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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2012

No 1888 59p

FREE inside



2013 Arran Banner Calendar

Five bar signal puts Lamlash on the mobile phone map

'Consider local coverage when approaching your contract renewal'

There was an early Christmas present for mobile phone users in Lamlash this week when the signal coverage was dramatically improved.

One of the most regular gripes on the island is the poor mobile phone reception in some parts and Lamlash was notoriously one of the worst areas.

In early September Dr Andrew Inglis, consultant with the Emergency Medical Retrieval Service (EMRS) based at Southern General Hospital, highlighted the danger of this situation, particularly as the island's hospital is in Lamlash.

Dr Inglis told the Banner: 'We did a survey of mobile phone coverage in rural areas. Of the 66 sites we cover, 34 have no network providing good phone coverage.'

'Of the 34, Lamlash was our number one priority.'

He added: 'This is a welcome

REPORT
by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

and significant improvement in coverage for Lamlash and should improve coverage not only for the hospital but also for other emergency services around Lamlash.

Highlighted
'It is the result of efforts from a number of individuals and several organisations. 'Alone of the network providers Vodafone have put considerable work into reviewing coverage at all of the 34 NHS sites that were highlighted in the earlier report.'

'I would strongly suggest that people consider local coverage when approaching their contract renewal.'

Of the 15 GP community hospitals in the EMRS catchment area, Arran was the only one to have no reliable mobile

phone coverage at all.

In the survey conducted by Dr Inglis for the EMRS it states that: 'There is an Air-wave mast to the south of the village (Lamlash), 105 metres above sea level. Sharing the mast or site should provide good coverage for the whole village.'

'A mast placed in Kings Cross may offer coverage to Whiting Bay as well. There are many public buildings in Lamlash which could site a mast, but it is closely mixed with residences.'

Last Thursday Lamlash residents suddenly noticed a marked improvement in their coverage and by Friday all Vodafone customers had a full signal.

However a number of other phone operators have said that they have no plans to improve the signal on Arran in the near future.



Homemade Christmas gifts by Kilmory Kidz

These youngsters were busy selling Christmas gifts that they had made themselves at the busy Kilmory Farmers' Market in the village hall last Saturday.

The money raised from these homemade

gifts was going to the Kilmory Kidz group funds. The children are: Erin Mulholland, Abbie Mulholland, Leigh Boyd, Maisy Townsend, Mhairi Thomas and Ollie Townsend. 02_b51mark01

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Boxing Day dook at Lamlash

Next Wednesday 26 December will see the sixth annual Boxing Day dook at Lamlash pier.

A collection of intrepid souls will walk down the slipway, dive into the chilly water and then swim around the pier, many in fancy dress.

This event will be based in the lifeboat station, with donations going to the RNLI. There will be soup, mulled wine and mince pies with the swimmers taking to the water at 1pm.

There are prizes for the best fancy dress, junior and senior.

Floodwater hits island roads

High tides and heavy rainfall led to localised flooding in several areas around the island last Friday.

A stretch of the coast road opposite Stanford in Whiting Bay was under two feet of water and only passable for vehicles with high ground clearance.

As well as surface water, waves were crashing over the sea wall, bringing seaweed and stones raining down on vehicles.

Council workers were quickly on the scene to clear up the debris afterwards.

The ferry MV Caledonian Isles remained on amber alert all day although the vessel did manage to complete all its sailings.



Waves were crashing over the seawall on to the road in Whiting Bay. 02_b51wat01

Sergeant Allen Dodds settles in to new post

Arran's new police sergeant is settling into his new post.

Sergeant Allen Dodds hails from Paisley but is no stranger to Arran.

He told the Banner that he has spent many holidays on the island, mainly cycling and camping.

'I used to cycle from home in Paisley down to Ardrossan then over on the ferry,' said Allen. 'And I am already becoming aware that some of the roads can be a bit challenging for cyclists – going down the Boguillie into Lochranza, for example.'

Allen spent 10 years in the Strathclyde Police Firearms Department in Springburn then returned to Govan before gaining promotion in order to take up the post of sergeant on the island.

He has a Boxer dog called Marvin and expects to move into the Lamlash police house by the end of January.



Sergeant Allen Dodds, Arran's new senior police officer. 02_b51ser01

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Friday 21st at 4pm for the Arran Banner edition dated **28th December 2012**

And

Friday 28th at 4pm for the Arran Banner edition dated **4th January 2013**

Headphones Found in Whiting Bay

A pair of headphones have been found on Shore Road in Whiting Bay.

Telephone 700530 if they belong to you.

Brodict drink driver reported

A 23-year-old man was reported by police to the Procurator Fiscal after he was caught drink driving in Brodict on Saturday night.

Greenock Coastguard station closed down

Despite a two-year campaign to keep it open, Clyde Coastguard station at Greenock closed down on Tuesday of this week.

Along with many other coastguard stations, Clyde has ceased operations in a major streamlining of the emergency service.

When it was fully operational, the Greenock station employed 31 staff to oversee air and sea rescues from the Mull of Galloway in the south to Ardnamurchan Point in the north.

Now the waters around Arran will be covered by staff from the Belfast Coastguard station, who will liaise operations with local coastguards on the island.

From last week, anyone telephoning the Greenock station number was answered by a member of staff in Belfast.

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Arran to have own Straight Talking Event

Arran is to have its own Straight Talking council event after complaints of discrimination from the Community Council.

Members of Arran Community Council have expressed disappointment that the NAC Straight Talking Event held in Ardrossan on 29 November was not accessible to island residents.

Secretary Bill Calderwood explained: 'The Community Council appreciated receiving our invitation to the Sharing the Load event.

'We were however very disappointed to note that the event was scheduled to start at 6.30pm in Ardrossan, which would preclude attendance from the Arran groups who have supported the previous events related to this community engagement exercise.

'It is particularly disappointing that we were unable to participate when we read the work groups focus

subjects and appreciate the relevance to our position here on Arran.'

NAC chief executive Elma Murray responded to Mr Calderwood: 'Firstly, I would like to reassure you that a session will be held on the Isle of Arran in the near future.'

'A number of factors were taken into account when planning the time and venue for the session (in Ardrossan).

'It was agreed that a single session held at a central location would encourage the best possible turnout from communities all across North Ayrshire.

'For the same reason the session was held in the evening to give people working during the day the best opportunity to attend.

'Officers will be in contact with you in due course to advise you of progress with the Arran session.'

Mr Calderwood added: 'We appreciate the efforts of our local councillor who has also been trying to find an alternative solution so far without success.'



Merry Christmas from The Arran Banner

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers, advertisers and contributors from the Arran Banner team – Jennifer Lyon, Howard Driver and Laura Hemming.

The Banner office will be closed on Christ-

mas Day, Boxing Day and 1 and 2 January. Over the festive period, publication dates for the Banner will be as usual; Friday 28 December and Friday 4 January.

Advertisers and contributors are asked to submit their copy as early as possible.

Sinking of the schooner Bessie Arnold in 1908

The schooner Bessie Arnold sank off Sliderry shore on 28 December 1908.

Last July we published an appeal from Margaret Dodd from the Isle of Man asking for information about the vessel and the wreck.

She explained that her great grandfather John Dodd had been master of the Bessie Arnold for 20 years and all five of his sons had served on her.

On page six this week we print a letter from Mrs Dodd asking for any further information about the wreck as it comes up to the anniversary of that fateful night off the south coast of Arran. Her contact details are on the letter.

Salvation Army hold Christmas Day lunch

The Salvation Army on Arran will once again be hosting lunch on Christmas Day with the aid of a group of wonderful volunteers who happily give up their Christmas day to provide this service.

Lexie Andrade, Commanding Officer for Arran and Irvine, said: 'We are also much indebted to the team at Isle of Arran Homes for letting us use their lounge at MacKelvie Road sheltered housing complex, which they have graciously allowed us to use for the last few years.'

'We will have Santa on hand once again to give gifts to all who come and these have been donated to us by kind hearted businesses on Arran.'

'It would not be possible to have this lunch without all of these fantastic people who show such kindness, generosity and willingness to make this a great day for others.'

'Transport may of course

be a problem especially on a public holiday, but thanks to Guy Bodie this is not an issue.

'As a Christian Church the Salvation Army works with heart to God and hand to man, and celebrates this day as the birthday of the Messiah - Jesus.'

Thanks to all who have made this possible.'

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Arran's Christmas Message from Reverend Angus Adamson

Last week someone said to me they appreciated Brodick and Shiskine churches being floodlit during advent and how each time they passed by, it somehow made them feel 'christmassy'.

I knew exactly what they meant; that warm glow of anticipation you get inside when you think of Christmas – of log fires and Christmas trees, that happy holiday time of friends and family, of the joy on children's faces as they rip open Santa's presents.

For me it is usually triggered off by the smell of mince pies cooking in the oven.

For others it might be the

sound of Arran Brass playing around our villages, or singing their first Christmas carol in church. Perhaps feeling 'christmassy' is best described as a festive sense of wellbeing and anticipation of a happy time ahead.

And is it just me, or have you noticed too, that as people begin to feel 'christmassy' and as we approach Christmas itself, this feeling of wellbeing begins to make people more pleasant and helpful?

Complete strangers, even folk you know who don't particularly like you, smile and wish you 'Merry Christmas'. Well it would be churl-

ish not to! Then I've noticed too, that people start to think of others less fortunate than themselves, the homeless, the orphans, the aged and the infirm. Charities, having long realised this, target Christmas time accordingly and usually reap rich rewards for their efforts.

Main reason

But as a Kirk minister, I have to wonder what has all this got to do with the main reason for the season, the birth of the Christ child, born in a stable 2,000 odd years ago?

Well perhaps everything. For you see I believe that people, even the completely non-religious, somehow subconsciously relate Christmas to the greatest event in the history of humankind – the birth of the Son of God, the coming of a Saviour.

The birth of someone so

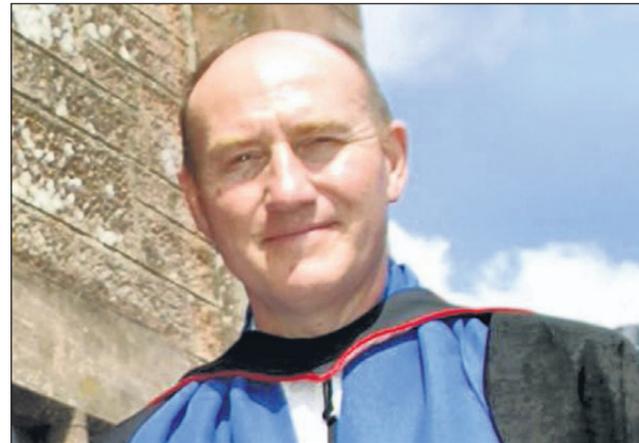
good and so pure, so loving, just and kind, that our lives, all our lives, are very unworthy by comparison. If you like, Jesus is the ultimate illustration of what human beings are capable of, if they too follow his example.

We never see what our lives can truly be like, until we see them in the light of Jesus Christ.

John at the very beginning of his Gospel said of Jesus: 'In him was the life and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it.'

I believe that Jesus is still the light of humankind, who can still transform our lives and make us better people. Even the mere thought of his birth time and all it stands for, is still capable of bringing out the best in people.

Oh, no doubt the sceptics



Rev Angus Adamson. 01_b27cen01

will say that is nonsense, that this is all just down to the sense of wellbeing experienced at this time of year. I can't prove otherwise, but I don't believe so.

Somehow the reaction of people at Christmas always renews in me a hope for humankind, that with God's help we can still create a better world, the world God envisages for us – a world of peace and harmony and goodwill towards each other. Hope too, that there is still some kind of goodness in all humanity; that we are still capable of being saved from ourselves.

God gave us the gift of the Christ-child, that we might have a light in the world, which shines in the darkness, a light to guide us by, a light, which no matter how strong the darkness is within us or around us, can never be extinguished.

Somehow at Christmas, this celebration of his birth, that light shines more intensely than ever, or perhaps we are just more aware of it.

And it shows up our lives, not just for what they are, but what they could be. For a few days, or even several weeks around Christmas, many of us become more like the people we aspire to be, more loving,

more considerate, more giving, more caring – more like the way God wants us to be as shown in the life of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Alas, as the memory of Christmas fades, we soon slip back to our old ways. People become grimmer again as the months of January and February grind us down.

Perhaps this illustrates the old Christian teaching that we cannot transform our lives on our own, for life and circumstances, our human nature, just doesn't allow it. Left to ourselves, we are at the mercy of our passions and fears.

Jesus is the person who can save life from becoming dark again. He is still willing to be the light in our lives, if only we would let him be. And not just at Christmas time, but all the year round.

So this year as we make our usual New Year resolutions, we might if we try a bit harder, with his help, be enabled to hold onto a little more of this Christmas light. If we can do that, feeling 'christmassy' needn't just be a once a year phenomenon.

More importantly we might find that not only are our own lives transformed for the better, but ultimately so might the world around us.

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Some of the Arran group on the 2012 Three Ks tour at the world peace stupa above Phewa Lake at Pokhara, Nepal. The mountains are Annapurna South to the left and Mt Macchapucchre to the right. b51kkk01

Sannox Christian Centre work 'progressing well'

Work at the Sannox Christian Centre is progressing well, according to the centre manager Stuart Carr.

The site has been cleared and work is beginning on a new gatehouse and office.

He said: 'We are now ready to move into the important phase of defining the future use of the existing buildings to enable us to raise the appropriate funds.'

Expressed

'We have listened to the stories, memories and hopes expressed by many of the community and visitors who have dropped in since April.'

'As we draw from this we hope to weave together a vision for the future which will involve and bless as many people as possible.'

He added: 'We have had many people come to volunteer over the past few months and we welcome anyone interested in offering some

time to contact me to discuss future opportunities.'

'The old church and manse need a lot of work down on them outside and in. Dundaroch is no longer fit for purpose and also needs a complete refit.'

Some of the history of the church and area was researched and written up by a

recent visitor over a six-week period and this will form the basis of much more writing in the coming years.

The 'Open Sundays' at Sannox Christian Centre will stop for the festive season but visitors are still welcome to call in during the week apart from the Christmas and New Year weeks.

Arran livestock sales at Stirling

United Auctions had forward 10,622 store and prime sheep at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last week.

Arran prices: Suffolk cross lambs: Drumnaghinier £71.20; Bellevue £69; Craigraineach £62.

Texel cross lambs: Craigdhu £70; Whin £51; Drumla £47.50.

Mule lambs: Craigraineach £57.50.

Blackface lambs: Bridge £38.

Texel cross ewes: Bellevue £80.50

Cross ewes: Margenaish £57.50; Bellevue £55.50; Swallowbrae £50.50.

Blackface ewes: Margenaish £34.50; Sheddoch £33.50.

Cast cows: Altgolath (Luing cross) £935, 146p; Auchenhew (Aberdeen Angus cross) £655, 115p; Clauchlands (Holstein cross) £885, 145p.

To Kalimpong and beyond for the 13th Three Ks tour

The 2013 tour will visit the three Ks plus spending two nights in Darjeeling

John Webster of Kings Cross is already making plans for the 13th annual 'Three Ks' tour next autumn.

For 12 successive years he has led Arran folk on tours to Kolkata, Kathmandu and Kalimpong to experience the wonders of Bengal and Nepal and to support the work of Dr Graham's Homes, the school where he used to work as farm manager and school chaplain.

The 2013 tour will visit the three Ks plus spending two nights in Darjeeling.

The group will explore

Kolkata, the City of Joy, and sail on the Ganges.

Then they will fly north to Nepal and Kathmandu, trekking to see Mt Everest, the Anapurna Range and Maccha Pucchre or go on safari to game reserves to see rhinos, elephants, crocodiles and exotic birds as well as enjoying an elephant ride.

They will experience village life and sail in canoes, then fly east to Darjeeling and ride in a train at 7,000 feet before finally arriving at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong.

They will return to Kolkata

overnight on the mail train from Darjeeling before an overnight flight home to the UK.

One member of John's 2011 trip said: 'A wonderful travelling experience - life enhancing, perhaps even life-changing.'

Another one said: 'A holiday and so much more.'

As usual, it is a non-profit-making venture with any surplus being refunded.

The tour runs from 31 October to 19 November. More details from John Webster by phoning 01770 700747.



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THE ARRAN BANNER

'Waste not - want not'

Enjoy yourselves over the festive season, but spare a thought for that age-old maxim 'waste not - want not'.

In the current economic climate it is never more true than today.

As we approach Christmas 2012 it is sobering to ponder that as a nation we waste almost one third of our food production.

Christmas is a time of celebration, entertaining family and friends, and all too often over-eating and perhaps drinking a little too much.

Nowadays, we are being urged to recycle, to shop around for good deals and to consider the environment.

But maybe we could all do our bit to help the environment and our pockets by not buying quite as many consumables as usual.

In Scotland we waste over 566,000 tonnes of food a year - that's equivalent to £430 for every household, and most of that food could have been eaten. The majority of it is fruit and vegetables, bread and cake.

We rate very poorly on a worldwide stage for food wastage. In this country it is estimated that every adult wastes 90 kilos of food a year (more than your own bodyweight), just behind our American cousins at 110 kilos and way ahead of folk in south-east Asia who only waste around 15 kilos a year.

And over the festive season we are all at our most profligate. Some simple ways to save on waste - and save yourself money - are to make a shopping list (and stick to it), plan your meals, store food properly and rotate food in your store cupboard.

Freeze left-overs immediately rather than letting them grow mouldy in the fridge. Understand 'use by' dates and don't cook or prepare too much food. Exercise portion control and don't overload the dinner plates.

And please, please, don't give your family dog left-over Christmas pudding.

One major high street supermarket found themselves in hot water last week for a television advertising campaign in which a young boy was shown to sneak his unwanted Christmas pudding under the table to the pet dog.

Fortunately, the dog has the sense to deposit it in a nearby plant pot. Experts warn that the dried fruit content could kill dogs or cats.

All this sounds perfectly simple and sensible, but most of all, it could save you a considerable amount of money for other essentials, give you a feel-good factor and make you more fit to face the adversity of the January weather.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord'. (Luke 2:10)

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



A cunning plan

Sir,
As no one seems to be tackling the southerly breakwater problem at Ardrossan, I have a cunning plan.

Why not encourage every traveller on the Caledonian Isles to take with them one pebble on the journey and as they reach Ardrossan to simply toss it over the right hand side of the boat.

Over time, we will effectively create our own sea break at very little cost.

I appreciate this may take some time, but it may actually be faster than waiting for the appropriate authorities to do likewise!

What do you think?
Yours,

Tim Hodgkinson
Whiting Bay

Memories of the Bessie Arnold

Sir,
Thank you so much for printing my letter in the Banner in July requesting remembrances of the schooner 'Bessie Arnold' which was wrecked off Slidery in 1908.

I received a number of very different and very unexpected responses, but I would still be very happy to hear from anyone who can contribute.

Might I point out that the anniversary of the wrecking takes place on Friday 28 December.

I thought this might be a good reason to bring the ship to mind - especially at Christmas time when families get together and talk reminiscences.

Very best wishes to all, and thanks again for your help.

Yours,
Margaret Dodd
Ellan Geay
Regaby
Ramsey
Isle of Man
Tel 01624 880313
margaret.dodd@manx.net

Romantic Glenashdale proposal

Sir,
I just wanted to let you know

what a wonderful stay I had on the island this week.

Firstly our accommodation at Springtide in Corrie was absolutely outstanding and definitely recommended.

Thank you so much to Mr Lees. Secondly my wonderful boyfriend proposed to me at the top of the stunning Glenashdale Falls on 12/12/12!! I had a perfect week in the perfect setting and want to extend my praise and thanks to the lovely people of Arran for their kind and friendly nature and for making our stay so memorable.

Yours,
Kerry Callaghan
Kilmarnock

Help stamp out poverty

Sir,
For several years now, a growing band of islanders have been saving the used stamps from their mail, and passing them to me to deliver to Oxfam in Troon.

There they are sorted for sale to stamp collectors all over the world, to raise funds for Oxfam's work. Any and all used stamps have a resale value; from exotic foreign stamps to the plainest second-class UK stamps.

Just cut them off the envelope leaving a half-inch margin of paper all round the edge of the stamps.

Phone me (303912) and I will arrange to collect them, or if you are passing, bring them to my house, Crimond in Strathwhillan Road, Brodick.

A huge thank-you to all the faithful individuals and businesses on Arran who help by collecting used stamps all year round.

They are all going to a very good cause. The more the merrier; new savers are always welcome to join in, so pass the word to your friends.

Happy Christmas to you all, and here's hoping you all receive lots of letters cards and parcels.

Kind regards
Janet Baraclough
Strathwhillan
Brodick

Protect the NHS

Sir,
There is a large petition from 38 degrees (British not-for-profit political-activism organisation) which shows that the people in Britain want to have their NHS protected from the deleterious effects of privatisation. We do not want health care to be based on the American model.

In my opinion the Clinical Commissioning Group should adopt the 38 degrees amendments to their constitutions.

Yours,
James Gourlay
Buchanan Bank Cottage
Brodick

Festive message from NHS chairman

Sir,
As 2012 draws to a close, the festive season is a fitting time

for me to express my sincere appreciation to NHS Ayrshire & Arran's hardworking and devoted staff.

It's been a busy year and staff have again risen to the challenge of delivering healthcare to the population.

As we enter 2013 I want to assure you of our continuing commitment to making NHS Ayrshire & Arran fit for the future; and one which enhances the quality of patients' experience by making care safer, more effective and more person-centred.

Finally, on behalf of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable season and the healthiest possible 2013.

Yours,
Dr Martin Cheyne
Chairman
Ayrshire and Arran
NHS Board

Beware the 'Winter vomiting' virus this festive season

NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NAC Environmental Health are advising people how to avoid spreading Norovirus this festive season.

Winter vomiting virus (Norovirus) is easily spread and outbreaks in busy places such as hospitals and hotels are common because the virus can survive for several days on surfaces touched by an infected person.

Full recovery

They usually start without warning with nausea. Some people may have a fever, headache or aching limbs. Most people make a full re-

covery in one to two days from the start of symptoms.

If affected, the NHS advice is to stay at home until free of symptoms for 48 hours.

Dr Gill Hawkins of NHS Ayrshire & Arran, explained: 'More people tend to go out celebrating during the festive season and Norovirus can be more easily spread in crowded hotels and bars.'

'If you feel at all unwell with Norovirus symptoms we would advise that you give your Christmas party a miss - it's better than being the cause of your friends becoming unwell too.'

WRI to host Christmas parties

The ladies of Whiting Bay and Kilmory SWRIs will be holding Christmas parties this week for village children.

The Whiting Bay party will take place on Saturday 22 December at 3pm - this earlier start time is at the request of some of the parents.

Also on Saturday is the Lamlash party at 2.30pm in the High School. The Rural ladies hope as many members as possible can attend.

The Kilmory Rural will be decorating the hall tonight, starting at 6.30pm. All are welcome to come along and help.

The Kilmory children's Christmas party will be on Christmas Eve starting at 5pm in the hall where there will be a fun filled time of games, food and a special visit from Santa.

Shiskine WRI are also hosting their party on Christmas Eve at 3pm in the village hall.

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Mary Morrison of Bennicarrigan with pupils Rorie Monteith and Mason Amsing. b51ki02



Cathy Hamilton of Sliderry Schoolhouse with Rosie McKelvie and Cailean Stewart. b51ki03



Maud Jenkins of Auchareoch Farm with Kaitlyn Rogers and Reuben Bowers. b51ki04

Santa's little helpers treat senior citizens

The children of Kilmory Primary School entered into the true spirit of Christmas last week.

Teacher Kirsten Millar explained: 'This term, the children in the wee class in Kilmory School have been learning about the Christian belief.

'Our big focus was 'thinking of other people in the community'.

'The children decided that it would be a lovely idea to make Christmas gift parcels for the senior citizens.

'They collected empty shoe boxes to decorate, made Christmas cards and made tree decorations.

'They donated lots of store cupboard goodies and wrote letters asking for support from local businesses.

'A huge big thank you goes to the Creamery, James's Chocolates, Wooleys Bakery and Paterson of Arran for their yummy donations.'

The children set up the project with the help of Miss Millar. They had the idea of setting it up like a little Santa's workshop in the school.

They sorted and wrapped the parcels up, then on Friday 7 December and Monday 10 December Miss Millar, Mrs McDonald and the children took a trip on the Kilmory Community Bus to deliver

the gift parcels to local senior citizens.

Miss Millar added: 'I'm very proud of the children - they were so generous and enthusiastic about their project.'



Teacher Kirsten Millar at the Kilmory Community Bus with Cameron McNeish holding the hamper and Kaitlyn Rogers, Roisin Ballantyne, Toby Amsing, Izzi Buckby and Scott Murray. b51ki01

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cold winter or do a spot of
last minute Christmas
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Birds Notes for Christmas

by Jim Cassels



Red-jungle Fowl are thought to be the source of all present day chickens.

There's more to Christmas than a traditional turkey - especially if you don't need to feed an army of guests.

Partridge with pumpkin, guinea fowl with orange and Szechuan pepper, or a couple of toothsome quail, sticky from the oven pan and eaten with the fingers are all recommended by celebratory chefs.

How about chicken? Roasted with festive spices, a smaller bird is a feast in itself on the big day.

Last year at this time the Bird Notes featured turkey. This year I thought I would look at the familiar chicken.

The chicken is the most widespread domestic animal in the world.

With more than 24 billion on the planet there are more chickens in the world than any other species of bird.

The wild ancestor is the red-jungle fowl that are found



Carol Singing

in Kilmory Hall
on Sunday 23rd December
at 6.30pm

followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

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Quote ARR



Ailsa McNicol and Katie Lees with some of their customers at their Christmas Jewellery Pop-Up Shop in Brodick. 02_b51tas01

Pop-Up Shop is popular with Christmas shoppers

The Taste of Arran shop next door to Bilslands has been transformed for Christmas.

Bespoke local craftspeople Ailsa McNicol and Katie Lees have taken over the building with a pop-up shop displaying their fine jewellery pieces.

Last Sunday they also hosted a mulled

wine and mince pies afternoon which proved very popular with shoppers.

Ailsa said: 'The shop was empty at the moment so Alastair Dobson very kindly said we could take it over for a couple of weeks for a Christmas jewellery display. It seems to have attracted a lot of customers and we are very pleased.'

in Southeast Asia, southern China and the Indian subcontinent.

How did we get from the red-jungle fowl in one small corner of the planet to endless varieties of domesticated chicken that are readily available throughout the world?

Here is the brief simplified version based loosely on archaeological evidence.

There are 4,000-year-old pottery figures and engravings of chickens from the Indus Valley and from China.

Alexander the Great, whose armies invaded as far as the Indian subcontinent over 2,300 years ago, is attributed

with bringing chicken to the classical world.

They were first depicted in monuments in Egypt around that time.

From Greek and Roman sources the main spread of domestic chickens westward took place in the last 500 years of the first millennium BC and it is suggested that it was the Romans who brought them to Britain.

From the first millennium onwards, chicken are found on most archaeological sites in Europe.

The spread into sub-Saharan Africa seems to have been on the east by way of Egypt in

the first millennium AD.

In West Africa the earliest known finds are from a site called Jenni-jeno in Mali around 500AD.

Man spread chickens east also onto the islands of the Pacific with chicken present in some Polynesian islands from 4,000 years ago.

That eastward spread of chicken continued so that when the Spanish and Portuguese Conquistador arrived in South America in the fifteenth century, people were already keeping chickens!

The red jungle fowl lays a large clutch of eggs and will continue to lay if some are removed.

That tendency has been enhanced under domestication. Ancient Egyptians knew chicken as the 'bird that lays every day'.

As chickens became important as a source of meat rather than eggs, more were slaughtered while still immature.

This is exemplified in the city of Exeter, where only 11 per cent of chicken bones from the Roman period were immature while in the Middle Ages this almost doubled to 20 per cent.

Whether it's turkey or partridge or guinea fowl or quail or goose or chicken or nut roast or whatever you are planning to eat during the festive season, have a good Christmas.

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 2011' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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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 52.5 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 14 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
- **A lot more glass bottles and jars are used over the Christmas period.** Remember you can now use your blue bin to recycle your glass bottles and jars

Christmas Uplift arrangements

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

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Tuesday 25 December 2012	Thursday 27 December 2012
Wednesday 26 December 2012	Friday 28 December 2012
Tuesday 1 January 2013	Thursday 3 January 2013
Wednesday 2 January 2013	Friday 4 January 2013

Collections scheduled for Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December and Thursday 3 and Friday 4 January remain the same.

Offices will close on Monday 24 December 2012 and will re-open on Thursday 3 January 2013.

Special uplifts will be suspended from Friday 21 December 2012 and will start on Monday 7 January 2013.

Any additional refuse can be taken to the local Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will be closed Tuesday 25 December 2012 and reopens Thursday 27 December 2012 and closes Tuesday 1 January 2013 and reopens Thursday 3 January 2013.

Please place any large items of cardboard beside your blue wheeled bin on the day of collection. As in previous years the Waste Services collection staff will uplift real Christmas trees for disposal. These should be placed beside the wheeled bin on the day of collection week commencing 14 January 2013.

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, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and steel and aluminium cans should be recycled using your blue bin.

Glass bottles and jars

Remember you can now use your blue bin to recycle your glass bottles and jars. They can also 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 14 January 2013. 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 John Ferguson, Cabinet Member for the Environment, said:

"North Ayrshire residents are becoming more aware of the importance of recycling.

"During the festive period, recycling becomes even more of an issue - given the extra waste we produce over Christmas and New Year.

"From wrapping paper and cardboard boxes to batteries and bottles, there is plenty of waste that can be recycled.

"Both the Council and Zero Waste Scotland provide an excellent range of information to help reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

"I would like to thank everyone who plays a part in protecting our environment and thinks about recycling over the festive period."

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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday 24 December, 1992



Santa Claus and his P1 and P2 friends at Lamlash Primary School. b51twe03

School bus stuck in snow

The school bus taking two children up The Ross from Arran High School got stuck in snow near the top on Tuesday and had to be abandoned.

The small party walking back down the Ross in the dark met farmer Kenny Bone who took them to his home and then drove up the hill to free the bus.

New riding centre

The new Cairnhouse Riding Centre at Blackwaterfoot is now completed.

The riding centre already has a large clientele of youngsters taking advantage of year-round tuition.

Ann's Christmas cards filmed

Granada television from Manchester have chosen Arran as the starting point for a programme about how the Christmas mail makes its way to its destination.

They filmed Ann Mitchell of Brodick writing a card to Bob Greaves of Granada then followed her to the Machrie postbox.

The film crew followed the card to Kilmarnock sorting office and then to Edinburgh Airport, before arriving back in Manchester.

Rowan Singers Concert

Entertainers at the Rowan Singers Christmas Concert in Whiting Bay Hall included John Simcock with recitations of John Betjeman and Thomas Hardy prose and Laura Muirhead and David Hedley with poems and playing the euphonium.

Mrs Arnold and her faithful band of helpers served coffee and excellent mince pies.

Clova's calves at Birchburn

Last week two purebred Simmental calves were born to two separate ordinary crossbred beef heifers at Birchburn, Shiskine.

They were the subject of in vitro fertilisation with eggs from former Arran Show Simmental champion Arran Clova, fertilised with sperm from a Simmental bull.

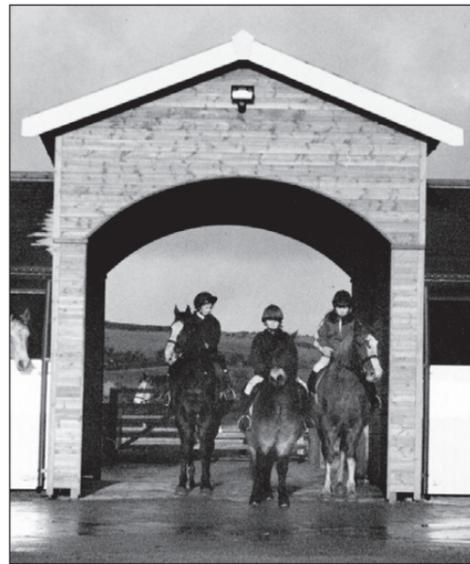
Donald and Margie Currie now have two of Clova's calves, born nine months after her death.

Sign language for Bert

Bert Cooper of Brodick has been learning sign language in preparation for the visit of his grandson who has impaired hearing. As a result, Elaine Woods of Blackwaterfoot is now organising a sign language course for other adults in Arran High School.



Ann Mitchell being filmed by Granada Television, writing Christmas cards in her Brodick house. b51twe01



The new Cairnhouse Riding Centre is up and running. b51twe02



Primary One children at Pirnmill School took time off from their party to see santa. b51twe04

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gibbs galston

Last week Archie was heading off over the Clachland Hills to Dunfion. The first correct answer came from John of Macclesfield. This week he is sitting next to a festive maritime vessel, but where would you find that decorative boat? 02_b51arc02

If you think you know then post your answer on the website **www.arranbanner.co.uk**
 Or email us at: **editor@arranbanner.co.uk**

Whats on ARRAN

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery
www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF
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Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, Garden Open Daily

Saturday 22nd December

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Fun in the pool
Junior Badminton Club
W/Bay S.W.R.I Children's Party
Lamlash S.W.R.I Children's Party
Golf Club Christmas Dance

Sunday 23rd December

Alcoholics Anonymous
New Al-Anon Meeting
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Open Mic Session
Folk night
Carol Singing

Monday 24th December

Quiz
Outside Boot Camp
Children's Christmas Party
Shiskine S.W.R.I Children's Party
Fridays Child open until midnight
A Cosy Christmas Eve

Tuesday 25th December

Salvation Army Lunch

Wednesday 26th December

Boxing Day Dook
Boxing Day Bottle

Thursday 27th December

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Lochranza Craft Club
Youth Club
Zumba Fitness Club
Live Country/Folk music
Brodict Embroidery Group
Brodict Bridge Club
Auchrannie Winter Bowls

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
9am-Dusk

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Auchrannie Pool 4-5pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16
Whiting Bay Hall, 3pm
Arran high School, 2.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 9pm

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30 – 6 pm.
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 2pm-5pm
Ormidale Hotel, 8.30pm
Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Kilmory Hall, 5pm
Shiskine Hall, 3pm
Brodict, Home farm
Lamlash Golf Club, 5pm

McKelvie Road, Lamlash

Lamlash Pier, 1pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 11am

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash, 7-9pm
Arran high School, 6.30-7.30pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-10.30pm
Brodict Library 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7 pm for 7.15 pm
Auchrannie, 7pm-9pm

Ladies Netball

High School sports hall – seniors, 7.30-9pm

Friday 28th December

Aqua Fizz
Yogalates
Arran Youth Foundations
Weight Watchers
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Disco
Outside Boot Camp
Christmas Quiz

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Whiting Bay Park 6am
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm

Saturday 29th December

Army Cadets,
Over 21s Disco
Karate
Family Games
Arran Dancers (4yrs & up)
Junior Badminton Club

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Arran High School, 10am
Auchrannie Sports Hall 1-3pm Ages 5-16



Burgoyne Carey
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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

Hopefully 2013 will see sunshine not only on Arran but also in the business community and its friends and patrons.

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Whiting Bay Improvements
Entertainment &
Fun Family

Christmas Quiz



**Friday 28th
December**

**7pm Whiting Bay
Village Hall**

**£1 entrance
B.Y.O.B.**

Snacks - Juice - Raffle - Prizes

Public Notices

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.45pm on Monday 24 December 2012 until 9am on Thursday 3 January, 2013 other than the following:

Registration Service

Kilbirnie Office
Closed from 4.45pm Monday 24 December
Normal business will resume on Thursday 3 January 2013 at 1pm

Saltcoats Office
Closed from 4.45pm Monday 24 December
Normal business will resume on Thursday 3 January 2013 at 9am

Irvine, Largs & Arran Offices
Tuesday 25 & Wednesday 26 December 2012 Closed
Thursday 27 December 9am - 12.30pm & 1.15pm - 4.45pm
Friday 28 December 9am - 12.30pm & 1pm - 4.45pm
Monday 31 December 9am - 1pm
Tuesday 1 & Wednesday 2 January 2013 Closed
Normal business will resume on Thursday 3 January 2013 at 9am

Please note all registration business is by appointment only
Irvine Registration Office 01294 278841
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 Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December (normal hours) and until 1pm on Monday 31 December 2012:

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
Main Street, Dregghorn

Libraries

Irvine, Largs and Saltcoats
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 9am

Kilwinning
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 9am

Ardrossan, Beith, Bourtreeshill, Dalry, Dregghorn, Kilbirnie, Stevenston, West Kilbride
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 1pm

Arran
22 December Closed from 1pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 10am

Fairlie
21 December Closed from 7.30pm
24 December - 3 January 2013 Closed
4 January 2013 Re-open 2.30pm

Millport
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 3 January 2013 Closed
4 January 2013 Re-open 10am

Skelmorlie
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 9am

Springside
21 December 2012 Closed from 5pm
3 January 2013 Re-open 6pm

Heritage Centre
24 December Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2013 Closed
3 January 2013 Re-open 9.30am

Arran Mobile
No service Monday 24 December - Wednesday 2 January 2013 inclusive

Mainland Mobile
No service Monday 24 December - Monday 7 January 2013 inclusive

Library Support
Close 4.45pm Monday 24 December 2012
Re-open 9am Thursday 3 January 2013
Library books and resources can be renewed online at:
www.ers.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Arts Centres
Harbour Arts Centre
Close at 4pm Monday 24 December 2012
Re-open 9am Thursday 3 January 2013

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/Tranco	0800 111 999

Please note that no Councilors' surgeries will be held from Monday 24 December 2012 until Monday 7 January 2013 inclusive.

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 (telephone: 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 2013 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2013. Placing requests can also be submitted online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages). Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2013, 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 2013.

Carol Kirk
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ARRAN

Domestic Refuse Collections over the festive period will be as follows:

No collection will take place on	Revised Day of Collection
Tuesday 25 December 2012	Thursday 27 December 2012
Wednesday 26 December 2012	Friday 28 December 2012
Tuesday 1 January 2013	Thursday 3 January 2013
Wednesday 2 January 2013	Friday 4 January 2013

The Arran Transfer Station will be closed 25 and 26 December 2012 and 1 and 2 January 2013.

The last special uplift collection for 2012 will be on Friday 21 December 2012. Special uplifts for the New Year will start on Monday 7 January 2013

Large items of cardboard can be placed next to resident's blue bin for collection over the festive period and real Christmas trees should be placed next to your wheeled bin for 7am on the day of collection, week commencing Monday 14 January 2013.

The contact number of North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the closed period is 07876 475228.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL NORTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD CLOSURE OF OFFICE

The Licensing Office deals with both the Council's licensing functions and the Licensing Board. The office was at the Town House, 66 High Street, Irvine but has now moved to the main Council Headquarters at Cunninghame House, Irvine (telephone number - 01294 324305).

The office will be open as usual on Monday 24 December 2012 until 4.30pm and will then close for Christmas and New Year. The office will re-open at 9am on Thursday 3 January 2013.

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 Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 11.01.13. 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
12/00593/PP; Site To South Of, Mentone, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Erection of one and a half storey detached dwelling.
12/00694/PP; Tighbeag, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Replacement of upper storey to mid terraced dwelling house.

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

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.
12/00685/PP; Site To North Of Dunard, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of detached dwelling house with attached garage.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: 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.



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL



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

1.00pm on Monday, 24 December 2012

and will reopen on

Thursday, 3 January 2013

If you have an emergency repair please contact 0845 434 5141



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our tenants, members and contractors

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Arran Medical Group

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island surgeries will be closed on **Tues 25th & Wed 26th December**
Tues 1st and Wed 2nd January 2013
The surgeries will close at 5pm on Fri 21st, Mon 24th & Mon 31st December.

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

In an emergency phone 999

Child Health Clinics will be held on the following dates:

Shiskine Surgery:	Thurs 3rd January
Brodick Health Centre:	Tue 8th January
Whiting Bay Surgery:	Thurs 10th January
Lamlash Medical Centre:	Tue 15th January

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

Property

Cottages & Castles SCOTLAND'S LEADING HOLIDAY LETTING AGENCY

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Two double bedroom flat in the centre of brodick for rent. £450 per month excluding bills.

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Recruitment

the National Trust for Scotland
a place for everyone

Shore Lodge Assistant

National Trust for Scotland is looking for a person to multi task and work on their own initiative to manage Shore Lodge which is a 14 bedded bunk house.

The applicant must have an understanding of the expectations of guests in terms of standards of care, presentation and cleanliness of the accommodation.

Competency of Micro Soft Office is essential in the management of the booking systems.

There may be accommodation available for this post.

Please write for an application and job description before January 4th 2013 to: Judy Cook, Visitor Services Manager, Brodick Castle Isle of Arran, KA27 8SE.

Isle of Arran **COAST** Community Of Arran Seabed Trust

Administration Assistant

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is Scotland's foremost community-led marine conservation organisation.

We are now seeking to recruit an experienced administration assistant to help us deliver our programme of marine conservation and restoration, including the proposed South Arran Marine Protected Area.

Assisting the Marine Project Officer across a range of activities, you will have, ideally, a track record in bookkeeping/ financial management, the ability to fundraise, excellent IT and organisational skills and a good understanding of marine conservation issues.

For full a full job description and application details please visit our website: www.arrancoast.com

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Garden shed 8f x 6f preferred Will uplift - Tel: 830696

Oil fired Esse range or similar in working condition-Tel: John 870368

Chest of Drawers and Bed-side Cabinets wanted. Can collect. Tel: 07594085796

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9 kitchen doors, 7 drawer fronts 7 6 panels - various sizes all in mahogany veneer - no reasonable offer refused tel:303910

Exercise Bike with trip computer, as new £25 Tel 850236

Piano for Christmas! £30 ono. Buyer uplifts. Tel 700442

OVER £30

20 inch girls mountain bike, brand new tyres £35 Tel: 850569

FREE TO UPLIFT

Bagged Manure at Oakbank, Lamlash. £1 per bag donation to Arran RDA. Tel 01770 600752.

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

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THANKS

Thank you

Russell and Sheila Dobson would like to give a huge thank you to family and friends for all the lovely presents and cards they received for Sheila's birthday and their Golden Wedding.

To Barbara and Joni - What a venue at the Big Beach House for a family gathering, to John for amazing food.

Words cannot express our gratitude to you all.

Thank You

I have now retired and have handed the business over to my son Mark.

Be assured you will still receive the same care and attention.

Thank you to all past clients and I wish Mark every success in his new adventure.

Many thanks
Chrissy

Thank you

Jenni would like to thank all those who made it to the party on Saturday and for all the lovely cards and presents.

Also thanks to everyone at Cat Bay for all they did to make it a great night and thank you Dad for NOT getting the mankini out!!

Thank you

Rosemary would like to thank the paramedic team Shirley and Mark, Dr Hamill and coastguards together with the helicopter crew for transporting me to the Jubilee Hospital on a rather windy night.

The staff in the Jubilee and Crosshouse were wonderful and so hardworking.

Many thanks also for the flowers, cards and phone calls, which were so much appreciated.

Howard and Rosemary Walker

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WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lady Jean Fforde
 is not sending any Christmas cards
 this year so would like to wish
 everyone a very special
 Christmas and a happy
 and healthy 2013

SEASON'S GREETINGS
 Betty Campbell
 (Meadowbank)
 Wishes all her
 family and friends
 a Merry Christmas
 and a prosperous
 New Year.

Merry Christmas
 Merry Christmas
 and a Happy
 New Year to all
 my friends and
 relatives from
 Bill Wallace of
 Rosalynn, Brodick

**Whiting Bay & Districts
 Improvements Association**
 Wish you all a Merry Christmas
 & thank everyone both on and off the
 island for all your help and support
 throughout 2012

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Merry Christmas
 Davie & Jenny
 from Kilmory wish
 all neighbours and
 friends a Merry
 Christmas and a
 good New Year

Merry Christmas
 The Murchie family at
 The Greannan
 wish all family, friends
 and neighbours a
 Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New year

Robert & Lindsey Marr
 A Very Happy Christmas to all.
 We are missing you, but retirement
 is great and the campervan fun.
 Health and peace for 2013

Nestor & Sadie
 would like to wish all their friends
 on Arran a very Happy Christmas
 and a peaceful New Year.
 Both are being well looked after in there
 respective carehomes but still remember
 Arran with great affection

The Coffee Pot
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
 everyone from all at the Coffee Pot
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John Kerr
Joiner/Glazer
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 and Happy New Year
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 23rd December
 Holy Communion, 11.00am Mrs Janis Gallagher.
 Coffee after service.
Monday, 24th December
 Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass, 9.30 pm. Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Tuesday, 25th December
 Christmas Day:
 Holy Communion, 10.00 am
ALL WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran:
 Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine
 Independent but working together.
 Minister, Rev. Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant, Mrs Jean Hunter.
 Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited.
Sunday 23rd December
 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Brodick Church, 10.30am, Family Service with Christingle and Nativity.
 Corrie Church, 12noon Family Service.
 Lochranza and Pirmill Churches,
 Family Service with Christingle at Pirmill at 10.15am.
 Shiskine Church, 12noon, Family Service with Christingle
 A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm.
Monday 24th December
 Christmas Eve
 Brodick Church, 5pm, Family Service including Sacrament of Baptism.
 Brodick Church, 11.30pm, Christmas Eve Watchnight Service.
 Corrie Church, 9.30pm, Christmas Eve Watchnight Service.
 Shiskine Church, 11.30pm, Christmas Eve Watchnight Service.
Tuesday 25th December
 Christmas Day
 Lochranza and Pirmill – 11am
 Christmas Day Family Service at Lochranza.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 23rd December
 Rev. Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches:
 Service of Readings and Carols
 Christmas Eve Watchnight Service:

Kilmory 9 pm; Lamlash 11.30pm
 Christmas Day Family Service:
 Lamlash 10am; Kilmory 11.30am
 All welcome, including families; children's area
 Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday 23rd December
 Sunday Morning Mass 11am
 Monday 24th December
 First mass of Christmas 9pm
 Tuesday 25th December
 Christmas Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 (Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 23rd December
 An all age service for Christmas, will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
 All most welcome.
 Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
 There will be a service in the Hospital at 1.30pm, and in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm
 All welcome
Monday 24th 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 charity.
Tuesday 25th December
 There will be a short family service conducted by the minister at 10am on Christmas morning to which all children are invited to bring a gift from Santa to show.
 Everyone most welcome.
 Offering will go to charity.
 All most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 23rd December
 Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
 11am Morning worship
 Tea/Coffee after the service
 Home Fellowship Group meets on Wednesday
 At 7.30pm, for details telephone 860 232
 Everyone very welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 Services as follows
 Shiskine 11.00am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
 Rev Angus Howat
 All welcome

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER



Sunset scene from Kildonan

A spectacular sunset scene in this photo taken by Willie McNish on St Andrew's Day, looking from Kildonan shore across towards Bennan and with Ireland in the background.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 (continuing)
Sunday 23rd December
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 6.30pm
 5 Glen Road, Brodick
 All welcome

DEATH
MIDDLETON - Mrs Annie Middleton widow of the late Charles Middleton, died peacefully at Cooridoon Nursing Home on Saturday 15th December. Sheena and John would like to thank everyone involved in caring for Annie during her illness this last year. Cremation at Dreghorn on 24th December at 11am, memorial service to be held in London at a later date. Donations to Loros Hospice, Leicester.

ENGAGEMENT
MURCHIE - MCNAIR
 Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Karin Murchie, Greannan, Blackwaterfoot and Ross McNair, Erskine

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Ella McKechnie
 would like to take this opportunity to wish all her friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year
 Glen Court No 4 Brodick

IN MEMORY
BRUCE VAUGHAN MITCHELL - LUKER
 In gratefully thanks and loving memory of the life of Bruce Vaughan Mitchell-Luker. 22/01/1972 – 18/12/1992. Killed while seconded to the Royal Highland Fusiliers in Belize from the TA parachute regiment in Glasgow. Still loved and missed by all the family.
CRAIG - Kenny died 27th December 2009 aged 36 years.
 Deeply loved, sorely missed, Forever in our thoughts and hearts.
 Mum, dad, Bryan and the family in Canada.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Iain & Isobel MacDonald
 are not sending Christmas cards this year but would like to say Slainte Mhath to all our friends and relatives, a donation to www.calumscabin.com has been made in lieu of cards

Come and join us to celebrate Christmas in the Church of Scotland Parishes of North Arran

Sunday 23rd December:
Brodick – 10.30am – Family Service with Christingle and Nativity
Corrie – 12noon – Family Service
Lochranza and Pirmill – 10.15am – Family Service with Christingle at Pirmill
Shiskine – 12noon – Family Service with Christingle

Monday 24th December:
Brodick – 5pm – Family Service for Christmas Eve including Sacrament of Baptism
 - 11.30pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Corrie – 9.30pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Shiskine – 11.30pm - Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

Tuesday 25th December:
Lochranza and Pirmill – 11am - Christmas Day Family Service at Lochranza

Sunday 30th December:
Brodick – 10.30am – Morning Worship
Corrie – 12noon – Morning Worship
Lochranza and Pirmill – 10.15am – Morning Worship at Pirmill
Shiskine – 12noon – Morning Worship
"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN"

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Golfing success for David

David Jeffrey from Pirnmill won the 2012 Kinloch Cup that at Shiskine Golf Club's singles matchplay knockout last week. He beat Stewart Black in the final.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 16 December saw the second of the Winter friendlies between Whiting Bay and Lamlash, with Lamlash holding a healthy 5-1 lead from the first game in November. This time the honours went to Whiting Bay who narrowly won by two games to one, making the overall score 6-3 to Lamlash. Fifteen played in the Stableford with local players coming out on top. 1 Kevin Jackson 38 points, 2 Sandy Pringle 37 points and 3 Jamie MacPherson 36 points. Nicol Auld won scratch with 69.

Fixtures: Sunday 23 December, Bogey Competition from the Yellow tees. Wednesday 26 December, Christmas Bottle, also from the Yellow tees. Sunday 30 December, non-counting sweep from Yellow Tees. Wednesday 2 January, Cross Country.

Brodick Golf Club

Brodick Wednesday Golf, Wednesday 5 December. 1 Brian Boal 76-14=62, 2 Brian Alison 90-24=66, 3 Charlie (I never win... what rubbish!) O'Neil 82-14=68 Magic two John Stornoway Dick.

Wednesday 12 December, nine gentlemen played and given the date something magical was expected, but nope...noth-

ing, and the world didn't end! 1 Jim Green 86.21=65, 2 John Stornoway Dick 80-13=67. Oh wait a minute there was a magical 2 from Mr Dick putting him in the lead with seven twos! And he won a wee stinker t-shirt, the question is will it fit over his head? See you this Wednesday. The first January golf is on the 9th. A Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to you all - and chaps, do try to make it in January.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 13 December, Ladies 12 Hole Medal, CSS 45. Silver 1 and Scratch Alice Anderson 55-8=47 BIH, 2 Viv parks 58-11=47. Bronze 1 Fiona Scott 65-13=52, 2 Esther Henderson 72-16=56.

Sunday 16 December, Gents Ryder Cup Foursomes: Torbeg 4 Shiskine 0, Blackwaterfoot 2½ Kilpatrick 1½. So the table after 2 matches looks like this:

Torbeg 7½
Kilpatrick 5
Blackwaterfoot 4
Shiskine 1½

Nearest the pin at the 4th was Gordon Stewart and at the 10th James Turnbull.

Fixtures: Boxing Day Charity Texas Scramble, please phone 860 226 to book a time - teams of four with at least one woman. Prizegiving at 5pm in the Kinloch.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 15 January, 10 played, stableford. 1 Bryan Lewis 39 points, 2 Bob Rooney 35 points BIH, 3 Steve Wood 35 points. Best scratch B Lewis 73. There

were two magic twos from Bryan Lewis.

Monday 17 December, Monday Cup from yellow tees, 16 played. Best scratch John McGovern 70. 1 Paul 76-21=55, 2 D Crawford 76-16=60, 3 Ian McMillan 72-9=63. Twos from S Wood, A McDonald, T Kerr, J McGovern and A Burke.

Fixtures: Saturday 22 December, Winter Cup at 8.30am and 12noon from Medal tees. Monday 24 December, Monday Cup at 12noon sharp.

Best wishes to all members and friends over the festive season. The New Year's game is at 11am and is an open game for members and non-members.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 11 December Winter Cup, 1 Alastair MacDonald 66, 2 Steph Hill 69, 3 David Wilkinson 70 BIH. Scratch David Price 75.

Fixtures: Thursday 27 December, two club nine hole competition 12noon tee off followed by mince pies and Christmas cake.

Lamlash Golf Club

Results: Thursday 13 December, Yellow Medal, 1 Billy O'Connor 78 - 19 = 59, 2 Mark Wren 73-10 = 63. Twos Jim Young at 13th

Congratulations to Whiting Bay on winning the winter friendly on Sunday 16 December. Current score going into February fixtures - Lamlash 6 - W/Bay 3.

Fixtures: Sunday 23 December Winter Stableford 9.30am and 12noon starts.

Wed 26 December Boxing



David Jeffrey pictured with the Kinloch Cup. Photo: H Bannatyne

Day Bottle 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thurs 27 December, Yellow Medal 11am draw.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Brodick Golf Club

Clochendichter

Sunday 16 December saw the final round of the pairs for this year's Clochendichter.

The Knowe played last year's runners up the Street; first out for the Knowe were Dougie Robertson and the current Club Champion Gordon Hendry playing against the Street pair of Gordon Sillars and former Club Champion Euan McKinnon. After a very hard fought game the Knowe pair came out on top.

Second out for the Knowe were one of the most successful players in this competition Bobby McCrae and his partner David Hendry playing against the Street pair of Callum Duncan and John Hartley with the Knowe pair winning this tie and Mr McCrae keeping up his good record.

Third pair out for the Knowe were Gordon Robertson and Terry Raeside playing the Street pair of Club Captain Nicol Hume and Finlay Sillars and like Bobby and Davie made it three wins out of three.

Last out for the Knowe were Iain MacDonald and Alistair Dobson playing for the Street were Alan Hart and Ross Butchard and after another tight game the Knowe pair won the tie.

In the second match the Village played Alma. First out were Ian Sillars and Bruce Jenkins against the Alma pair of Iain McDermid and Gus Robertson with the Alma pair winning and Mr McDermid keeping his 100 percent record intact. Second pair out for the Village were Jimmy Armit and Lindsey Keir playing Jim Reid (now known as Peterhead) and Henry Tait with the Village pair winning this tie. Third out for the Village were Matt Keir and Iain MacMillan playing Len Hartley and Brian Allison for Alma with this game ending all square.

Last out were the Village Captain John McKean and the Match Secretary John Beattie

making a long overdue return to the Village team playing the Alma pair of Donald McKinnie and Brian Smith with the two Johns winning for the Village.

The League table is K(now)e as noted below.

Knowe 18 points
Village 13 points
Alma 11 points
Street 6 points

After the golf, a Christmas lunch was held and thanks to Trish who provided a fantastic feast and thanks to her team of young ladies serving and for her assistance on the bar. Thanks also to Dougie for his cameo role behind the bar and I would take this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results of the tournament on Monday 17 December were as follows: N/S 1 J and M Dick +1520, 2 T Martin and A Bilsland +330, 3 H Boyd and J Murchie +290.

E/W 1 B Livingston and M Gardner +2250, 2 M and D Bruce +1160, 3 J McBride and E McNiven +750.

The club will resume on Monday 7 January.

We would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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