 Because of the wet weather the 3rd round of the Winter Cup was postponed and will now be played on Sunday 22 December instead of the Bogey Competition.

Fixtures: Sunday 15 December, 2nd Winter Friendly with Lamlash at Lamlash. Teeing off between 10.30am and 11am. All welcome and a good turnout would be appreciated.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**  
 Tuesday 3 December Winter Cup, 1 David Price 63 BIH, 2 Willie Kelso 63, 3 Elizabeth Ross 69 BIH. Scratch Willie Kelso 70, Twos Willie Kelso.

Saturday 7 December Lochranza Hotel Cup, 1 Brian Sherwood 39 pts, 2 Campbell Laing 35 pts, 3 John Milesi 32 pts. Scratch Brian Sherwood 72. Fixtures: Tuesday 17 December Lochranza Hotel Cup tee off 12noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**  
 No Medals were played because of the inclement weather. Fixtures: Sunday 15 December, Lamlash v W/Bay [at Lamlash] Winter Friendly - 10.30am for 11am start. Thursday 19 December, Yellow medal, 11am ballot. Sun-

day 22 December, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday 26 December, Boxing Day Bottle, 11am ballot.

**Arran Golfers Association**  
 The second round of the Winter League/Duncan Trophy took place on Sunday 1 December at Corrie Golf Club.

Thanks to Corrie for the condition of the course which was great with very slick greens for the time of year, thanks also for the soup and sandwiches which were appreciated by everyone.

The first game saw the hosts against Shiskine resulting in a convincing win for Corrie by three games to one.

Second match was Machrie and Lamlash and again the score was a win for Machrie by three games to one.

Last match saw Whiting Bay take on Brodick which the Bay won by two and a half

games to one and a half. Next month it's off to Lamlash on Sunday 12 January, Draw: Lamlash v Whiting Bay @ 10am, Brodick v Corrie @ 10:50, Shiskine v Machrie Bay @ 11:40am.

All at the association would like to wish Arran golfers a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Corrie Golf Club**  
 Sat 7 December Winter Cup, 1 S Beardsley 64-7=57, 2 B Lewis 69-11=58, 3 D Henderson 68-7=61. Scatch S Beardsley 64. Magic twos B Lewis, B Rooney, S Beardsley(2), D Henderson, D Logan Monday 9 December, 1 B Lewis 65-10=55, 2 I McMillan 67-11=56 (BIH), 3rd P Moran 74-18=56, Scratch J Adams 64, magic twos 15 Fixtures: Saturday 14 December Sweep 8.30am and 12noon. Mon 16 December 12noon.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 15th December**  
 Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Mr John Roberts.  
 Coffee after service.  
**ALL WELCOME**  
**Wednesday 18th December**  
**NO SERVICE**  
 Please note: There will be no services at St Margaret's over the Festive Season.

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**

There will be Carol Singing outside Brodick Co-op from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon on **Saturday 14th December** ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN!

**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 15th December**  
 Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.  
 Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.  
 A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm  
 Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am,  
 Morning Worship at Lochranza led by string group ARCO  
 Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 15th December**  
 Kilmory 10am  
 Mrs. Mairi Duff  
 Lamlash 11.30 am  
 Mr. Ian Watt  
 All welcome, including families; children's area  
 Scottish Charity SC015072

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 15th December**  
 Morning Service 11am  
 Trust Housing Lounge  
 Glen Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service 6-30 pm  
 5 Glen Road, Brodick  
**Wednesday 18th December**  
 Prayer Meeting 7pm  
 5 Glen Road  
 All welcome

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 15th December**  
 Worship for Advent will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome.  
 There will be the monthly sale of Traidcraft goods available. All most welcome.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday morning masses 11am

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 15th December**  
 11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
 Tea & coffee after the service.  
 Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.  
 Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
 Contact phone no. 600222.  
 Everyone warmly invited.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 15th December**  
 Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)  
 Rev J Dusendury

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**SALVATION ARMY**

House Group/Bible Study. Mondays 2.30pm.  
 If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

**IN MEMORY**

**COOPER - Nancy.**  
 Died December 17, 2007.  
 Miss you Mum  
 With love from Lorna, Andy, Bryan and all the family.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Campbell - Sarah, Marjory, Carol and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their sympathy and support during the last few weeks following their very sad loss. Thank you to reverends Angus Adamson and Ian Stirling for the service and their support during this difficult time. Thanks also to David and Clair Hendry for the funeral arrangements and Robbie and Barbara of the Kinloch Hotel for the wonderful send off. A special thank you to the Ayrshire Hospice for the wonderful 5 star care and attention given to Andy in his final weeks. A generous amount of £800 was received at the retiring collection for the Ayrshire Hospice. Andy will be greatly missed.

**GRADUATION**



**Leah Jones of Shiskine recently graduated from the University of West of Scotland as Master of Science in Adult Nursing**

**BIRTHDAY**

**Look who's 18**

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# Sport

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# Arran improve but lose out in first ever final

RBS West Regional Bowl Final  
**Uddingston 38 Arran 14**  
 Arran travelled to Lanarkshire for their first ever final at the weekend. But they were to come home empty handed after they were well beaten by Uddingston for the second time in a week.

A crowd of nearly 300, including a bus load of supporters from Arran, still enjoyed the RBS West Regional Bowl final held at Bothwell Castle Policies.

With the frost and snow having come to nothing, an early pitch inspection passed the ground and the scene was set for a huge game of rugby which saw Uddingston power their way to a six tries to one victory.

Despite having comfortably defeated Arran in last week's league encounter, Uddingston knew that they would have a fight on their hands to claim the trophy, and so it turned out with Arran improving the score.

In an almost carbon copy of the previous week's league match it was Arran who struck first, Lachlan Jones knocking over the opening three points after the home side were caught offside at the ruck. Uddingston though were sharper to respond than the week before, and got themselves back into the game four minutes later with a well worked try from Tom. Gordon Burns hit a superb conversion from out on the touchline to push Uddingston into a 7-3 lead.

The next five minutes saw Uddingston dominate possession, driving hard into the Arran defence. With the ball moving down the line, Neil Convery straightened the run, broke the first tackle, and pushed on for the try line,

slipping past the despairing tacklers to score at the posts. Burns again added the extras to open up a 14-3 advantage.

Arran were not out of the game, and fought back from the restart, driving into the Uddingston half. A chance to reduce the deficit was missed on 17 minutes when Jones pushed a penalty attempt wide but three minutes later he found his target when the Uddingston were penalised for not releasing at the ruck. The three points bringing the score back to 14-6.

## A busload of supporters made the trip from Arran

With time running out in the first period, the home side secured their third try of the afternoon. Ross McKeown picked from the base and scrambled through the bodies to touchdown on the line. Burns was short with his kick to leave the score at 19-6.

With the final play of the half Arran pulled back another 3 points, the home side once more being penalised for not releasing at the ruck. Jones slotted the kick bringing the halftime whistle and a 19-9 in favour of Uddingston. With only four minutes of the second period played Hughes once more showed his pace and power to round off an excellent piece of handling by the Uddingston backs. Burns once more slotted home the kick from the touchline and things were looking comfortable at 26-9.

But Arran weren't finished yet and with play just inside the Uddingston 22 centre

Kyle Barbour got his hands on the ball, and with no thoughts of playing silky rugby just barged his way through three attempted Uddingston tacklers before crashing over the try line. The angle proved too much for Jones' conversion but Arran were now back in the game at 26-14, and all to play for in the closing quarter.

Uddingston refused to either panic, or buckle. The Arran try merely drove the home side on and within three minutes they had restored their 17 point advantage. Uddingston secured a loose ball and immediately set off into the Arran half. Young Liam Quinn made some excellent yards before being well tackled by the Arran defence. From the ensuing ruck, the ball was quickly recycled and popped to player/coach Craig Ferguson who hit the line at pace, powering through the final tacklers to score from five metres out. The conversion drifted wide but the home side were now 31-14 ahead and surely looking good for the trophy.

With the match into the closing minutes Arran knew they were chasing a lost cause, but to their credit they never gave up and continued to push Uddingston hard for every yard.

With the clock approaching stoppage time the home side took the result beyond all doubt when Chris King latched onto a well-placed grubber kick from the boot of Burns to secure Uddingston's sixth try of the afternoon. Burns made no mistake with the conversion, adding the extra two points. Moments later the referee's whistle signalled the end of the match.

Today (Saturday) Arran are at home to Cumnock in the league.



**Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club prizewinners with their trophies. From left to right: Marian Brambles, David Brambles, Gina Brooks, John Robinson, Lorna Hallyburton and Vic Iutz.**

## Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club hand out the pizes

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club has held its annual general meeting, prizegiving and annual dinner. The venue, as usual, was the Kinloch Hotel where members and their partners had an enjoyable evening.

At the AGM, the club chairman, David Brambles, welcomed members and reviewed the past season's activities. The club had a very successful year with the added bonus of the new carpet which was installed at the end of July. He said that a campaign to recruit new members would take place next year.

After the meeting, Jack Murchie presented the club trophies to the season's winners. The winners were: Ladies' singles: Gina Brooks, Gents' singles: David Brambles, Champs' Trophy: Marian Brambles, Club pairs: Marian Brambles and Keith Thompson, Nominated pairs: Vic Iutz and Lorna Hallyburton, Triples Trophy: Marian Brambles, David Brambles and Vic Iutz, Opening Trophy: Vic Iutz, Thorburn Trophy (Closing Trophy): John Robinson, Bowling Federation Men's Singles: John Robinson.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.