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Forget sprouts, Arran Dairies have Christmas licked



'Investing in our communities builds confidence in local food producers and supports the local economic development'

REPORT
by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Christmas, a time for turkey and all the trimmings – and now for every school pupil in North Ayrshire a chance to tuck into Arran Dairies award-winning ice cream.

This year every school in the area will be supplied with Arran Dairies' individual ice cream tubs to provide an extra treat for pupils who enjoy school dinners.

The move is part of the council's commitment to provide locally-sourced produce wherever possible.

This has already led to a Gold Food for Life Catering Mark from the Soil Association for North Ayrshire Council's work with local food and drink companies.

Ken Campbell, facilities manager with NAC, emphasised the importance of the policy: 'Our priority is to use local produce where we can and try our best to showcase and support local food producers.'

'Investing in our communities builds confidence in local food

producers and supports the local economic development, and gives our young children a great product to enjoy as part of their Christmas lunch.'

The traditional ice cream from Brodick-based Arran Dairies uses milk only sourced from the island and is part of the Taste of Arran range which sells products across the UK and in international markets including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ireland and Germany.

Company managing director Alastair Dobson said: 'We are really thrilled to be working with the council to give all the kids in North Ayrshire, from Lamlash to Largs, a tasty Christmas treat.'

'I hope they all enjoy their little 'Taste of Arran', and realise, as I think they probably do already, that ice-cream is for life and not just for the summer!'

'It's to the enormous credit of the council that they are continuing to provide excellent, tasty and occasionally very special school meals for the benefit of our youngsters and local businesses.'

'They certainly didn't have this standard when I was at school!'

Triple fun for Santa's visitors



For more pictures of Santa's travels around Arran see pages 10 and 11. 01_b51one01

There was triple the fun for Brodick triplets Finn, Harry and Reece Popplewell on Sunday when they

had a chance to meet Santa Claus. With their mum Kirsty, the brothers - each aged two and a half - were

just three of the 79 children given an early Christmas present from Santa at the Brodick children's party.

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High school head teacher to leave post in February

The man who has been at the helm of Arran High School for 11 years is to retire early next year.

Douglas Auld says it is with mixed feelings he will leave his post at a time of big changes in the education system in Scotland.

He will retire just days before his 61st birthday and plans to spend more time with his family.

However, he and his wife Aileen intend to remain on the island in their home in Whiting Bay.

Mr Auld, who announced his departure at a recent school assembly, admitted it will be a 'massive wrench' to leave his office in February next year, but he felt it was the right time to go.

His mum Ruth and sister Lindsay still live in Pollok

and he has two sons Alan, 27, and David, 30, who has two children and lives in Leeds.

Mr Auld said: 'I'd like to see my grandchildren more before they start school and spend more time with my family in Glasgow.'

His wife also retired in the last 18 months.

He admitted it was a challenging time for everyone in education in Scotland with the introduction of Curriculum for Excellence, including replacing the standard grade exams.

This has seen him stay on for another year to get it up and running.

He said: 'The current fourth year were the first group to start the new qualifications and I didn't want to abandon them.'

He said that one of the biggest challenges has been attracting staff.

Mr Auld has seen the school roll fall from 350 when he arrived to less than 250 and it will remain around that for the next few years because of the fact that few young families are coming to the island.

Born in 1953 in the Hazelwood area of Pollok he was educated at Craighbank Secondary School and then did his teacher training at Jordanhill College.

He started his teaching ca-



Leaving: Douglas Auld in his office. 20_b51auld01

reer in 1974 as a PE teacher in St Andrew's High School in Clydebank before moving to Eastwood High School in Newton Mearns as a PE and guidance teacher.

He then went back to Clydebank to a post of head of PE at Braidfield High School in 1983 where he stayed until

1990. He spent the next two years as adviser of physical education for the Dunbartonshire region.

In 1992 he was appointed assistant head teacher at Boclair Academy in Bearsden before coming to Arran in 2003 as head teacher.

Mr Auld's last day will be by

February when he will step aside with an acting head taking over before a full time appointment is made. And what of his retirement? 'I have a massive garden and lots of decorating to do so I will take some time out to take stock before deciding on any future plans.'

Hotels' star performers checked in for awards

Two Arran hotels head the nominations in the first list of outstanding staff and management compiled by Scotland's national awards scheme.

The Douglas Hotel and the Auchrannie Resort each has five nominations in the Scottish Hotel Awards' 'People of Excellence'.

A total of 70 employees of 30 hotels are being sent certificates after they were nominated by awards' judges or managers in categories including management, service, receptionists, chefs, housekeeping, environmental policy, events, spas and weddings.

A second list will be drawn up between next January and March.

Category winners and the industry's top awards including Hotel of the Year will be announced at the scheme's annual dinner to be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh on Sunday 27 April.

'Scotland's hospitality industry has a vast pool of talent and these nominations recognise many of the managers and staff who provide outstanding guest experiences,' said Gary McLean, chairman of the awards' judges.

'Criteria for inclusion on the list are strict and many nominations have had to be turned down.'

Police files

A blue Suzuki Wagon had its wing mirror damaged between 2.45pm and 3.10pm in Brodick on Tuesday afternoon.

The car was parked on Alma Road between the Co-operative and the Douglas Centre when the incident took place.

Police are looking for any information about the incident.

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Farmer fury as sheep killed in dog attacks

Police appeal for witnesses

A Brodick farmer has hit out at irresponsible dog owners after three of his sheep were killed and three left badly injured in a series of attacks.

The blackface ewes, who are likely to be in lamb, were all left with serious leg injuries after being badly bitten by what appears to be a large powerful dog or dogs.

Farmer Gavin Bell has contacted the police and issued a stern warning to owners to keep their dogs under control.

Four of the ewes were savaged just above the cliff some 400 metres south of Corriegills Point.

Two died a day after they were found, such was the horrific nature of the attacks. All four sheep sustained deep wounds on one back leg with massive removal of tissue and deep punctures.

The two surviving animals were examined by the vet but are beyond any kind of

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

physical repair, even if they survive.

The sheep were attacked in two incidents several days apart between 6 and 11 December.

Then in a third attack on Tuesday night two more sheep were savaged, one left dead and one seriously injured.

Mr Bell, a former chairman of the Arran area branch of the National Farmers Union, said: 'Anyone with an ounce of moral fibre, who suspects his dog has recently worried sheep should report this to the police at best or at worst "spirit" the dog away to the mainland to be rehomed in the city.'

He said: 'All dog owners who chose to walk in the Strathwhillan and Corriegills area should not let their dogs

off the lead and keep them on a lead along all the tracks and the open hill and shore between the Brodick Coup and Clauchlands Point and on Dun Fionn itself.

'Even dogs on the lead will distress sheep sufficiently for them to panic and hurt themselves.'

Sgt Allen Dodds confirmed Police Scotland were investigating the incidents.

He said: 'Worrying livestock is not limited to causing actual injury to animals. It also refers to chasing livestock in such a way as may reasonably be expected to cause injury or suffering to the animal, or being at large - that is to say not on a lead or otherwise under close control - in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep. 'Within farmland it is advisable to have your dog on a lead or if you live next to a farm ensure you have suitable fencing to prevent dogs having access to fields.'



Gavin Bell shows the serious leg injury sustained by one of the sheep. 20_b51sheep01

Charity boost

The Mackerel Lottery at the Kinloch Hotel has made its latest charity donation.

They have donated £350 to the First Responders to buy a mobile defibrillation unit.

The weekly charity lottery held on a Sunday night has proved a big hit at the Blackwaterfoot Hotel since it was launched in September.

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Call for all new homes to have an alternative energy supply

A councillor has called for all new planning applications for housing on Arran to include provision for an alternative energy supply.

Both the new £8.9 million St Molios Park development in Lamlash and the Red Quarry completed two years ago in Corrie are entirely all-electric builds with no chimneys or flues which would allow alternative energy sources in a prolonged power cut.

Councillor John Bruce said: 'I am incredulous that new houses are being built that are solely reliant on electricity as an energy source. I believe there is a case for all new planning applications for houses to include chimneys or flues in their design brief. Common sense should prevail.'

He also said it was worth promoting the retro-fitting of gas appliances following the miserable experiences of tenants, particularly in Corrie, during the power cuts

last March when he says the homes very quickly became 'ice-boxes'.

Councillor Bruce said: 'I hope the community will endorse the issue that planned new builds should include chimneys or flues to secure an alternative energy source to electricity.'

Open fire

'The Arran residents who experienced the minimum discomfort during the power outage had years on the island of coping with power cuts of varying duration. As old hands, so to speak, they had retained the use of the open fire, installed a wood-burning stove, or were hooked up to a calor gas supply.'

'In my own village, the Red Quarry houses became, in a very short time, nothing more than ice-boxes to shiver in. Bearing that in mind, I hope we can agree to promote the safe retro-fitting of alternative heat and cooking appliances wherever possible.'



Timothy Billings hands over the £500 cheque to Dave Payn. Looking on are left to right: Fraser MacKenzie, Jessica Demazeux, Geoffrey Dallamore, Innes Thorburn, Ingrid Sloss and Dominik Demazeux. 20_b51band01

Brass Band get big boost from hotel

The Arran Brass Band is having one of their busiest times of the year.

But the hard work it does playing at fetes, Christmas markets, parties and events across the island at this time has not gone unnoticed.

Now the Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash has stepped in to give it a cash boost of £500 of sponsorship to help band funds.

And this week proprietors Geoffrey Dallamore and Timothy Billings handed over the cheque to musical director Dave Payn.

Geoffrey said: 'We think it is really important to help local organisations. The band does a really good job both in the summer, when it plays in the hotel garden, and over the festive period and we are

delighted to support it.'

Dave said: 'We are extremely grateful for the support of the Glenisle Hotel which will go to the funds needed to support the band.'

'Whilst band numbers have fluctuated in recent years a new crop of youngsters have recently joined from the high school and some of the primary schools. We also have four new adults bringing the band to very nearly full size.'

Future

'The future of the band is assured with the promise of more youngsters to be added to the ranks in the near future.'

Arran Brass was founded in 1983 by Ian Cargill, a trombonist who wanted a brass band on the island. He undertook a number of fund rais-

ing activities to get the band its first set of instruments and subsequently, under his guidance, was successful in applying for a Lottery grant for a new set of instruments in the mid 1990s.

'Without the dedication of him and his wife, Christine, this band wouldn't still be going and as far as we know it is the only brass band on any of the Scottish islands,' Dave added.

Successful Christmas Fayre for St Brides Ladies

Almost £600 was raised on Saturday 7 December at the Christmas Fayre in Brodick Church Hall.

In spite of the weather and a number of conflicting events, this was a very acceptable amount.

Stall holders were kept busy and customers enjoyed refreshments in the pleasant atmosphere.

Two generous hampers were raffled and the winners were Joyce Buchanan of Brodick and Mr and Mrs John McConachie of Corrie.

Lynn Ramage was nearest to guessing the birthday of the soft toy.

The committee wishes to thank all who helped and supported this event.

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Arran needs to take some risks developing tourism

Nearly half of all visitors to Arran are over 55

Dozens of Arran businesses were urged to 'take some risks' going into 2014 at a meeting in Brodick last week.

Representatives from around 60 firms attended the VisitArran Stakeholders Meeting at the Auchrannie Hotel.

They heard from Marc Crothall, the chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance on the work of the body, set up in May last year, to lead the on-going development and delivery of the national industry led tourism strategy Tourism Scotland 2020.

He told how the internet was driving bookings with Google as the most popular first starting point, but surprisingly closely followed by YouTube.

Forty per cent of bookings are now being made on mobile phones.

He said Arran was a 'destination of choice' and businesses should maximise the 'focus years' in particular the Year of Food and Drink in 2015.

They also heard from James Withers, the chief executive of Scotland Food and Drink, aimed at driving food and drink-related policy and representation.

'Selling a story'

He said increasing food and drink promotion was about 'selling a story' and said Arran had already had success with this strategy in Dubai and encouraged producers to continue to work together.

He revealed that £1 in every £5 spent by visitors to Scotland is on food and drink.

The meeting also heard a presentation by VisitArran chief executive Sheila Gilmore which gave some encouraging news about the health of tourism on the island.

Visitor numbers have been estimated at 220,000 plus this year, up from 200,000 two years ago.

Nightly spend is £275 up from £212, the length of stay increased from 3.6 days to 4.6 days and 98.4 per cent of visitors would recommend Arran, up from 94 per cent.

Nearly half of all visitors to Arran are over 55, according to 2012 visitor survey results.



Speakers James Withers, Gill Burgess and Marc Crothall on the Auchrannie balcony after the meeting.

Low level walking remains the top activity for visitors at more than 70 per cent. But, surprisingly, only seven per cent of visitors undertake high level walking.

ing (26 per cent), golf (25 per cent), indoor leisure (11 per cent) down from 26 per cent in 2012 because of the long hot summer.

Work together

The next most popular activity is cycling with 20 per cent on road and nine per cent off road, wildlife watch-

ing (26 per cent), indoor leisure (11 per cent) down from 26 per cent in 2012 because of the long hot summer. Sheila said: 'We need to work together but let's take some risks to meet the needs of the 21st century visitor and

the Tourism Scotland 2020 targets.

'Arran as an island has the assets, but we need your continued support to enable delivery to match consumer need.'

And she outlined the on-going priorities for VisitArran which include a need for businesses to offer consistently high quality experiences, support the development of Arran infrastructure and improve visitor survey techniques and eMarketing.

The meeting heard from Gill Burgess, the chief executive officer of R/evolution Marketing which has been brought in by VisitArran to redesign their website. The meeting concluded with a short question and answer session.



There was a good turnout of VisitArran members at the meeting. 20_b51visit02

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Please note we will not open until 12 noon on Sunday 22nd due to staff needing time to recover from Xmas party - they don't make youngsters like they used to!

As usual we will be closed 25th & 26th Dec and 1st & 2nd Jan.



Community garden to be part of disused land bid

A community garden growing local produce, including Arran potatoes and an orchard, are just two of the proposals widely supported for a community land project.

The Arran Community Land Initiative group held two public meetings last week to seek views on the proposed purchase of 81 acres of disused farmland above Whiting Bay for the benefit of the community on Arran.

More than 30 local residents and other interested folk turned out to the meeting in Whiting Bay Hall last Friday evening to hear an outline of a range of possibilities for the land that have been suggested. However, it was emphasised that crucial to any final decisions would be local views which were being sought to

help find uses which would most benefit the community.

Consultant David Warnock, who is writing the feasibility study for the bid to Scottish Land Fund, explained that whilst a range of activities had been considered, limited road access was a major constraint and the group was aware that there was local concern in relation to this. Uses which would bring an unacceptable increase in traffic had therefore been ruled out.

The possibility of restoring the land to active agriculture with the emphasis on community produce growing, farmland conservation, education and demonstration was welcomed by those attending. Improved access for walkers and cyclists was also supported.

The previous night there was only a handful at a meeting in Brodick but a useful round the table discussion heard that the land may be a 'mosaic of habitats' which could support different activities.

Income for the site could include pony grazing and the possibility of camping pods could be considered.

Malcolm Whitmore, who is acting as community engagement officer during the process said after the meetings: 'A further round of public meetings will be held in the New Year once a draft feasibility study has been completed.'

'This will give everyone a chance to see what is planned to go into the bid and give their comments.'

'We feel we have made a great start and would like to thank everyone who attended the meetings and for the many helpful suggestions we have received from the community.'

'We know we need to think about the best way to develop these into definite proposals. I would urge anyone who has ideas, suggestions or comments to get in touch with me as soon as possible to add to the ongoing development process of this exciting project.'

Malcolm can be contacted at malcolmonarran@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 700 367.



A round the table discussion at the Brodick meeting.

News from Arran Medical Group

Arran Medical Group is a relatively new practice, formed 18 months ago by merging the island's three individual practices in Brodick, Lam-lash and Shiskine.

This has been a significant task, and this month's Banner update from Ruth Betley, the practice development manager, has been written to explain where they are and where they hope to go with the new practice.

'Rural general practice in Scotland is at crisis point.

Practices are suffering ongoing financial cuts from the national contract that governs how primary care services are funded, along with rising costs and workload pressures. It is increasingly

difficult to find GPs who can work across the spectrum of rural general practice, which includes emergency and hospital work.

These are very real problems for most rural and island communities in Scotland, and a couple of years ago we reached a hiatus in this for ourselves.

The situation was unsustainable.

In the clinical review that was undertaken to make Arran's GP service more sustainable, it was clear that merging our practices was essential.

Financial stability

It allows us to work even closer together across sites, achieve better financial stability including for our staff, and become more efficient in delivering services such as dispensing, chronic disease management (like diabetes) and urgent 'on the day' care.

Merging any business like AMG is a complex process, and we realise that this has required some flexibility from our patients during the transition period, as well as from our teams across all sites.

However we are now at a point where we can plan for a more positive future, and

hopefully feel safer about our longer term aspirations for the practice.

It also opens more opportunities for training medical students and future GPs, which keeps the practice stimulated with new ideas and updated medicine.

Despite the merger, we realise the importance of being able to see the same GP/nurse team for continuity of care.

We hope to maintain excellent access to primary care despite all the challenges involved, and over the next year will be working closely with our Patient Participation Group (PPG) to achieve this.

If you have any specific suggestions, you can get in touch with me Ruth Betley, practice manager. More details are available on our website: www.arranmedicalgroup.co.uk

The Arran model of merged practices is now being looked at by other rural areas of Scotland who are facing the same challenges that we did.

Whilst we haven't got things perfect as yet, we are convinced that these changes make the future of primary care on Arran safer for the future.'



I would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year; and to congratulate everyone at Torrylinn for their fantastic achievement in the World Cheese Awards.

Well done and Happy Xmas

Gordon & Staff

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Bid to plug funding gap for new pier

£4 million will have to be found from the public purse

A £4 million bid is being made to plug a funding gap in the redevelopment of Brodick Pier.

It is hoped the new £18 million twin-berth pier will be completed in one phase by contractors for Caledonian Marine Assets Ltd (CMAL). But to do so £4 million will have to be found from the public purse.

Now North Ayrshire Council has made a bid for the money from the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Arran Councillor John Bruce said: 'Securing funding from a variety of sources is part of the normal process for developing capital projects. The Brodick Pier development has an identifiable

funding gap of £4m. I can confirm that NAC has submitted a funding bid to SPT as the major transport authority in North Ayrshire. Other agencies will also be approached to assist in funding the overall cost of the project such as the Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

'At this stage I do not know how successful any bid will ultimately be.

'I will just say that the development group is firmly confident that a funding package will be realised in due course.'

A spokesperson for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We are in discussions with SPT and a number of other organisations regarding poten-

tial funding for Brodick Pier. 'As these discussions are at a very early stage, we are not in a position to go into any more detail.'

A spokesman for the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport confirmed that a bid had been received from the council.

A spokeswoman said: 'We have received a bid from North Ayrshire. SPT is collating all council bids at the moment and it will be considered within that framework.'

Ground investigations works are due to start in the new year on the site of the new pier with construction work commencing at the end of next year with completion estimated in early 2016.

Lucky Elaine is ShopArran winner

Elaine Duncan from Brodick was chosen as the lucky winner on Tuesday of a fantastic two-night stay at The Douglas Hotel.

As part of the ShopArran weekend at the beginning of the month shoppers were able to enter the draw to win this superb prize.

More than 220 shoppers entered and all they had to do was spend £30 or more in three of the participating shops and collect a stamp from each.

Pick

The entries were gathered together and holiday-makers Amanda and Karen Bryden from Kilmarnock were asked to pick the lucky winner.

Lorna Mansfield of the Old Byre Showroom, one of the organisers of the ShopArran event, said: 'The weekend was a great success and we were very impressed with the number of entries for the draw.

'It's great that a local person has won because after all the aim of the event is to encourage people on Arran to shop locally at Christmas.'



Elaine Campbell of The Douglas Hotel, left, and Lorna Mansfield from the Old Byre Showroom, watch as Amanda and Karen Bryden choose the lucky winner. 01_b51shp01

Magical Christmas invitation for Lamlash's 'little piper boy'

For 13-year-old piper Blair Dickinson it was a magical moment when he received an e-mail inviting him to play solo at the world's second largest tattoo in Switzerland.

Over the festive period Blair has performed at eight concerts - four in Basel and four in Zurich - with audience sizes ranging from 9,000 to 13,000 people.

The 'little piper boy' from Blairbeg, Lamlash, said he was 'very honoured' to be asked to open and close each

of the concerts playing his Highland bagpipes.

Blair and the other performers took the audience on a musical journey around the world in a spectacle which also featured the Top Secret Drum Corps - the world's best show drumming group.

He started piping lessons at the age of seven and very quickly progressed to the pipes before joining East Kilbride Pipe Band at the age of nine.

Since then he has played

with the Williamwood Grade Two Pipe Band in Glasgow under the guidance of Pipe Major Ewan Henderson and he is now a member of the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland.

The commitment from Blair and the intense tuition he receives through the National Piping Centre Scotland have been crucial to his success and his piping has seen him play at many prestigious events, festivals and venues throughout Scotland.



Blair Dickinson was invited to play solo at the world's second biggest tattoo in Switzerland. b51blr01

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Don't lose your Christmas cheer

It looks as though we may need to batten down the hatches this Christmas as Arran prepares itself for a week of gales after a severe weather warning was issued by the Met Office.

Forecasters predict that high winds from the middle of next week will be strong enough to topple trees, tear off roof tiles and could rage into the New Year.

In fact it looks as though the entire festive season is going to be marred by gusty winds - the perfect excuse to stay cosy inside by the fire.

People have been talking all week about postponing last minute Christmas shopping on the mainland as well as changing travel plans for the festive season because of the terrible forecast.

When you live on an island the weather has the capacity to wreck all your seasonal plans and for me the perils of the weather were all too clear this week.

I managed to travel 24,000 miles to New Zealand and back without a single glitch but then found myself unable to traverse the last few miles across the Clyde.

Sitting at Ardrossan last Saturday listening to the wind howling I wondered if I'd ever get back to Arran.

The weather bible, XC Weather, was displaying deep red welts of high winds for the entire week and I did wonder if I might end up with an extra few days holiday as a result.

Then on Saturday afternoon, much to the disbelief of those of us huddled in the terminal at Ardrossan, it was announced that the 4.40pm ferry had left Arran.

We sat patiently waiting for the first glimpse of the Cally Isles, fully expecting her to turn back when faced with the huge waves at the harbour entrance.

But remarkably she did not. She sailed majestically through the harbour walls whilst being tossed around like a toy boat in a bath tub and discharged her green-faced passengers.

And that night the ferry left Ardrossan at 6pm, allowing many a weary traveller - especially one who had just flown 12,000 miles in three days - to get home.

Sometimes at this time of year it is easy to lose your festive cheer, especially when faced with a long wait to get home.

But as the boat pulled out of Ardrossan I looked around at the smiling faces on board and realised that it is the small things in life that make each and every Christmas very special.

Merry Christmas to you all - and here's to an undisrupted ferry service!

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

Arran Free Church - a special place

Sir,
For the past six weeks I have been privileged to fill the pulpit of the Arran Free Church of Scotland while on sabbatical from my own congregation in the US.

I am deeply grateful to many people who have made this such a marvellous time for me, my wife, and our son who joined us from Belgium.

Foremost, of course, I thank the members of the congregation in Shiskine and Brodick who endured my preaching so graciously and provided so generously for our needs.

I should include as well our 'landlords', Donald and Ailsa Currie of Bellvue Farms and the proprietors and staff of the Kinloch Hotel, Cameron's Grocery, Arran Butcher, and the Brae Salon in Blackwaterfoot who also showed us countless kindnesses.

Thanks, too, to Rev Angus Adamson for the privilege of participating in the Shiskine Remembrance Day service.

I hope that I will not bid Arran my final farewell when I take the ferry to the mainland next week.

In any event, the land and the people of your lovely island will always have a special place, not just in my memory, but in my heart and my prayers. Every blessing.

Yours,
Rev Julian D Dusenbury
Laurel, MD
USA

Higher margins

Sir,
My good friend Bob Haddow (Arran Banner 14 December) neglected to mention in his letter that, rightly or wrongly but possibly justifiably, the retailers of fuel in remote and island regions mark up considerably higher margins per litre/gallon to compensate for low turnover which contributes to the cost at the pump compared to urban regions. In a time when economy of scale determines pricing in so many commodities it is inevitable that it costs more to live on an island.

There are many other compensations however.

Yours,
Margie Currie
Eastland
Shiskine

Terminal inefficiency

Sir,
In support of Geoffrey Botterill's comments in last week's edition regarding the new ferry terminal I should like to express the depression I felt when analysing the proposals.

Arran over the years has been steadily losing its appeal and now, due I suspect to the fact there is no one body co-ordinating the terminal area of bus traffic, car parks, drop zones and shopping etc we have ended up with the worst of all solutions.

Why on earth the various factions could not have pulled their resources to create a welcoming, attractive and interesting first impression for visitors beats me, unless of course, as it seems, the in-

terest is purely based on how cheaply can we get our hands on the 'suckers' money.

It appears to me, with a little co-operation, the foot traffic from the bridge over the river could have followed the coast side of the site so affording views over the bay and to the spectacular views of Goatfell and the mountains.

Flanking the walkway and acting as a barrier between the pedestrians and all modes of traffic could have been the shops which in turn would have benefited from a greatly increased patronage, thereby avoiding the need for all shop visitors having to dice with death because of heavy traffic always present at boat times.

I'm sure if a survey of passengers and visitors was conducted a large proportion of them would admit to being deterred from visiting the existing shops solely because they are located on the far side of a busy and poorly laid out road system.

The Douglas Centre, which few people can find, and the visitor centre could also have

been relocated within the shopping complex.

As for the new terminal design, it is a joke - partly, I suspect, because of the brief given to the architects. However the proposed solution in my opinion lacks any sympathy with the splendour of the unique views across the bay.

And why on earth is it necessary to have foot traffic go up to the first floor level - this has to be the most unattractive and in my opinion unworkable solution for segregating foot passengers from the traffic.

In the case of fire where do the people reliant on lifts go and at busy times or late arrivals there are sure to be a backlog of passengers desperately trying to catch a bus. Just passing thoughts.

Finally since most disruptions to the ferry service occur at the Ardrossan end of the journey, how is this terminal going to improve the efficiency of the service?

Yours,
Guy Murray
Corrie



The Arran Banner on holiday

For more than five years 'The Banner on Holiday' feature has been a popular part of Arran's weekly newspaper.

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.

Ruth and Ronnie Cleland of Shiskine celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this year by travelling to the wonderful country of Australia and they

took the Banner all the way with them. Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Paisley or Picton, 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.

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Festive outing for Contact the Elderly

Members of the island's Contact the Elderly group enjoyed a festive outing to Arran High School recently.

On arrival they were warmly welcomed with a glass of hot mulled wine before taking part in a very competitive quiz.

They then enjoyed delicious soup and rolls, a selection of sandwiches, trifle and assorted cakes followed by tea and coffee.

Entertainment was provided by Iain Clarke on the piano, and soloist Olivia Barker sang 'It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas' before Finlay Murchie read the much-loved Burns poem 'To a Mouse'.

This was rounded off by Mr Wedge's bingo bonanza with gifts and prizes.

The group would like to take this opportunity to thank headteacher Douglas Auld and all of the sixth year pupils for their hard work in making the day such a success.

The members enjoyed a beautiful day out and wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.



Laura Helliwell, Victoria McNicol, Lorraine Hewie and Marie Craig take a well-earned rest on the ferry home.

Mums bag pack raises funds for Brodick Nursery

Mums from Brodick Nursery went fundraising on the mainland at the weekend to raise vital cash.

Nursery chairwoman Victoria McNicol and mums Lorraine Hewie, Marie Craig and Laura Helliwell spent five and half hours bag packing at the Asda store in Ardrossan and raised £378.69.

The nursery is the only voluntary partnership left on the island.

Voluntary partnership

Victoria said: 'As our nursery is a voluntary partnership, we continually need to fund raise so this was an excellent achievement.'

'Many thanks to my mainland friend Lesley Richardson who spared two hours too.'

Charity cycle switch

The venue for a charity bike ride planned on Arran last weekend had to be switched at the last minute after strong winds severely disrupted ferry services.

As a result the 92km cycle to raise funds to help Corinne Hutton become Scotland's first bionic mum took place over the Campsies.

The cycle had to be held at the weekend to coincide with other events taking place simultaneously across the world.

Family and friends of Corinne, all of whom have strong connections to Arran, have set up the charity Finding Your Feet to help quadruple amputee Corinne from Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire live a normal life.

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Kids wish it could be



One of the snowmen and a reindeer created at the Brodick party. b20_51brod01



The winning snowman creation. 20_b51brod03



Another of the snowmen created. 20_b51brod02



The children gather expectantly to receive their gifts from Santa. 20_b51brod06



Santa arrives through a welcome corridor created by the child



Santa make stop tour ro

Santa has had a busy time on Arran this week making his way to children's parties around the island.

On Sunday he was in Brodick where a party was held for the 79 children in Brodick from babies to Primary 5.

Presents

There were games, which included creating a snowman, and party food before Santa arrived to hand out presents to all the children.

On Saturday Santa made a special

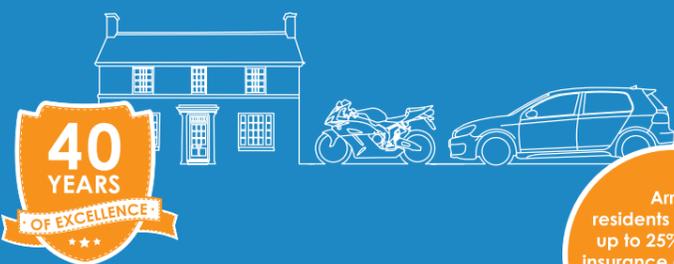


Santa hands out gifts to all the ch



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Sunday 22nd December:

Brodick – 10.30am – Family Service with Nativity,
Corrie – 12noon – Family Service,
Lochranza and Pirnmill – 10.15am – Family Service at Pirnmill,
Shiskine – 12noon – Family Service.

Tuesday 24th December:

Brodick – 5pm – Family Service at which the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated,
11.30pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service,
Corrie – 9.30pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service at which the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated,
Shiskine – 11.30pm – Christmas Eve Watchnight Service.

Wednesday 25th December:

Lochranza and Pirnmill – 11am – Christmas Day Family Service at Lochranza

Sunday 29th December:

Brodick – 10.30am – Morning Worship,
Corrie – 12noon – Morning Worship,
Lochranza and Pirnmill – 10.15am – Morning Worship at Pirnmill,
Shiskine – 12noon – Morning Worship.

“FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN”

Christmas every day



ren. 20_b51brod04



Santa with children at the Corrie Christmas market. 20_b51corrie01



Santa hands out sweets. 20_b51corrie03



The stalls set out on the pallets Marvin Elliot has built. 20_b51corrie05



The busy Corrie Christmas Fayre. 20_b51corrie02

es whistle und island

appearance at the Corrie Christmas Fayre.

Despite the weather the market was busy all day and the stalls looked terrific set out on special wooden pallets created by sculptor Marvin Elliot.

There was home baking, mince pies and mulled wine and music from the Arran Brass Band.

But the highlight of the day was the arrival of Santa who handed out sweets to the children.



ildren. 20_b51brod07



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Friday 3rd January 12pm – 1am

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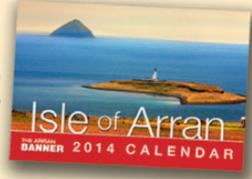
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Arran High School News

Musical awards

At the recent Scottish regional competition of the National Concert Band Festival, the North Ayrshire Schools' Concert Band - after only three days and a weekend residential for rehearsal - achieved the highest level of attainment: a Platinum Award. For a band only resurrected last year, this was an enormous and deserved achievement, and one which comes on the back of continued success from 2012 and the earlier part of this year, where the band achieved a gold award at the Scottish level and then a silver award at the national level.

This year's result will see the band once again travel to the national competition in Birmingham, to fly the colours not only of North Ayrshire, but of Scotland.

Three of the pupils were from Arran High School:



Iain Clarke, Fraser Blain and Alison Provan all played with the North Ayrshire Schools' Concert Band.

Fraser Blain (bass clarinet), Iain Clarke (first clarinet) and Alison Provan (second flute).

These pupils, along with 35 others, excelled themselves, and are proud of what has been accomplished so far, as well as excited about the opportunity to perform at the Birmingham Conservatoire in April 2014.

Fraser Blain

Christmas fayre

On Saturday 16 November a wide range of stalls assembled in the Community Theatre for the annual Christmas fayre.

One of the stalls was Lisa Remington's craft shop which was incredibly popular for handmade and one-of-a-kind Christmas decorations such as wreaths, knitted tinsel and bobbles.

Bethan Remington, who was helping at her mother's stall, said: 'It was very busy but I really enjoyed helping customers to find their perfect Christmas decorations.'

Another stall set up in the theatre was the Malawi Group baking stall where customers could purchase gingerbread,

shortbread, treacle and Malawi themed cupcakes.

This stall was set up by the Malawi Group which is fundraising for the 2015 trip to Malawi to help disadvantaged people in Africa.

All of the stalls proved very popular with people who were looking to start off their Christmas shopping with unique gifts.

Ineka Aitcheson-Hogge

Typhoon fundraiser

On Friday 15 November pupils had the opportunity to dress in non-uniform in aid of the victims of the Philippine Typhoon.

A minimum donation of £1 was asked, with many pupils giving more.

A target of £500 was set and a total of £521.50 was raised by pupil and staff donations.

Joanna Miggin

Visitors enjoy a chit chat

On a Wednesday afternoon, some of the S5/6 pupils are involved in community projects.

Megan Hodkinson, Cara Miller, Olivia Barker and

Lyndsay Fleming are running a café called Chit Chat.

Invites were sent to Stronach, Montrose House, Corriedoon and McKelvie Road and every week up to 20 customers arrive and are entertained by the girls.

There is a lovely atmosphere in the café and it has not taken long for it to feel like an established event.

The girls look forward to greeting the weekly visitors especially the 'regulars'!

Tea/coffee and a selection of home baking are served and a quiz is a popular part of the afternoon and several pupils have been involved in providing musical entertainment. Each customer pays £2.

To start the project, the group borrowed £50 from the school's general fund and they have already paid this back in full.

The girls hosted a Hallowe'en party and a Christmas one and they were pleased to accept an invitation to join Stronach at their Christmas lunch.

Ms MacLeod

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Cara Miller, Megan Hodkinson, Olivia Barker and Lyndsay Fleming are running a café called Chit Chat.

Changes to your Brodick Mobile Branch Timetable.



Monday

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

Wednesday

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

Friday

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

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

 **BANK OF SCOTLAND**

Remember our feathered friends

Previous festive bird notes have featured birds that people associate with Christmas, such as turkey but this year rather than focus on bird species that humans feast on, perhaps feasting humans could be encouraged to share some of their food with the birds!

After the hearty Christmas dinner there are inevitably leftovers. Some of these leftovers can provide nourishment and energy for garden birds, at this time of year when they need all the help they can get.

Please do not just throw out to the birds everything that is left.

Moderate amount

Too much will attract vermin so just put out a moderate amount that can be eaten in one day. In addition, crumb down or cut up food so the birds can swallow the pieces easily. Here is some further advice issued by the RSPB.

What to give the birds over Christmas: Christmas cake and mince pies will be particularly beneficial, as the dried fruit and fat inside and the outer pastry make high energy snacks for them. Crumb them up and scatter them on your bird table or ground feeding tray, which makes it easier for the birds to find

and for uneaten items to be cleared away.

Finger foods such as unsalted nuts and other savoury snacks will also be good for the birds as they are rich in energy. Crushed or grated they will be easier to eat and will be particularly appreciated by house sparrows, greenfinches, tits, robins and starlings, as well as many others.

Elaborate cheeseboards are a festive favourite to finish off a meal and consider leftover cheese scraps for your birds. Mild, grated cheese offers a high-fat, high-energy snack, and will stand the birds in good stead during the cold snap.

All types of cooked potatoes are good too. Roast potatoes in particular are high in fat and energy. Cut the potatoes into bite-size chunks and birds such as blackbirds and thrushes will feed on them.

Water is a bird's favourite tittle, so make sure a shallow dish of water is always available. Dehydration is as dangerous to birds at this time of year as starvation. If water becomes frozen don't be tempted to add anything – simply adding some hot water from a kettle to thaw it out is effective and harmless to birds.



What not to give to the birds: Avoid cooked meats as they could attract vermin to your garden.

Salted snacks are also not recommended, as most garden birds cannot process salt and will die if given too much. Avoid foods such as salted peanuts, crisps, salty bacon and chips.

Stuffing that accompanies your turkey is not good for birds, as it can contain some

ingredients that can dehydrate them.

Bread is similar in that it is not calorie dense, and whilst it will not cause any harm, there is little to be gained from it for the birds. Energy rich foods are better.

Have a good Christmas.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot,



Leftovers can provide nourishment and energy for garden birds at this time of year when they need all the help they can get.

KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Report 2012' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Carol Singing
With members of Arran Brass Band
Kilmory Hall
Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm
Mince Pies & Mulled Wine or Tea/Coffee

NEW YEAR CEILIDH
Scottish Entertainment for all the family
Starring the "STRING ROAD POTHOLES" band
BRODICK HALL NEW YEARS DANCE
8pm – 11pm 1 January 2014
Join in with the Scottish dancing and music.
Lots of fun and enjoyment for all ages.....
Tickets available at the Brodick Hall entrance
£20 – Family Ticket £7 – Adults £4 – Children
BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE
Organised and Presented by the Brodick Improvements Committee

Our guide to where to stay on the mainland

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

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

Annfield Villas
OFFER - B&B only £30 pp.
Including full breakfast and complimentary run to and from train station / ferry terminal

Phone: 01294465922
07779515012
Email: isobellogan@sky.com

DALGARVEN HOUSE HOTEL
SPECIAL OFFER
DB&B for 2
£75 per room per night
(2 course meal from the supper menu)
REF: QUOTE ARRAN

Dalry Road, Kilwinning, Ayrshire
01294 553061
www.dalgarven.co.uk

FERRY CANCELLED?

Stay with us and get our best available rates guaranteed plus a FREE coffee for Arran residents.
01294 822 217
SEAMILL HYDRO HOTEL & RESORT



GREAT MEAL DEALS @ THE LAURISTON
NQPT MENU (not quite pre-theatre)
1 course £7.95, 2 course £8.95, 3 course £10.95
Available Mon- Saturday 12-6.30pm
STEAK & GRILL NIGHT
Every Friday, 2 courses, 2 people, 2 drinks, £25 per couple
ONE 'L' OF A SUNDAY ROAST
Available every Sunday 12-8pm. 2 course £9.95, 3 course £11.95
BREAKFAST DEAL
Every Sat-Sunday, Full Scottish, tea, toast, £3.95
Know the joy of good food!

The Lauriston
Hotel & Restaurant

15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan T: 01294 463771 www.thelauristonhotel.com

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 24 December, 1993



Four Marie Curie nurses on Arran were presented with long service medals by the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran Major Richard Y Henderson (centre). They were Ann Lawson, Marion Gentleman, Grace Bleakley and Carol Ribbeck. Also pictured are Marie Curie's Scottish manager Christine McGilvray (far left) and Ayrshire and Arran fundraiser Brenda Johnstone (far right). b51twe04



Abigail Price (centre) was named Young Naturalist of the Year at a Christmas party held in the Countryside Centre. She is pictured with runners-up Lydia May and Ross Marshall and ranger Duncan Stevenson. b51twe02



Lorna Kelly and her baby sister Joanna meet Santa at the Lamlash Christmas party, one of a number held around the island. b51twe01

Official opening

The new ticket office and waiting room at Brodick Pier was officially opened by Brian Wilson MP.

A party of invited guests was present plus a number of Caledonian MacBrayne staff, both office and ship's crew, and those connected with the construction of the building.

Mr Wilson spoke briefly about privatisation praising Cal Mac and expressing his hostility to changing something that was working well. He then cut the tape across

the door and the splendid new building was officially opened, before guests enjoyed lunch aboard MV Caledonian Isles.

Mean theft

As if having your business burnt down was not enough, goods were stolen from Pirn-mill Post Office just two days after the fire.

It was last Friday when clearing up operations were in process that a quantity of cigarettes and cigars was stolen from outside the shop. Four local youths have been

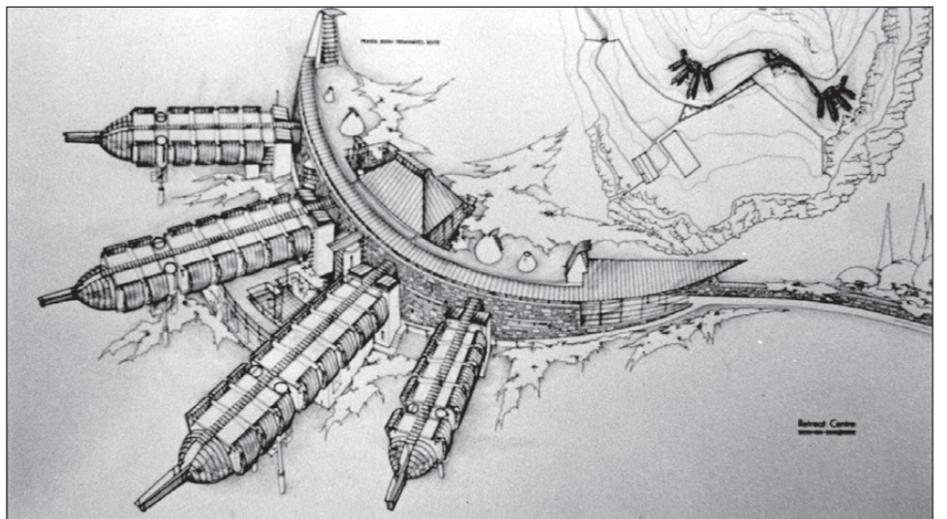
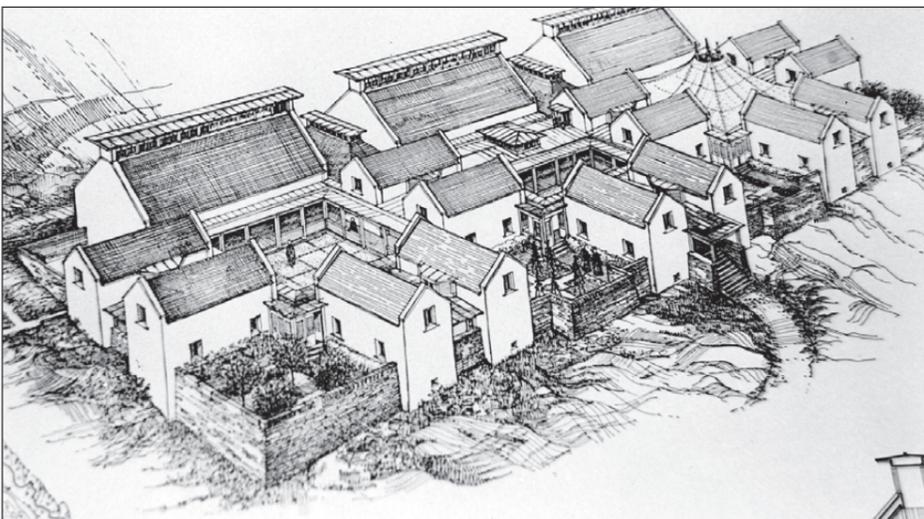
reported to the children's panel.

Christmas punch

This is the season of Christmas parties but they do not always go quite as smoothly as the organisers would hope.

At the SWRI party held in Brodick Hall last Saturday afternoon an altercation between two ladies took place and the police had to be called.

One local lady is now being reported to the procurator fiscal for breach of the peace and for assault.



From a sensible courtyard style to one of the more outlandish designs proposed for the retreat centre on the Holy Isle. b51twe03 and b51twe05

There have been some weird and wonderful designs submitted in the international architectural competition to design two retreats and a visitor centre for the Buddhist monks on Holy Isle.

More than 500 architects from all over the world requested entry details and a total of 198 entries were received.

These included Scottish villages in the vernacular style, Ottoman forts towering over the sea, Scandinavian looking timber buildings, Pictish brochs and a variety of structures which look as if they came from Star Wars.

A panel of judges met at the Samye Ling Centre in Eskdalemuir this week to choose a winner. [They included the late

Spaniard Enric Miralles, who would go on to design to Scottish Parliament building.]

Many people on Arran are interested to see what might be built on the Holy Isle. Others are interested, but anxious, having a dislike for anything too outlandish, but the Buddhists themselves are sensitive to the wealth of feeling.

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Development Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Corporate Director (Development & Environment) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 10.01.14. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

13/00698/PP; Site to North of Llewellyn, Lamlash, Brodick; Erection of detached dwelling house.

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (MARKET ROAD, BRODICK, ISLE OF ARRAN) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 201_

The North Ayrshire Council propose the introduction of a traffic regulation order for Waiting Restrictions on Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran. Full details of these proposals, which form The North Ayrshire Council (Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran) (Waiting Restrictions) Order 201_, together with a plan and a statement of reasons for proposing to make this traffic regulation order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday at the offices of:-

Development Planning Services (Roads), North Ayrshire Council, Perceton House, Irvine, KA11 2AL

Democratic & Administration Services, North Ayrshire Council, 1st Floor (Legal), Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE

Arran Local Office, North Ayrshire Council, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8JY

Any person wishing to object to these proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Development Planning Services (Roads), Perceton House, Girdle Toll, Irvine, KA11 2AL by Friday 17 January 2014.

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. 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 2014 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2014.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2014, 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 over 3 weeks beginning the week of 30 December 2013.

CAROL KIRK
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.45pm on Tuesday 24 December 2013 until 9am on Friday 3 January, 2014 other than the following:

Registration Service

Kilbirnie Office

Closed from 4.45pm on Tuesday 24 December

Normal business will resume on Monday 6 January 2014 at 1pm

Saltcoats Office

Closed from 4.45pm on Tuesday 24 December

Normal business will resume on Monday 6 January 2014 at 9am

Irvine, Largs & Arran Offices

Tuesday 24 December 9am - 4.45pm

Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 December CLOSED

Friday 27 December 9am - 4.30pm

Monday 30 December 9am - 4.45pm

Tuesday 31 December 9am - 1pm

Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 January 2014 CLOSED

Friday 3 January 2014 9am - 4.30pm

Please note all registration business is by appointment only

Registration Services can be contacted on telephone number: 01294 310000

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

Social Services

The following offices will be open on Friday 27 and Monday 30 December 2013 (normal hours) and until 1pm on Tuesday 31 December 2013:

Bridgegate House, Irvine Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine
Caley Court, Stevenston Craighton Road, Kilbirnie
Brooksby, Largs Glencairn Business Unit, New Street, Stevenston
157 New Street, Stevenston Rosemount, Irvine
Throughcare, Saltcoats Shore Road, Lamlash

Libraries

Irvine, Largs and Saltcoats

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 9am

Kilwinning

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 9am

Ardrossan, Beith, Bourtreeshill, Dalry, Dreghorn, Kilbirnie, Stevenston, West Kilbride

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 10am

Arran

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 10am

Fairlie

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 2.30pm

Millport

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 10am

Skelmorlie

23 December - Closed from 7.30pm

25 December - 2 January 2014 Closed

3 January 2014 - Re-open 1pm

Springside

20 December - Closed 5pm

6 January 2014 - Re-open 6pm

Heritage Centre

24 December - Closed from 5pm

25 December - 3 January 2014 Closed

4 January 2014 - Re-open 10am

Arran Mobile

No service Tuesday 24 December - Thursday 2 January 2014 inclusive

Mainland Mobile

No service Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January 2014 inclusive

Library Support

Close 4.45pm Tuesday 24 December 2013

Re-open 9am Friday 3 January 2014

Library books and resources can be renewed online at: www.ers.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Arts Centres

Harbour Arts Centre

Close at 4pm Tuesday 24 December 2013

Re-open 9am Friday 3 January 2014

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Housing Repairs 0800 0196 444

Homelessness 0800 0196 500

Roads & Lighting 01294 310000

Trunk Road Repairs - Road & Lighting Faults (A78, A737, A738) 0800 028 1414

Scottish Water - Water & Sewerage 0845 601 8855

National Gas Emergency Service 0800 111 999

Please note that no Councillors' surgeries will be held from Monday 23 December 2013 until Monday 6 January 2014 inclusive.

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

Please have your bin out by 7am on the day of collection.

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

Normal Collection Day Revised Collection Day

Wednesday 25 December 2013 Friday 27 December 2013

Wednesday 1 January 2014 Friday 3 January 2014

The Arran Transfer Station will be closed 25 and 26 December 2013 and 1 and 2 January 2014. The last special uplift collection for 2013 will be on Friday 20 December 2013. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on Monday 6 January 2014.

Large items of cardboard can be placed next to resident's blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period. Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your wheeled bin for 7am on the day of collection, week commencing Monday 13 January 2014. The contact number of North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the closed period is 07824 498285.

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank fishing

Brodick Castle, Garden Open Daily 9am-Dusk

Arran Brewery Open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm, Sat 10-5pm

Closed Sunday

Arran Brewery tour 2pm

Saturday 21st December

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm

Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm

Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am

Live music Drift Inn, Lamlash

Sunday 22nd December

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm

Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm

Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs) Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm

AA Meeting Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm

Carol Singing Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm

Monday 23rd December

Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm

Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm

Tuesday 24th December

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Christmas Eve Party Drift Inn, Lamlash until 2am

Thursday 26th December

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Boxing Day Quiz Drift Inn, Lamlash, 3pm

Friday 27th December

Brodick Farmers Market Auchrannie Road, 8am - 6pm

RunArran Coaching Ormidale Park 9.30am

Active Buggies Ormidale Park, 10am

Overeaters Anonymous Ormidale Pavilion 11.30-1pm



Public Notices

Arran Medical Group

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island surgeries will be closed on
Wed 25th & Thurs 26th December
Wed 1st and Thurs 2nd January 2014

*The surgeries will close at 5pm
 on Tues 24th & Tues 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:	Fri 3rd January
Brodick Health Centre:	Tue 7th January
Whiting Bay Surgery:	Thurs 9th January
Lamlash Medical Centre:	Tue 14th January

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



Isle of Arran Homes
 and Arran Care & Repair office

**will be closed from
 3.00pm on Tuesday
 24 December 2013**

but will reopen on
 Friday 27, Monday 30 and Tuesday 31
 from 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.00pm
 Normal opening times will resume on
 Friday 3 January 2014

**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

Property

New to the Market Ross Road

Two traditional stone farm buildings with outline
 planning permission for conversion to
 residential dwellings situated on The Ross road.
 Both sites are un-serviced and offer generous
 sized plots in a rural setting.

Offers in excess of £75,000 for each plot.

For further information please contact Managed
 Estates on 01786 462 519.

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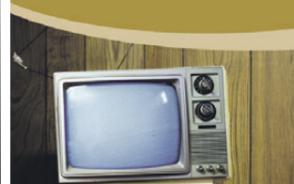


Classifieds

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

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 www.arranbanner.co.uk



OVER £30

Hedge trimmer - 2 stroke,
 excellent condition £65 Tel:
 07910 394 431 Whiting Bay

UNDER £30

Hedge trimmers, electric x 2
 £15 each Tel: 07910 394 431
 Whiting Bay

Double glazed windows,
 wooded framed x 2, 1200 x
 900 with hoppers

£30 each Tel: 07910 394 431
 Whiting Bay

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2 wooden oars suitable for a
 12ft boat Tel: 07792 452 814

FREE TO UPLIFT

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

**BANNER
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LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME?

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TREES

Tree & hedge cutting and clearing
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All types of fencing

Call Jamie McKinnon:
01770 810 222 or 07760 247201

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- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
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- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

COMPUTING SERVICES

Arran Computer Shop
Speedy computer repairs and upgrades

- Virus removal
- Laptop screen and keyboard replacement
- Operating system reinstallation
- Hard disk replacement
- Data transfer to new PC or hard disk
- Home networking
- Advice on backing up your data
- One-to-one tuition

Located in
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www.arrancomputershop.co.uk

PLASTERER

Iain Murchie
Plastering
Taping and Coving
Roughcasting and
Cement work
Slating and Roof work
Floor and Wall Tiling
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FURNITURE RESTORATION

JOHN DIVINE
**FURNITURE,
RESTORATION & REPAIR**
FRENCH POLISHING
UPHOLSTERY

Blackwaterfoot –
Isle Of Arran
Tel: 01770 860878
Mob: 07733 738127
Email: john@
thornbankwoodcraft.co.uk

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Drive Times

WANTED

Any 4x4 vehicle Landrover 90 or
110, Mitsubishi, Toyota etc, any
4x4 considered, any condition.

Telephone: 07864 035750

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

JOE AND SHONA NOTEMAN
wish friends,
neighbours
and carers a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy
New Year

IAIN & ISOBEL MACDONALD
are sending a donation
to Leukaemia Research
in lieu of Christmas cards
this year. They would like
to wish all friends & family
Merry Christmas & all the
best for 2014.

BETTY HAMILTON
would like to
wish all friends
and neighbours
a peaceful
Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

SEASONS GREETINGS
to all our friends from Ricky,
Liz and family.
In lieu of Christmas cards we
have donated to the
Scottish Association for
Mental Health

DONALD AND MARY MCNIVEN
would like to send all
friends and family best
wishes for Christmas and
the New Year.

EDDIE AND NANCY
are not sending
out cards this year.
Wishing all our
family & friends
on Arran a Happy
Christmas and
peaceful and healthy
New Year.

Arran Telecom Services
Joe wishes all of his customers
A very Merry Christmas and a
Happy Healthy New Year
Your business throughout the year
is much appreciated

Tony and Catherine Hamilton Slidery
Would like to wish all family,
friends and neighbours a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

Recruitment

ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP
has vacancies for
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join the Arran Medical Group team. You will be based mainly in Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay surgeries but may be required to work across any of the island sites. You should possess strong communication, interpersonal and organisational skills and be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office packages. The successful candidates will also be required to become proficient in using our specialist software systems for which training will be provided.

Hours: To be advised

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

Closing date for formal applications 5pm Friday 3rd January 2014 which should be sent to:
Ruth Betley, Arran Medical Group, Lamlash, Isle of Arran. KA27 8NS.

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

Social Care Worker (Temporary)
£20,608 - £22,558 | Ref: NAY004056
Closing Date: 6th January 2014.
For further details and to apply visit
www.north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk

We are an equal opportunities employer so please inform us of any special needs you may have.

Cleaner required for Kilmory Hall
6 – 8hrs per week
Applications in writing to:
S Payn, Chairman, Kilmory Hall
Kilmory, KA27 8PQ

VACANCY

A vacancy exists for a trainee in an engineering workshop. Preferably with some experience in a working environment.

Tel: 700362 or email: sales@kiscadale.com

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Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
PLEASE NOTE: There will be no service at St Margaret's on 22nd December, and over the Festive Season.
(NEXT SERVICE: Sunday, 5th January, 11.00 am, Holy Communion)

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 22nd December
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship with Nativity.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

Lochrana and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirmill.
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

Tuesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
Brodick Church, 5pm Family Service at which Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated
11.30pm Watchnight Service
Corrie Church, 9.30pm Watchnight Service at which Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated

Shiskine Church, 11.30pm Watchnight Service
Wednesday 25th December (Christmas Day)
Lochrana and Pirmill – 11am Family Service at Lochranza

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 22nd December
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Mrs. Sharon Macleod
Both Churches:
Watchnight Service 11.30 pm
Christmas Morning Service 10 am

All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

SALVAION ARMY
House Group/Bible Study.
Mondays 2.30pm.

If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 22nd 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 Cooriedoon at 2.30pm. All welcome
Tuesday 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 The Glasgow City Mission.

Wednesday 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 The Glasgow City Mission. All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 22nd December
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer. Contact phone no. 600222. Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 22nd December
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Mr Howell Jones

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 22nd December
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

ADAMSON - Pat
Late Dunfermline and Brodick. Sadly passed away last week

CAMPBELL - Ian
Peacefully at Arran War Memorial hospital on Wednesday 11 December 2013. Ian, of Strathwillan Farm, Brodick, much loved brother of Angus and Jimmy, brother in law of the late Rhoda Campbell, uncle of James, Rhoda and Calum, and great uncle of Matthew, Laura and Gabrielle. Funeral service in Brodick Church on Monday 23 December at 11.30am and thereafter to Brodick new cemetery to which all friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Collins - The Collins family would like to thank all family and friends who have supported us through this devastating time. Thanks to all the emergency services and the people of Glasgow who helped in anyway. Thank you to Rev Angus Adamson for the touching service; to David Dick for the fantastic tribute to Tony (Anthony) causing laughter and tears; to the pall bearers; the piper and to Tony's many friends and colleagues who came to say goodbye; to Clair and David Hendry for the funeral arrangements; to Eleanor's for the beautiful flowers and the Brodick Bar for their kind attention.

Murchie - The family of Margaret Murchie would like to thank all their relatives, friends and others for their kind cards, messages and support and those that attended Margaret's funeral. Thanks also go to the Reverend Saunderson for Margaret's lovely service and David and Clair Henry for their sympathetic funeral arrangements. Special thanks to the staff at Crosshouse Hospital and Arran Hospital, along with the care workers who looked after her at home. The family would especially like to thank people's kindness for their donations at the church, raising £790 for the Arran War Memorial Hospital Supporter's League.

IN MEMORY

CRAIG - Kenny
19 February 1973 - 27 December 2009
Deeply loved, sorely missed, forever in our thoughts.
Mum, Dad, Bryan and family

WEDDING



Katie Rebecca Siegle of Ware, Massachusetts and Matt Johnston of Lamlash, now both living in Glasgow, married in Lamlash 9th December



Santa's newest 'reindog' helper aka Alfie Spinonie.

Festive fun for Arran's four-legged friends

Arran's dog classes finished for the year on December 4 with a Christmas party for the owners and their four-legged friends.

Most got right into the festive spirit and came along all tinselled up or in fancy dress.

Organiser Margaret Kay said: 'We had a 'reindog' and a very becoming angel - even though her halo kept slipping and was more often dangling in front of her chin and at one point was in her mouth being tossed and worried!'

Santa Paws was in attendance and all the dogs went home with a party bag.

Everyone contributed to the event and there was a beautiful Christmas cake, courtesy of Cathie Steed.

The dog classes will be starting up again on Wednesday 8 January in Whiting Bay Hall at 1pm.

For more information call Margaret on 600725.

IN MEMORY

MARGOT BANNATYNE

18 December 2012

Miss you

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Duncan & Claire would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and gifts we received for our 30th Birthdays. A big thank you to the Kinloch Hotel and staff for the venue and the much needed breakfast on the Saturday morning. Thank you to everyone who made it to the party we both had a great time hope you all did too, the fancy dress outfits were fantastic!! Also a big big thank you to the "Retired" DJ Funky Dunky for playing the great tunes!!

Thank you

Elma Kerr would like to thank all doctors, nurses and staff at Crosshouse and Arran War Memorial Hospitals, for all their care during her recent illness. Thanks also to family and friends for their kind wishes, cards and calls.

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Gruelling Nepal challenge sees Janice hard in training

Janice on her cycle tour of Malaysia with Mark Beaumont who joined part of the cycle on his round the world tour.

A Brodick woman is training hard for a gruelling charity cycle next year.

Grandmother Janice Small is heading to the Himalayas in the coming weeks to take part in a 350-mile mountain bike ride.

She said: 'Arran is the best training ground you can get. No matter where you cycle on the island you are met with a hill challenge which is what you need when training.'

It is the third time Janice has made the trip to the Indian sub-continent to raise money for Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong in West Bengal.

However, this time the route has changed and, instead of starting in Kolkata - formerly Calcutta - in West Bengal, the cycle is starting in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Janice said: 'We will cycle up into the Himalayas then down to the plains of Nepal and into India via Siliguri and back up 5,000ft to Kalimpong.'

'The previous two cycles have been fairly flat but I am hoping this will be more of a challenge because of the hills.'

The cycle will take place from 16 to 22 February next year.

Janice said: 'I pay all my own costs but have to raise £1,000 for the homes so once again I am prevailing on your generosity and asking you to

support me in next year's cycle.'

On her last two trips Janice raised the best part of £3,000.

The cycle is organised every two years by the Rev John Webster from Kings Cross who still takes part at the age of 80.

Children

Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong provide education and care to impoverished and disadvantaged children.

The charity's UK committee raises funds and sponsorships to enable these children to take advantage of this life-changing opportunity.

She added: 'The children come from different impoverished, deprived backgrounds but receive nurture, love and

education thanks to people like you who support people like me.'

Janice only took up touring cycling when she retired from running Brodick Post Office in 2008.

She did her first Indian charity cycle a week later and has since undertaken a number of challenges including Thailand and Malaysia and coast to coast across the US last year.

Janice has her own Just Giving page and if anyone wishes to support her they can do so by logging on to: www.justgiving.com/JaniceSmall2014.

Donations can also be made at Brodick and Whiting Bay Post Offices and Billands in Brodick.



Golf

Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies: Christmas Stableford over nine holes. The annual three clubs and a putter competition was held on Wednesday 11 December in blustery conditions. The winner was Tricia Martin with 16 points.

After an enjoyable lunch, Sheena Murchie was declared winner of the 'bling' competition.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 11 December,

12 played, there were four twos one each for G Sillars, B Walker, D Robertson and Wolfi.

The standard of play was much improved and there were no 'no returns'.

1 C O'Neill 77-17=60, 2 D Robertson 75-14=61 BIH, 3 J Reid 74-13=61.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 10 December, Winter Cup.

1 Brian Sherwood 67, 2 Hamish Bannatyne 68, 3 David Price 69.

Scratch Brian Sherwood 71, twos Hamish Bannatyne.

Fixtures: Tuesday 24 December, Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

Friday 27 December Two

Club Competition played over nine holes tee off 12noon. Tuesday 31 December Winter Cup tee off 12noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 12 December, Ladies 12 Hole Medal, CSS 46, nine played.

Silver: 1 and Scratch Sally Brookes 56-11=45, 2 Rion Culpan 60-11=49.

Bronze: 1 Lesley Murray 66-14=52, 2 Esther Henderson 72-16=56.

Fixtures: Boxing Day Texas Scramble, teams of four, with at least one lady.

Please book your times with the Pro Shop 860 226. Prizegiving at the Kinloch at 5pm.

Arran Bridge Club results

The third round of the Boyd Trophy was played on Thursday 12 December.

The results were as follows: N/S 1 Janette McBride and Jim Peacock, 2 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 3 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur, 3 Eendy McNiven and Morag Gardner.

The aggregate points from Monday 16 December were as follows: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Alison Bilsland, 2 Eendy McNiven and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 John Baraclough and Janette McBride. E/W 1 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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