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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 24 DECEMBER, 2011 No 1838 57p

Wishing all our readers
a very happy Christmas




Boxing Day Dook – only for the brave!
Tired of the family already? Stuffed full of turkey? Bored of Christmas telly?
Then for the hardest of souls this Boxing Day there is another chance to take part in the annual Lamlash Dook.
Held each year on December 26, it will take place at Lamlash Pier at 2pm and will consist of a short swim from the slipway.

Brodick youngsters perform classic Nativity Play

Some of Arran's youngest children performed their version of the Christmas Nativity story on Friday in front of proud parents and friends.

Buzzing
The youngsters at Brodick Nursery were buzzing with excitement as they came on to the stage dressed up for their nativity play.

Well-known
The young boys and girls, dressed as all the well-known nativity characters, performed the play in front of a packed hall of mums, dads, grandparents and friends.

Depicted
This year the Virgin Mary was played by sweet little Jemma Totty while her husband Joseph was depicted

The Banner office festive opening times
Throughout the festive season The Banner office will be closed on Friday and Monday of the Christmas and New Year weekends.
Any contributions of reports or results should sent in by Tuesday of each week.
However, the newspaper should come out as normal on Friday.

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Bus driver Dave helping out Santa on Arran

Santa Claus comes in many shapes and guises.

In order to visit so many children at Christmas, he has to resort to a wide variety of jobs and none more worthy than that of a bus driver. Here on Arran, Santa is being helped out by local bus driver Dave Nicholson who was dispensing festive cheer to all his passengers last week, dressed in Santa suit and hat.

Dave told the Banner that all children should be tucked up in bed early on Christmas Eve (Saturday) to await a visit from the big fat guy in the red suit – and don't forget to leave out a mince pie for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph.



Bus driver Dave Nicholson helping out Santa Claus in Brodick on Tuesday. 02_b51san01

Adults urged to enter Festival

Organisers of the Arran Music Festival are keen to encourage more adult competitors this year.

The festival takes place in the Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash for the first time next year between March 21 and 23.

The syllabus setting out details of all classes is available free from certain island shops and it has also been distrib-

uted to island schools.

Please note that the festival secretary must receive entry forms by Wednesday 8 February.

School group entries will be submitted by the schools who will also be able to supply entry forms – and copies of poems – to individual entrants.

Contact the Festival Secretary Tony Smith on 700203 for more information



The NAC grit lorry at the Ross Road junction with two burst tyres after being in collision with the Monamore Bridge in the early hours of Sunday morning. 02_b51grt01

Police files:

Helicopter manhunt

Following a report of a mainland man being missing in the Lamlash area, a police helicopter and local officers were alerted at 11pm on Sunday night 18 December.

The helicopter and officers searched the seafront and back roads of Brodick and Lamlash until the man was located in Brodick at 2am.

The man was taken to hospital for a check-up before being discharged.

Collision with bridge

At 10.40am on Sunday a vehicle hit the Ashdale Bridge at the south end of Whiting Bay and ended up hanging over the burn.

No other vehicles were involved and the male driver was retrieved from the vehicle unhurt. Another vehicle had already been in collision with the bridge earlier in the week.

Seven-and-a-half hour rescue

At 4pm on Saturday 17 December a car left the road and rolled about 30 metres down an embankment at The Gaerry near Dippen.

The driver, a 76-year-old Slidery woman, was released from the vehicle in a seven-and-a-half hour operation involving Clyde Coastguards and local police, ambulance and fire-fighters.

The woman was taken to Arran War Memorial Hospital for treatment to injuries sustained in the crash and later transferred to a mainland hospital by helicopter.

The C147 road was closed until 11.30pm. No other vehicle was involved.

No car insurance

A 61-year-old Lamlash man was reported for driving in Lamlash without current insurance at 7pm on Friday 16 December.

A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Festive driving

Local police sergeant Bob MacKay reports that drivers should take extra care in poor road conditions over the festive period.

Following a number of recent road crashes on the island last weekend, he advises that motorists must make allowances for wintry conditions, especially when driving at night.

Council lorry hits bridge

A North Ayrshire Council grit lorry was in collision with the Monamore Bridge just south of Lamlash at 2am on Sunday morning.

The lorry had been gritting up the hill and was on its way back down again.

The driver and mate were unhurt and no other vehicle was involved.

The junction of the A841 and the Ross Road was closed for two-and-a-half hours to retrieve the lorry.

A replacement Council grit lorry was sent over from the mainland.

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Susie Mowatt, second from right, and Caledonia Gunn, centre, with the competition judges and teacher Mrs Lucy Urquart-Dixon. 01_b51rot01

Young chefs cook up a treat

Two of Arran's most creative young chefs took part in the first round of the Rotary's Young Chef competition that was staged in Arran High School's new state-of-the-art kitchen last Thursday.

Susie Mowatt won the heat with a mouth-watering menu that showed that she had excellent culinary skills as well as the potential to go further in the competition.

The two contestants - Susie and Caledonia Gunn - had to devise a two-course healthy meal for two on a budget of £10 and bring all the dishes to the table within two hours.

Susie's winning menu featured a Christmas Curry with

berry Twill for dessert.

On Caledonia's menu was a Tomato and Basil Tart Tatin followed by Baked Apples with Crème Fraiche.

The competition is organised by Rotary International in great Britain and Ireland and is for students aged 17 and under.

It aims to develop cookery and food presentation skills, consider healthy eating options, prove their organisational and planning skills and their ability to cope in a demanding situation.

The food was judged by Pascal van den Broek, a qualified chef and manager of The Douglas Hotel in Brodick, lo-

calls Elizabeth McCormack and Sandie Chandler and headteacher Douglas Auld.

Jim Lees, chairman of the Isle of Arran Rotary Club, thanked those who supported the competition in its first year.

'We are very grateful for the support of our competition by The Co-operative and partners, judges, teachers, parents and participants without whom we would not be able to take this Rotary initiative forward,' he said.

'We all wish Susie the very best of luck for the next round in the New Year.'

Festive rubbish collection schedule change

Refuse collections on the island will be slightly different over the festive period.

Special uplifts can still be booked up until the week ending Friday 23 December.

They will restart the week beginning Monday 9 January.

Large pieces of cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin for collection over the festive period while real Christmas trees should be placed next to the your bin

for 7am on the week beginning Monday 16 January.

The Arran Transfer Station will be closed on Saturday 24 December until Wednesday, 28 December and again from Saturday 31 December until Wednesday 4 January.

Normal day of collection

Monday 26 December
Tuesday 27 December
Wednesday 28 December
Monday 2 January
Tuesday 3 January
Wednesday 4 January

The council offices in Lam-lash will be closed from Friday 23 December until Wednesday 4 January.

Anyone with a query about waste collection over the festive period should contact 07775 704829.

Revised day of collection

Wednesday 28 December
Thursday 29 December
Friday 30 December
Wednesday 4 January
Thursday 5 January
Friday 6 January

Bernie's festive house raises charity cash

The ever-generous Bernie Jackson has once again lit up his house like a Christmas tree to raise money for charity.

The house at Number 16 Montrose Terrace in Whiting Bay is once again aglow with the spirit of the festive season.

Consecutive

For the 18th consecutive year, Bernie has adorned the outside of his house with a bright array of Christmas lights.

Every year he finds something new to add to the glittering collection and this year

he has a number of blow-up motorised displays.

He said: 'I try to get new lights every year.'

'They are turned on from about 4pm to 10pm and people come by especially to stop and admire them.'

He added: 'It makes me happy to see the faces of the little ones when they see it. It still seems to make them really happy after all these years.'

Bernie places a collection box at his front gate to raise money for charity and this year the money will be sent to Help for Heroes.



Bernie Jackson in front of his festive Whiting Bay home. 01_b51jac01

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Nominate your local heroes

Nominations are beginning to roll in for the North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2012.

Local people have been nominating the dedicated groups and outstanding individuals who make a difference to the lives of others in

the hope that they will win one of the five sought-after Civic Pride Awards.

The Awards aim to celebrate all that's great about North Ayrshire by showcasing the area's best asset – its people.

Residents are being urged to get their nominations in now

to ensure their community champions are in the running for the coveted Civic Pride Awards.

It couldn't be easier to nominate your local hero.

Simply fill in the nomination form on this page, giving the reasons why you think the person/group should be considered for an award (in 500 words or less) and return it to: Communications Team, Chief Executive's Service, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE.

Provost of North Ayrshire Council, Pat McPhee, said: 'It's the people of North Ayrshire who make this area such a wonderful place to live, work and visit.'

'We want people from Arran to tell us about the dedicated groups and selfless individuals who make a difference right at the heart of the island community each and every day.'

The winners will be announced at a special Civic Pride Charity Dinner in Seamill Hydro on Friday, 23 March.

Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2012 Nomination Form

Who are you nominating?

Name of Individual or Group: _____

If a group please give a contact name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Please tick which category your nomination applies to:

North Ayrshire Community Group Award

North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year Award

North Ayrshire Young Citizen of the Year (Under 25 years)

North Ayrshire Arts & Culture Award

North Ayrshire Sports Award

The nominee has agreed to this submission and to any publicity arising from the nomination

I agree to my name being used in any publicity material arising from this submission

Your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Please attach a separate sheet of paper and tell us in 500 words or less why you feel this individual/group should receive an award and return with this nomination form to:

Communications Team, Chief Executive's Service
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Under the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following:
The information you provide to North Ayrshire Council will be used solely for the purpose of administering and promoting the Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

Alastair Dobson sits on new Economic Development Board

Alastair Dobson of Taste of Arran is a member of the newly-formed Economic Development Board.

One of the UK's most respected voices in the field of employment and skills is to chair this new group.

Professor Alan McGregor will chair the new board, which has been tasked with bringing more jobs to North Ayrshire. He is Professor of Economic Development at the University of Glasgow, where he is Director of the Training and Employment Research Unit.

Joined

The first meeting of the Board was held last Monday 19 December when Prof McGregor was joined by representatives from the Scottish Government, local business, colleges, employment bodies, senior Councillors and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.

Among the representatives were Alastair Dobson of Taste of Arran and NAC chief executive Elma Murray.

The announcement that Professor McGregor will chair the Board indicates the importance placed on economic development by the Council,



The first meeting of the new Economic development Board, with Alastair Dobson fourth on right. b51nac01

Scottish Government and the private sector.

An active researcher, consultant and policy advisor in economic development since the early 1970s, Prof McGregor has advised the likes of the House of Commons and Scottish Government on issues such as skills development and regeneration.

Councillor David O'Neill, Leader of the Council, said: 'The current financial climate has brought the issues facing North Ayrshire into stark relief.'

'As a Council we have been

extremely proactive – having lobbied both Prime Minister David Cameron and the Scottish Government for additional support to improve employment opportunities in North Ayrshire. We have also invested heavily in employment programmes in the area.

'We are obviously delighted to have such a highly respected and knowledgeable figure as Professor McGregor as Chair of the new Board. I am sure his advice will be invaluable over the coming months and years.'



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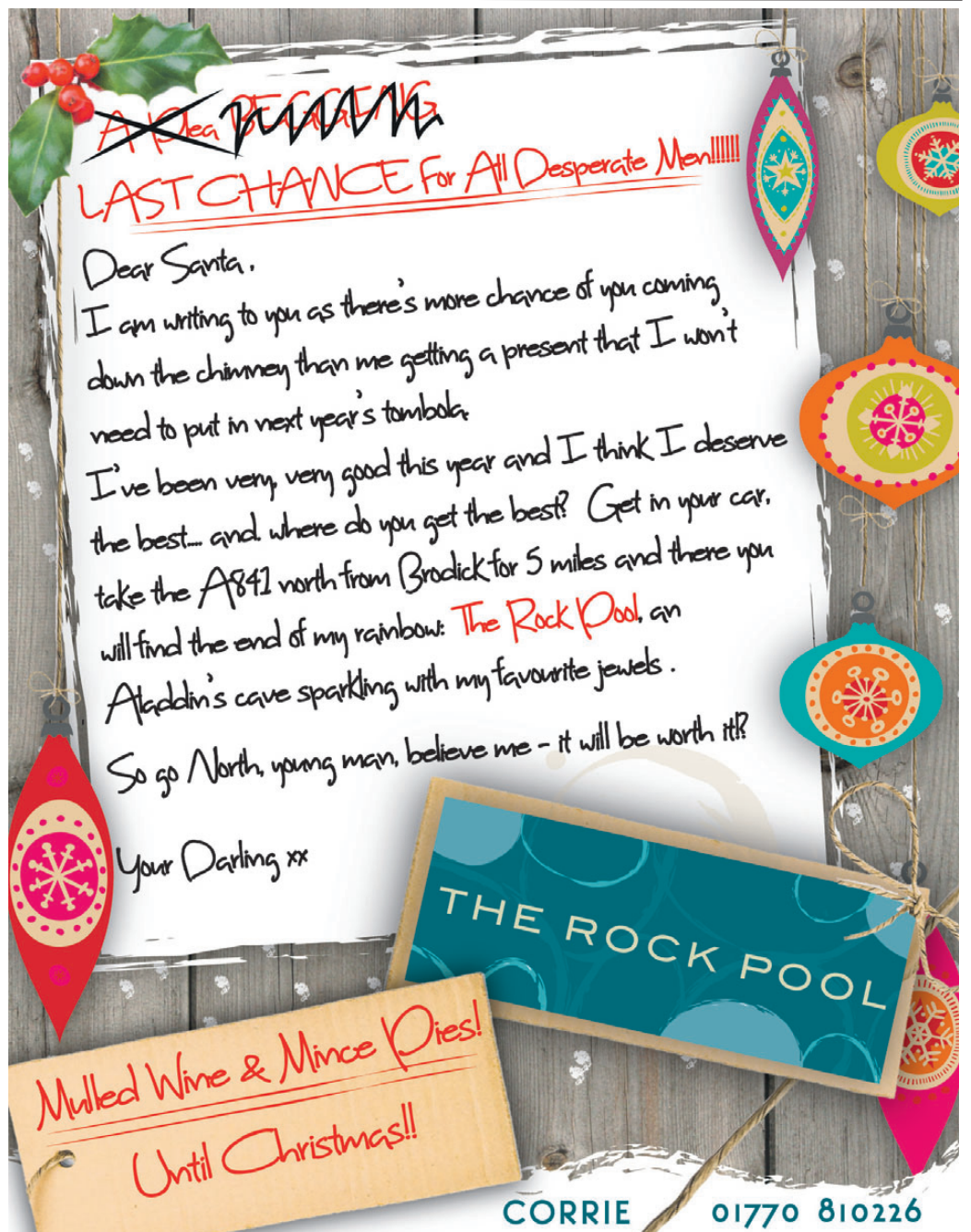
The partners and staff wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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Santa visits island children

Santa made some special early visits to the island as he took some time out of his busy schedule to deliver presents to Arran's youngsters.



Tiny Kieran l'Anson from Whitefarland meets Santa for the first time. 01_b51san01

On Sunday 11 December, a large crowd of excited children braved a very cold evening to watch the Blackwaterfoot Christmas Tree lights being switched on.

The children were rewarded with a firework display and a big cheer went up when Santa surprised everyone, arriving in a horse drawn carriage, ablaze with sparkling red and white fairy lights and real candle-lit carriage lamps.

Prepared

Santa's sledge and reindeer were busy being prepared at the North Pole by his elves, so ponies, Buzz and Woody, were happy to help Santa, as they know how busy Rudolph and the other reindeer will be this weekend.

While Santa made a list

of all the good children's Christmas wishes, Janis Murchie and Eilidh Blair answered their questions about Buzz and Woody.

'Can they fly too', asked one thrilled little girl.

'Yes', she was told but only on Christmas Eve when everything is magic.

This Sunday Santa stopped off in Lochranza to visit the Northend children's Christmas Party at the Field Centre.

After a fun afternoon of party games and delicious food the children were told to prepare themselves for a surprise guest of honour.

And after an anxious wait of a few minutes, Santa Claus himself eventually arrived to an extremely loud recital of 'Jingle Bells'.

Each child was eventually called up to sit on Santa's knee and after telling him what they wanted to receive on Christmas day they were each given a small present.



Santa gives Daisy Innes from Lochranza an early Christmas gift. 01_b51san02



Young Gordon Bloy from Pirmill is delighted with his gift from Santa. 01_b51san03



Santa surprised everyone in Blackwaterfoot by arriving in a horse drawn carriage.

New Years Day Race Night!

Enjoy a flutter on the 1st day of the New year! A fabulous buffet dinner followed by a night at the nags! £25 per person.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Christmas cards are a source of wonder

They are a great way to send sincere felicitations, to give a detailed run-down of what your family has been up to in the past 12 months, or just to make cursory once-a-year contact with a distant acquaintance.

Most of them are expected, some come as a pleasant surprise that so-and-so is still alive, and some bring sad news of another pal dropping off the mortal coil.

And then of course there are the ones that you can't be sure of. When Pauline makes contact, albeit it very welcome, just once a year, why does she just scrawl 'Best wishes Pauline'.

We might have dozens of Paulines in our circle of friends. And then there is Susan. We have one card this year from 'Susan and family'. But all 'our' Susans have been accounted for, so who could it possibly be?

By now most islanders will have had cards from family and friends imploring them to be 'jolly', 'merry', 'healthy' and even 'prosperous'.

But which of these is most important? Surely 'healthy' is the one attribute that we would all wish each other in abundance. The rest are just extras.

With good health we are bolstered to face the inevitable tribulations and challenges that the festive season brings. It is an accepted fact that Christmas is one of the most stressful times of year in the average household (followed closely by unemployment, divorce and holidays!).

Families are clustered together in close confinement for several days and even forced to make conversation when the telly or X-Box palls.

Of course, in Lamlash you can escape the family fire-side on Boxing Day by plunging into the icy waters of Lamlash bay for the annual charity 'dook' around the pier (if you are brave enough or daft enough).

With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year, perhaps more people will take the time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of Christ, a new beginning, and goodwill to all men.

Having just returned from a pleasant winter break in Gran Canaria, it is interesting to see how they mark the festival of Christmas. Rather than just images of a red-suited mythical Santa Claus, it is much more common to see effigies of the Three Kings of The Orient, one black, one brown and one pink, in splendid robes and climbing up ladders onto balconies.

Perhaps that is closer to the true meaning of Christmas.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.' (Hebrews 1:1-2).

press policy

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



What use are they?

This is a copy of a letter sent by Neil Arthur to Chris Huhne Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Yours,
P W Yates
By e-mail

Sir,
Last winter this wind farm at Ardrossan, Ayrshire hardly turned in November, December and January when the temperatures stayed sub zero and demand for electricity was high. Today the temperature was reasonable and the turbines were working flat out to a point where they produced any amount of heat but not the way you wanted.

We can't afford your fascination with "green power" which, taking the whole industry and the manufacture of the tools into account, is not that green. You would do better to get us a reduced diesel price - we are currently at £1.57p / litre and we can't do without it. It is a very big overhead

Please reconsider. Nuclear is not all bad!

Yours,
Neil Arthur
Isle of Arran

Public Sector Workers' Strike

Sir,
I refer to the letters from Isobel MacDonald and Malcolm Kerr in the Banner of 17 December.

To the former, I too have worked long and hard and paid my taxes.

I would love to aspire to retire aged 55 with a nice pension.

I could spend my days walking the dogs and popping into the pub for a pint with friends.

Instead I will now have to wait until I am 66 before I have the luxury of being able to draw my state pension, a situation over which I have neither control nor influence it having been imposed on me, and millions of others, by our government.

Recognise anything?

To the latter, I say that I can see why someone might wish to express views yet remain anonymous, particularly in a tight-knit community such as on Arran.

That correspondent may

have to remain in close contact, social or otherwise, with strikers, albeit probably through clenched teeth.

Yours,
P W Yates
By e-mail

Pension down the pan

Sir,
I wish to draw attention to various comments regarding public/private pensions in the last two Banners.

Wherever you go in life you will always find somebody in worse and better conditions than yourself.

This anomaly applies to both health and wealth.

I started life as a farm worker in Aberdeenshire where if you were not happy with your lot you moved to another farm or job.

I have moved to seven different jobs and not always to better my lot.

Mr Turbett, if you are not happy with your job, be like me and move on.

Now I come on to pensions. On specialist advice from three sources I placed my pension with the Equitable.

This has gone down the pan. I didn't see Mr Turbett waving flags in support of Equitable pensioners - or writing to The Banner.

The only person supporting me and fellow Equitable sufferers was our worthy MP Katy Clark, who has been forthright in her support.

She has taken the government to task and made no progress.

I rest my case for the moment as if I write too much perhaps the editor would exercise his authority to edit, which is his decision.

We still live in a free community, but only just!

Yours,
Sandy Mutch
Burnside Road
Brodick

Blocked path

Sir,
I would like to complain about the huge mountain of boulders on the beach at Cladach and would like an explanation as to why they stick out like a giant pier blocking

the whole beach.

For years I've been told by rude arrogant golfers that I am not allowed to walk my dog on the golf course and now I am being told by Brodick Golf Club that I can't walk on the beach without scrambling over a mountain of boulders.

I thought the public had full access to the beach from Cladach. I can only walk my dog in the afternoons when I am not working so can't wait for a low tide to walk round the eyesore.

Did the golf club have permission to block a public path?

Yours,
Isla Blair
Strabane
Brodick

European 'Gritteratti'

Sir,
After reading Marc Head's recent letter, I felt compelled to write.

While on a recent visit to Germany accompanied by my husband, I had the pleasure of meeting another member of the now famous European 'Gritteratti'.

In an astonishing coincidence this gentleman was gritting, on a purely voluntary basis, the aisles of a well-known Stuttgart beer cellar, and on hearing that we were from Scotland introduced himself.

His name was Johann Kelsburg and after advising us on the best Pils, he told us many stories about Stuttgart's roads, and spoke fondly of his distant cousin in Spain!

One more fascinating fact - he told us the tale of an ancient family connection with a small island somewhere off the west coast of Scotland!

A Merry Christmas to you and your readers.

Yours,
Gege Kroner
Whiting Bay

A bridge too far

Sir,
I have just had season's greetings from Juan Kelsito in Spain who has advised me that through the rumour mill known as the 'Grittervine' there seems to be a strong

chance that our local lads could be working as extras on a Hollywood film. Producers are looking at using Arran as a location for a remake of the classic movie 'A Bridge Too Far'.

Juan seems to be worried about a possible strike over his pension fund. He explains that he is under pressure from a left-wing firebrand Comrade Garrawayski. This advocate of industrial action hails from a foreign land and in his strange accent encourages civil disobedience. I asked Juan if he was also involved in highway maintenance, but he explained that Garrawayski was involved in education - although appearing to have had very little himself.

Although most of the union members fear this pinko lunatic, behind his back they refer to him as (and here the translation becomes confusing) the nearest English equivalent being 'white pan man'.

Merry Christmas.
Yours,
Marc A Head
Whiting Bay

In safe hands
Sir,
For 13 years I have been the Arran co-ordinator of the charity Contact the Elderly in Scotland.

I have enjoyed doing this and through it have made many friends, but I felt recently it was time to step down.

I was concerned that it might be the end of Contact on the island but, following a helpful article in The Banner, three volunteers came forward.

The new co-ordinator is Maureen who is most enthusiastic and raring to go and she has two new regular drivers, Alison and Elsa.

I am grateful to all hostesses who welcomed us into their homes and produced delicious homebaking.

I also thank the drivers, some regular and some who stepped in when needed.

A special thanks to John who has driven for every tea party.

Yours,
Jean Peacock
Meadowside, Brodick

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Seasons Greetings from Arran's politicians



Councillor Margie Currie

The year 2011 is ending on a bit of a downer - higher unemployment than Arran has seen in recent times - if ever; a drop in the tourism income, the driver of the Arran economy and many businesses struggling.

The national malaise has come to Arran. The stormy weather of late is symptomatic of the times we face and CalMac bring no cheer with a proposed rise of over six per cent in ferry fares come April.

We need a huge dose of Scottish Ne'erday optimism never mind a good few drams to tackle 2012 head-on!

It's not been all-bad in 2011 though. There have been a number of notably good things; the re-opening of the Douglas, new houses in Corrie and promised Scottish Government funding for development in Lamlash, another grant for Taste of Arran to develop new premises, plans for a new Montrose House, a timetable for the replacement linkspan and for RET in 2014.

There was the initiation of the Arran Trust, a new business model for Arran Outdoor Education Resource, continued funding for the Arran Council for Voluntary Service, accolades for businesses including Isle of Arran Distillery and Arran Cheese Company, successful productions and festivals including

the Maritime Festival and the Lamlash Christmas fayre - farmers enjoyed better live-stock prices and the MV Saturn came back!

Arran will survive hard times as it always has because we have enterprising people, we have a well co-ordinated tourism body in Visit Arran, we have excellent people in the public and health sectors including dedicated teaching staff in the eight schools and we have many good volunteers within our communities.

I have only touched on the things that could be mentioned. But I wish everyone health and happiness first, for work for those who can, for an appreciation of where we live and the communities to which we belong and for a whole dose of optimism in 2012.



Kenneth Gibson MSP

Christmas is a time of year for families; a time when we remember those who are no longer with us.

For many the festive season provides us with an opportunity for family and friends to spend valuable time together and I hope that everyone gets a chance to relax and celebrate over the festive period.

It important at this time of year to pay tribute to those members of the emergency services, power workers,

NHS staff, ferry crew and others who will spend much of the holiday period working and caring for others and ensuring the rest of us can enjoy a break.

2011 has been a very difficult year for many Arran residents. It is a time of great uncertainty and turbulence.

Nevertheless, I am optimistic that this time next year the situation will be much brighter and bring a return to economic stability vital to the island's tourist industry and the wider Arran economy.

I would like to wish all readers of The Arran Banner a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.



Provost Pat McPhee

This was my first full year as Provost of North Ayrshire and it has been a busy but fulfilling 12 months.

The year started with some of the worst weather we've experienced in decades and while the snow and ice was challenging for us all, I was humbled by the community spirit in Arran.

The weather improved as we moved towards spring, but it was a pleasantly chilly start to May with the official opening of our £4 million new ice rink at Auchenharvie Leisure Centre.

There have been many excellent sporting and cultural events throughout the year,

including the Tall Ships, which saw some of the most beautiful vessels stopping off in Lamlash Bay.

Throughout the year, I have had the chance to meet so many wonderful people. I've welcomed visitors from all over the world from places like France, Italy and Norway as well as the Moderator for the Church of Scotland David Arnott.

I have also had the pleasure of meeting inspirational people who live right here on our doorstep. In June, we recognised North Ayrshire's greatest asset - its people - as part of the inaugural Provost's Civic Pride Awards and Charity Dinner and will do the same again in 2012.

I cannot ignore the challenges we've faced in 2011 - North Ayrshire Council has had to make some tough decisions this year.

However, we are committed to providing essential services for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

On behalf of Council, I

would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Katy Clark MP

Christmas is a time when most of us have the opportunity to spend time catching up with family and friends and to reflect upon the events of the past year.

It is a time for celebration and for the important people we have in our lives.

It has certainly been an eventful year. We have been experiencing difficult and un-

certain economic times both nationally and internationally.

Whilst we look forward to 2012 with much uncertainty let us hope that Governments throughout the western world start to put into effect policies that prioritise jobs and growth.

We must not allow the current economic situation to be used as an excuse to cut back and close public services, which have been fought for so hard by so many.

It must also not be used as a reason not to invest towards the creation of a green economy because it is exactly those green and environmentally friendly jobs that will help regenerate areas such as North Ayrshire. We remain a hugely wealthy country although of course the wealth and power is so unevenly distributed.

Let us all do what we can to make sure that 2012 is the year when the voice and interests of the majority get heard. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Arran on Film

Arran on Film with footage from 1900 will be screened at Lochranza Distillery on Friday 23, Saturday 24, Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28, Thursday 29, Friday 30 and Saturday 31 December at 10.15am, 12noon, 1.30pm and 2.45pm.



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29th December - Quiz 8.30pm

New Years Eve Disco with Alan Little 9pm - 1am

2nd January - Quiz 8.30pm





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'Buglife and Scottish Invertebrates'

The Arran Natural History Indoor Meeting for December took place on Thursday 1 December in the Rangers Centre in Brodick when Chris Cathrine Conservation Assistant for Scotland braved the inclement weather to come to Arran to speak about 'Buglife and Scottish Invertebrates'. Chris started by explaining that Buglife was an organisation that works in partnership with entomologists, other organisations and the public to conserve Scotland's unique invertebrate fauna.

Buglife hopes to increase awareness of important invertebrate issues with decision makers and professional ecologists. With the publication of 'A

Strategy for Scottish Invertebrate Conservation' in January 2009, Scotland is the first country in Europe to have such a strategy.

Throughout his presentation Chris clearly demonstrated his passion for the subject and used his extensive knowledge together with excellent illustrations to stimulate and enthral the audience.

He put bugs in context. Ninety eight percent of all living things on the planet are bugs.

With some 40,000 species of bugs in the UK including 4,000 beetles and 650 spiders he emphasised the importance of bugs to the planet in for example pollination and soil management.

There was excellent prac-

tical advice on how to garden with bugs in mind. He spoke eloquently about Scotland's very special and unique invertebrates including the northern damselfly, the pine hoverfly, the lichen running spider and wood ants. Some species are unique to Scotland, others occur here and nowhere else in the UK and still more rely on this country as their stronghold.

He highlighted species with connections to the island including the Arran brown butterfly and the Arran carpet moth and encouraged us to look out for oil beetles.

Finally he encouraged people to sign up for Scottish Invertebrate News, an exciting free biannual newsletter providing updates on new discoveries, volunteer opportunities and events for the interested amateur to the experienced expert www.scottishinvertebrates.org.uk.

It was an excellent evening run by a real enthusiast.

The next indoor meeting of the Arran Natural History Society will take place on Thursday 12 January starting at 8pm in the Rangers Centre in Brodick Country Park. At that meeting Dr Bernie Zonfrillo of the University of Glasgow will talk about 'Wildlife Conservation on Ailsa Craig'. All welcome.



Chris Cathrine is the Conservation Assistant for Scotland and specialises in the country's buglife. Inset: The violet oil beetle - *Meloe violaceus*. Photo by David Fenwick

Oddbins Fayre a highlight for Arran Brewery

Gwen Billson and Hazel McGloin from the Arran Brewery are pictured out and about in Glasgow last week for the annual Oddbins Christmas Fayre at the Church on the Hill. Gwen said it was a particularly good day for two of their beers - Arran Clyde Puffer and Arran Milestone - as they ran out of beer at the tastings. b51ale01NO



Do Scotland's new energy experts live in Arran?

The search is on to find school pupils from Arran who could be Scotland's marine renewables experts of the future and the winners of Skills Development Scotland's 2012 Junior Saltire Awards.

Entries are being invited from the island's primary five to seven pupils; S1 to S3; and S4 to S6 secondary pupils in the competition which is delivered in partnership with the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI).

It follows the success of last year's inaugural Junior Saltire Awards and the aim is to raise awareness of the opportunities Scotland has to

exploit its wave power potential.

In April 2008 the Scottish Government set up the Saltire Prize, Scotland's £10million challenge to accelerate the commercial development of marine energy. Scotland boasts a quarter of Europe's tidal power and a tenth of its wave power.

Junior Saltire Award entries can be from a team of four pupils or a whole class and there are school prizes of up to £750 to be won.

Teams are being asked to register for the competition by 31 January and submit their design blueprint by 29 February.

The next step is to create a working model by 30 April.

Nine schools will be chosen as finalists from all of the Scottish entries.

Dr Lesley Sawers, chief executive officer of the SCDI, said: 'Scotland's natural resources and our young people are two of our greatest assets. It's vital that we get the message across to school pupils about the huge potential of harnessing the powers of Scotland's land and sea for renewable energy.'

'This is the pipeline of talent that will help make Scotland's ambition of being a world leader in renewables a reality.'

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Local RNLI take part in helicopter exercise

A group of lifeboat volunteers from Arran were given specialist training on Sunday in an RAF search and rescue helicopter.

Crewmembers from the island's RNLI were invited to spend the afternoon with the RAF Sea King chopper crew after a scheduled visit to Lamlash Bay in late November was cancelled at the last minute.

Kitted out in their life preserver suits, their first exercise involved helping the helicopter to land at Glenkiln in Lamlash.

Twelve crewmembers were on board the chopper before some were gradually lowered back on to the RNLI's boat,

the Boys Brigade. A lucky few were then winched back on board as the helicopter flew overhead in Lamlash Bay.

Geoff Norris, spokesman for Arran RNLI, said: 'It was a wonderful opportunity to experience first hand RAF Gannet operations.'

'As lifeboat crew we might need to liaise with helicopter with little or no notice, and the training has added more knowledge to all of our crewmembers.'

Geoff pointed out that for helmsmen – the people that drive the RNLI boat – it is particularly important that they get experience of manoeuvring underneath a flying

helicopter. 'It's not easy being able to control a boat underneath a huge helicopter,' said Geoff. 'It's particularly important to be in control when dealing with seriously injured casualties.'

The Arran RNLI has recently recruited four women to the crew – Lauren Davidson, Dawn Ulivi, Carole Johnson and Claire Marriott.

Geoff added that with the new recruits they were up to numbers for lifeboat crew, but short of drivers for the tractor that tows the lifeboat into the water.

He said: 'If anyone is interested in tractor driving they should contact me on 600420.'



The Arran RNLI has recently recruited three women to the crew – Carole Johnson, Claire Marriott and Dawn Ulivi. 01_b46lif01



The RNLI helmsmen have to be able to control their boat underneath a flying helicopter. 01_b46lif02



On board the Sea King and preparing to try out the winch.



New recruits Lauren Davidson and Claire Marriott.



The view of the landing site at Glenkiln from the helicopter.



Nearly down!



Learning to be winched properly is an important part of the training.

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THE ARRAN BANNER - on holiday . . .

For three years 'The Banner on Holiday' feature has been running in the pages of The Arran Banner and it is proving to be as popular as ever.

We have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that keep coming through the doors.

Arran residents and holidaymakers are still making sure that they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Saltcoats or Stockholm, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

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



An inquisitive giraffe gets his nose stuck in to Mairi Christie's Banner on her recent trip to Nairobi, Kenya.



Members of the Cordon Bleu jazz trio performing on the boat last weekend.

Online help with winter weather advice

North Ayrshire Council's website now has a dedicated section providing local people with everything they need to know this winter.

The Latest Winter Information section, which was launched last Friday will be a one-stop shop for useful information on service disruptions, safety advice and weather forecasts.

Highlighted on the home page of the council's website, the new Latest Winter Information section will be continually updated to inform local people about any services affected by adverse weather conditions.

The web page will contain details of service disruptions during periods of adverse weather, such as school, road and council office closures.

It includes details of gritting routes and emergency contacts.

The Ready for Winter page also contains links to other sources such as the Scottish Government, Strathclyde Police, Traffic Scotland and the Met Office where local people can pick up tips and advice on staying safe this winter.

During periods of adverse weather, regular links to the Ready for Winter page will also be posted to the council's Twitter feed @North_Ayrshire.

The Latest Winter Information page is available www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/winter

Foot tapping tunes raise money for Valdete Trust

Ferry passengers travelling between Brodick and Ardrossan were given a festive musical treat last weekend when local Jazz trio Cordon Bleu played throughout the crossings in the afternoon.

The group were playing to raise money for The Valdete Trust, which is always looking at new and exciting ways of fundraising.

Sue Davidson, founder of the Valdete Trust, said: 'Everyone seemed to enjoy the music and there was a lot of foot tapping with people singing along to some familiar songs.'

We handed out leaflets about the Trust's work and people who wanted to help us were

given the opportunity to give if they so wished.'

She added: 'I'd like to say a big thank you to Lucy Cartledge and the rest of Cordon Bleu; to CalMac for allowing

this to happen; to trust members who gave up their time and to all the passengers who contributed to our funds. The sum raised was just under £300.'

ROUND THE RURALS

Kildonan WRI

The members of Kildonan WRI met on December 6 at Brodick Castle where Lorraine Hesketh-Campbell, Collections Care Officer warmly welcomed the ladies.

The rural members were taken upstairs to where there was a collection of brushes, polishes etc. laid out to give them an idea of the cleaning

methods used on the priceless objects in the castle.

Lorraine then gave the ladies a tour of the various apartments and contributed some little known facts about the displays.

The afternoon ended with tea, coffee and shortbread in the Castle Tearoom. This was a special outing that was greatly enjoyed by all who managed to come along. A small reminder that the Children's Christmas Party will be held in Kildonan Hall on Saturday 24 December at 5.30 pm and all Kildonan children, infants to primary seven will be most welcome. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Kilmory SWRI

On Monday 12 December

Kilmory welcomed Rosemary Raynor to their meeting. During the meeting Rosemary gave us a very informative talk and demonstration on Reiki with willing volunteers in May and Wilma taking part in the proceedings.

This was followed by a lovely supper which was enjoyed by all.

The competition was for 'A Holiday Postcard' and 'Mince Pies' and these were won by Janet Mulholland and Eleanor MacKinnon respectively.

The next event will be the Christmas Party which will take place in Kilmory Hall on Saturday 24 December from 5pm.

We look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun filled afternoon of games, food and hopefully a visit from Santa.

Hogmanay Hoolie!

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10 million turkeys are eaten at Christmas

Birds are associated with Christmas.

Robins are a favourite on Christmas cards and turkey more than any other bird is eaten at Christmas.

It is estimated that around 10 million birds will be slaughtered this Christmas in the UK as part of a multi-million pound industry.

The vast majority of these birds are reared indoors in purpose built buildings of many types.

The great majority of domesticated turkeys have been bred to have white feathers because, when plucked, the feather sockets are less visible when the carcass is prepared for eating.

From the point of view of food, modern breeding has made turkeys much heavier than their wild relatives and

Bird Notes by Jim Cassels

more or less flightless.

Where did these wild relatives originally come from? Not Turkey.

There seems to be no connection with the country Turkey.

The wild turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* is native to North America and is the heaviest member of the Galliformes.

It is the same species as the domestic turkey, which was domesticated from the South Mexican subspecies of the wild turkey by the Aztecs.

The Spaniards brought this tamed subspecies back to Europe with them in the mid-16th century; from Spain it spread to France and later Britain.

The 16th century English

navigator William Strickland is generally credited with introducing the turkey into England.

By 1620 it was common enough so that the Pilgrim Fathers from England took the bird back to North America, unaware that it had a larger close relative already occupying the forests of Massachusetts!

Unlike their domestic counterparts, wild turkeys for their size are surprisingly agile fliers.

They are very cautious birds and will fly or run at the first sign of danger.

Their ideal habitat is open woodland where they can fly beneath the canopy top and find perches.

They usually fly close to the ground for no more than a quarter mile.

Adult wild turkeys are magnificent birds, particularly the males, which are larger than the females.

Although looking generally black his feathers have areas of red, purple, green, copper, bronze, and gold iridescence.

Males have a large, featherless, reddish head, red throat, and red wattles on the throat and neck. The head has fleshy growths called caruncles.

The long fleshy object over a male's beak is called a snood. When displaying, these various areas of bare skin on the head and neck all become engorged with blood, almost concealing the eyes and bill.

When a male turkey is excited, its head turns blue; when ready to fight, it turns



The wild turkey *Meleagris gallopavo* is native to North America and is the heaviest member of the Galliformes.



Children meet Santa as he arrives at Home Farm

Jamie and Ethan Sillars from Brodick were delighted to meet a visiting Santa at the Duchess Court last Saturday.

The brothers were able to tell Father Christmas what is on their wish list this year as they prepare for an exciting festive season.

It was all part of the Duchess Court Christ-

mas Shopping extravaganza which saw all the shops at Home Farm offering special one off deals for the day.

Fund-raising

Carol Singers fund-raising for the Valdete Trust were there to entertain the crowds while they waited patiently to meet Santa.

red. Together with puffing out their feathers, spreading out their tails and dragging their wings, their display is aptly called strutting.

Added to this visual display are many vocalisations including the famous 'gobble' that can carry up to a mile.

The purpose of the male display is to attract and mate with as many females as possible.

In the early 1900s loss of

habitat and over hunting had a severe impact on wild turkey numbers in North America.

In some states they became extinct.

More recently a well managed re-introduction programme has helped reverse this.

In the last decade the wild turkey has been successfully re-introduced to more than twenty states in North America.

Have a good Christmas.

Enjoy your birding

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2010 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



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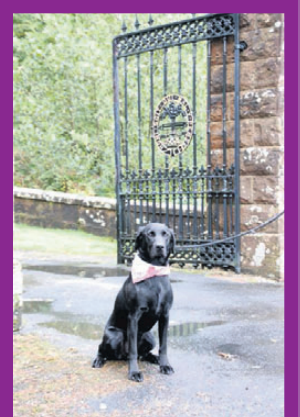
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Last week Archie was waiting for a bus at Sannox, opposite the track to Glen Sannox. First correct answers came from Emma Popplewell, Karen Kelly and Helen Nelson. This week he is waiting at some impressive gates, but where does that drive lead to?



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Or email us at: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Recycling -

Let's get it sorted this Christmas

During the festive season it is important to remember that Christmas is a time when waste in North Ayrshire is at its highest level.

More waste is produced over the festive period - such as wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, Christmas trees, old decorations, bottles and leftover food - and this often means that recycling is forgotten about and waste is simply bundled up into one bag and thrown away.

However, it is easier than ever to make sure that you keep up the good work which has enabled North Ayrshire residents to recycle 43.5 percent of our waste. Thank you to all our residents for helping us to achieve this.



Did you know?

- Over 1 billion Christmas cards are sent each year.
- We use around 750 million bottles and glass containers and 500 million drinks cans over the festive period.
- Over 7.5 million real Christmas Trees are bought every year.

The frightening thing is that most of this could end up in our bins in the New Year.

This year we are asking you to think seriously about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste not just over the festive period but to make this a choice for life.

- **Real Christmas Trees** - put out at the kerbside week commencing 16 January for 7am on your normal refuse collection day and our operatives will collect.
- **Use your blue bins** for recycling any paper, or cards that you dispose of over Christmas and the New Year (please do not include foil wrapping paper).
- **A lot more glass bottles and jars** are used over the Christmas period. Why not recycle at one of the many bottle banks across the Island.

Christmas Uplift arrangements

Household refuse collections over the festive period will be as follows:

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 26 December 2011	Wednesday 28 December 2011
Tuesday 27 December 2011	Thursday 29 December 2011
Wednesday 28 December 2011	Friday 30 December 2011
Monday 2 January 2012	Wednesday 4 January 2012
Tuesday 3 January 2012	Thursday 5 January 2012
Wednesday 4 January 2012	Friday 6 January 2012

Collections scheduled for Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December and Thursday 5 and Friday 6 January remain the same.

Offices will close on Friday 23 December 2011 and will re-open on Wednesday 4 January 2012.

Special uplifts will be suspended from Friday 23 December and will start again week beginning Monday 9 January 2012.

Any additional refuse can be taken to the local Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will be closed Saturday 24th Dec 2011 and reopens Wednesday 28th Dec 2011 and closes Saturday 31st Dec 2011 and reopens Wednesday 4th Jan 2012.

Please place any large items of cardboard beside your blue wheeled bin on the day of collection. As in previous years the Cleansing Services will uplift real Christmas trees for disposal. These should be placed beside the wheeled bin on the day of collection week commencing 16 January 2012.

Reduce

- Say no to unwanted carrier bags when shopping - try to reuse your old ones;
- Avoid buying goods that have unnecessary packaging or try to buy food and drink packaged in materials that can be recycled;
- Buy drinks like lemonade in large containers, rather than lots of small ones; and
- Avoid using paper plates and cups if you are planning a party.

Reuse

- Why not make gift tags from your old greetings cards;
- Pass any unwanted gifts to your local charity shop rather than throwing them away; and
- Buy rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.

Recycle

Blue wheeled bins

A lot of the waste created during the festive period can be recycled. Wrapping paper (no foil), cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and steel and aluminium cans should be recycled using your blue bin.

Glass bottles and jars

Glass bottles can be recycled at one of the many bottle banks across the Island.

Christmas Trees

You don't need to worry about transporting your real Christmas trees to the Transfer Station. Trees can be recycled by placing them at the kerbside beside your bin for 7am during the week beginning 16 January 2012. They will then be taken for composting.

Electrical goods

Many people will have small electrical items such as straighteners, hairdryers and white goods to replace during the festive period. All electrical items can be taken to the Transfer Station.

Food waste

Food is a huge part of the Christmas celebration. However, it is often the case that a lot of good food goes to waste. When you are preparing meals make sure that you aren't making lots more than you expect to serve - although there is always room for some second helpings.

Everyone has experience of turkey sandwiches for days after Christmas, but there are plenty of recipes which can utilise those leftovers in a far more creative way. Pick up some tips at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.



Councillor Tom Barr, Portfolio Holder for the Environment, said:

"Over the Christmas and New Year period recycling becomes even more important as we produce much more waste at this time of year.

"Thanks to everyone who plays a part in protecting our environment."

Transfer Station

Site	Location	Fluorescent & Energy Saving Lighbulbs	Glass	Cans	Paper	Plastic Bottles	Cardboard	Textiles	Rubble	Electrical Appliances & TVs	White Goods	Metal	Household Batteries
Brodick	Market Road	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Whats on ARRAN

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ISLE OF
BREWERY

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Domestic refuse collections over the festive period will be as follows:

Normal day of collection	Revised day of collection
Monday 26 December 2011	Wednesday 28 December 2011
Tuesday 27 December 2011	Thursday 29 December 2011
Wednesday 28 December 2011	Friday 30 December 2011
Monday 2 January 2012	Wednesday 4 January 2012
Tuesday 3 January 2012	Thursday 5 January 2012
Wednesday 4 January 2012	Friday 6 January 2012

The Arran Transfer Station will be closed 24 - 27 December and 31 December 2011 - 3 January 2012.

The last Special Uplift collection for 2011 will be week ending Friday 23 December. Special Uplifts for the new year will start week commencing Monday 9 January 2012.

Large items of cardboard can be placed next to residents blue bin for collection over the festive period and real Christmas trees should be placed next to the wheeled bin for 7am on the day of collection week commencing 16 January 2012.

Household Waste Recycling Centres will be closed Sunday 25 December and Monday 26 December 2011 and Sunday 1 and Monday 2 January 2012. Normal opening hours in between times.

Offices will close on Friday 23 December 2011 and will re-open Wednesday 4 January 2012.

The contact number for North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the closed period is 07775-704829.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 23 December 2011 until 9am on Wednesday 4 January 2012 other than the following:

REGISTRATION SERVICE

Kilbirnie Office

Closed from Monday 26 December

Normal business will resume on Thursday 5 January 2012 at 1pm

Saltcoats Office

Closed from Monday 26 December

Normal business will resume on Wednesday 4 January 2012 at 9am

Irvine, Largs & Arran Offices

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27 December 2011 Closed

Wednesday 28 December 9am - 12.30pm & 1.15pm - 4.45pm

Thursday 29 December 9am - 12.30pm & 1.15pm - 4.45pm

Friday 30 December 9am - 12noon

Monday 2 January 2012 Closed

Tuesday 3 January 2012 Closed

Normal business will resume on Wednesday 4 January 2012 at 9am

Please note all registration business is by appointment only

Irvine Registration Office : 01294 324988

Saltcoats Registration Office: 01294 463312

Largs Registration Office: 01475 687591

Kilbirnie Registration Office: 01505 682416

Arran Registration Office : 01770 600338

SOCIAL SERVICES

The following offices will be open on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 December (normal hours) and until 1pm on Friday 30 December 2011:

Aitken Place, Ardrossan
Vernon Street, Saltcoats
Criminal Justice, 157 New Street, Stevenston
Caley Court, Stevenston
Brooksby, Largs
Craigton Road, Kilbirnie
Bridgegate House, Irvine
Shore Road, Lamlash, Arran

LIBRARIES

Irvine, Largs and Saltcoats	
24 December	10am - 5pm
25 December - 3 January 2012	Closed
4 January 2012	Re-open 9.30am
Kilwinning	
24 December	10am - 5pm
25 December - 4 January 2012	Closed
5 January 2012	Re-open 9am
Ardrossan, Beith, Bourtrees Hill, Dalry, Dreggorn, Kilbirnie, Stevenston, West Kilbride	
24 December	10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
25 December - 4 January 2012	Closed
5 January 2012	Re-open 1pm
Arran	
24 December	10am - 1pm
25 December - 4 January 2012	Closed
5 January 2012	Re-open 10am

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

Fairlie	
23 December	2.30pm - 5pm and 5.30pm - 7.30pm
24 December - 5 January 2012	Closed
6 January 2012	Re-open 2.30pm
Millport	
24 December	10am - 12noon
25 December - 3 January 2012	Closed
4 January 2012	Re-open 2pm - 9am
Skelmorlie	
23 December	1pm - 5pm and 6pm - 7.30pm
24 December - 4 January 2012	Closed
5 January 2012	Re-open 9am
Springside	
17 December - 9 January 2012	Closed
10 January 2012	Re-open 2pm
Heritage Centre	
24 December	10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
25 December - 3 January 2012	Closed
4 January 2012	Re-open 9.30am

Arran Mobile

No service Monday 26 December - Wednesday 4 January 2012 incl.

Mainland Mobile

No service Monday 26 December - Tuesday 3 January 2012 incl.

Library Support

Close 4.30pm Friday 23 December 2011 Re-open 9am Wednesday 4 January 2012

Library books and resources can be renewed online at:

www.ers.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Arts Centres

Harbour Arts Centre Close at 4pm Saturday 24 December 2011

Re-open 9am Wednesday 4 January 2012

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Housing Repairs	0800 0196 444
Homelessness	0800 0196 500
Roads & Lighting	0845 603 0594
Trunk Road Repairs - Road & Lighting Faults (A78, A737, A738)	0800 028 1414
Scottish Water - Water & Sewerage	0845 601 8855
Scottish Gas/Transco	0800 111 999

Please note that no Councillors' surgeries will be held from Saturday 24 December 2011 until Monday 9 January 2012 inclusive.

Season's Greetings from all North Ayrshire Council councillors and staff.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS 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, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (Tel: 01294 324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site 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 2012 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2012.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2012, 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 2 January 2012.

Carol Kirk

Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Corporate Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk and at The Council Offices, Lamlash. Written representations may be made to the Solicitor to the Council (Corporate Services) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 13.01.12. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

11/00823/PP; The Heights, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Demolish existing conservatory and erection of conservatory to side of dwelling house.

Shiskine Surgery & Arran Medical Group FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island practices will be closed on
Mon 26th and Tue 27th December
Mon 2nd and Tue 3rd January

If you require a doctor urgently over this period please contact the duty doctor at Arran War Memorial Hospital on
01770 600777

Please also note that Child Health Clinics will be held on the following dates:

Shiskine Surgery:	Fri 6th January
Arran Medical Group	
Whiting Bay Surgery:	Thurs 5th January
Lamlash Medical Centre:	Tue 10th January
Brodick Health Centre:	Tue 7th February (no clinic in January)

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

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Mobile 07901592922

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Mob: 07943 256 248



Jessie Robb & Wilma wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a Happy Xmas and a Good New Year

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

**MARK, CAROL
AND SCOTT**

wish all of their Arran friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Betty Adams

wishes all her friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



To all friends and family from Jimmy & Jenni Turnbull. Donations going to the wonderful ArCas.



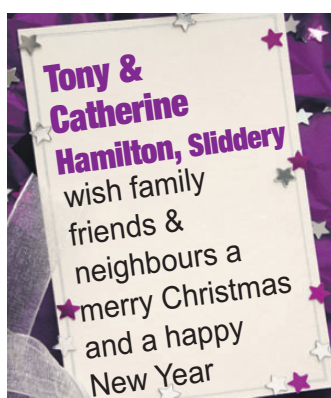
Seasons Greetings to all friends and customers from Clifford Latona at Arran Plumbing & Heating



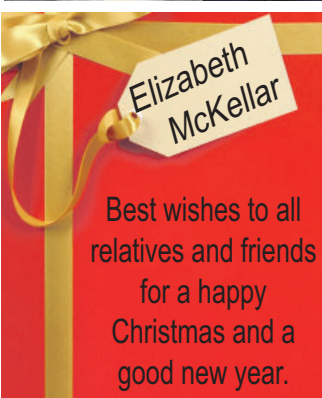
Netta McDonald wishes all her friends and family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



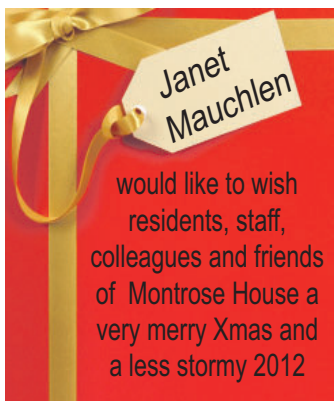
wish all their friends and family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Tony & Catherine Hamilton, Slidery wish family friends & neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year



Best wishes to all relatives and friends for a happy Christmas and a good new year.



would like to wish residents, staff, colleagues and friends of Montrose House a very merry Xmas and a less stormy 2012



wish family friends & neighbours a merry Christmas and a happy New Year



Mr & Mrs Crockett are not sending cards this Xmas and want to wish all friends the best for 2012 and the future.



Betty Campbell (Meadow Bank) wishes relatives and friends a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 25 December
 Family Service
 Shiskine, 11am
 Sunday School in the Church Hall (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Rev James McIntosh
 All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Saturday 24 December
 Midnight Mass, 11.30pm
Sunday 25 December
 Holy Communion, 11am
 All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SCO15072)
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 25 December
 Rev Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches
 You are invited to bring an unopened Christmas gift.
 All welcome, including families; children's area.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 25 December
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 6.30pm
 Hazelbank, Pirmill
 Mr G Furzer

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, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome

Saturday 24 December
 Brodick Church 5pm
 Family Service including Sacrament of Baptism & 11.30pm
 Corrie Church 9pm
 Shiskine Church, 11.30pm
Sunday 25 December
 Brodick Church, 10.30am
 Family Service
 Corrie Church, 12 pm
 Family Service
 Lochranza/Pirmill
 11am at Pirmill
 Shiskine Church 12.15pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SC014005)

Saturday 24 December
 There will be a service at 11.30pm to welcome Christmas Day. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the service. Everyone most welcome. Offering will go to Al Shurooq School for the Visually Handicapped in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.

Sunday 25 December
 There will be a short family service conducted by the minister at 10am to which all children are invited to bring a gift from Santa to show. Everyone most welcome. Offering will go to Al Shurooq School for the Visually Handicapped in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.
 All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 First Mass of Christmas
 Christmas Eve, 9pm
 Christmas Morning Mass, 11am

IN MEMORIAM

MURRAY
 Dougie Murray fell asleep on 28th December 2010.
 You left our lives and went away but in our hearts and minds you stay
 Always and forever
 Judith, Colin, Mandie and Dougie

DOUGLAS MURRAY
 Died 28-12-2010
 Thoughts of you are with me yet the day, the month I will never forget.
 Your presence I miss
 Your memory I treasure
 Loving you always
 Forgetting you never.
 Your loving wife, Margaret

GARDNER
 In loving memory of Snowy, died 25/12/2001.
 May the winds of Heaven blow gently and whisper for you to hear
 That we still love and miss you
 and wish that you were here from Morag, Lorna, Denise and all the family

CRAIG
 Kenny died 27th December 2009 aged 36 years.
 Deeply loved, missing you more each passing year.
 Love from Mum, Dad, Bryan, Toni, Liam and Sean.

BIRTHS

McMillan/O'Neil
 To Matthew and Sheena a daughter, Alyssa Jean.
 7lb 9oz at Crosshouse Hospital on 19th December.
 A sister for Freya.




PERSONALS

FRANCES HARWOOD
 thanks all her friends on the island for their love and support over the past year, and wishes you all a good Christmas and New Year.

George Watson,
 formerly Craegard, Corrie

Happy 90th Birthday!


love from Your Glasgow Cousins x



Sara's Salon

Sara would like to thank all the Arran tradesmen and everyone else who helped to complete the extreme makeover for the salon in 6 days.

Thankyou

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BAGGED MANURE. Oakbank, Lamlash Donation to Arran RDA Tel 600752

PRIMA Breadmaker - basic but in good working order (instructions included) Tel 870348

FRIDGE in gwo Tel 700220

FURNITURE

Oval Dining Table. Heavy Pine (5' 10" long) with 4 chairs. £150 Can deliver. Tel 870348

WANTED

ELECTRIC CHAINSAW in good condition Tel 302179

RECORDS and cds Tel 07500138859

OLD DORY style boat for project Any condition considered. Tel Gordon 07717 536 981

MISCELLANEOUS


SKYLUX refractor telescope complete with viewfinder scope, tripod, side-mounted eyepiece, counterweight and full instructions. Complete in every detail. Used but in perfect working order. £40 Tel 600287

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RECRUITMENT

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Roadworker
 Ref: NAY2093
Closing Date: Wednesday 4 January 2012
 For further details and to apply visit
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We are an equal opportunities employer so please inform us of any special needs you may have.

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Instructor (Temporary)
 Ref: NAY2121
£15.11 - £16.51 - 42 hours

Cook
 Ref: NAY2122
£8.31 - £9.10 - 20 hours

Cleaner
 Ref: NAY2123
£6.17 - £6.56 - 17.5 hours

Instructor
 Ref: NAY2124
£15.11 - £16.51 - 42 hours

Closing Date: Sunday 8 January 2012
 For further details and to apply visit
www.north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk





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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Year ends on a high for Arran Rugby Club

Arran 35 Cowal 0

The west of Scotland has four rugby leagues - each with 10 teams - and on Saturday only one game was played, on Arran!

Saturday saw the island with a team that bore little resemblance to the normal Arran line up.

Up front Jack McQueen came in at tight head, Donald Murchie dropped back to the second row position vacated by Niall McMaster who, in turn went to number eight. Todd Jamieson, normally

a back, played at wing forward.

Behind the scrum Ben Tattersfield went to scrum half in the absence of Iain Keen and did a fine job throwing out a long pass to Lachie Jones who took full advantage. Robbie Bayne, normally a winger went to full back and performed nobly.

The story of the game, as so often this season, was of the pack being far too powerful for the opposing eight - in the second half, Cowal didn't cross the halfway line - and

Arran's backs were more than adequate.

The first two scores were both penalty kicks converted by Lachie.

First half tries were scored by Jack Barbour, Ben Tattersfield and Lachie Jones.

Ben's was particularly good; he dummed to pass to Niall McMaster, the obvious recipient, from a short penalty and nipped over himself.

The element of surprise had worked again!

The second half saw scores by Donald Murchie and Liam



Arran's rugby team are ending the first half of the season second in the league.

01_b40rug01

Boal and full credit to Cowal who fought every inch of the way but simply didn't have the penetration to pierce Arran's tigerish midfield tackling.

Man of the match was Donald Murchie who, perhaps because he was relieved of his

normal strength sapping duties of forcing the scrum from tight head gambolled about the field like a slightly overweight spring lamb.

The next game is not until Saturday 14 January when Arran travel to play Strath-

clyde Police in what will certainly be a very tough match.

In the meantime the team are second in the league, two points behind Lanark from the same number of games.

East v West 2pm, Saturday 24 December.



Golf

Arran Golfers Association

Winter league - Duncan Trophy 2011/2012. Third round will be played on Sunday 8 January at Shiskine Golf Club. Draw: Shiskine v Machrie at 10am, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at 10.50am, Brodick v Corrie at 11.40am.

Team captains please remember team sheets with names for Dougie to collect.

All at the Arran Golfers Association would like to wish all clubs and members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

See you all in 2012 for another season.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 18 December, the second of the winter friendly matches with Lamlash was played in rather testing and slippery conditions with more than one player losing their dignity as they lost their footing. Despite this the golf was enjoyed by all and resulted in a victory to Lamlash by 3 matches to 1. Hospitality was enjoyed by all in the clubhouse afterwards and we look forward to host-

ing Lamlash in February.

Fixtures: Monday 26 December, Christmas Bottle, played from the yellow tees. draws at 9am and 11am or make up your own groups.

Monday 2 January, nine hole Cross Country. One draw only at 10am.

Merry Christmas to all golfers on Arran!

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 17 December. Sweep, non-counting, eight played. 1 S Beardsley 70-6=64, 2 C Pattenden 74-9=65. Best scratch S Beardsley 70, magic twos B Sherwood and D Wilkinson (one each).

Monday Cup 19 December cancelled by Captain and Greenkeeper.

Fixtures: Saturday 24 December Winter Cup round four, 8.30am and 12noon. Monday 26 December, Monday Cup 12noon.

We wish a Merry Christmas and Prosperous Year to all our members.

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday 17 December, Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza match

S Black, D Price, N Henderson and J Faulkner all qualified for the dominoes and Joe Faulkner wins the Quaich - congratulations.

Sunday 18 December, Ryder Cup table after the second game. Torbeg 15, Kilpatrick 9, Blackwaterfoot 7 and Shiskine 3.

Fixtures: Boxing Day Texas

Scramble teams of four with at least one lady, please phone 860226 to book a time. Monday 2 January, DS Bannatyne Shield (mixed foursomes) 12noon shotgun start.

Ladies: Sunday 1 January, Alan Smith Plate, 10.30am shotgun start.

Gents: Saturday 31 December, Mahogany Trophy, 12noon tee-off. Any gent who is a member can win this time! Sunday 1 January, Colditz Quaich, 1pm shotgun start.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

There was no game again last week due to the weather.

Fixtures: Tuesday 27 December, one club and putter competition, tee-off 12noon. As usual there will be mince pies and Christmas cake after the game.

Brodick Golf Club

Clochendichter results: What a day it turned out to be. Beautiful conditions overhead but treacherous underfoot. We saw a few players taking nasty falls before having any drink, one turning up in a Santa hat and a player's wife failing to taxi him home. It appears the days of your partner sitting at home awaiting a call are a thing of the past! As for the golf, the Knowe continued their winning ways whilst Alma are hoping the New Year brings them a change of fortune. The outstanding performance of the day goes to Calum 'Dandy' Duncan and the ever improving Findlay 'QC' Sillars. The day was rounded

off with our traditional lunch and good chat. Many thanks to Dougie, Trish and her team.

Knowe v Village: D Robertson and T Raeside beat I MacMillan and B Jenkins, D Hendry and R McCrae beat J Armit and William Armit. I MacDonald and Gordon Robertson beat A Hume and J McKean, G Hendry and A Dobson lost to M Keir and J Beattie. Street v Alma: J Duncan and A Hart halved match Gus Robertson and H Tait, F Sillars and C Duncan beat B Smith and D Rudge, Russell Duncan and C Russell lost to Robbie Duncan and B McGunnigle, B Walker and G Sillars beat B Allison and D McKinnie. League table: Knowe 20, Street 11, Village 11 and Alma 6.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 18 December, Lamlash v Whiting Bay, CSS 63 stableford. 1 Jamie MacPherson 33, 2 Tom Paterson 32, 3 Alan Smith 31 BIH, 4 Paul Jameson 31. Best Scratch Jamie MacPherson 71. There were twos from Tom Paterson, Alan Winship, David Ross and David Morrison. Result of match: Lamlash 3 Whiting Bay 1.

Fixtures: Monday 26 December, Boxing Day Game, stableford 11am start. Thursday 29 December, 15 Hole Medal, make up own groups. Monday 2 January, Course Backwards, 10.30am for 11am start.

We would like to wish all members, friends and Arran golfers a good Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Arran Bridge results

Brodick Bridge Club

The results from the Brodick Bridge Club party night on Thursday 15 December were as follows: N/S Brenda Livingstone and Eendy McNiven +4330, 2 Liz Paul and John Barraclough +2600, 3 Elizabeth McConnell and John Dick +2400.

E/W Elaine Duncan and Margaret Bruce -660, 2 Morag Gardner and Michael Iutz -1520, 3 Jean Barclay and avid Scobie -2060.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results of the tournament on Monday 19 December were as follows: N/S 1 J and M Dick +1750, 2 T Martin and A Bilsland +1010, 3 H Boyd and R Thompson +510.

E/W 1 E McConnell and P Adamson +2130, 2 J and J Beattie +1850, 3 M and D Bruce +1820.

The president wished all those taking part a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The next tournament will be held on Monday 9 January.



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