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SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2014

No 1992 60p

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INDEX
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INSIDE**

Huge broadband repair bill means Glenloig remains offline

'If we had caused it to break then we would pay but it wasn't our fault'

A small hamlet of homes in one of Arran's remotest areas is being faced with a huge maintenance bill to fix a simple broadband fault.

Lillian Smith from The Byre, Glenloig, told The Banner that during last week's 'weatherbomb' the satellite broadband system in the remote valley was struck by lightning.

Despite it being a Scottish government contract, she has been told it will cost £538 for the provider to bring an engineer to the island to do the simple repair - and the residents at Glenloig must pay.

'When the government installed the satellite broadband for us at Glenloig we simply signed the contract they sent us and we now pay £25 a month,' Mrs Smith explained.

'I had a callout in October last year, which cost us nothing. The operations manager at Q-Sat now says they can no longer afford to pay for engineer visits to the island.'

'She also says our contract ran out in June 2014, but I have no record of this, neither did Q-Sat tell us that our contract was about to end. As far as we are concerned the orig-

REPORT
by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

inal contract still stands.'

Q-Sat was unable to comment before the Banner went to press.

Glenloig has been plagued with telephone and broadband problems for many years.

At one point all the homes were without telephone access for nearly four months as BT were unable to send out an engineering team.

In 2009 the homes at Glenloig formed part of a £3.2m contract, the Broadband Reach Project, rolled out by the Scottish Executive, connecting more than 2,400 premises in rural areas.

These places were either too far from the telephone exchange or in too remote an area to receive normal broadband connections.

Those who signed up to the contracts with Avanti - now Q-Sat - were led to believe that any repairs would be free of charge.

'It's especially frustrating when the fault has been caused by the weather,' added

Mrs Smith.

'If we had caused it to break then we would pay but it wasn't our fault.'

The main problem is geographical proximity to exchanges, with bigger distances meaning less chance of a connection (Glenloig is more than five kilometres from the exchange at Machrie).

Broadband provision was prominent in discussions of the Scottish parliament's finance committee when they met recently on Arran.

As a result local MSP Kenneth Gibson has sought further details of when superfast broadband will go live on Arran, now that subsea cable work has been completed.

He contacted Robert Thorburn, BT Next-generation access programme manager, Highlands and Islands, who confirmed that Arran will receive full coverage.

Mr Thorburn said: 'It is anticipated that deployment will commence throughout Arran in the first half of 2016 and will work across all of the exchanges scoped in a phased approach.'

'We plan extensive coverage right across Arran. All



The Ogre and the princesses

It would appear that the Ogre has his hands full. Allan Little has not one but two Princess Fionas on his arms as he takes a bow at the end of the Lamlash Panto last weekend. All smiles are, left, Princess Fiona Nickey Summer and on the right Ogress Fiona, who was played by Jill McKillop. Review and many more photographs pages 10 and 11. 20_b51shrek01

exchanges bar the small exchange at Machrie will have the highest level 'A' coverage.

'We are still exploring opportunities to bring coverage to this small community. It is likely to be more towards the middle of 2015 potentially

before we know what may be anticipated for this exchange when we plan the island in detail.'

Mr Gibson added: 'I am pleased that we have made such significant progress. This contrasts sharply with the position four years ago,

when Arran was not even going to be included in the roll out. In the meantime I will continue to press BT to ensure my Machrie constituents enjoy the same level of access to superfast broadband as the rest of Arran when it goes live.'



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Early edition hits the shelves for Christmas

There may still be five days to go until Christmas, but you only need to wait four days for the next edition of The Arran Banner.

The edition dated Saturday 27 December will be available to buy on Wednesday 24 December, Christmas Eve.

It is a similar situation the following week when we will hit the shelves on Hogmanay, Wednesday 31 December.

Vandalism threat to sake brewery

Arran Brewery's Dreghorn site in Irvine is being plagued by break-ins and vandalism.

More than £60,000-worth of damage has been caused to the former school building which is to be the home of Scotland's first sake brewery and research centre.

But vandals keep breaking windows as fast as Arran's staff can replace them, putting the investment and job creation at risk.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'I am furious at the waste and cost of this vandalism. We have had a break-in and several windows smashed this week alone adding to the 139 windows we have started to repair. I refuse to live in a high security environment, with barbed wire and the like. This is going to be a visitor centre and overt security does not

go with this type of establishment. We now employ seven staff on the site and continue to recruit but this criminality is putting our investment at risk.'

Mr Michaluk added: 'We have recruited locally some

fantastic people and work in repairing and tidying up the site is going well. It is time the good people of Dreghorn take action to reclaim their village from the vandals and thieves. I will be meeting with the local community

council to discuss this.'


The site, to be called Arran View Brewery Dreghorn, aims to attract 30,000 visitors a year and directly employ 30 staff and attract academics and students from around the UK and overseas.

New church repair funds

As part of the recent UK government's autumn statement, £15 million pounds has been made available for the repair of roofs and guttering on vulnerable listed church buildings.

Katy Clark, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, is urging local constituents or church groups to apply to the scheme if it is able to provide assistance. Speaking about the fund, Ms Clark said: 'I am aware that the maintenance of churches and other places of worship can be extremely expensive. This UK-wide fund may go some way to helping with vital repairs. This scheme is open to all places of worship - not just churches - and applications can be made for between £10,000 and £100,000. If any constituents are aware of listed buildings that are in need of repairs then the National Heritage Memorial Fund - www.nhmf.org - is administering the scheme and details about the fund are also available on the ChurchCare website www.churchcare.co.uk.'

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Wandering Molly reunited with owner

The Banner helped to reunite a lost dog with her owner on Tuesday after police were called to say a golden retriever had been found at Montrose House residential care home in Brodick.

Through an appeal on The Banner's Facebook page, Molly was eventually reunited with her owner and by all accounts is delighted to be home.

20_b51dog01

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£450,000 will be needed to save Brodick beach

Sandbags could go under new plan to end eyesore

REPORT

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Eyesore sandbags could be removed under a new plan to save Brodick beach.

The former landfill site behind it would also be cleared and the beach then left to find its own level by natural erosion.

Fisherman's Walk would be re-routed away from danger.

The proposals would cost £450,000 but North Ayrshire Council says it would be the most cost-effective solution to the long-running saga.

However, because the beach is owned by Arran Estates, the council will not fund all the costs of the project and it will be up to the owners and the local community to seek alternative funding.

Local concerns

Last month council representatives met members from the Brodick Improvements Committee, Arran Community Council and Arran Estates to address local concerns about the beach and the erosion which has now damaged the popular Fisherman's Walk.

Other plans put forward include regular re-charging of the beach with imported sand or the installation of groynes or a rock reversionment.

Much of the concerns revolve around the look of the beach following the instal-

lation of the sandbags as defences to retain material from the historic landfill site four and half years ago.

The geotextile bags were left exposed after just months and, while they have been effective in holding the landfill site, they now lie torn and unsightly on what was the sand and Marram grass covering never became established.

Latest plan

Now, after a council study, the latest plan is to remove them and the associated material from the site. It would also see improved facilities at the nearby playpark which would be relocated it beyond the projected line of erosion and re-routing Fisherman's Walk along the golf club boundary.

The council has agreed to support the landowner and the local community to identify and develop external funding opportunities to support these initiatives.

The council's head of environment, Craig Hatton, who led the council delegation said: 'We have a responsibility at the old landfill site to stop pollution escaping from the site.'

'The sandbags meet our responsibilities within our lease. While there are no concerns about pollution being released from the site we have examined options to remove the bags. However all of the options require signif-

icant expenditure.

'We believe that if the bags were to be removed the best option would be to remove waste material from the site to allow natural erosion which would allow the beach to find its level. This would be the most cost-effective option and would secure a beach area.'

'We have also agreed to work with local community representatives to improve the play park facilities and re-route Fisherman's Walk away from the area affected by erosion.'

There is no risk of flooding to local properties so the scheme would not meet the criteria to secure government funding.

Councillor Tony Gurney, cabinet member for place, said: 'The council knows the value of Arran and its importance to the local economy.'

'But in terms of the beach we are restricted to what we can do as it is not our land and we can't use public money to solve issues on private land.'

Brodick Improvements Committee chairman Harry Davidson said the committee was meeting with community council representatives today (Friday) to discuss the plans.

He said: 'This is a long-term proposal but we previously raised half a million pounds to create the new Brodick promenade.'



Corrie primary and nursery pupils with teacher Kirsten Picken, senior clerical assistant Judi Worthington and early years practitioner Ann Gray. 20_b51corrie01

Kids show off their crazy Christmas clothes

A crazy clothes day was held at Corrie Primary School last week.

Dress up

The children, teachers and support workers all paid to dress up in their finest Christmas clothes for a day

of fun, which included their Christmas lunch.

And the primary pupils were joined by the nursery children for the day.

They raised more than £80 for Yorkhill Children's Hospital in Glasgow.

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A dook for Boxing Day

Anyone looking for an instant Christmas Day hanger cure could do worse than head to Lamlash next Friday.

For there will be found other brave, or foolhardy, souls taking part in the annual Boxing Day Dook.

It is being held at Lamlash Pier at 2pm and it will consist of a short swim at the pier with optional jump-off.

Soup, mince pies and mulled wine will be available and proceeds will go to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Fancy dress is optional, with prizes for junior and senior best costumes.

House approved

Planning permission has been granted to a change of use of three bedrooms at the Kilmichael Country House Hotel in Glencloy near Brodick to a private house.

Owner Geoffrey Botterill had applied to North Ayrshire Council to convert the outbuilding which is presently used as three hotel bedrooms with en suite bathrooms.



The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash is to convert Bayview Cottage next door into two new rooms with en suite facilities. 20_b47bay01

New en-suite rooms for Glenisle Hotel

An island hotel is planning to expand. The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash is to convert Bayview Cottage next door into two new rooms with en suite facilities. The work will also involve external alternations.

An application for planning permis-

ion in the name of parent company Arran Hotels Ltd has been approved by North Ayrshire Council with one minor condition in the interests of the conservation area.

Owner Geoffrey Dallamore said the cottage had once been part of the hotel

but had been blocked off in the 1960s. He said that two internal doors were still there behind the existing facade.

The owners hope to have the work carried out over the winter and have the rooms ready in time for the summer season next year.

A new home for the new year

A number of elderly residents of Arran will have a new home for the new year.

Fitting out of the new Montrose House in Brodick is nearing completion and residents will be transferred early next month. It had originally been hoped that the residents could be moved before Christmas after the £5.7 million care home and resource hub was handed over to the North Ayrshire Council in October by the builders.

The new centre will replace the existing Montrose House and Stronach Services. It will provide 30 residential places for vulnerable older people and create a resource centre to support others to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'All building work at Montrose House is now complete. Some furnishings are still to be delivered however residents are expected to move in early next month.'

'The construction of this multi-million pound modern facility demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our older people receive the best possible care.'

The present Montrose House site is to be sold once the residents have moved.

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Fun and frolics at Corrie fayre



Nancy MacLeod, Eunice McNicol and Linny Brass at the well-stocked baking stall. 20_b51fayre01

The Christmas Fayre at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall last weekend was a real winter wonderland.

Craft stalls from across the island were overflowing with Christmas ideas while the baking stall, as always, did a roaring trade.

The big raffle, tombola and find Santa games added to the fun.

Visitors then settled down to soup, followed by coffee and homemade mince pieces, while enjoying Christmas tunes from the Arran Brass Band.



Arran Brass Band entertains the shoppers.

20_b51fayre04



Rachel Phillips keeps the teas and coffee coming.

20_b51fayre02



Jim Lees drums up business for the tombola stall.

20_b51fayre03



The hall was packed with visitors all afternoon.

20_b51fayre05

SEASON'S GREETINGS from Waste Services

North Ayrshire recycled 56.1% of household waste last year and we were the third highest performing area in Scotland! Thank you for your efforts and let's keep up the good work.

The actual time of your bin collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area, we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

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Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection

Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Thursday 25 & Friday 26 December 2014** and **Thursday 1 & Friday 2 January 2015**, but will open as normal every other day.

For more information on recycling visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



A tractor is used to push the tree straight. 20_b51tree02



Ian Small gets to work on the lights. 20_b51tree03

Let there be light

The main Brodick Christmas tree acts like a welcome beacon to visitors to the island as well as making a colourful addition to the shorefront.

And after The Banner recorded its journey from Clauchlands Wood to the jetty it seemed only right that the lighting of the tree should also be highlighted.

On a cold afternoon last Friday electrician Ian Small was joined by Murray Boal to put up the £800 of new lights purchased for the tree by the Brodick Improvements Committee.

But first there was the tricky task of straightening the 25ft Sitka spruce, which had taken a bit of a battering in the recent storms using a tow rope and the bucket of a tractor.

The multi-coloured lights were then draped over the tree giving the front a real festive feel. The second Brodick tree at the Post Office is now raised and lit.



The lit tree as darkness falls over the snow covered Goatfell.

20_b51tree06

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Tim has work accepted by world famous Glasgow gallery

Arran sculptor Tim Pomeroy has had one of his works accepted for the permanent collection at Kelvingrove Museum Art Gallery in Glasgow.

The famous museum has accepted a gift of a piece of Tim's work which has been generously donated by an elderly art collector in Whiting Bay.

The donor, who has not been named, has several of Tim's sculptures which he has acquired over the years.

The piece to be gifted to Kelvingrove is titled 'Butterfly Egg' and is a microscopic interpretation of just that. It measures just 250mm in diameter, but as Tim says 'small can sometimes be beautiful'.

There are in fact four versions of the egg, in Hong Kong, Southampton and Wales, which Tim created three or four years ago.

Tim said: 'It is a fantastic milestone and such an endorsement. Kelvingrove has always been my favourite art gallery even when I went as a boy. It has some real gems.'

To be judged worthy of having a piece in the permanent collection is a real honour.'

While it has been accepted by the curator of 20th century art it is also understood to be considered to have a place in the natural history section where it could be used educationally as an interpretational piece.

It was part of a theme by the 57-year-old Hamilton born sculptor, who has made Arran his home for many years, on what he calls 'the beautiful geometry of nature', which also includes works involving the mimosa flower and the pine cone.

And Tim's success does not end there with a recent one-man show at one of London's top art galleries taking his work to a whole new audience.

The show last month, which featured 19 of his recent stone carvings, was at the Fine Art Society in New Bond Street across the road from Selfridges.

At the exhibition he sold three major pieces and has secured two significant commissions for garden sculptures in Norfolk and Fife.

The Norfolk commission is for Tim a terrific new challenge as the project will see

the creation of a four to five metre long marble sculpture which will require a 14-tonne block of stone.

Tim will source the stone from the Cave Michaelango quarry in Italy, which he has used in the past, and much of the work will be created under his supervision there before being shipped to the UK with the final works being undertaken on site.

The logistics of moving such large pieces of work is nothing new as Tim had to use a helicopter to lower a bronze tree into place at Cawdor Castle near Nairn.

The three pieces Tim sold were 'Guido' based on the ship in Dante's Inferno, 'Offering One', a gilded box and 'Axehead' modelled on a late neolithic weapon.

'Axehead' was bought by one of the UK's most successful businessmen, Scot Sir Angus Grossart.

He is chairman and executive director of Edinburgh-based merchant bank Noble Grossart and chairman of the Fine Art Society.

Tim said: 'Sir Angus is a terrific private collector and to have his backing is a huge endorsement.'

It is more difficult to sell sculpture than paintings be-

cause purchasers have to put more thought into where a sculpture can go and will tend to spend more time over the purchase.'

Seven of Tim's sculptures remain on display in the London gallery.

'Obviously the money is important but it has never been the driving force for me. I have been an artist for 30 years so I am in it for the long haul and what has always been the most important thing to me is visualising and realising ideas.'

Tim has several high profile collectors of his work.

Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone, Frank Warren the boxing promoter, actor Richard Wilson and the Duke of Devonshire all have pieces, some more than one, in their collections.

Tim outside the London gallery of the Fine Art Society with his sculpture 'Mimosa'.



The 'Butterfly Egg' sculpture which has been accepted by Kelvingrove.



The sculpture 'Guido' which Tim sold in London.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Ambitious broadband plan welcomed

For most of us, broadband access is now something we take for granted.

WiFi connections are available in our homes, most of Arran's cafes and restaurants, as well as our places of work.

For those lucky mainland dwellers, when a wireless connection isn't available, 3G or 4G fills the void.

Sadly 3G still seems beyond the realms of possibility on Arran, and for many areas of the island, internet access is still very difficult, either because they are located in so called 'notspots' (speeds of less than 2mb) or with no connection at all.

Two months ago Nicola Sturgeon, then deputy first minister, announced a £2.5m support package to assist digital connectivity across the country's hard-to-reach communities, bringing the total investment in the Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) programme to £7.5 million.

Additionally, in 2013, £264 million investment for high speed broadband was unveiled, with an ambitious goal of connecting 85 per cent of Scottish properties by the end 2015.

Despite this, BT estimates five per cent of the population in the most isolated locations will not benefit from any UK or Scottish government scheme to roll-out high-speed broadband from the exchange.

Poor or limited access to the internet has a major impact upon communities and their economies.

The main problem is geographical proximity to exchanges, with bigger distances meaning less chance of a connection (Glenloig, for example, is more than 5km from the Machrie exchange).

There are still thousands of homes and businesses which need support and while the Reach Project did help the homes at Glenloig and others on the island, it was nowhere near close to solving the overall problem.

So it is welcome news that superfast broadband will go live on Arran by 2016.

Now that subsea cable work has been completed, Arran will receive full coverage.

BT is even looking at smaller areas like Glenloig having access to much faster internet towards the middle of 2015.

Let's just hope that the residents of Glenloig can at least get their satellite broadband fixed free of charge in the meantime, otherwise they may be offline for quite some time.

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.

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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



Ten years of Art in Mind

Sir

On behalf of all at Art in Mind, I would like to thank Pirnmill Village Association for organising the recent Christmas bazaar.

There was a great response from visitors and stall holders alike to the Art in Mind bric a brac stall.

Many thanks to all who gave so generously, buying nick knacks, our cards and donating. A total of £145 was donated.

Support from locals and visitors has been fantastic over this year.

Special thanks to Isle of Arran Distillery Lochranza Visitor Centre for its continued support and generosity in allowing us to hang our annual art exhibition, which is now on, at the visitor centre and for selling our cards all year round.

Thanks also to Little Rock Café for recently allowing us to sell our cards there too, with great success. Why not have a browse and a coffee.

Thanks too Shona Dunsuir who did a sponsored swim for us and gave us a real boost.

We were unable to do a charity collection on the Cal-Mac ferries this year, as they no longer allow this, so our finances took a large knock, but due to the generosity and kindness of those who regularly donate and the many who buy our cards, we're ticking along.

This year Art in Mind celebrated 10 years of continued support to those in our island community for which there is no other similar facility, helping people join in community and social activities that, to some, are difficult to attain through hard times of mental ill-health or social isolation.

Art in Mind helps through art, social interaction and a safe place just to be yourself, so those referred to the class can gain feelings of confidence and self-worth.

A large part of our success is due to Felicity Walker, a professional artist from the mainland, who for the last ten

years has taught, encouraged and led many to discover skills they didn't know they had, through supporting our creativity and artistic efforts.

We celebrated our 10-year birthday with an exhibition in Bilslands. Thank you to A and A Bilsland and happy retirement.

We also had a party, with many past members at the Brodick Rangers' Centre, where the class is held every Friday, including many past members. It was a lovely catch-up, with those who have moved on from the class, and some from the island.

Art in Mind was also involved in the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine. Many thanks to Jamie Smith and Morag McClurg of AIM Advocacy Service Saltcoats, and the NAC Involvement Committee.

Art in Mind hopes to continue and grow over the next ten years. If anyone has any large picture frames, or art materials taking up space at home, we would be happy to give them a good home.

Anyone who wishes to make a one-off or regular donation please contact Sarah Hay at shay55@btinternet.com or Tel No: 850208. Art in Mind of Arran Visual Arts. Scottish Charity No: SCO 35176

Merry Christmas and health, peace and happiness for 2015 to all, from Art in Mind

Yours

**Sarah Hay
Hazelcroft
Penrioch
Pirnmill**

Mystifying Lady Mary

Sir,

With regards to Brian Boon's request for information about the paddle steamer 'The Lady Mary', unfortunately I think his quest is in vain.

I have extensively researched this period of Arran's history and I have never come across a photo of this vessel and there is no or very little information about her.

Blackwood and Gordon built her and her engines for

the Duke of Hamilton when he and the estate trustees decided to provide a passenger service between Brodick and Ardrossan.

The vessel was 175.5ft in length with a beam of 20ft.

She had two haystacks with oscillating two-cylinder steam engines driving the paddles.

Built in 1868 she was sold off the Clyde in 1874 and scrapped in 1890.

I wrote about PS The Lady Mary and PS Heather Bell - the Arran Estates' second vessel for the route.

Built in 1871 and sold in 1874, she was scrapped in 1902.

The Lady Mary is described as an unremarkable paddle steamer in a book written by Alan J S Paterson - but there are no photos.

The estate's venture into providing a passenger service ended in 1874 when the route was taken over by Captain William Buchanan, who operated the largest fleet of paddle steamers on the Clyde at this time, eight in total.

Yours,

**Jim Henderson
Lamlash**

Thank you for a wonderful gift

Sir,

Through the pages of *The Arran Banner* my family and I would like to thank all the staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital, the Arran Medical Practice, and the ambulance and Sea King helicopter crews for their outstanding care during my long illness and recovery from recent liver transplant surgery.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the Liver Transplant Unit at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for the wonderful skilled work they do, offering patients a new lease of life and to the donor and family for this wonderful gift.

And, of course, thanks go to our friends and family on and off the island for their ongoing support and care.

Yours,

**Lynn Ross
Brodick**

Save the Children thanks

Sir,

I should like to thank the pupils, staff and parents of Brodick Primary School for the wonderful donation of £78.05 to Save the Children, raised by participating in Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day event.

Last Thursday, the pupils wore Christmas Jumpers to school on the day of their Christmas lunch and each donated £1 to Save the Children, as did many other pupils throughout the UK.

The children should feel very proud of their effort and I hope they all enjoyed the day.

Yours,

**Carol Burge
Chairman
Isle of Arran Branch
Save the Children**

Senior party thanks

Sir,

The southend's over 60s had a great time at their Christmas lunch and party in Kildonan Hotel on Saturday 6 December.

The Kilmory and Kildonan Senior Citizen Association would like to thank the Kildonan Hotel and their staff, our entertainers for the afternoon, Mhairi Thomas and Jim Fleming and of course Santa for his visit.

A big 'thank you' goes to everyone who donated raffle prizes and donations of money and, of course, to everyone who came to the party and made it such a lovely afternoon.

A special 'thank you' goes to Age Scotland, which partly sponsored the party.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Yours,

**Wilma Currie
On behalf of
Kilmory and Kildonan
Senior Citizen Association**

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An evening of carols at Christmas

Villagers enjoyed an evening of lessons and carols in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church last Sunday night.

The carols were led by the Arran Brass Band and a group of the Arran Singers performed two numbers and

helped lead the congregation in the carol singing.

Opening remarks

The light-hearted mood of the evening was encouraged by the Rev Elizabeth Watson's opening remarks which told of the woes of the baby

Jesus had health and safety regulations been around at that time.

Refreshments were served after the service and all proceeds from the evening were shared between the church and Arran Brass Band.



Samuel Brobson, in the middle with his trophy, celebrates his achievement with the other 'young gnats'.

Samuel is top young 'gnat'

Young Samuel Brobson of Lamlash was crowned the 2014 Young Naturalist of the Year on Saturday at the Brodick Castle Ranger Centre.

Along with runners-up Gen Inglis and Alys-sa McGarrie, Samuel had to show good naturalist skills throughout the year and a keen interest in outdoors and nature.

The castle's 'Young Gnats', as they are affectionately known, meet on Saturdays

throughout the winter to explore the plants and animals of Arran and further afield.

Apart from learning about specific topics, like birds or archaeology, head ranger Kate Sampson explained that they must also get involved with practical conservation.

'The award is given for enthusiasm, team work and development of natural history knowledge and skills throughout the year,' said Kate.



The Rev Elizabeth Watson opens the carol concert. 20_b51carol01



Members of Arran Singers lead the congregation in worship. 20_b51carol02



Arran Brass Band provides the music. 20_b51carol03

Kalimpong fundraiser success

Organisers were delighted by the turn-out for the 'Soup and Sandwiches Lunch' on Saturday 29 November in support of Dr Graham's Homes (DGH) in Kalimpong.

Encouraging

Organiser Janice Small said: 'Right until closing, people were arriving to enjoy the super soup, sandwiches, biscuits and coffee; it was great to see all the familiar faces but very encouraging to welcome some new interest.'

The Reverend John Webster also conducted his usual fast-paced raffle.

The sum of £767 was raised which helps to provide education and nurture to the children of DGH, impoverished through no fault of their own.

Janice added: 'Thank you to all dedicated helpers and of course to you, our loyal supporters who help to keep DGH functioning in these difficult times.'



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

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The dancing Duloc Dolls. 20_b51panto04



The fairytale creatures encounter the Ogre for the first time. 20_b51panto01



Princess Fiona, the Ogre and Ogress Fiona take a bow along with the rest of the cast at the

The Ogre, the Pi Donkey are three in panto delight

REVIEW

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

If there is a flying donkey, a green monster, a terrifying dragon and some dancing dolls, you can be sure its time for the 2014 Lamlash Panto.

Although not a traditional pantomime 'The Orge, the Princess and the Donkey' was the drama group's own take on Shrek.

And the panto played to a packed Arran Community Theatre in Lamlash for four shows last weekend.

All the main characters cer-

tainly did not disappoint; Allan Little was as always excellent as the big green Ogre and had a lot of work to do during the show to keep things moving along.

Interminable chat

But the star of the night had to be Steve Garraway as Donkey with his interminable chat enough to drive even an Ogre to distraction.

But boy did he keep the banter going.

The story closely followed the Shrek film with the banishment of fairytale creatures to the swamp where the Ogre lives in splendid isolation.

To get his swamp back he agrees to go on a quest for the height-challenged Lord Farquaad (James Mutch) to rescue Princess Fiona from a castle tower guarded by a ferocious dragon.

After some challenges along the way he, of course, rescues the princess and falls in loves with her before finding out that she too is in fact an Ogre and they all live happily ever after.

Nickey Summer again gave a strong performance as the human Fiona ably back up by Jill McKillop as the Ogress Fiona.

A lot of work had gone into the costumes for the fairytale creatures all played by children, and while they played their parts well, it would have been good to have seen them on stage more.

Only Iona Summer as the Gingerbread Man had a few lines while she was being tortured and she gave the final farewell at the end of the show.

The teenagers who played Lord Farquaad's henchmen, the Robin Hood's men, gave good support to the main cast.

As always it was ably produced and directed by Maureen Smith and not forgetting all the hard work behind the scenes by those who built the excellent props and sets.

The panto date is in the diary for next year.



The Ogre and Ogress Fiona finally get together. 20_b51panto15

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panto finale. 20_b51panto18

Princess and the the times the fun



The Ogre, Donkey and Princess Fiona don't always see eye to eye. 20_b51panto12



Iona Summer being tortured as the Gingerbread Man . 20_b51panto03



David Patterson as Robin Hood and his merry men take a bow. 20_b51panto16



Donkey escapes from the henchmen by flying. 20_b51panto02



The fearsome dragon. 20_b51panto06

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The awards are designed to recognise the contribution made by the area's dedicated groups and selfless individuals who continually strive to improve the lives of others.

Nominations for Provost Civic Pride Awards 2015

Perfect way to recognise and celebrate people

Arran's residents are being urged to make sure their unsung community heroes have the chance to see their name in lights at the Provost's Charity Awards Dinner 2015.

Themed on the Oscars, next year's ceremony is set to be the biggest and best celebration of community stars to date as the glitz and glamour of Hollywood descends on North Ayrshire.

Now in its fifth year, the awards are designed to recog-

nise the contribution made by the area's dedicated groups and selfless individuals who continually strive to improve the lives of others.

Considered

Everyone who is put forward for an award will be considered and can be nominated for one or more of the prestigious civic prizes.

A specially-selected judging panel will then choose a shortlist of finalists ahead of an Oscars-style celebration

dinner at the Seamill Hydro on March 20.

Provost Joan Sturgeon said: 'This is the perfect way for the people to recognise and celebrate North Ayrshire's unsung community champions.'

'Often these people don't realise how much of an impact their contribution has had on others so this is a great way for us to showcase their efforts.'

'I am looking forward to re-

ceiving nominations from Arran and would urge as many people as possible to recommend someone for one of our Civic Pride Awards.'

Full instructions on the nomination process can be found online via www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostscivicprideawards

The address for entries is: Corporate Communications Team, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.

Round the Rurals

Kilmory SWRI

Many members travelled to the Kinloch in November for the annual Isle of Arran Federation Rally. As ever the Kinloch Hotel did the Federation proud and a lovely meal was had by all in extremely comfortable surroundings.

This year members were ably entertained by Mary Margaret Brown, Corriecravie. She led everyone through her life in school, university and her life as a urologist - very much a woman in a man's world. It was very down to earth with lots of anecdotal laughter and a great night was had by all.

On Monday there was a cheap and cheerful demon-

stration on novelty Christmas cupcakes given by the president, Mairi Duff. There was a Christmas tree, snowman and a reindeer but the favourite was the gin and tonic cupcake. The competition winners were Linda Ross and Irene Fleming.

The next event is the children's Christmas party on Wednesday 24 December in Kilmory Hall from 5.30pm where they hope to see as many people as possible.

Corrie and Sannox SWRI

The December meeting took place in Corrie and Sannox Village hall on 11 December when a good number

of members gathered for a demonstration of Christmas wreath making by one of the members - Fiona Doubleday.

It was a most interesting demonstration as Fiona gave an insight into the cultivation and making natural willow and hazel wreaths; and the ladies all tried bending willow and twisting it into a wreath.

She had some lovely natural items to add such as cinnamon, nutmeg and star anise, and when bound on with raffia and some holly and bay leaves they were really beautiful.

The vote of thanks was given by Liz McCulloch and the meeting progressed with the

federation report by Morag Munro. The show syllabus was discussed and the possible class for 'blackwork' to be held next year.

Lists were circulated for the visit to Montrose House, and for the catering for the Auld Year's Nicht in January when guests from Kilmory SWRI will join them and there will be entertainment from Mike Bailley.

Competition for a Christmas ornament was won by Marion Melvin, and the £2 parcels were drawn.

The meeting closed with a good tea which was provided by Mairi Turnbull and Gillian Currie.



Brodick's jumpers raise vital funds

One of Brodick Primary School's primary one pupils, Logan Paterson, is pictured handing over a cheque for £78 to Mrs Burge the chairwoman of the Arran Branch

of Save the Children, along with class teacher Mrs Donaldson.

The money was raised on the 'Wear a Christmas jumper/hat day' last Thursday.

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 All tickets to be paid for when ordering

Christmas messages

Message from Arran Churches together

'And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2: 9-11)

The message of the angel to the shepherds still resonate 2,000 years on. Christmas continues to be a time which brings 'tidings of great joy' to a great many people and is a time marked by celebration. For most here on Arran that culminates in a special family Christmas dinner, turkey and all the trimmings. Therefore, it came as a real shock to me to learn at the beginning of January the year before last, that because of changes to the benefit system, through no fault of their own, a family on this island had gone hungry over the festive period. As we all probably overindulged, even discarded more food

than we could consume, children starved.

As a result, a few church folk got together to do something to help, which culminated in the setting up of the Arran Churches Together Foodbank. From each of our island's congregations food is collected on a regular basis and taken to a storage place in Lamlash.

Anyone in need of food parcels can be supplied by a team of volunteers, who if necessary, will deliver it to all parts of Arran. Indeed shortly after its inception, the snow storm of Easter 2013 hit the west coast and thanks to the sterling efforts of the Mountain Rescue Team, the stock held in the foodbank was used to help supply villages cut off by snow drifts.

However, more food than was needed here on Arran began to mount up and it was decided to send the excess off island to help the ever growing demand made on the North Ayrshire Foodbank, which is run from the Church of the Nazarine in Ardrossan and also to support the work

of Ardeer Stevenston Faith & Community Together (ASFaCT), a church based organisation operating in some of the most deprived areas of North Ayrshire. Last winter, for the first time in recent years, the many families ASFaCT support on a regular basis did not have to go hungry, with between 30 to 50 food parcels issued per month. This was made possible by the kind and generous offer from Arran Deliveries to transport the food free of charge to its depot in Ardrossan.

It is now estimated that there are more than a million people relying on foodbanks in the UK to survive.

A sobering thought to ponder as once more we stock the larder with Christmas goodies and prepare for another season to be merry. The message of the Christmas story tells us that Jesus was born to save the world and change it for the better and I think such a state of affairs would make Christ weep. He came by his own admission 'to bring good news to the poor' (Luke 4: 18)

and thanks to the work of the ACT Foodbank at least some consolation is being provided to needy folk and families in times of great hardship.

I sincerely hope no one on Arran will go hungry this Christmas of 2014, but anyone requiring the services of the foodbank can access it by phoning either myself at Brodick Manse on 302334, or our volunteer co-ordinator Helen Nelson on 302375. The same cannot be said for tens of thousands of others elsewhere. More help is needed and donations of non perishable, long life foodstuffs can be handed in to any of the island churches. All are open every Sunday, times of worship are intimated in the Banner each week, including extra services over the Christmas period to which everyone is always welcome.

At a time of giving and receiving, come along and help us celebrate the true meaning of the season and your donation of food might be the best gift you give to someone this Christmas.

Angus Adamson.



Arran Churches Together bring 'tidings of great joy'

.01_b23bro01



Provost Joan Sturgeon wishes everyone on Arran a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Message from Provost Joan Sturgeon

With Christmas just around the corner, we can now look back and reflect on what has been a memorable past year for the people of North Ayrshire.

On a personal note, 2014 has been a very busy year for me but also a very enjoyable one as I watched our communities come together in celebration.

Up and down the country there were scenes of jubilation as Scotland took centre stage to host a number of world-renowned events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup.

Nowhere was this excitement more evident than here in North Ayrshire where more than 22,000 people turned out

to watch the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) pass through the area and take part in 15 separate community events.

This huge turnout saw North Ayrshire stage a QBR Day with one of the highest levels of community participation and civic pride in the country.

Dozens of our local groups also benefited from training, skills development and advice provided by the council and its partners and have been able to share this knowledge with many of our other communities.

Furthermore, 62 community groups secured funding of £75,000 from The North Ayrshire Legacy Fund to stage a variety of 2014-themed events.

This year also saw us mark

the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of the First World War – a conflict which saw hundreds of people from our communities lose their lives.

It is important the sacrifice these people made is never forgotten and these sacrifices, along with those made during other conflicts around the world, were remembered at poignant memorial events on Remembrance Day.

However, while Christmas is traditionally a time to spend time with family and have a good time it is also important that we spare a thought for those who are struggling in our communities at this time of year.

Over the past year council staff have donated more than a tonne of food to the North Ayrshire Foodbank which was set up to provide much needed supplies to families in need.

I am also particularly grateful to the staff in our Street-scene team for their efforts to support this worthy cause.

On Friday I was delighted to further contribute to this worthwhile cause and would encourage as many residents to consider doing the same.

Donations can be made throughout the year at your local library.

And finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Joan Sturgeon.



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MP supports Christmas jumper fundraiser



'Make the world better with a sweater' - Katy Clark MP popped on a pullover for the event.

Arran's MP Katy Clark has popped on a pullover and posed for photographs to mark Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day campaign.

Along with other Westminster MPs, Ms Clark was taking part in the event which is now in its third year.

Save the Children urged people all across Britain to join the woolly revolution to help 'make the world better with a sweater'.

All money raised from Christmas Jumper Day will go towards helping some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

Globally, 6.6 million children still die before their fifth birthday every year, most from easily preventable illnesses like malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Some don't survive simply because they can't get enough nutritious food.



Bird books have long been a favourite gift for Jim Cassels.

A bird book for Christmas?

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

DECEMBER

My first bird book was The Observer's Book of Birds published in 1952 by Warne.

This small book had first been published with a slightly different title The Observer's Book of British Birds in 1937.

I recall saving up to buy the three volumes of TA Coward's book The Birds of the British Isles and their Eggs first published in 1926 by Warne.

My edition was reprinted in 1960, but even then it felt decidedly old fashioned particularly when I received for Christmas 1961 a copy of A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe by R Peterson, G Mountfort, and P Hollom published by Collins.

This book was a revelation and a revolution. You could carry it with you and in the skilled drawings for each species a line pointed to each of the distinguishing features.

Peterson's work was the start of these useful field guides and now there are many on the market some based on drawings and others based on photographs.

Two of my favourites are the well-named Michael Beazley's Birdwatcher's Pocket Guide first published in 1979 (reprinted as The New Birdwatcher's Pocket Guide to Britain and Europe in 2002) and Collins Bird Guide by

L Svensson, K Mullarney and D Zetterstrom. The excellent second edition was published in 2009.

As well as field guides, there is now available a wide range of other bird books, including books on individual families or species, books on themes like migration and books on countries or areas.

If there was one book that I would recommend for people interested in Arran and its birds this Christmas, it would have to be the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 published this year by the Arran Natural History Society.

This was based on five years field work involving more than 700 people submitting more than 36,000 records on 177 species.

In the 168 page publication there are more than 400 maps

and more than 200 photographs.

This is available from outlets throughout the island for only £8, thanks to support from the Arran Trust and two other birding organisations.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran Bird Report 2013' and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk



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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 24 December, 1994

New Earl revealed

The name of the new Earl of Arran is out. He has been revealed as John de Bruyne and he paid £410,000 for the title which was sold last week in London.

Mr de Bruyne is a 48-year-old Old Etonian who lives near Cambridge. Earlier this year he sold a medical equipment company for £5.5 million and then purchased Swaine Adeny which makes top of the range umbrellas, gloves and riding whips at its factory in Essex.

Mr de Bruyne has been visiting Arran since childhood and said: 'I simply want my family to enjoy a very romantic place.' He and his wife Tracey have five year old triplets.

Lady Jean Fforde, who sold the title said: 'I was very sorry to have to sell, but I could not have wished for the Earldom to go into a safer pair of hands.'

Submarine found

The wreck of HMS Vandal, a Second World War coastal submarine, was found in the Kilbrannan Sound last week.

The vessel had been launched in Barrow-in-Furness in November 1942 and was sailing with a crew of 37 on board from the shipyard when she was reported missing in mysterious circumstances in the Firth of

Clyde in 1943. She is supposed to have been engaged in deep dive exercises.

It is said a man in Lochranza reported seeing flares off Arran about the time HMS Vandal was lost with all hands.

Community initiative

A new subject is on offer to fifth year pupils at Arran High School. The Community Involvement initiative aims to make the pupils aware of the community and the problems associated with the elderly and the young.

Over the past months pupils have been working at Montrose House and Lamlash Playgroup assisting with everyday tasks. In addition they raised money by making tablet and biscuits which they sold to their fellow pupils.

Bank changes

The Bank of Scotland in Brodick is shortly to be refurbished and enlarged. The manager's house, which adjoins the bank, is now empty and early next year the staff will move in there while the present bank is upgraded.

Once complete the house will be incorporated into the bank's working area. The upstairs will become a flat for temporary bank staff. The manager's home is now in Glenclay and the present front door of the bank will continue to be the one for public use.



Lucy McGovern and Rachel Todd meet Santa during his visit to Lamlash Primary School. b20twe02



Pupils at Whiting Bay Primary School with Santa during his visit to the school party. b20twe01



Community Involvement pupils presenting two £30 cheques to Mark Sheridan of Montrose House and Mandy McLean with son Kal of Lamlash Playgroup. b20twe04



Pupils at Brodick Primary School held a bring and buy sale in Brodick Hall and are seen here with the cheque for £375.47 they raised for the Blue Peter Wateraid appeal. b20twe05



The children of Corrie Primary School presented 'A Christmas Hamper' a melange of play, song, music and choric speaking, punctuated with community carol singing to a packed hall of parents and friends. b20twe03

What's on

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



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.45pm on Wednesday 24 December 2014 until 9am on Monday 5 January, 2015 other than the following:

Registration Service

Kilbirnie Office

Closed from 5.30pm on Tuesday 23 December
Normal business will resume on Monday 5 January 2015 at 1pm

Salcoats Office

Closed from 4.45pm on Wednesday 24 December
Normal business will resume on Monday 5 January 2015 at 9am

Irvine, Largs & Arran Offices

Wednesday 24 December 9am - 4.45pm
Thursday 25 & Friday 26 December CLOSED
Monday 29 December 9am - 4.45pm
Tuesday 30 December 9am - 4.45pm
Wednesday 31 December 9am - 1pm
Thursday 1 & Friday 2 January 2015 CLOSED
Normal business will resume on Monday 5 January 2015 at 9am

Please note all registration business is by appointment only

Registration Services can be contacted on telephone number:
01294 310000

Health & Social Care Partnership

The following offices will be open on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 December 2014 (normal hours) and until 1pm on Wednesday 31 December 2014:

Aitken Place, Ardrossan
Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine
Bridgegate House, Irvine
Brooksbys, Largs
Caley Court, Stevenston
Craigton Road, Kilbirnie
157 New Street, Stevenston
Rosemount, Irvine
Throughcare, Salcoats
Shore Road, Lamlash
West Road, Irvine

Libraries

Irvine, Largs and Salcoats

24 December - Closed from 12.30pm
25 December - 2 January 2015 Closed
3 January 2015 - Re-open 10am

Kilwinning

23 December - Closed from 7.30pm
25 December - 2 January 2015 Closed
3 January 2015 - Re-open 10am

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

23 December - Closed from 5.30pm
25 December - 2 January 2015 Closed
3 January 2015 - Re-open 10am

Arran

23 December - Closed from 5pm
25 December - 2 January 2015 Closed
3 January 2015 - Re-open 10am

Please note that no Councillors' surgeries will be held from Wednesday 24 December 2014 until Friday 2 January 2015 inclusive.

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

Domestic collections will be unaffected over the festive period. Please put your grey and blue bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection.

The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

The Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed 25 and 26 December 2014 and 1 and 2 January 2015.

The last special uplift collection for 2014 will be on 19 December 2014. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on 5 January 2015.

Large items of cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period.

Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your grey bin for 7am, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January 2015. Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less.

The contact telephone number of North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the festive period is 01770 600338 or visit our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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 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 Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 09.01.15. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

14/00707/PP; Mill House, Lakin Farm, Shiskine, Brodick; Sub-division of existing house to form second house and extension to new house to form entranceway.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Brodick Castle, Garden Open 9am-Dusk
Arran Brewery Open Tue - Thur 12.30-5pm, Mon, Fri, Sat 10-5pm
Arran Brewery tour 2pm
Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green Open all day

Saturday 20th December

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
Live music - The Saggy Bottom Boys Fiddlers, Brodick, 8.30pm
Brodick Market Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
Lamlash Children's Christmas Party Arran High School, 2.30pm
DJ Tony The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm - 1am

Sunday 21st December

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
AA Meeting Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Christmas Jumper Competition Kinloch Public Bar, 4.30pm
MEGA Mackerel Lottery Kinloch Bar, 5pm
Open Session - All musicians & singers welcome Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
Live music Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
Carol singing Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm
Folk Session Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Monday 22nd December

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
Circuit Training Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Live Music Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
10/10 Total Body workout Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm

Tuesday 23rd December

Christmas Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Auchrannie Winter Bowls Auchrannie 7pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
RunArran Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
Live Music Fiddlers, 7.30pm
Bridge for beginners Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Rock & Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Yogalates Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
Aquafizz Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
Christmas Eve Party The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm-2am
The Village Children's Christmas Party Shiskine Hall, 3-5pm
Christmas Eve Church Service St Molios church, Shiskine, 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Friday 26th December

Live Music with Scott MacDonald The Douglas Hotel, Brodick 8-10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Big Boxing Day Quiz The Drift Inn, Lamlash, 3pm



Public Notices

Arran Medical Group

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island surgeries will be closed on
Thur 25th & Fri 26th
December
Thur 1st and Fri 2nd
January 2015

The surgeries will close at 5pm on Wed 24th & Wed 31st December.

If you require a doctor urgently over this period you should contact
NHS 24 on 111

In an emergency phone 999

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



An Initiative of Trust Housing Association

Isle of Arran Homes

and

Arran Care & Repair office

will be closed from
2.00pm on Tuesday
24 December 2014
 until
9:00 am on Monday
5 January 2015

If you have an emergency repair please contact
0333 321 6418


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

Christmas Messages

MacHale Engineering
 would like to wish their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
 Thank you for your support and business in 2014.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
 KITTY McALLISTER
 Would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.
 Kitty.

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year
 To all relatives and friends from Donald and Mary McNiven, Whiting Bay



MERRY CHRISTMAS
 AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To all our family and friends from Willie and Mary Tod

SEASON'S GREETINGS
 Dorothy and Donnie Sym would like to wish friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you to all for your help this year

Merry Christmas & a happy New Year
 with special thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas to all our friends and family.
 Jean & Mackie Stone xxx




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302280 or email: info@wooleys.co.uk

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Closing Date: 5th January 2015

For further details and to apply visit
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North Ayrshire Council**

Sessional Seasonal Instructor | Ref: NAY005155
Hourly Rate: £12.15
Duration: Temporary until September 2015
Closing Date: 5th January 2015

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 21st December
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME
Thursday 25th December
(Christmas Day)
Holy Communion,
Mary Boughton, 10.30 am.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Parishes of North Arran
Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill 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 fol-
lowing times to which
all are invited
Sunday 21st December
Lochranza and Pirnmill
Churches. 10.15am
Christmas Service in Pirnmill.
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Christmas Service.
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Christmas Service.
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting,
12noon Christmas Service.
A Service of Christmas Worship
will also be held in Montrose
House at 1.30pm.

Wednesday 24th December
Brodick Church, 5pm Family
Christmas Service including
Sacrament of Baptism.
Corrie Church. 9.30pm
Christmas Eve Service.
Brodick Church, 11.30pm
Christmas Eve Watchnight
Service.
Thursday 25th December
Lochranza Church, 11am
Family Service for
Christmas Day.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 21st December
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Mrs Sharon Macleod
Both Churches:
Christmas Eve 11.30 pm
Christmas Day 10 am
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDSM, QUAKERS
Quakes meet every Sunday at
11am. For meeting venue ring -
830622, 820223

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)
Sunday 21st December
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen
Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 21st 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
Wednesday 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.
Thursday 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 mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 21st December
11am Morning worship
in the Ormidale Sports
Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home
Fellowship Group for
Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 21st December
Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind
post office)
Mr Kenny Robertson

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Arran Golfers Association
Saturday 13 December, second
round of the Winter League/
Duncan Trophy 2014/15.

The second attempt at the
second round matches got un-
derway at Whiting Bay Golf
Course, and after last week's
cancellation things didn't look
good with rain, sleet, hail, ice
and snow all forecast. But
credit to Stewart and his team
for clearing the snow on Friday

DEATHS

MCBRIDE, MARGARET SANDS (NEE CURRIE) - John and Christine wish to thank all for the thoughtful messages, letters, many cards and beautiful flowers received following their sad loss. Special thanks to all Doctors & Medical Staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital, to all District Nurses, to all staff at Cooriedoon, and to David and Clair Hendry. Sincere thanks to Rev. Angus Adamson for his personal and fitting tribute, to Mrs Jean Hunter, and to all who attended the service. Also, to Kildonan Hotel for catering.

RANKIN - At Wishaw General Hospital on 13.12.14, Sarah (Sadie), beloved wife of the late Nestor, formerly of Clyde View Cottage, Whiting Bay. Dearly loved mother, grand-mother and great grand-mother, who has left many happy memories.

WARD - ARTHUR EDWARD
Beloved husband of Nora, father of Jane, passed away peacefully at University Hospital, Cross-house, on the 12th December. Arthur will be deeply missed by his family and the friends he made during his relatively short time living on the island. To use his own words, "The most beautiful place in the world" The funeral will take place at, Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn on Monday 22nd December at 1.00pm. All friends and acquaintances are very welcome.

to get the games played, all be it in uncomfortable conditions.

Shiskine couldn't field a team so Lamlash had a walkover, Brodick defeated Corrie in the first match by three and a half games to a half and in the other match hosts Whiting Bay defeated a five-man Machrie team very comfortably by four games to nil.

Thanks again to Whiting Bay for getting the games played and to Jamie McPherson for all his efforts, also John in the Clubhouse for his warming soup and sandwiches.

Fixtures: Sunday 11 January, Corrie Golf Club. Draw: Corrie v Lamlash 8.30am,

Machrie v Brodick 9.20am, and Whiting Bay v Shiskine 11.50am.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday 20 December, Winter Medal at 8.30am and 12noon from white tees.

Monday 22 December, Monday Cup from yellow tees at 12noon. Saturday 27 December, Winter Medal from white tees at 8.30am and 12noon.

Monday 29 December, Monday Cup from yellow tees at 12noon. Thursday 1 January, New Year's Day game at 10am, open game, 18 holes.

Saturday 3 January, Winter Cup at 8.30am and 12noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 14 December, Ryder Cup. Latest results: Kilpatrick 5.5 v Torbeg 2.5, Blackwaterfoot 6 v Shiskine 2. (Blackwaterfoot get the bonus point).

Table after the second game:
Kilpatrick 8.5 points
Blackwaterfoot 8.5 points
Shiskine 5.5 points
Torbeg 3.5 points

Fixtures: Friday 26 December, Boxing Day gents/ladies Texas Scramble. Please contact Pro Shop for a time. Wednesday 31 December, Gents' Mahogany Trophy.

Thursday 1 January, Colditz Quach/Alan Smith Plate (gents/ladies). Friday 2 Jan-



Whiting Bay Golf Club's Christmas tree was decorated on Sunday afternoon by a collection of children, old and young - despite the weather postponing the games for the day.

uary, D S Bannatyne Shield (gents/ladies). Sunday 11 January, Ryder Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 14 December, Brandon and Winter Cup, four played in horrible weather, all in the morning. First class Brandon winner was Jimmy Armit with a net 69. Although the competition was severely limited, he deserves the glory for his sheer determination to finish the round, while his playing partners fell by the wayside.

There were no qualifiers for the second class Brandon.

Fixtures: Sunday 21 December, Clochendichter from 10am. The golf will be followed at around 2-2.30pm by the traditional Christmas lunch in the clubhouse. Whether or not anyone has played in the Clochendichter this year, they can go along and enjoy what is sure to be a social and jovial occasion. Anyone intending to join in the fun, it would help Trish if they could add their name to the list in the clubhouse.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 9 December there was no game due to the weather. Fixtures: Tuesday 23 December, Winter Cup, tee off

12noon. Tuesday 30 December, two club competition (putter plus one other club) played over nine holes, tee off 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Due to inclement weather there was no golf competition and Lamlash was awarded the Winter League game.

Fixtures: Sunday 21 December, Whiting Bay game at Whiting Bay 10.30am for 11am start. Friday 26 December, Boxing Day game 11am draw - Stableford.

Sunday 28 December, Winter Stableford counting round, 9.30am and 12noon starts.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Saturday 13 December, the AGA Winter League match at Whiting Bay finally got played at the second attempt - in slightly challenging conditions and with a few teams lacking in numbers. Whiting Bay beat Machrie Bay by four games to 0 - well done to all who took part.

Fixtures: The fourth round of the Winter Cup was postponed due to the weather and will now be played on Sunday 28 December. Sunday 21 December, winter friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay, tee-off between 10.30am and 11am.

WEDDING

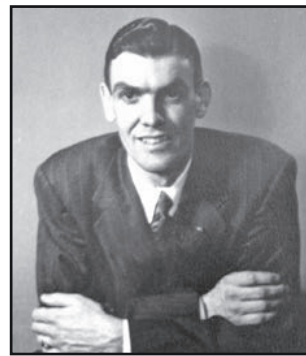


Married in Lamlash Parish Church on the 19th July, Robbie Adamson of Corrie cravie and Ashton Lamb from Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear. The couple have set up home in Hexham where Robbie is an Environmental Surveyor and Ashton is currently training to be a Primary Teacher.

CHRISTMAS WISH

CHRISTMAS WISH!

Can you provide any information about the people, vehicle or location?



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Wind and rain can't stop Arran's biking enthusiasts

Anyone out and about last Sunday morning might have been surprised by the number of cyclists, bravely battering their way through torrential rain and a howling wind, heading west towards Black-waterfoot.

They may well have thought: 'Are they crazy?'

'Well, maybe not crazy but we were certainly all committed,' said Arran Bike Club member Gerard Tattersfield.

'We were committed to getting to the Kinloch Hotel for midday to enjoy the first annual Arran Cyclists Christmas Ride Out Lunch.'

And enjoy it they did, arriving in smaller groups, the mountain bikers having braved the Forest track from Whiting Bay to Kilmory, the road riders battling over the Ross Road and the Arran Bike Belles, bicycles trimmed up with lights and tinsel appeared from the String Road.

Gerard added: 'After drying out a little and warming up a lot, there was much Christmas merriment in the Kinloch

lounge bar with lots of re-fue-ling from the menu. The beauty of all that exercise is that you can eat as much as you like, knowing it's all going to get burnt straight back off again on the way home!'

There was one of Jan-ice Small's famous cycling themed quizzes after lunch, which saw the guys beaten convincingly by the girls, and then too soon it was time to depart. With just enough light left in the, thankfully, now dry day, the whole group headed back over the String and onwards to home before dark, this time assisted by a good strong tail wind.

So, despite the atrocious weather, Arran's local cyclists go from strength to strength, with three different groups on the island enjoying regular riding, even at this time of year.

If anyone is at all interested in cycling and wants to know more about joining in the fun, just visit www.arranbikeclub.com which should point people in the right direction.



Arran's cyclists didn't let the wind and rain postpone their Christmas lunch.

Under strength Arran take a pounding in Cumnock

Cumnock 57 Arran 7
Arran Rugby Club suffered their heaviest defeat of the season when they travelled to Cumnock two weeks ago.

Due to injuries only 10 players made the journey to Ayrshire, so the points were effectively lost before the match started, but the fit players were just desperate for a game as the team hadn't played for three weeks.

Difficult

In cold and slippery conditions the players of both teams found the handling difficult in the early part of the game. However, it was Cum-

nock who managed to take control with the first try and conversion to give the home side an early 7-0 lead. Cumnock added another quick try to take a 14-0 lead after only 10 minutes played.

Arran shocked the Cumnock players when they won the chase through after a long upfield kick and touched down to take the score to 14-7.

This was to be Arran's one and only try and in quick succession Cumnock added three more tries and it was only half time that gave some respite to Arran who were

on the wrong side of a 31-7 score.

Cumnock started the second half just as strongly as they had finished the first half and had another try after only five minutes.

The try was converted and Cumnock were well ahead at 38-7.

Later in the half, with Cumnock further ahead, Thomson scored possibly the try of the day after some strong running and neat footwork saw him side step his way to the try line. The final try for Cumnock came after excellent work by the entire forward

pack which saw them push over from a five-metre scrum to take the final score to 57-7, leaving Arran with a day they will want to forget.

Cancelled

Last Saturday Arran were out of action again when a rescheduled home game against Mull was cancelled as the visitors could not muster a team. But the team should be in action today (Saturday) against Loch Lomond at Ormidale Park with a 1.30pm kick off.

The Arran Rugby Club Facebook page is good place to check for late call-offs.

Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results from Arran Bridge Club are as follows: Thursday 11 December at Brodick, Match Points third Round: 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough, 3 Anne McKelvie and Elaine Duncan.

Monday 15 December at Lamlash, Aggregate Competition: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Pat Adamson and Linda Trickett, 3 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 3 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming.

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