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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 2007

No 1626

Police warn against drink driving

Police on Arran have renewed warnings to motorists not to risk drinking and driving.

A festive period crackdown has already started.

Sergeant Bob MacKay confirmed that officers are carrying out random checks to detect drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs until the first week of January.

He also sent a message to licensees to ensure drivers do not exceed the drink drive limit.

Sergeant MacKay said: 'No one wishes to share the road with impaired drivers who present a risk of injury to themselves and others. I would urge anyone who sees a drink or drug driver to contact the police or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

'Licensees on the island also have a responsibility to ensure that their customers are not driving over the limit.'

Sergeant MacKay added: 'There is no excuse for drink driving and we will breathalyse everyone involved in a road traffic crash as a precaution.'

The police emphasised that the consequences of drinking and driving could be far reaching. Aside from causing injury or death to another person it results in an automatic ban.

People should also consider the effect that a ban will have on their employment and their way of life.

Drivers face up to 14 years in prison if they kill a person while over the limit.

A 51-year-old Lochranza man was arrested on suspicion of drink driving on Tuesday night. Police say they are awaiting laboratory results before taking the matter further.

Case strengthened to save Corrie school



Julie is duchess for a day

Julie Nelson was a duchess for the day on Sunday at Brodick Castle's Victorian Christmas celebrations.

She sat up in one of the castle's majestic old beds ready to begin her 'toilette' with

'maids' Zoe McGovern and Anne Mitchell attending to her every need.

See page 13 for more pictures from this year's Victorian Christmas at the castle.

b50vic4

The closure threat to Corrie Primary School appears to be receding, but the battle is still to be won.

Sixty islanders were given grounds for optimism when they attended a public meeting in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Wednesday night to protest against North Ayrshire Council proposals to close the school.

The bid to close Corrie and send the children to Brodick Primary came in a review of NAC's schools estate as part of a nationwide review, but the meeting exposed flaws in the review group's argument.

NAC Arran member Margie Currie said: 'I am sticking my neck out here, but I think that there is a good case that Corrie will not be closed.'

She said that at the time the report was drawn up NAC was unaware of plans to build 18 affordable homes at Corrie and seven croft houses on Forestry Commission land at Sannox.

The review group did not consider the five-mile limit for pupils to travel to school - Brodick Primary, which is at capacity anyway, is more than that. The journey is even further from Sannox.

'North Ayrshire did not even look at the nursery in considering Corrie, where it is a state-of-the-art facility,' she said.

Fellow NAC councillor Tony Gurney agreed: 'There are no plans for the nursery. They didn't give it a single thought.'

Even if it was decided to close the school and amalgamate it with Brodick Primary, there was an automatic right of appeal to Scottish ministers, she added.

A parents' petition has kicked off the campaign to keep the school. The Scottish Rural Schools Network is also legally challenging the school roll figures on which the review group acted, the meeting was told.

Unison representative Colin Turbett said the union would provide funds for the campaign if it needed help.

It was pointed out that the closure of the 15-pupil school would mean the closure of the nursery, which has four children at present. It takes children from Lochranza. Its closure would make it extremely difficult for them to find another one, the nearest being Shiskine or Lamlash.

The meeting also heard that with 150 houses planned in the Craigforth Report, mainly for Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay, it was possible that their schools would be unable to cope with pupils from elsewhere anyway.

Islanders were urged to respond individually to the consultation about the proposed closure, which would take place between January and March, and also to make their objections in writing to the council.

They were also urged not allow Corrie to become another Kilmory, which lost its post office, shop and pub within six weeks of each other.



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Stranded passengers hit out at lack of pier facilities

VisitArran has defended Cal- edonian MacBrayne after com- plaints about the lack of faci- lities at Brodick pier when the Ardrossan ferry was disrupted last week.

Hundreds of passengers and drivers had to find overnight accommodation on both sides of the water after the ferry failed to sail between Thursday afternoon until 5.30am on Saturday because of bad weather.

CalMac apologised for in- conveniencing passengers and

said it did its best in the cir- cumstances.

Maureen McKenna, local co- ordinator for VisitArran, set up to promote the island as a top- class tourist destination, said: 'Clearly there are instances where visitors' expectations are failing to be met, however, rather than focus negatively on one individual company whose staff are asked to deal with ex- tremely difficult circumstances during periods of disruption we should work positively together

to raise service levels across the board.'

But angry Glasgow couple Thomas Sheldon and Mari- on O'Doherty were not con- vinced.

They booked the 1.45pm ferry last Thursday to go home after a three-day break, return- ing to the pier every two hours to check weather conditions.

They said information about the Lochranza crossing was not given and a lot of people were complaining.

Thomas said: 'The staff there were nice enough but there was nowhere for us there to get a cup of coffee. We weren't even told there was a ferry sailing from Lochranza. I was supposed to be at work today and tomorrow. No one has really told us anything about the weather and the forecast.

'People were just huddled en masse because there was nowhere to go.'

A CalMac spokesman said every effort was made to keep customers informed and it was regrettable that some could not access the many channels of information available, and said that staff had been praised by customers for their efforts.

People were advised at Brod- ick that the Lochranza-Tarbert service was full and were di- rected to the local tourist infor- mation centre and restaurants with baby facilities.

More than 500 passengers had been carried off the island by 8.20am.

A report on a VisitArran open meeting last week to discuss such matters as pier facilities will be in next week's *Banner*.



PC Frazer Mitchell is looking forward to his new life on Arran. b50p011

Arran welcomes new police constable

Arran has a new police constable, 34-year-old Frazer Mitchell from West Kilbride.

He has already spent three summers working on the island with the local police force and has always wanted to settle here permanently.

PC Mitchell said: 'I have always wanted to come and live in Arran full time. It's a great place. I love having the nature and the hills right on my doorstep.'

Having already spent 11 years in the police force he is looking forward to settling into island life.

'It's totally different here to the other places where I have worked,' he said 'I'm very happy to be here.'

Since 2006, PC Mitchell has been North Ayrshire's wildlife crime officer and he hopes to carry on his role on Arran.

He explained: 'Environmental issues, illegal crime against animals, poisoning, poaching and hunting are among my priorities here.'

He will also be liaising more with Arran High School in the coming year.

In his spare time PC Mitchell is a keen motorcyclist and is hop- ing to get involved with Arran's new autocycle club.

He added: 'There's a lot of things I'm interested in doing over here. I play the accordion so would like to get involved with a music group and maybe start learning a new instrument. I've always wanted to learn Gaelic too.'

Sergeant Bob MacKay said: 'I'm delighted to have Frazer here as our new officer and I'm sure he will fit in very quickly.'



Thomas Sheldon and Marion O'Doherty last Friday in front of the ferry. f50fer1

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Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall 200 Club Fund

November draw: first prize number 34 Freddie Clarke, second prize number 36 Evelyn Grassick.

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Kevin Dickson will appear on the island's buses dressed as Santa. b49san1

Santa goes on the buses

SANDS to gain from 'a bit of fun'

Arran's children are in for a treat in the weeks leading up to Christmas, as Santa Claus will be appearing on the local buses.

From Monday, Kevin Dickson from Lamlash will be seen on the Stagecoach buses or at the bus rank at the pier dressed up as Father Christmas.

Kevin, who works for Stagecoach, said he had planned to drive the bus dressed in costume but it was considered unsafe for health and safety reasons.

Instead, Kevin will be handing out sweets to lucky children in return for a small donation to a worthwhile

cause. All the money collected will go to SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society).

Kevin said: 'The charity is important to me and my family as our son died 15 years ago.'

'I have spent three Christmases in the past driving the buses in Irvine and district dressed as Santa for the neonatal unit at Irvine Central Hospital.'

Kevin and his family moved to Arran two years ago from Irvine.

He added: 'I thought it would be fun to do it in Arran this year.'

'The kids always enjoy it and I have great fun too.'

Shannochie couple wait five weeks for phone fix

BT call in tree cutting crew from mainland

A Shannochie couple were left without a phone for more than five weeks despite specialist engineers being on Arran last week.

BT engineers travelled to Kilmory last Thursday to repair a severed phone line that left 35 residents without a phone for a week but they still did not fix the line at Shannochie despite repeated complaints to BT.

Brian Couper and his wife Irene said they informed BT of a fault on their line in early November.

Brian said: 'We reported a noisy line and intermittent fault on the phone which caused telephone calls to be terminated abruptly on November 5.'

'Engineers duly attended the following day and identified the possible cause as overhead cable damage where the line ran through the garden of the old Shannochie post office.'

'By that evening the line was dead and it

took five weeks to be repaired.'

As reported in last week's *Banner*, like the customers in Kilmory, BT told the Coupers a specialist engineering team from the mainland was needed to fix the cable.

To speed up matters the Coupers contacted local MSP Kenneth Gibson.

Mr Gibson said: 'I contacted BT who advised that a survey team would call on December 6 to survey, not fix, the major overhead cable repair identified.'

Repairs were eventually carried out on Monday of this week.

The MSP asked BT to check all callboxes on Arran were in working condition as there were reports that at least two did not work.

In trying to contact BT for updates, Mr Couper found that the phone box at Shannochie post office was not working.

The MSP explained: 'BT has advised that it is up to customers to report broken pay-

phones. When reporting them the public are expected to give the exact details of the problem.'

'Frankly, I think there is an element of complacency here from BT, putting the onus on the customers.'

'Surely in this day and age they could electronically check their own booths regularly to ensure they are working?'

A BT spokesman told *The Banner* this week: 'There were delays to this repair because we had to arrange tree cutting and subsequently bring over an aerial team from the mainland, so the work took much longer than we hoped and we'd like to apologise to Mr Couper for the inconvenience he has suffered.'

'We have plans in place to train two of our four engineers on Arran in aerial work, and three of the engineers have been equipped with larger vehicles so that they can carry our more complex repair and maintenance work.'

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Scout leader's good deed for visitors from Luxembourg

A Luxembourg scout leader has traced the man who assisted his group after they endured terrible weather conditions on Arran — thanks to the *Banner*.

The scouts were trapped for two days in their tents in August and sought shelter, warmth and refreshment in Kilmory.

After three hours, with no food or drink or shelter and cold to the bones, they ended up at Blackwaterfoot where they found refreshment.

The scouts' leader, Erny Kohn, said morale was still very low when their saviour appeared.

'He introduced himself as the local group scout leader of that area and offered to take us up to the north to Lochranza to the youth hostel, said Erny.

'I agreed and this man loaded all of my scouts and their backpacks into his van while my deputy and myself took a bus ride back to Brodick and then to Lochranza, where we were reunited with our scout group. This man saved the trip and I had no opportunity to thank him. We often talk about him and we would be very glad to hear from him.'

A grateful Erny sent a photograph of the group with their rescuer who was not difficult to recognise.



Alan Stout, centre, with some of the scout group from Luxembourg

'Guilty as charged,' admitted Alan Stout, group scout leader and manager of Arran Memorial Hospital at Lamlash.

'I had met the group outside Cameron's shop in Blackwaterfoot. As stated, they were soaked and looking for anywhere dry to stay.

It sounds a bit corny but as they were scouts and with my own position of group scout leader I offered to take those who could fit into the car up to the youth hostel in Lochranza as the only place I could think of for them to stay.'

Lamlash hotel for sale

A hotel at Lamlash has been put on the market at offers of over £595,000.

The Glenisle Hotel has 13 letting bedrooms, a lounge bar and restaurant, staff accommodation and there is also a cottage for the owners. Its large garden has palm trees, shrubs and flowerbeds as well as lawns.

Owners Gavin Lowe and Joan Preston bought the hotel in March 2006 as a business development project, said selling agent Robert Taylor, for Colliers Robert Barry.

This had increased substantially since then and they expected a turnover in excess of £300,000, achieved within a nine-month trading period as the hotel closes in November, January and February. Mr Taylor added that the owners had upgraded and modernised the hotel.

Award for Brodick youngster

Lewis Coyne from Brodick was awarded the young naturalist of the year award at Brodick Castle Ranger Centre on Saturday.

Along with runners up Kirsty Kerr and Tom Griffiths, Lewis had to show good naturalist skills throughout the year and a keen interest in outdoors and nature.

Senior ranger Kate Sampson said: 'The Young Gnat Club



Ken Thorburn and Kate Sampson with the members of the Young Gnat Club.

meet once a month and we have on average 12 kids, between

the ages of 6 and 11. Every year we award the cup to the best young naturalist of that year. It's always hard making the decision as a lot of the members are keen to get out there and learn more.'

ample this year they had Terry Southall doing bird ringing and an archaeologist teaching them how to excavate an archaeological site, they also do some practical conservation.

Apart from learning more about specific topics, for ex-

This year it included a beach clean up and rhododendron cutting.

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Pilot Paul McGill was forced to land his helicopter in Brodick because of poor visibility. b50hell

Irish copter finds refuge in Brodick

Poor visibility forced a helicopter to land on the grass at Brodick beach on Thursday afternoon.

Pilot Paul McGill, from County Antrim, in Northern Ireland, said they had been forced to land because of the low lying mist.

He said: 'We are on our way to Greenock to look at an important construction site but the weather is not great and visibility is getting worse and worse.'

'I decided to duck down here.'

'We'll have a look around, have some lunch and then try to get away after that.'

He is employed as the helicopter pilot for Irish-based construction company Larsen.

His three passengers are all engineers for the business and he often flies company members all over Britain.

On Wednesday morning *The Banner* received a telephone call from Mr McGill

asking if there were any helipads on Arran.

He explained: 'Whenever you fly it's good to know where you can land in an emergency or if you need to refuel.'

'I thought I'd give the island's newspaper a ring because they were bound to know.'

He said he would love to come back to Arran in the summer to see the island at it's best.

United Auctions sell Arran stock

United Auctions had forward 862 cattle and 11,195 store lambs and feeding sheep at Stirling with Arran stock again among the top prices..

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 Texel ewes Balnacool £27.
 Blackface ewes Sheddock £13.

Auditions for 'Annie Get Your Gun' this week

Still time to book your place in the chorus line

Mix the catchy music of Irving Berlin with a real life romance in the wild west and the end result is the sure-fire hit show called 'Annie, Get Your Gun' the 1950 Hollywood musical starring Betty Hutton and Howard Keel.

Auditions for the principal characters in Arran Music and Drama Club's version of the musical take place this week, so when rehearsals begin after the festive break on January 10, they will start in earnest with a named cast.

There is still time to join the chorus etcetera, so do come along to Brodick Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday January 10.

The musical traces the story of the legendary sharp-shooter Annie Oakley.

Born in 1860, Annie was dubbed 'Little True Shooter' by Chief Sitting Bull, as she was just under five feet tall, yet she could hit a small coin in the air at 90 feet.

Her incredible skill came from learning to shoot at the age of nine to feed her widowed mother and all her siblings.

This earned petite little Annie star status in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show, where she met her husband, top marksman, Frank Butler.

In 1926, Annie died aged 66 of pernicious anaemia and just a few weeks later her ever-faithful but grieving husband died too.

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Janice's bike bag pack bring in £700

Janice Small of Brodick raised a total of £703.66 in a bag pack at Brodick Co-op last Saturday.

A grateful Janice said: 'This means I am well on my way to achieving the £1000 I have to raise to take part in the Kolkata to Kalimpong Bike Ride in February.'

'I am quite overwhelmed by the interest and generosity this venture has attracted.'

Arran art group's Goatfell project ends with special exhibition

Children's work goes on display at Kilmory hall

The Arran Art Resource group concluded its seven week long Goatfell project last Thursday with a special exhibition in Kilmory Village Hall.

Children from all of Arran's primary schools have been taking part in the project, which aims to address the social history, the flora and fauna and the current usage of Goatfell.

With help from specialist teachers the youngsters have been creating their own artworks and plays which were then filmed.

A team of specialists: Edward O'Donnely, Sarah Cook and Josephine Broekhuizen have been channelling the children's learning through three different mediums.

Edward introduces the children to video production/editing, digital photography and its manipulation and to the digital arranging of music.

Sarah encourages the schoolchildren to explore the project themes through drama or helping the children to write often humorous and detail-packed scripts,

which help them to better understand the themes involved.

As a visual artist, Josephine encourages the youngsters to make images and sometimes pictures of the stories of the flora and fauna, the history and the current usage of Goatfell.

On Thursday the schoolchildren enjoyed watching the films that they had made. On display around the hall were various exhibits of work they had completed.



Pictures created by the pupils were on display around the hall. b50aar3



Girls from Shiskine and Brodick primary schools admire some of their artworks. b50aar1

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THE ARRAN BANNER

ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER Saturday 16 December, 2007

Having been stuck in Ardrossan last week during the travails of the relief ferry, I took the opportunity of doing a small shop in Asda, not because of any particular urge to see it, but to prevent me having to call into the Co-op on the way home when I did eventually get to Brodick. Yet, I could not but be aware of the degree of interest which had been shown in it when it opened a few weeks ago, while its position, so much on the periphery of the three towns and right at the harbour, looks so much like a direct challenge to the Co-op.

One report had been that it was cold, which it was, although having been in cold sleet for some time, maybe it was only me who was cold. But that was the least of it. It was also poorly lit in comparison to the Co-op but worst of all was the relative primitiveness of what it offered. My requirements were quite simple but it could not satisfy all of them whereas our own Co-op would have had everything which I had wanted.

It seems to me that supermarkets reflect more the area they are in rather than the brand they are selling. Thus Asda appeared to be catering more for a three towns market (to use a euphemism) and, if indeed it does plan to challenge the Co-op, had failed to understand how different the Arran market is. They would not of course be the first to underestimate the difference of the Arran market but there were rows and rows of crisps and fizzy drinks and all the plastic toys and videos and DVDs which are of little interest if you are looking for food. Surprisingly, having had no breakfast, I was unable to find a nice tasty bite to keep me going. I left disappointed but feeling that the Brodick Co-op need have no fears there.

Yet even a feeble competitor can do much damage while it lasts.

Are you sure you want to navigate away from this page? This curious message, which I hadn't seen before, came up on my computer when I tried to close it. It reminded me of how false computer language is and how it says so much about people's attitude to them. Some hate them, others use them but do not go overboard, while an awful lot become addicted. This addiction manifests itself in spending time on them, boasting about them, telling others they ought to be using them, believing that they really do help in the ordinary business of living and talking the gobbledegook. Retired people will talk a lot about email and using the internet. What they are really doing, as well as wasting a lot of time, is subtly boasting how youthful is their outlook.

Back to navigation. What a daft word in this context. Yet look at all the language. You log on to your computer, you go through a firewall, you may have to reboot, or surf the internet, or use a search engine to find something, or download. Goodness. you'd think you were talking about lumberjacks jumping from log to log in a Canadian river. Or sporting activity on a Californian beach. Or grand and imaginative engineering projects. But we are talking about nerds whose personal communication skills are often deficient and are stuck in communion with nothing but a screen, the only physical exercise being little finger movements on the mouse. In fact the language is the opposite of what it is about. It is a pretence that what is happening is active, adventurous, physical. In reality it is passive, sedentary, and when you think how so many people get hooked on it, really quite feeble.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' — which means, 'God with us' *Matthew 1:23*

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.

The Arran Banner adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Arran Banner* are not necessarily those of the The Oban Times Group.

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 editorial@arranbanner.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Ferry bad

Sir,
Once again in the run-up to Christmas and New Year we are at the mercy of CalMac and the weather — and apparently of insecure fixings on the Caledonian Isles, resulting in injury to a passenger.

No wonder the Isle of Mull is reluctant to put to sea in other than near perfect conditions. Every company is liable to be sued these days.

Ardrossan harbour is said to be the culprit for much of the time. Protected from the north and east, it is exposed dramatically to the prevailing winds from the south and west, the entrance is narrow and the turn into the berth sharp.

The design of these ro-ro ferries is such that they have little grip on the water, being virtu-

ally flat-bottomed and of shallow draft, and a large exposure to wind, being slab sided.

Additionally, owing to the vast funnel, which acts like a sail, they have a strong tendency both to roll and move bodily sideways in extreme conditions, a tendency only partially offset by the bow and stern thrusters.

(I await correction on these points, being only an ordinary rather than naval architect.)

That being so, and even if my technical analysis is incorrect, the effect is much as I have described it.

In that case, why do CalMac and the harbour management not pursue one or more of the following; use the Irish berth, in disuse since the Irish trade moved to Troon; turn the ferry inside the harbour; build a mole or jetty on the south side of the

breakwater; widen the harbour entrance on the north side?

The alternative, of moving CalMac's Arran service to another harbour, would work only if new investment there was not required or if the addition of the Arran trade did not disrupt existing services.

Landward connection would also have to be considered. But something needs to be done surely?

Yours,
Ian Ferguson
Northbeck Cottage
High Corrie

First-aid course

Sir,
I am planning to run a one-day emergency first aid course organised by Arran Outdoor Education Resource in late January or early February. Any volunteer who currently works with a sports club/group on Arran is welcome to attend. Please contact me at Arran High School if you would like to participate in this course.

Yours,
Mrs Ann Hart
(Active Schools
Co-ordinator)
Arran High School
Lamlash

Blackout

Sir,
The other week, around 10.30pm, having had my Horlicks and oatcakes, I sat down to read a book, as is my habit, and promptly fell fast asleep.

Regaining consciousness, I discovered myself in total darkness, not a glimmer of light, no moonlight or starlight, just Stygian darkness, I felt completely disorientated.

Explanations for my plight raced through my mind. Perhaps I had gone blind or simply gone early to bed. Maybe I was dead and for my sins in transit to the underworld, this latter seeming unlikely since my body did not seem arranged in the customary supine fashion for this.

Maybe I was doing a Rip van Winkle and would wake up 20 years hence to find all my friends old and gnarled, those few of them not already so.

Then I discovered the book on my lap and all became clear,

figuratively, the power had failed. I felt my way along the living room wall towards the kitchen door, knocking over a photograph of my late wife on the way, she must be having a good laugh, I thought.

A torch was found, the time was only 11.45pm. I had been asleep barely an hour.

In bed I fell asleep relishing the thought that electricity supply was no longer any concern of mine.

Yours,
Bill Wood
Glen Court
Brodick

Travelling classroom

Sir,
The bus mentioned by John Forgie in his letter last week may have been the one used by Chrisy and Ken Wolverton who used it to go round the island primary schools in the 1970s to do art work, using the bus as a travelling classroom.

I am not sure, but think that they left the island to help the well-known wood worke, Tim Stead refurbish a restaurant in Edinburgh.

Best wishes to all on Arran and elsewhere.

Yours,
Irene Murdo
Corriegills
Brodick

Councillor apologises

Sir,
Through the pages of your newspaper can I apologise to anyone who attended my December surgery at the Ormidale Sports Pavillion. The weather forced the postponement of this surgery at very short notice.

If any of your readers are unable to wait for my next regular Arran surgery can I ask them to write to me, Councillor Anthony Gurney, c/o Members Services, North Ayrshire Council, 3rd Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE; telephone 07814 790 083 or e-mail agurney@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Yours,
Tony Gurney
Cunninghame House
Irvine



As part of her continuing professional development Ailsa Weir has recently graduated from Paisley University with a BSc in nursing studies.

Ailsa is the senior charge nurse at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash following the retirement of Charlotte Weir in November.

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Are there any poets out there?

£1,000 prize

Now is your last chance to write a prize-winning poem about Arran that could win you £1000 in a poetry competition.

It's free to enter the competition and it's open to all UK residents, young or old. All you have to do is send a poem about life in your own home town or area to 'Local Poem', United Press Limited, Admail 3735, London, EC1B 1JB, or visit the website www.unitedpress.co.uk.

The best poem will win £1000 cash and you can send up to three entries, each of which which must be no more than 20 lines and 160 words.

'It can be about something or someone from the poet's home area,' explained a United Press spokesman.

'We find that poems written from personal observation and experience are the most heart-felt and expressive, so we're expecting some great entries from Arran.'

The closing date is December 31 2007.

Lochranza ferry keeps 'riding along on the crest of a wave . . .'



Jon Baker from Lochranza sent *The Arran Banner* this picture of the Tarbert to Lochranza ferry last Sunday on a very windy and stormy day. He said: 'Just thought you might like this photograph of the ferry. The fact that it still went is a credit to the people working on board. I was glad it wasn't me and I wish them safe journeys this winter!' b49fer1NO

New Arran youth music group

Feis Arainn is to create a group of young musicians to represent the Arran Feis.

To do this they will be running a series of workshops in the New Year, in fiddle, pipes, guitar and singing for children with experience in their instrument.

The organisers describe the workshops as an opportunity for children to receive expert tuition and to gain experience of playing with other musicians.

At the end of the workshops there will be a ceilidh where students will have a chance to show off what they have learned, playing alongside their tutors.

Feis Arainn hope the musical group will then go on to take part in other events later in the year.

The dates of the workshops are January 12, February 9, and March 15 and they will take place in Brodick Primary School.

Anyone interested in taking part or wishing more information can contact Alistair Paul on 302881.



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Cheese company keeps its tradition with old soldiers

Pictured about to tuck into some famous Arran produce are Chelsea Pensioners Sidney Saunderson, aged 83, and John Harris, who is 79.

The old soldiers – Sidney served in The King's Regiment and John in the Royal Artillery – were attending The Dairy Council's annual Ceremony of the Christmas Cheeses on De-

ember 6 at the Royal Chelsea Hospital in London.

Arran was represented by Bellevue Cheese Company of Blackwaterfoot which gave its Arran Blue and Arran Brie cheeses. The ceremony has been going for almost half a century and Bellevue sends cheeses annually.

A company spokeswoman

said Bellevue's previous owners began a tradition of sending cheeses to the war veterans and was being carried on by present owner Gordon Kinniburgh.

Each year British cheeses are given by manufacturers and presented to the Chelsea Pensioners, a tradition dating from 1692. This year 200 were presented.

Support for work of black grouse group

Andrew Perrie from Scottish Hydro Electric presented a cheque for £500 to the Arran Black Grouse Group on Wednesday.

Andrew, an electrician with Scottish Hydro Electric on Arran, said: 'This cheque is a donation from Scottish Hydro Electric's 'Into action scheme' which supports staff who are active in the community and in this case the company is delighted to be associated with such an environmentally friendly project and we wish the group success in reintroducing the black grouse to Arran.'

Senior ranger Kate Sampson said: 'It's fantastic to get this donation from Hydro Electric. Arran Black Grouse Group has had incredible support from the community and local companies. All of this has really helped us get off our feet.'

'It's also bringing lots of different people together; landowners, business, the community and farmers.'

The black grouse was wiped out on Arran despite being abundant in the early 1900s, when it was classed as vermin owing to its destruction of corn crops.

But now the group has brought over three pairs from Aberdeen to West Glen Sherraig Farm, Glen Rosa, for breeding.

But it will be at least three years until the black grouse can be left to breed outwith captivity.



Kate Sampson accepts a cheque from Andrew Perrie.

b50gro1

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Party time with Lamlash SWRI

Lamlash SWRI children's party will be held on Saturday, December 22 at 2.30pm in Lamlash Community Centre.

The committee says it hopes to see all children up to and including primary 5 and that the afternoon will be lots of fun.

The Brodick Bar & Brasserie

Telephone 302169

We are re-opening on Tuesday 11th December after our kitchen refurbishment.

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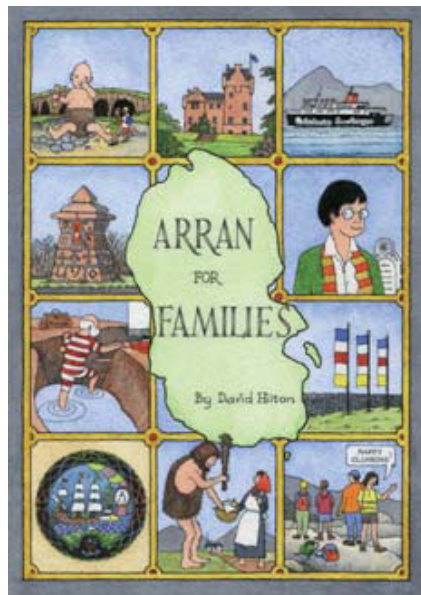
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Your chance to win a copy of super Arran book



Arran for Families, the latest guidebook to appear on the island's shelves has proved to be one of the fastest-selling books about Arran.

David Hilton's book is unlike any other written about Arran mainly because it was written to appeal to readers of all ages.

Janis Heaney from Arran Graphics, which published the book, said: 'So far we have sold about 400 copies of Arran for Families and the shops have had to be topped up with books more than once. You can now buy the book at most outlets on Arran.'

Demand is strong for 'Arran for Families' by David Hilton.

The hand-written text and illustrated journey around the island is peppered with interesting facts and stories to entertain both children and adults.

The introduction explains: 'You have made a wise choice, coming to Arran for your holidays. When our little grandsons Ben and Laurie were staying with us in Whiting Bay they said we should write our own book with drawings and notes of the places they liked best. This is the result. Our book is for children, mums and dads, grans and grandads and anybody who loves Arran or is on their first visit.'

It starts in Brodick and works its way anti-clockwise around the island before exploring the Ross and String roads.

The book touches on Arran milestones, Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick Castle, the Goatfell

Murder, Hutton's Unconformity, King's Cave and the clearances. All aspects of Arran life are comprehensively, yet whimsically, covered and there are even questions to puzzle the children. Among the sketches adorning the book cover are the tale of the Doctor's Bath and Harry Potter and the Secret of Lamlash Cemetery.

Three lucky Arran Banner readers can get their own copy of the book by answering one simple question.

To which village on Arran does the *MV Caledonian Isles* come into?

If you know the answer, send it on a postcard with your name, address and telephone number to The Arran Banner, Brodick, KA27 8AJ or you can e-mail editorial@arranbanner.co.uk.

High school news

School singers take Lamlash by storm

Monday December 3 heralded the debut of the new junior and senior choirs at the annual Lamlash Church Christmas concert. Looking decidedly dapper in their shirts and ties, the choirs arrived at Lamlash church ready to stun the audience with their talent.

The Christmas concert brought together some of the island's best and most loved groups to remind the congregation of the real Christmas message. The Rowan Singers gave a rousing performance, particularly due to their rather attractive new red uniforms, which, as one member commented, were clearly trying to emulate Arran Brass's new look.

Amid the bible readings and prayer our own senior choir performed 'Unto Us' while

the junior choir went on to sing the slightly more contemporary 'While Shepherds Watched', which certainly got the crowd moving!

Arran Brass also treated the congregation to some of their best music whilst everyone banded together, amid sniggers stemming from a typo involving the word 'throng', to blast out some firm favourite hymns such as 'Hark the Herald'.

At the end it's safe to say that everyone was utterly riddened with Christmas spirit, so it's just left to thank the choir and indeed all performers and speakers that evening for marking the start of the Christmas season with such a bang.

Jamie Cleland, S6

New school – at last!

In a definite case of 'touch

wood', the staff and students of Arran High are gearing up for a move to the new school building. With the Christmas holidays beginning on Wednesday, the full transition is expected to begin this week, and we should, finally, be in the school by the new year.

The sight of teachers frantically packing Pickfords branded boxes around the school has become a common one over the past few weeks, with the actual transfer of equipment expected to begin today

(Friday) several days before the end of term.

Already, some students, mainly house representatives from each year, have had a tour of the new building, with most coming back thoroughly impressed by the on-site facilities. One student said: 'The gym hall is incredible – it's massive.'

Other aspects of the school which impressed were the well-equipped technology and home economics rooms as well as the stunning arts class-

rooms, with views overlooking the surrounding hills.

For the moment, we eagerly await the move to the new school, and look forward to bringing you many more *High School News* from within its walls. As this is the last school column of 2007, we wish our readers a very merry Christmas, and best wishes for 2008.

Calum Johnston and Liam Turbett, S6

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www.taste-of-arran.co.uk

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Sat - Over 21's Disco – 10pm (Last admittance 11pm)

Sun - Open Folk Session – 9.30pm

Tues - Pop Music Quiz – 10pm

Thur - General Knowledge Quiz – 10pm

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Farmers visit renewable energy in action

Arran farmers saw the benefits of renewable energy at first hand on the island on Tuesday.

The group visited two farms and a primary school harnessing energy from the sun and wind. Their first visit was to Colin and Laura Currie's farm at the Bridge to see solar panels installed for water heating.

After lunch they visited Kilmory Primary School. In February 2004 it became the first Ayrshire school to install a wind turbine and solar panels.

Head teacher Margaret Parker said the school's excess power went to the national grid.

A digital read-out in the school hall shows the amount of power being generated and the CO2 climate change emissions which have been avoided by using this wind power.

'The children can sit and watch the dials change and it is a great educational tool,' she said.

In the last two years the turbine has provided the school with 22,000 kilowatt hours of electricity.

Three solar panels in the roof heat the

water. Mrs Parker said: 'Even on the coldest day in winter the water coming from the panels is 10C higher than the mains water.'

After questions the farmers moved on to Dave and Carol Furze's farm at Cloined.

The couple installed their 12-metre wind turbine a year ago and were the first domestic users on Arran to sell power back to the national grid.

Carol said: 'You become much more aware of what electricity you use when you can hear the swish of the blades and see the meter turning over.'

The day was jointly organised by A Taste of Arran and Ayrshire and Arran Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

With the group were Carola Menzel of the Energy Agency based at Auchincruive College, Ayr, and Farm Conservation Adviser Tommy Loudon.

Carola outlined the grants available to farmers and individuals to set up renewable energy projects. Information is obtainable from the Scottish Agricultural College at Auchincruive.



Above:
The renewable energy group at Kilmory with Tommy Loudon, centre, flanked by Kilmory Primary head teacher Margaret Parker and Carola Menzel of the Energy Agency.^{b50pow01}

Right:
The digital read-out at Kilmory Primary School from which pupils learn about power and CO2 climate change emissions.^{b50pow02}

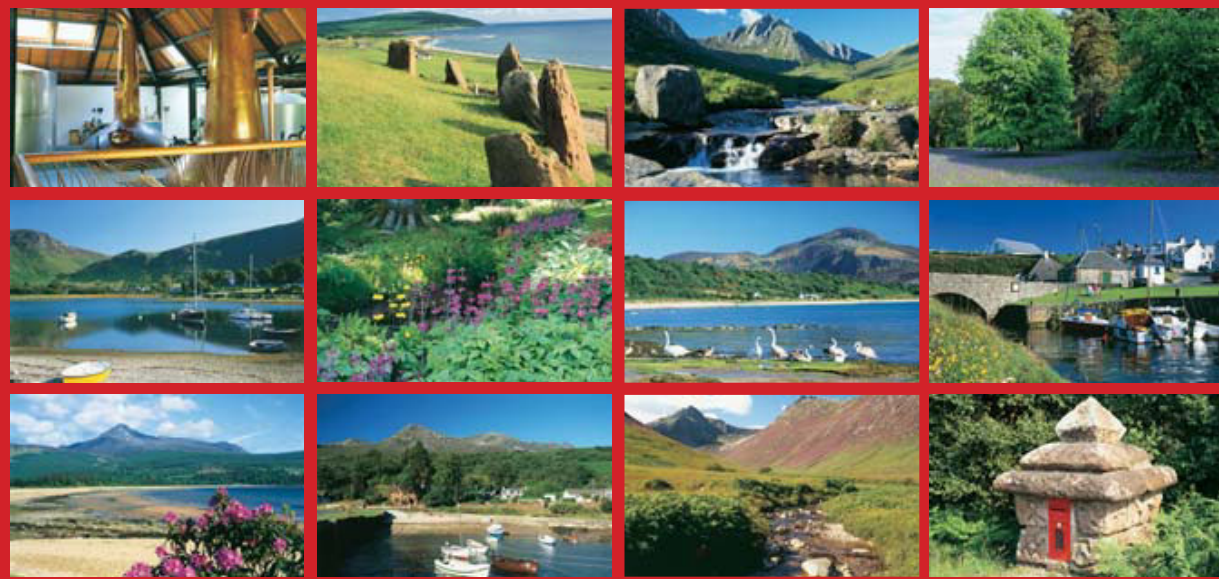


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Arran Banner
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Castle revisits a Victorian Christmas

Brodick Castle was transported back 150 years on Sunday to a traditional Victorian Christmas.

At the castle there was great excitement as families joined the castle's Victorian inhabitants to celebrate this special time of year.

Outside in the gardens Colin Totty was roasting chestnuts to warm up the visitors in the cold winter air.

The inside of the building was decked with greenery and the trees were trimmed with traditional decorations.

Castle staff were dressed as their Victorian counterparts for the day and they could be seen throughout the castle welcoming the visitors and enjoying the festive cheer.

In the bedroom, Lord Henry's maiden aunt, Euphemia, was causing havoc among the servants having taken to her bed with the vapours.

Her poor maid, Annie Toogood was run off her feet.

Next door in the boudoir Lady Merkland's sisters, Venetia and Eustacia, were decorating baubles and making greetings' cards.

In the drawing room, the music mistress, Miss Bechstein, was coaching the houseguests in the songs they intend to perform at the grand Christmas Eve ball.

Down in the kitchen visiting children were helping Mrs Potts the cook to stir up puddings and prepare mince pies.

After wandering through the castle, in the tearoom there were complementary glasses of mulled wine and mince pies to really get everyone in the mood for Christmas.



Lord Henry Merkland (John Moore) and Easton the Butler (Hamish Mitchell) in the grand entrance hall of Brodick Castle. b50vic2



Seven-year-old Alison Provan helps Helen Struthers and Jenny Beesley to make a traditional Victorian Christmas pudding. b50vic7

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 Greetings to our customers

November disappears in a flurry of meetings

MEP Elspeth Attwooll writes about the European parliament

They say that the older you get the quicker time passes, but I did not altogether expect November to have disappeared in a flash. Hopefully, it is only because so much has been happening.

Beside the usual meetings in Brussels and Strasbourg, I saw a fair amount of Scotland. This included seafood-processing in Dingwall, a pig farm in Nairn, the Poppy Day launch in Inverness, the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Islands Federation in Mull and a primary school in Ayrshire.

There were numerous events in Edinburgh too — about seven in all, including a debate at Heriot Watt University with topics ranging from the European Movement AGM to a St Andrew's Night celebration of Scotland's history.

We had plenty of visitors to the parliament — students from Ullapool High School and Stirling University, a Swedish charity, Canadian parliamentarians, the Confederation of British Industry and the Industry and Parliament Trust.



MEP Elspeth Attwooll.
b49mep1

There were also people with particular issues to discuss: fishermen from Mallaig, representatives of Friends of the Earth and the Shark Alliance, tenants from Cumbernauld and other constituents concerned about social housing and cancer care.

Of course all this has fitted round the usual committees and full meetings of the Parliament both in Brussels and in Strasbourg. Most topically,

the fisheries committee has been dealing with the problem of discards. In the regional development committee the concentration has been on the question of territorial cohesion and the criteria for European funding after 2013. One of my concerns here is with ways of ironing out differences within regions, as well as between them, so that we can get rid of black spots in what are otherwise prosperous areas.

As to the full parliament, a whole raft of issues has been discussed, from soil protection through aviation emissions to economic partnership agreements with developing countries.

We have also approved the charter of fundamental rights. I am only sorry the UK has opted out of this, mainly because of what I think is a mistaken understanding of the effects it would have on our own domestic law.

I am not quite sure how but among all this I have actually begun my Christmas shopping.



A firecrest was seen on Arran on November 17 — a first for the island if confirmed.

Bird notes: firecrest

By JIM CASSELS

The smallest European birds are the goldcrest and the closely related firecrest. While goldcrests are present in Arran throughout the year, if the Clyde Rare Birds Panel confirms the sighting of a firecrest in Whiting Bay on November 17 it will be a first for Arran.

Goldcrests breed in Arran and throughout Europe. On the other hand, firecrests breed mainly in central and southern Europe. The first breeding record in the UK was in 1962. Breeding in the UK is restricted to southern England.

Firecrests appear in the UK rarely as spring and autumn passage migrants. As well as this one reported in Whiting Bay, there were only three other firecrests reported in Scotland this autumn: one each at Fair Isle, Torness and St. Abbs Head. In southwest Scotland it remains a real rarity: one in Ayrshire a few winters back was only the third county record.

Compared with the far more familiar goldcrest, the firecrest

displays considerably more striking plumage characteristics. Most noticeable is the striking white supercilium (a stripe above the eye) contrasting with a bold black edge to the fiery orange crest, and a black stripe through the eye. The black-white, black-white, double eye stripe effect is a conspicuous feature on so small a bird. In the Whiting Bay garden, it was these features that caught the attention of the person, who reported the firecrest.

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.

Stanza's Christmas Extravaganza
Corrie Parish Church
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Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies
Crawford Logan - Reader
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Peter Thomson - Baritone
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The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday December 19, 1987



Susan Whitehead and Christopher Marriott were married at Whiting Bay Church last Saturday and were then whisked away to the Douglas Hotel for the wedding reception in a surprise helicopter. b50twe3

Red alert on Holy Isle

First there was Purple Warrior now there is Red Admiral.

That was the name of yet another 'all services' exercise which took place on Arran last Sunday.

But this mountain rescue, life-boat and coastguard exercise differed from Purple Warrior in that, for the men involved, it was all for real.

The three groups were led to believe that this was a real call-out not a contrived situation.

They were called out to rescue five men lost and seriously hurt on Holy Isle.

At least that is what they thought until they found their quarry which included Jimmy Gordon and others smiling benignly and not in the least bit distressed.

This was the first exercise of its kind held on Arran to involve all three services.

Break in at school

Lamlash Primary School was broken into last Thursday night and a quantity of biscuits stolen.

High hopes

A new theatre on Arran would not have to rely on any subsidy according to the findings of an

independent firm of theatrical consultants.

The consultants were hired by the Arran Festival Theatre Committee and had the task of making recommendations about the reconstruction and conversion of St George's Church, Lamlash into a theatre.

They believe that after a payment of costs it would make a profit of several thousand pounds while even at minimum usage it would certainly cover its own costs.

The suggestion is that the church be preserved intact, that it be re-roofed and will have every modern facility.

Heather Gough said: 'It's brilliant news. Now we can redouble our efforts and try and get this project up and running.'

Poor-poise at Lochranza

On Thursday morning Mr Bill Hay of Catacol reported a porpoise stranded on the beach just outside Lochranza.

A post mortem carried out by Brodick Castle rangers Derrick Warner and Christopher Calvey revealed that it was a full grown female which probably died of natural causes.

Mr Calvey said: 'We found the skin had small circular lesions suggesting that sea-lampreys had attached themselves at various times, in the life of



Winners of the Brodick Poultry and Pigeon Club annual show. b50twe1

this female.'

First choice for Christmas

The Co-op in Lamlash and Brodick will fulfil all your

Christmas drinks needs this year.

McEwans Export only 49p, Tennents Lager 46p, Black Tower wine £2.75, Gordons Gin £5.99, Smirnoff Vodka £6.99 and much, much more.



Arran Against the Bomb met on the Sandbraes beach in Whiting Bay to light a bonfire celebrating the recent signing of the INF agreement. b50twe2

BEST for NEWS VIEWS & PHOTOS

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Drains sandalised
gh winds
p Kitty
Found in the woods

The ARRAN BANNER GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- The Battle of the — in 1944 in World War II was also called the Ardennes offensive (5)
- 8, and 14 Down. 1984 Taylor Hackford film starring Rachel Ward and Jeff Bridges (7,3,4)
- Simone, Sieneese painter who died in 1344 (7)
- Mr. Sadat, president of Egypt 1970-81 (5)
- The former name, until 1966, of Lesotho (10)
- 'The Master of —', novel by R.L. Stevenson (10)
- Old Testament character, the eldest son of Cain (5)
- Vyacheslav, Soviet statesman who negotiated the nonaggression pact with Nazi Germany (7)
- Mark written under a c in French to show that it is sibilant (7)
- Mr. Vance, American statesman who served as secretary of state under Carter (5)

DOWN

- 1 and 6. Another name for the yeti (10,7)
- John, English poet whose volumes include The Village Minstrel (5)
- 'The Peer and the —', subtitle of Iolanthe by Gilbert and Sullivan (4)
- Lightweight surfboard named after a beach in California (6)
- 18c Italian adventurer, spy and librarian noted for his Memoires (8)
- See 1.
- 1929 novel by Dashiell Hammett (3,7)
- American character actor whose films include Dodge City and The Adventures of Robin Hood (4,4)
- See 8 Across.
- Small scrub wallaby of Australia, Macropus eugenii (6)
- Ian, 1991 European Individual Three-Day Event champion on Glenburnie (5)
- 1982 book by Shirley Conran (4)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- Hurry (5)
- Proposition (7)
- Make ready (7)
- Kingdom (5)
- Ownership (10)
- Missile (10)
- Disprove (5)
- Captivate (7)
- Public (7)
- Power (5)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

- Tradesman (10)
- Pale (5)
- Greek letter (4)
- Strain (6)
- Retaliation (8)
- Capricious (7)
- Handle (10)
- Upset (8)
- Unite (7)
- Threefold (6)
- Sediment (5)
- Subdue (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Planck; 4 Fescue; 9 Aix-la-Chapelle; 10 Contact; 11 Rhône; 12 Drury; 14 Conté; 18 Saved; 19 Henreid; 21 Tender Mercies; 22 Nièvre; 23 Tendon.

Down: 1 Plaise; 2 Aix-en-Provence; 3 Clara; 5 Esparto; 6 Call of the Wild; 7 Eleven; 8 White; 13 Red deer; 15 Ashton; 16 Thyme; 17 Edison; 20 Nerve.

QUICK - Across: 1 Refuse; 4 Motive; 9 Sooner or later; 10 Respect; 11 Gorse; 12 Raise; 14 Ideal; 18 Drake; 19 Evasion; 21 Unintentional; 22 Theory; 23 Pedlar.

Down: 1 Resort; 2 Fool's paradise; 3 Sieve; 5 Obligated; 6 International; 7 Earned; 8 Worth; 13 Sweater; 15 Adjust; 16 Peony; 17 Angler; 20 Agile.

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Nature notes

Busy time for squirrels

With the impending arrival of the cold weather, non-hibernating species such as red squirrel have been seen foraging throughout the park fattening up before winter arrives properly.

Some of the seeds, nuts and berries are being carefully hidden away for eating later on in the cold winter months.

It seems, however, that the busy squirrels are somewhat absent-minded and some of the stores are forgotten.

The squirrels have unwittingly helped the trees and plants by scattering their nuts and seeds all over the park, the forgotten ones hopefully germinating into new plants and trees next spring.

It can be a dangerous occupation, though, in 2007 we have reports of 22 dead squirrels on Arran's roads.

Other wildlife sightings during the last month include a school of dolphins in Whiting Bay, a male mandarin duck in the Rosa burn, two otters outside Brodick Castle (unfortunately one of them a dead pup found on the road), and a hedgehog beside the ranger centre.

You possibly heard the thunder rolling about the hills on the night of December 1. It may have come as a bit of a surprise, thunderstorms often being associated with warmer, summer weather.

As Saturday showed, thunderstorms can, in fact occur during the colder wintry months.

In temperate climates such as ours they form along or ahead of approaching cold fronts.

They can also form within cooler air masses as they follow the passage of a cold front over a relatively warmer body of water.

Evidence of lightning strikes from as far back as the Permian Period, around 250 million years ago, has been reported on Arran.

The evidence takes the form of fulgurites, glassy hollow tubes that trace the path of the lightning into the ground. They are formed from the intense heat of the lightning strike, which fuses the grains of sand together.

The largest fulgurites can be metres long and several centimetres in diameter.

On Arran, examples have been found in the Permian sandstones at Corrie shore; they have also been reported up at the Cock of Arran. In fact the examples on Arran are thought to be the oldest examples found in Britain.

Remember, please pass on your sightings over the holidays to the ranger service on 302462.

Happy Christmas!

Gillian MacLaughlin



Lamlash Bowling Club prizewinners 2007

Bowled over on Lamlash award night

Lamlash Bowling Club held its annual prize giving dinner last Saturday night.

Despite a rather wet and miserable summer the bowlers were still out in force and many of them picked up a number of prizes.

Marion Spence was delighted to be named the 2007 ladies champion and Jim Sloss was named

the gents champion of the season. Jill Butcher was awarded the cup for the ladies pairs competition and Charlie Weir was crowned open singles champion.

Secretary of the club Margaret Murchie said: 'It was a really enjoyable evening. It was a lovely way to end the season.'

Vandals given chance to make amends

Three boys who broke into and caused damage at the new Arran High School building in the summer have been given the chance to go some way towards making amends for their actions.

A high school statement said that in association with SACRO (safeguarding communities – reducing offending), members of staff found tasks for the boys to undertake during the two-

day school closure in October.

The young offenders helped to unpack boxes which had been ready to transfer to the new building; they cleaned windows; they removed unusable items to the skip; they helped clean and tidy the school library. Further information about the work of SACRO and Restorative Justice can be found on www.sacro.org.uk.

On Tuesday December 4 the Kildonan ladies celebrated Christmas and their diamond anniversary.

Members had the opportunity to browse through the scrap

Kildonan SWRI Christmas party

book and read the newspaper cuttings dating back to 1947.

The minutes from 1950 noted that a ceilidh was held for the children's Christmas party which raised £36 16s for the village's 40 children. The ladies were then asked to charge

their glasses and drink a toast to Kildonan Womans Rural Institute and the next 60 years.

There followed a delicious supper. A special thank you to Mamie Stewart for the anniversary cake and Thelma Meldrum for the champagne and homemade wine. Christine Miller, with Jill Hollick in second place winning the competition for four mince pies.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday January 15 at 7.30pm when the ladies of Kilmory and Whiting Bay SWRIs will join in for a whist drive.

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WHAT'S ON...



BANNER

EVERYDAY

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park 11am - 4pm
Trout fishing, Loch Garbad. Bank

Hawk Walks, Lamlash

SATURDAY 15th December

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football
coaching, 10.30am - noon

Arran Dancers
Brodick Primary School 11am - 4.15pm

Machrie Table Tennis & Games Club,
Machrie Hall, 7.30-9pm

Disco, Ormidale Hotel 10pm

Karate
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm

SUNDAY 16th December

Alcoholics Anonymous,
St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm

Family Games Kids & Adults.
Auchrannie Games Hall 2 - 3pm

Open Folk Session
Ormidale Hotel. 9pm

MONDAY 17th December

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie, 9.30am & 10.45am

Over 50s Badminton,
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm

Football coaching,
Ormidale Park, 6 7.30pm (8-16yrs)

Badminton,
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm

Quiz,
Cameronia 9.30pm

Cardiac Rehab,
Auchrannie Gym, 12.30pm - 2pm

Circuit Training.
Auchrannie Gym 6pm - 7.15pm

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Lamlash Bridge
Golf Clubhouse, Lamlash, 7.15pm

Badminton
Auchrannie 7pm - 9pm

Panto Pandemonium
Kilmory Hall, 7pm

Arran Brass Concert
Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm

TUESDAY 18th December

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am

Lochranza Swimming Club,
Kinloch, 11am-noon

Legs, Bums & Tums,
Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm

Army Cadets,
Auchrannie Road, 7.30-9.30pm

Pop quiz,
Ormidale Hotel 10pm

Lochranza & Catacol Coffee morning,
Hall 10am - 12pm

Alcoholics Anonymous,
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Arran Rotary,
Auchrannie, 7.15pm

Citizens Advice
open 10am -2pm 4 - 6pm by appointment only

Pulmonary Rehab
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm

Table Tennis
Kildonan Hall, 6pm-8pm

Indoor Bowling
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2pm

Indoor Bowling
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

New Salsa Dancercise
Shiskine Hall. 8.30pm

Shapers Slimming Club
Ormidale Pavilion, 7pm

Brodick Primary School Concert
Church Hall, 7pm

Lamlash Primary School Concert
School, 7pm

FWAG meeting
Kinloch Hotel, 7pm

WEDNESDAY 19th December

Mixed Hockey,
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

Aerobics class,
High School 8pm - 9pm

Jnr Rugby Training,
S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm

Aquafizz,
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am

Circuit Training.
Auchrannie 6pm

Open Folk Session
Aldersyde Hotel. 9pm

Table Tennis
Kildonan Hall, 3pm-5pm

Shiskine Beavers
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.15pm

Yogalates
Auchrannie Studio 10am - 11am

Arran Heritage Museum,
archives and genealogy 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm

THURSDAY 20th December

Senior Fitness,
Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am

Brodick Bridge Club
,McLaren Hotel 7.15pm

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Badminton,
Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm Adults 7.30 - 9pm

Lochranza Craft Club,
Hall 2pm

Outdoor run,
Auchrannie, 6pm

Pilates, Auchrannie Studio, 6pm

Belly Dancing,
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm

Aerobics,
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm

St Molios Church Coffee Morning 10.30 - noon

Youth Club
Youth Centre, Lamlash 7pm - 10pm

Arran Junior Singers Practise
Whiting Bay School 6.45pm

Brodick Embroidery Group
Brodick Library, 7.30pm

Cardiac Rehab,
Auchrannie Gym, 12.30pm - 2pm

Keep Fit
Kildonan Hall, 7pm - 9pm

Indoor Bowling
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm

"Annie Get Your Gun" - Rehearsal
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

FRIDAY 21st December

Arran Pipe Band practice,
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Lochranza & Catacol Coffee morning
10am - 12pm

Aquafizz,
Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am

Over 21's disco,
10pm, Ormidale Hotel

Citizens Advice open 10am-2pm

Whiting Bay Golf Club
Quiz night 9pm

Circuit Training
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7.15pm

Senior Badminton
Auchrannie 2pm

Arran Ceilidh Dance Group
Lamlash Community Centre 8pm

Stanza Xmas Extraveganza
Corrie Parish Church, 7.30pm



Christmas Greetings

Your personal messages for friends and family this Christmas

Jenny & Dorothy Thomson wish all their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

DUNCAN
We would like to wish all our friends and family a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2008 from Alexa, Angus, Chrissy, Margaret & Phil

Greetings from New Zealand
Jessie Robb wishes all her relations and friends, both on and off the island, A very Happy Festive Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Netta McDonald Farhills
Wishes all her friends and relations a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year
Donation to Red Cross

Betty Cobban wishes all her friends on Arran a Merry Christmas and the very best for 2008.
Please note new address: Room 12, Montrose House, Brodick, KA27 8DA
Personal telephone 01770 302182 as before.

Alistair Yates
Arran General Insurance Services
Wishing friends and customers Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Jean Shaw Ashlea is not sending cards this year but wishes friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jimmy, Jenni, Leah & James wish all family and friends on Arran, Seasons Greetings
Donations to MS Society in lieu of local cards

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 2008 to all my friends.
Betty Ure

CHRISSEY'S PLACE
Chrissy would like to wish Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all her customers and many thanks for your continued support.

Eddie and Nancy Canon would like to wish all family and friends a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year.
Off to spend the festive season in the sun!

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To All Our Customers
A Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year

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THE STEADING, CORRIE OFFERS OVER £740,000

Most attractive former farm steading now converted to four self catering holiday properties at the foot of Goat Fell with uninterrupted sea views over the Firth of Clyde.

The Byre has a kitchen dining room, 2 bedrooms and one bathroom. The Barn has an upper floor open plan kitchen/dining/lounge area and on the ground floor 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The smallest apartment, The Bothy, has an open plan kitchen/living room, utility area and bathroom on the ground floor and on the upper floor a double bedroom with a walk-in cupboard. Finally, The Steading is the largest of the letting units and comprises a large open plan lounge/dining room with spiral staircase leading to an upper floor double bedroom, plus a further double bedroom with dressing room, family bathroom and spacious kitchen.

The property is double glazed throughout and The Barn and The Steading have oil fired central heating. The extensive three-quarter acre grounds contain many exotic species of mature shrubs and trees. The lawn slopes to the large area of steep banking to the rear.

Invercloy House, Brodick, KA27 8AJ

Telephone 01770 302310/2313 Fax 01770 302713

E-mail: sales@arranproperties.co.uk Website: www.arranproperties.co.uk

Members of The National Association of Estate Agents



DRIVE TIMES

BANNER

MG ZS 2002
 MOT'D NOV'08, TAXED APRIL'08
 CD, ALLOYS,
 1/2 LEATHER INTERIOR,
 EXCELLENT CONDITION
 INSIDE & OUT
Telephone:
 01770 600716/
 07786663892

£2950 o.n.o.

SUZUKI WAGON R
 Silver 2006 Model
 Electric Pack
 1.3 eco tech petrol
 7000 miles
 6 month tax

£4995

Tel: 01770303900 / 07989989007

PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE 1.9TD LX
 5 door diesel 1998. Mot'd
 and Taxed till November
 2008
Telephone:
 07887 807552
 01770 820624

£1150 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0
 52 plate, 41,500 miles,
 Mot'd until Oct 08 & Tax'd
 until end of April 08.

£2600 o.n.o.

Tel: 01631 566248

VOLVO XC70 SE

£11,950 o.n.o.

Geartronic, 09/2003, mistral green, 75,000 miles, winter pack, Full VSH, MOT Sept 2008, excellent condition
Tel: 01631 710279 or 07899 750993

VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2

£3,200

2002, Silver, 64,000 miles, 1 year MOT, 6 months tax, good condition
Tel: 07895 816 539 / 01496 810777

LAND ROVER DEFENDER 90 TURBO DIESEL 1989

£2,400

120K. Mot Dec 08. Tax June 08. New rear crossmember and exhaust.
Tel: 01852 500247 day/ 07770 732498

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

£1050 o.n.o.

1200cc, September 1999 (V) reg Blue, 91,000 miles, Mot September 2008 Taxed January 2008, Good Condition
Tel: 01880 820922

BANNER

PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE
 Joint Trade Unions
 SINGLE STATUS MEETING
 To consider proposed NAC
 conditions of service
Unison, GMB and Unite
 have arranged a joint meeting
 AT
 Council Offices Lamlash
 Wednesday 19th December 2007 @ 5pm
 We need to hear from you
 Please ensure you make the effort to attend

UNISON Scotland

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL : EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
 EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980**

CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request. Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294-324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school. Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2008 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE by 1 February 2008. Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2008, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published during the week commencing 31 December 2007.

JOHN TRAVERS
 Corporate Director (Educational Services)

Ian Snodgrass
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel

Thursday 13th December – Saturday 2nd February

Due to essential maintenance the swimming pool, sauna and changing rooms will be closed.

SAC Meeting
 Monday 17 December 2007
 8.00 pm
 Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot

CAP Mid Term Review – Implications for Your Business
 Andrew Leggate & Raymond Crerar
 Ayr FBS

ESF Funded Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to bring you up to date with the recent CAP Health Check and the implications for your business.

SAC

ISLE OF ARRAN HOMES
 An initiative of trust housing association

Isle of Arran Homes
 and
 Arran Care & Repair office
 will be closed from

**3.15pm on Friday
 21 December 2007**

and will reopen on

**Thursday
 3 January 2007**

If you have an emergency repair please contact
0870 240 5780

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our tenants and members
A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Auchrannie

Spa Resort Closure
 Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th December

As power needs to be turned off to install the emergency generator in the Spa Resort, opening hours will be changed.

Cruise Bar Restaurant will be closed during the day on Monday & Tuesday but open as normal from 5pm on Monday evening and 3pm on Tuesday.

Brambles will be open on Monday & Tuesday from 10.30am to 6pm serving lunches, drinks, teas & coffees.

The **Spa Leisure Club** opening times are as follows
 Monday 17th - 7am to 11am & 5pm to 9.30pm
 Tuesday 18th - 3pm - 9.30pm

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. The installation of the generator will allow Cruise Restaurant to stay open during future power failures.

www.auchrannie.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302234

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel

Brave the elements for a warm welcome!
 Bar lunches served daily
 12.30 until 2.30pm
 3 Course Christmas Lunch Special also available
 £8.50 per person
 Friday 14th December until
 Monday 24th December

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel

Friday 14th, Saturday 15th & Friday 21st December

Due to Private Functions no bar evening or restaurant meals will be served. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

RECRUITMENT

BANNER

Social Services

Senior Care Practitioner

£23,531 - £26,551

Saltcoats

You will work as part of a team ensuring service users needs are met, supervising Care Practitioners/Care Assistants and facilitating rehabilitation techniques to enable service users return to their own home. Duties include maintaining budget allocation, administering medication, ensuring performance management activities are achieved, effective care planning procedures and being responsible for the management of the facility in the absence of the manager. A HNC/SVQ Level III in Social Care or equivalent health qualification, experience of older people, knowledge of legislation related to older people and the ability to work evening/weekends are all essential as is the ability to undertake CALM/Moving & Handling Training. **The successful candidate will be subject to vetting by Disclosure Scotland.**

Ref: 30/296/AB

TO APPLY

Application forms and recruitment packs are available on Council's Corporate Website (www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/jobs)

or by telephoning (01294) 324773 (24 hours answering service).

Completed application forms must be submitted by close of business on the 11th January 2008.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER,
SO PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY SPECIAL NEEDS
THAT YOU MAY HAVE.



**NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL**

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

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

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Auchrannie Job Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for full time employment in the following areas:

Head Receptionist

We are seeking a head receptionist who will assist in the growth and development of the front office team.

Must have ECDL or equivalent.

People and management skills along with computer skills are essential.

Receptionist

Computer literacy and excellent customer service skills essential. Experience preferred however full training will be provided.

We offer competitive salary packages with attractive terms & conditions including family membership of the Leisure Club

For general enquiries & job descriptions Contact

Debra Kirk 01770 303333

t 01770 302234

www.auchrannie.co.uk

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED to deliver the NEW PHONE BOOK

A car is required.

for more information, details of other work available, and to apply online please go to:

www.deya.co.uk/jobs

alternatively to apply call us (24 hours)

on (0118) 9899909 or Freephone 0800 298 7101



CLEANER REQUIRED

for private house,
south end of island.

2 x 2 hours per
week, days to suit.

Please contact Arran
Banner, Box No. 991

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

THE ARRAN
BANNER

TEL: 01770 302142
FAX: 01770 302021

www.arranbanner.co.uk

ARRAN AROMATICS

PERMANENT FULL TIME VACANCY

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Established in 1989, Arran Aromatics is Scotland's largest independent manufacturer of gift toiletries, soaps and candles, with an annual turnover in excess of £7 million. We supply department stores, speciality retailers and luxury hotels in over forty countries around the world. With an impressive portfolio of products and an ongoing commitment to new product introduction and enhancement, our aim is to build on our reputation as a supplier of branded quality toiletries and to grow the business into new markets and territories.

To help us manage our growing product portfolio and the subsequent quality processes, from incoming packaging materials & ingredients through manufacture, storage and distribution, the business requires to appoint a Technical Assistant.

Focusing primarily on New Product Development, the role of Technical Assistant will be mainly laboratory based, producing sample products for testing and evaluation. This role will also provide assistance to our Quality Assurance department where required.

Key personal attributes required include excellent organisational skills, attention to detail and self-motivation.

Computer skills are advantageous although not essential, as full training will be given.

Applications in writing to:

Dr Lynne McNeish.
Arran Aromatics Ltd, Home Farm, Brodick,
Isle of Arran. KA27 8DD
Tel: 01770 303013 Fax: 01770 302829
e-mail: lynneM@arranaromatics.com
web site: www.arranaromatics.com

**BANNER
RECRUITMENT
BANNER
RECRUITMENT
BANNER
RECRUITMENT**

WHERE IS MURPHY?

If you think you know then post your answer on the website.

www.arranbanner.co.uk



LAST WEEK

Where's Murphy?

Last week Murphy was perched on some steps but to which building did those steps belong?

Ralston Green correctly spotted that they were the steps at the front door of Kilmory Village Hall. Well done!

Does anyone know where Murphy is this week?

If you think you do then go to www.arranbanner.co.uk and tell us where.



Arran Business Services

ABBATOIR

THE ARRAN LAMB COMPANY

The Abattoir, Blackwaterfoot
Isle of Arran (EEC 1695)

Abattoir & Butchering Service
Dressing & butchering of venison
Deer accepted from licensed game hunters

SHOP Online with UK wide Delivery
Full choice of lamb cuts, whole or half lambs
cut to your requirements.

www.arranlamb.com
(Paypal Acc required)

Order your Arran Lambskin Rugs
Single or Double Size
can be seen and purchased at Something
Special, Brodick Pier

Contact : Iain Anderson
07962219481 01770 850264
iain@arranlamb.com

DOUBLE GLAZING

ALEX BAIRD

Double Glazing
Windows & Doors
Quality installation at
affordable prices

Free estimate

Phone **01290 420587**
Mobile **07775 594115**

KITCHEN INSTALLERS

John McBlain
Kitchen Installations

*Kitchens Supplied &
Fitted or Fit Only*

Island Delivery No Problem
All Trades Supplied, Plumbing,
Electrics, Tiling & Joinery
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Email
JOHNMCLAIN23@YAHOO.COM

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PLUMBING

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- Annual Servicing
- Bathroom refurbishment
- Renewable energy
- New Builds and extensions
- All types of Lead Work Undertaken
- Underfloor Heating

Telephone
01770 860775
Mobile
07748 185680

BEAUTY

Heather Black

BEAUTY THERAPIST
Hair removal by waxing
Eyelash/eyebrow tinting
In the comfort of your
own home

Phone 01770 600982
for an appointment

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M. WEST FLOORING

*FOR ALL YOUR
FLOOR LAYING NEEDS*

Carpets - Laminate - Vinyl - Wall & Floor Tiling

Contact Mark West
Tel: 01770 700771
or **07887 551222**

PLASTERERS

PLASTERER

**Ames Taping,
Coving
Artex Removed**

**25 years
experience**

**ALEC
MCMULLAN**
Tel 07986 209244

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Organising a prize draw?

We can supply numbered
and perforated tickets
to your requirements

Call into
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Tel: (01770) 302142
Fax: (01770) 302021

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Arran Builders Ltd

For all your
brickwork needs.

Extensions,
garages, walls,
new build etc.

Tel Scott Campbell
600367

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Clark Country Services

Tree felling, logging, pruning &
landscaping

Servicing and Repairs
for all Gardening Equipment
Leaf Clearing and Lawn Scarifying

LANTRA QUALIFIED

For Free quote
Phone Brian on
07900 901325

Iain Murchie

Plastering

Taping and Coving
Roughcasting and
Cement work
Slating and Roof work
Floor and Wall Tiling

01770 600331

**Business Cards,
Compliment Slips &
Headed Paper**

Every business should
have them, be professional
impress your customers.

Contact us at
The Arran Banner
Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ
Tel: (01770) 302142 Fax: (01770) 302021

CLEANING SERVICES

**ARRAN
Cleaning
Services Ltd.**

- Window Cleaning
- Carpet and Upholstery
- Pressure Washing
- Gutter Cleaning etc.

Tel 01770 303555
Mob 07788 554287

GROUNDWORKS

**STEVIE'S
GROUNDWORKS
& LANDSCAPING
SERVICES**

Tel 600810
or 07979 416372

JOINERS

Joiners

- Property Improvements
- Maintenance and repair
- Roofs and timber kits
- Free Estimates

Tel Bill Young 600541
Mobile: 07799 688635

PRIVATE HIRE

HENDRY HIRE

Established
30 years

NEED A LIFT?

We can provide transport,
from a shopping trip to
an island tour.
Ferry transport available.
Phone to book

Tel 302274

DECORATORS

Stevie's Decor

**Painting and
Decorating**

Interior and Exterior
Free Estimates

Tel: Stevie Newall
01770 600168
Mobile 07901592922

HAIRDRESSING

The Brae Salon
(Est 1980)
Blackwaterfoot

Tel: 01770 860456

Open Friday, Saturday and Tuesday
10am - 5pm
Professional hairdressing for ladies,
gents and children.

- Wedding services
- Freelance available
- Gift Vouchers

**To advertise in
Arran Business
Services
call 01770 302142**

TAXIS

**IAN
MCCALLUM**

TAXIS
700417
Mob (07966) 361 462

PRIVATE CLASSIFIEDS

AUDIO/VISUAL

ALBA DVD player, nearly new,
little used £40 Tel 601382

FURNITURE

2 SEATER Bed Settee / blue
tones v.g.c. £100 Buyer Uplifts
Tel 830313

LOVELY Pine Wardrobe £50
Tel 302359

CHILDS Hammock Chair, new
still in box £40 Tel 600259/137

TODDLER BED, Ikea Mummut,
blue, inc, mattress. New, unused
£135. Tel 600679 after 4pm

MISCELLANEOUS

GOOSE Feather single duvet, as
new £40 Tel 600259/137

Assorted single/double bed linen,
duvet sets, all in g.c. various
prices Tel 600259/137

PAIR OF O'Neal Element moto-
cross boots. Size 10, vgc. £50 Tel
600679 after 4pm

UNDER £30

CLOTHING

LADIES PARTY Dress (as new)
size 16. Black, £10 Tel 600238

LADIES PARTY Dress (as
new) size 16. Aubergine £10 Tel
600238

LADIES BHS black velvet skirt,
as new size 16. £10 Tel 600238

LADIES purple velvet cowl neck
sleeveless top size 16 £5 Tel
600238

LADIES Bally shoes, new size 5,
Bronzed leather, £15.

LADIES SHEEPSKIN jacket,
hip length, Size 14, Colour tan
£12. Tel 600238

GENTS M&S brown velvet
jacket, as new Chest 43/44" £10
Tel 600238

FREE TO UPLIFT

3 Seater Habitat bed settee
Tel 830313

GAMES

LEAPFROG LEAP PAD + 4
interactive books and cartridges
inc "Shrek 2" £15 Tel 600809

MISCELLANEOUS

DOUBLE Duvet £15 Tel 600259

TABLE Lamp £5 Tel 600259

SINGLE Metal Bed Frame/Silver
£10 Tel 700479

SHOPPING TROLLEY, New
sturdy wheels £12 Tel 700479

WANTED

DIMPLEX Storage Heaters ap-
prox 31ins wd Tel 302179

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WORTH £30 OR
MORE FOR AS
LITTLE AS £5.88**

**You could have just what our
readers are looking for!**

You can sell those items that you no longer need for just
£5.88 for up to 16 words, or £10.58 up to 32 words

**WE NEED YOUR COPY BY
TUESDAY 4PM**

BY FAX ON 01770 302021
OR email
advert@arranbanner.net
THE ARRAN BANNER
BRODICK
01770 302142

Pay by cash, cheque, Postal Order, or Credit Card payable to "The Oban Times Ltd"

Card No. Expiry Date.....Signature.....

Name.....
Address.....
.....

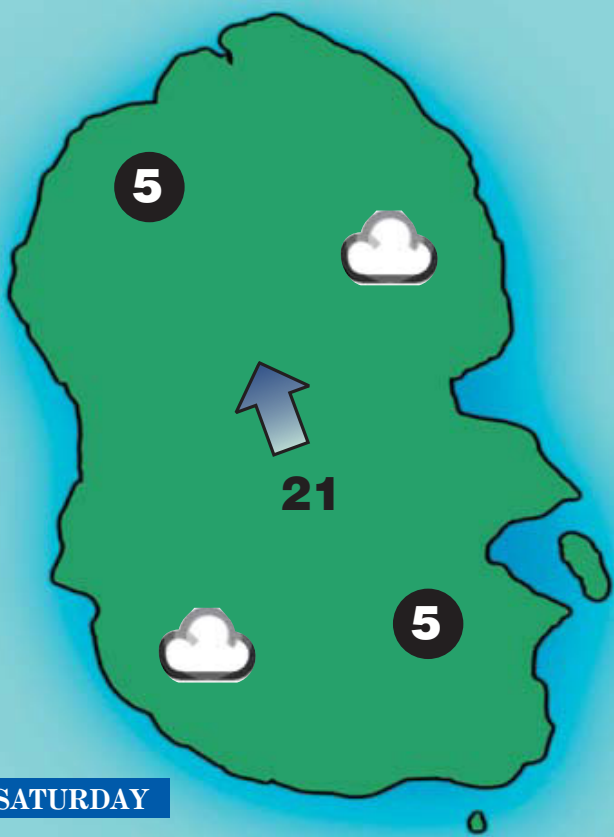
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, December 15 2007** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Sat	0317	2.8	0856	0.8	1524	3.1	2131	0.5
Sun	0401	2.7	0944	0.9	1606	3.0	2222	0.5
Mon	0448	2.7	1036	0.9	1655	2.9	2320	0.5
Tues	0542	2.7	1134	1.0	1758	2.9	****	**
Wed	0023	0.5	0644	2.7	1242	1.0	1912	2.8
Thur	0129	0.5	0757	2.7	1351	0.9	2035	2.9
Fri	0231	0.5	0914	2.8	1459	0.8	2149	3.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Lamlash)

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodick Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



SATURDAY

Saturday, December 15

Will be cloudy with a 21mph south/south-easterly breeze throughout the day.

Temperature 5°C.

Sunday, December 16

Will be similar to Saturday but with lighter winds. Temperatures around 5°C.

Monday and Tuesday

Cloud remains but signs it may clear. Wind east/south-easterly. Temperature 5°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate

Claonaig/ Lochranza - Moderate

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH NEWS

Church of Scotland

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine.

Independent but working together.

Minister Rev Angus Adamson. Parish Asst Mrs Jean Hunter. Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times.

Sunday 16 December

Brodick Church 10.30am

Corrie Church 12pm

Lochranza 10.15am

Shiskine Church 12noon

A service of worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

Arran Free Church of Scotland

Sunday 16 December

Shiskine 11am,

Brodick 7pm,

Rev David Karoon

All welcome.

Arran Open Gate Ministries

We are a small group of like minded Christians meeting together to minister to each other and the wider

community in spiritual and practical ways. Visitor or local your are welcome to join us.

Telephone: 700424 or 600663.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Morning Mass , 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 16 December

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. There will be the usual monthly sale of Traidcraft goods. All most welcome.

The Christmas Tree will be decorated at 10.30am on Saturday 15 December All welcome to help. At 6.30pm in the Church transept, there will be an informal evening service of praise and discussion.

Carol singing around the village on 18th, beginning at Corriedoon at 7pm and on 18th leaving the Manse at 7pm. All

welcome to join. Collection for Harvest Help charity

Kilmory Parish Church

Sunday 16 December

Public Worship, 10am.

All are invited.

Kilmory Church dates back to the mid 16th century. It is situated at the Southend of the island in a charming rural setting and is well worth finding. Look for the road side signs in Kilmory near the creamery. Holiday visitors of all faiths or none will be especially welcome.

Rev John Webster, locum.

Scottish Episcopal Church (in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 16 December,

11.00 am, Holy Communion.

Mr John Roberts. Coffee after service.

3pm Annual Carol Service.

Wednesday 19 December:

12.15 pm, Holy Communion.

All always welcome

Lamlash Church

Sunday 16 December

You are invited to worship

in

Lamlash Church at 11 am

Mr Alan Sanderson

All welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 16 December

Trust Housing Lounge

Glen Estate, Brodick

11am

Evening Service

5 Glen Road

7pm

Mr I MacPherson

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 19th, 7pm

Rev.D.Macleod

All welcome

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 16 December

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

10.45 Communion

Tea and coffee from 11.10

11.30 Worship Service

Speaker: Colin Cuthbert

(Christian Prison Ministries.

Everyone very welcome.

PERSONALS

The Hospital Supporters League held a very successful Christmas Fayre on Sunday 2nd Dec. and raised in the order of **£1100.**

The committee would like to thank everybody who donated raffle prizes, home baking and bric a brac and who came along to support us, particularly as the weather was less than kind!! Special thanks to Dr. Tinto for the quiz and to Alan Little for being such a great help in heating the mince pies, among other things, which made the day go very smoothly. See you all same time next year.

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
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BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHOTOGRAPHIC ORDERS

THE ARRAN **BANNER**



You can now order photographs published in this newspaper

8x6 photograph: £3.75 +VAT

10x8 photograph: £5.75 +VAT

Order from the relevant offices by filling in the coupon below, quoting the code, shown alongside the picture

Name.....			
Address.....			
Picture Code	Date of Paper	8x6 No of copies (£4.41 per photo (inc. VAT))	10x8 No of copies (£6.74 per photo (inc. VAT))
Total			

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque, (cheques to made out to The Oban Times)

Please add £1.00 to your total order if you require delivery of your photographs to cover postage and packing

Please send/bring your order to:

The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

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THE ARRAN **BANNER**

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FAX: 01770 302021



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Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan, opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554

Northend fail to break their duck

Northend Thistle was beaten again at the weekend this time in a friendly match against the Southend.

The two teams had been planning to play for weeks. Originally on a neutral pitch in Brodick. But the game finally kicked off at 12pm on Sunday in Whiting Bay, giving the Southenders home advantage.

In the first half both teams seemed equally matched.

Two goals from Southend and one from the Lochranza boys meant it could go either way in the second half.

For Northend, though, it wasn't going to be their first win in 15 years.

Strong defence from Southend and four goals in the second half left the full time score 6-1.

Northend were defeated yet again but have vowed to keep on going until they get that win that keeps eluding them.

One Southend player commented: 'Northend seem to be a good team, especially watching them in the first half, but they always lose it in the second half. Better luck next time boys.'



Strong defence from Southend ensured a comfortable victory. b50soc02

Golf



Brodick Golf Club

Brandon and Winter Cup Sunday December 9, CSS 64, 23 entered.

1 Iain MacDonald (8) 62 BIH, 2 Kerr Robertson (14) 62, 3 Robert McCrae (7) 63 BIH. Scratch Robert McCrae 70. First Class Brandon winner Iain MacDonald, Second Class Brandon Winner Kerr Robertson.

There were six magic two's, Robert McCrae and Russell Duncan getting two each.

Lamlash Golf Club

Lamlash Ladies, Wednesday

December 5. There was a very good turn out on Wednesday for the traditional 'Christmas Cracker' event for the Lamlash Ladies despite the very threatening weather conditions.

As usual the competition was played over 15 holes with only four clubs allowed.

First with an excellent net score of 53 were Anne McVicar and second Elizabeth Sinclair with a net of 55.

The competition was followed with very well deserved festive refreshments and lunch.

Sunday December 9, Lamlash v Whiting Bay - friendly. 13 played- non-counting.

1 Jim Henderson 73-14=59, 2 Iain Murchie 68-4=64.

Best Scratch: Tom Paterson 65.

No Magic two's.

Overall Result: Lamlash 3 Whiting Bay 1.

Thursday Winter Medal on December 6 was cancelled due to bad weather.

Fixtures: Next Sunday December 16 Stableford at 9.30am and 11am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday December 8 12 Hole Medal.

1 Alice Anderson 55-10=45, 2 Jenni Turnbull. Alice won the best scratch with a 55.

Thursday December 6 12 Hole Medal. 1 Jenni Turnbull 55-11=44, 2 Jacqui Rankin 74-19=55 BIH.

Jenni won the best scratch.

Fixtures: Sunday December 16 Ryder Cup Singles, starts at 11.30am

Thursday December 6 12 Hole Medal. 1 Jenni Turnbull 55-11=44, 2 Jacqui Rankin 74-19=55 BIH.

Jenni won the best scratch.

Fixtures: Sunday December 16 Ryder Cup Singles, starts at 11.30am

Arran Golfers Association

Corrie Hotel Cup was cancelled owing to bad weather. It is now hoped that it will be played in the spring.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday December 1 Lochranza Hotel Cup and Freebie Final.

1 David Wilkinson 36points, 2 Alastair MacDonald 34points BIH, 3 Hamish Bannatyne 34points. Magic two's from Hamish Bannatyne. Freebie final winner David Wilkinson.

Tuesday December 4 Winter Cup. 1 David Wilkinson 66, 2 Donald Campbell 67, 3 Alastair MacDonald 69 BIH.

Scratch Ian Buchanan 73. Fixtures: Tuesday December 18 Lochranza Hotel Cup.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 9 The friendly with Lamlash resulted in a 3-1 win for Lamlash, tying the overall series 4.5 - 4.5.

Fine hospitality was enjoyed by all and the third stage will be played at Whiting Bay in February.

Fixtures: Sunday December 16 Winter Cup Round 3. Sunday December 23 Medal. Wednesday December 26 Christmas Bottle, open to Ladies and Gents. Draws at 9.30am and 11am or make up own groups, mixed if preferred.

Advertising and Editorial deadlines for

THE ARRAN BANNER

are as follows

Saturday 29th December edition
- 12pm, Friday 21st December

Saturday 5th January edition
- 12pm, Friday 28th December

THE BANNER OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
25th & 26th December and 1st & 2nd January

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Arran High School sports round-up

Win over Carrick for on-form S1s School's football and rugby squads face stiff opposition away

A deluge of sporting activities over the past few weeks has resulted in a win for the on-form S1 rugby team, two close-run rugby defeats and three football losses to Ayrshire sides.

The S1 rugby team travelled to Carrick recently to win 39-0 - a fitting revenge for the 41-42 and 17-5 losses that were inflicted by Carrick on the older teams. The S1 team will no doubt be looking forward to the next Scottish cup game after such a convincing win.

The S1/2 football team travelled to Ardrossan to lose 6-2. The only goal scorer for Arran was Matthew Evans, firstly from a free kick, which he followed up with a fantastic strike.

The S3 football team travelled to Greenwood Academy, losing 8-0. Team manager Craig Black commented: 'Ar-

ran really tried, but against a team like Greenwood we just don't have a big enough pool of players.'

Another match saw the same team go down 6-0 to Ardrossan.

The S2/3 rugby team had better luck playing a very close game against Carrick. Arran was in the lead until the last few seconds, when Carrick scored and converted to make the score 41-42. Arran was unfortunate not to win as they had had a number of tries disallowed and allegations of dodgy point counting led many to believe Arran had still won the game. Whether or not this was the case, it can still be said that the Arran versus Carrick games were the best played by all year groups this season.

Patrick McMaster, S5



Arran High's S1 rugby team triumphed over Carrick 39-0.



The S2/3 rugby team were narrowly defeated by Carrick.

Arran denied win as match is abandoned

Arran's rugby team suffered a cruel blow on Saturday when their game was called off seven minutes into the second half despite the fact that they were winning the game.

The team travelled away to play Bishopton RFC who are currently one place below the Island team in the Scottish Hydro Electric West League Division 3.

Tries from Lachlan Jones, Jamie Murchie and Mark Wetton with three conversions saw Arran romp to a 21-5 half time lead.

But as the second half got underway the referee stunned the Arran squad when he decided that the pitch was too dangerous to play on and called off the game.

Coach Bert Ramage said: 'I don't know yet if we will have to replay the game.'

'I'm trying to get the points because we played so well.'

One Arran player said the decision was unbelievable.

He told *The Arran Banner*: 'None of us could believe it when he called off the game.'

This weekend Arran at home again to play their last match before Christmas.

The game, sponsored by Iain Murchie, kicks off at 12pm against Carrick RFC at the Ormidale Park in Brodick.

Please come along and support the team.

On Sunday December 16 S1/S2 are away to Garnock on the 11.05am ferry and back on the 6pm.

Arran Pool League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GOB
Cameronia	6	5	1	0	47	25	16	3
Drift Inn	6	5	0	1	42	25	15	5
Bar Eden	6	3	1	2	40	27	10	2
Corrie	6	2	1	3	34	38	7	2
PT 1934	6	1	3	2	33	39	6	2
Kildonan	6	1	2	3	31	41	5	4
Catacol	6	0	0	6	20	52	0	3

Fixtures for Thursday December 20. Cameronia v Corrie, Catacol v PT1934, Kildonan v Bar Eden, Drift Inn bye.

The first round of the pool doubles competition is to be played by January 27.

Results should be phoned to the Cameronia on 700254.

L Girbow/ J Copperwheat v G Willis/ D Prescott or P Holmes/ C Black (Bar Eden).
 R McKay/ A Cook v J Ferguson/ J Ainsworth (Cameronia).
 PJ/ S Heaney v G McLoud/ D Hackett (Cameronia).
 M Goodchild/ C McBain v M Picken/ N McMaster (Kildonan).
 D Symington/ P McKinnon v J Picken/ M McNeish (Kildonan).

Brodick Bridge Club

Thursday December 6.
 N/S: D Bruce and D Scobie +1680, 2 E Duncan and A Bilsland +1170, 3 M McGill and E McConnell +850.
 E/W: 1 J Murchie and A McBride +1130, 2 H Boyd and E Paul -310, 3 L and E McNiven -1210.



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