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Corrie to convert schoolhouse to provide more classrooms

The schoolhouse has been vacant for the last three years

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Councillors have agreed to spend £175,000 to improve facilities at Corrie Primary School.

The former schoolhouse beside the school is to be brought back into use to provide learning and teaching facilities.

At present the school annex provides accommodation for dining facilities, PE and early years provision.

However, structural problems have been found in the building which means it is no longer fit for use.

A report to a recent North Ayrshire cabinet stated: 'Following a report of 'cracking and movement' in the annexe in November 2012, immediate inspections were undertaken and emergency repairs carried out where some movement of timber-supporting posts was evident.

'On more detailed further investigation, significant structural issues and movement were noted to the building.'

As a result the council's property section considered as the preferred option to internally reconfigure the schoolhouse bringing it into use at an estimated cost of £175,000.

Optimum layout

This was because it allows optimum layout of facilities for the delivery of all learning and teaching under one roof, including the dining provision, as well as the opportunity to enhance the learning and teaching environment including both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

It also utilises this existing space as the schoolhouse has been vacant for the last three years.

Consideration was given to utilising the village hall. However, it is 0.8 miles from the school and the head teacher and parent council were consulted and their preferred option was to convert the schoolhouse.

Proactive

NAC's corporate director (Education and Skills) Carol Kirk said in her report: 'North Ayrshire Council has been proactive in its approach



Santa dash for Arran's runners

No your eyes did not deceive you - there were 12 Santas running through Brodick on Sunday morning!

The members of RunArran, the island's running group, got into the festive spirit by taking part in a five-kilometre Santa Dash in full Father Christmas outfits.

Organiser Laura Aitcheson told *The Banner*: 'Although the wind was against us on the way out it helped us along on the way back.

'People in Brodick were very encouraging, cars of people waved at us, and some people sang Christmas songs as we passed.'

The RunArran Wednesday night mixed ability group starts again on January 8 and beginners' classes will be starting again soon.

Laura added: 'So if you are hoping to get fit in the New Year, get in touch. 'You could be doing the Santa dash next year!' 20_b52num01

to designing and refurbishing schools for the 21st Century. Significant investment has been made to improve the existing school estate and we have committed to providing a more efficient education and skills property portfolio.

Flexible

'Key to the success of providing more targeted, flexible and relevant premises is to ensure that the estate can respond to changing factors which may emerge throughout the life of a building. The opportunity which currently presents itself at Corrie Primary School aligns with this strategy.'

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Golf club gets go ahead for house plot sale

A golf club has been given planning permission to develop a plot of land for a new house.

Lamlash Golf Club will use the funds from the sale of the plot for improvement works to the course and clubhouse.

The North Ayrshire Council planning committee approved the application subject to a number of conditions including that work has to start on the site within two years from the date of the permission.

The club has spent three years trying to get permission to sell the parcel of land with planning permission for a house in a bid to give a substantial cash boost to club funds.

A previous application to develop the land in Manse Road, adjacent to the residential Marghaheglis Estate was rejected by planning officials.

The 0.1Ha site is presently

waste ground which has been used over the years for the dumping of excess soil, rocks, waste vegetation and grass clippings from the golf course and is 'out of bounds' to golfers.

The club has already received an offer from an Arran resident for a five-bedroomed house which would be built in a farm steading style.

Economy

Golf club captain Jim Stewart said: 'The permission was granted after particular requirements were met pertaining to the position Lamlash Golf Club holds with regard to the economy of the island and its importance within the tourist industry.'

'Resulting from this permission, Lamlash Golf Club looks forward to implementing significant improvements to both the course and clubhouse to the benefit of visitors and members alike.'



The mass ranks of the Rowan Singers in full voice. 20_b51rowan01

Christmas concert marks the end of an era

The Rowan Singers took a final bow in the Arran Community Theatre in Lamlash at the weekend.

In its last ever concert as an individual group, the singers

entertained a packed audience last Sunday afternoon.

The Christmas concert was an eclectic mix of sacred songs, Christmas songs and popular songs for the shows,

with the audience joining in some of the hymns.

The Lamlash singers will amalgamate with Lochranza Choir to form a new all-island choir next month.

Charity single to help homeless

Whiting Bay drummer Douglas I'Anson and his band Jonny Jack have pledged to help the homeless this Christmas as they gear up to launch their latest single.

The band is releasing the first track, Renée, from the upcoming EP 'Skin to the Bone' on New Year's Day.

And, in keeping with the festive spirit, the rising stars will be donating all proceeds from the lead single and launch night ticket sales to Shelter Scotland – a charity striving to help 4,574 homeless children in Scotland this Christmas.

Renée will be available for digital download on January 1.

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Planning begins for Open Studios weekend

It is near the bleak midwinter and although the Arran Open Studios (AOS) is now a sunny memory, the organisers are keeping busy and preparing for the 2014 event. Several meetings have been held since the 2013 event and another will be held on Thursday 23 January at Ardshiel in Whiting Bay.

All participating artists are warmly invited to attend and share their views on the organisation and contribute ideas about the ways forward.

Already decisions have been taken about registration.

To facilitate a more timely production of the brochure, which in 2014 will

take the form of a booklet, a call will be made to artists wishing to take part, to return both their intention and their submission by the end of February.

The fees for 2014 remain unchanged at £50 – watch the press for details.

New participants are warmly welcome to register and for artists who feel they do not have a studio worthy of a visit but art-works worthy of being seen, there are initiatives afoot to help those people without studios suitable for visitors who still want to exhibit.

Discussions have been held about the Art Bus which everyone agrees was not used to its best effect this year.

The Art Bus continues to be both a great idea for AOS and a work in progress; ideas are being floated about how it might work better.

Meetings have also touched on the possibility of linking with other open studio events across Scotland to share information and aid in the distribution of booklets and provide vital publicity to draw people to the island for the AOS weekend.

To be a part of the event contact Ruth Mae on 820373 or by email at ruth-mae.nagare@gmail.com or Josephine on 600287 or email her at tim.pomeroy@onetel.net for more details.

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Ferry travellers urged to be flexible with Christmas travel plans

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is urging anyone intending to travel by ferry over the holiday period to be as flexible as they can when planning their journeys.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We have been advised that there will be prolonged periods of severe weather hitting Scotland over the next couple of weeks including the New Year holiday period.'

'As a result our services may experience cancellations and/or disruptions.'

'Due to the impact of this weather it is likely that our timetables and sailings will change at very short notice as we endeavour to maintain lifeline services.'

He added: 'We would therefore ask customers to check the website: www.calmac.co.uk for the latest information and be prepared to be flexible if at all possible. This may mean delays but also the possibility of some sailings being earlier than timetabled.'

'We fully appreciate that these disruptions will be inconvenient but the safety of passengers, crew and ships is our number one priority.'

AMRT calendars

Arran Mountain Rescue Team held a fundraising event at Brodick Co-op on Saturday selling team calendars.

The team would like to say a huge thank you to all the kind people who bought a calendar or left a donation.

A total of £950 was raised for essential team funds.

Forest to be felled and shipped off the island

Some limited disruption to Fallen Rocks path

An entire Arran forest is to be felled and shipped off the island.

In a major operation the Forestry Commission is to remove and replant North Sannox Forest completely transforming the shoreline landscape over the next two years.

It is to build a landing ramp on the foreshore and ship all the timber being removed to the mainland.

A new landing craft - double the size of the existing vessels which service Arran - will be brought in for transportation.

It is a major logistical operation for the Forestry Commission which has taken months of planning, according to Arran's head forester Andy Walker.

He said North Sannox was chosen as it is the only stretch of foreshore on the island owned by the commission.

It was decided to transport the timber by sea as dozens of extra timber lorries operating through Corrie and Sannox was not considered a long-term option.

The commission has chosen a site 500 metres north of the North Sannox picnic site to build a timber transfer station and a landing ramp, similar

to the one which operates in Market Road, Brodick.

Preparation work will begin early in January and will include upgrading the forest road which goes to the Fallen Rocks.

Felling will then start in February or March of the entire citrus spruce forest. Most of the trees are around 50 years old and are to be replanted almost entirely with broadleaves, as is the plan for most of the island.

Felled timber

Felling will continue throughout the summer until October and resume in 2015.

The felled timber will be brought down to the transfer station before being shipped twice a week by barge across the Firth of Clyde to Troon.

The new barge, which can

operate like a landing craft, will be able to take up to twice the 500 tonnes of timber regularly shipped by the barges from Brodick.

Mr Walker accepted that there may be some limited disruption on the Fallen Rocks path.

But he vowed: 'We will try to keep it open as much as possible, but it may have to be closed for some periods when the boats are being loaded, but we will try to keep this to an absolute minimum.'

Once in Troon half the timber will be used in the sawmill, much of it for kit housing, and the rest will go to the UPM Caledonian paper mill in Irvine to be used for papermaking and to fuel the biomass plant which powers the site.



Welcome ArCaS donation from Brodick school

Youngsters from Brodick Primary School made a most-welcome donation to ArCaS last week.

The school raised £189 from donations at their Christmas nativity in Brodick Church and the children decided to give it to the island's cancer charity.

Annie McKelvie and Harris McNicol are pictured handing over a cheque to ArCaS shop manager Sue Girbow. 20_b52arc01

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The cast of Roald Dahl's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Corrie.



Snow White leads some of the cast in a song.



Moo and tail at Shiskine.



At Kilmory the youngsters performed Dick Whittington.

Pantomime t stage at scho

It has been concert season around the island schools and mums and dads and grandparents have been enjoying seeing the children perform in a variety of shows.

Shiskine Primary School play this year was called 'Panto Pandemonium' and was the first time the school has ever performed a panto.

The story was about four chil-

dren who are taken to a pantomime by their slightly strange supply teacher and end up in 'Pantoland' saving the panto season.

They had to find Aladdin's lamp, the giant's goose and the glass slipper, all of which had been stolen by the wicked witch.

They managed to save the day and evil was overcome by good.



Cinderella and her wicked step sisters at Shiskine.



The cast of the Pirnmill concert One Bright Night.



The good fairy at Shiskine.

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akes centre ol concerts

Oh yes it was!
Corrie School Christmas Concert was Roald Dahl's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

All 13 school pupils had a part in the show and it was a fantastic performance, watched by parents, friends and villagers, who enjoyed coffee and mince pies at the break and a raffle.

Many thanks go to all who contributed and thanks to everyone who helped put on a great show.

ryone who helped put on a great show.

At Pirmill Primary School the Christmas concert called One Bright Night was a great success while at Kilmory the performance of Dick Whittington on Monday 16 December raised an impressive £300 for school funds. Thanks went to all who supported, donated and attended the performance.



The seven dwarfs at Shiskine. b52panto01NO



Shiskine nursery class in costume.

Round the Rurals

Corrie and Sannox WRI

The last meeting of Corrie and Sannox SWRI for 2013 was held on Thursday 12 December when president Elma Stevenson welcomed members to a gaily decorated hall.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read and business conducted she welcomed the demonstrator, Corrie member Morag Munro, who proceeded to demonstrate how to make very attractive bracelets using beads and elastic threads.

Great fun

This was great fun and could make ideal Christmas presents for grandchildren

- or even the members themselves.

Morag had also brought some of her own other jewellery which was very attractive indeed.

There then followed a very enjoyable tea which was provided by Heather Donaldson, Elma Bayne and Gillian Currie.

The £2 parcels were then drawn from the Christmas sack before members set off with Christmas wishes echoing as they left.

The next meeting will be the Old Years Night celebration on Thursday 9 January when Kilmory will be their guests.

Senior citizens' party thanks

The southend's over 60s had a great time at their Christmas party in Kildonan Hotel on December 14.

The Kilmory and Kildonan senior citizens would like to thank the Kildonan Hotel and their staff, and the entertainers Mhairi Thomas, Isabelle Adamson and Jim Fleming.

A big thank you goes to all 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 Concern, which partly sponsored the party.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Looking back at 2013

As 2013 draws to an end it is natural to look back at the events of the year.

This has been a big year for Arran, with tourism figures, ferry delays, new piers and natural disasters dominating the headlines and catching the attention of people internationally.

The year started relatively quietly but the proposed biomass plant at the Dyemill grabbed most of the headlines and is continuing to divide opinion on the island 12 months later.

Throughout February we followed Calum McNicol's epic journey as he and seven others attempted to break a world record for rowing across the Atlantic ocean.

Fuel prices, ferry fare increases, and problems with disrupted sailings, all reared their heads again throughout 2013 and no doubt will continue to make a reappearance in the year to come.

The news that Arran was to get a second ferry for five months throughout the summer was greeted with great joy and in October it was revealed that Arran's visitor numbers had risen considerably, much to the delight of the island's businesses.

The tourism headlines continued later in the year when Arran was named 'destination of the year' at the Scottish Hotel of the Year awards, cementing the island's reputation as one of Britain's best places to holiday.

Roads also dominated many of the headlines as Ian Small restarted his campaign to get Arran's network up to scratch and northenders campaigned against a road closure which saw the C147 closed between Catacol and Pirmill for 10 weeks.

The Banner revealed that the island was failing to attract new teachers because of a lack of adequate housing; that the state of Arran's roads was putting visitors off coming here; and that locals were demanding that priority be given to islanders for the new homes being built in Lamlash.

But of course the story that we will all remember when we think back to 2013 in many years to come was 'snowmageddon'.

A week of heavy snow and power cuts hit the island in late March bringing with it chaos and disruption for every home.

Arran featured heavily in the news both throughout Britain and internationally.

Despite the problems that the lack of electricity created, the lasting memory for most of us will be of the incredible community spirit that brought the entire island together.

There is always excitement at the start of a new year and here's hoping that 2014 is a good one.

Happy new year to each and every one of you!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Fix your eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal.' (2 Corinthians 4: 18)

press policy

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

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Uninspired design

Sir,
After reading Geoffrey Botterill's letter ('A square box') about the planned new ferry terminal, I did some research on the architects involved.

According to their website, they specialize in airports and railway stations.

I think we can now see where the 'inspiration' for the new design comes from.

Also, who had the barmy idea of installing lifts to access the ship?

Somebody should tell the architects that power cuts are not unknown on the island. How are reduced mobility passengers supposed to board when the lifts are out of order?

A ramp would be a far better solution than the planned use of stairs and lifts.

Yours,
Simon Baxter
Castle House
Kildonan

The big cheese

Sir,
I was delighted but by no means surprised to read of yet more international prizes and accolade bestowed upon Torrylin cheese once again.

However, as a regular visitor, I must ask the question as to why it is so difficult to find Torrylin cheese to purchase on the island unless you actually visit the creamery itself?

The other Arran cheese is available widely through the island and as a result rightly sells well to visitors like myself.

I wish the same could be said for the Torrylin cheese which I feel is missing a lot of sales as a direct result of its poor marketing on the island itself.

Can anyone offer an explanation as to why this delicacy is so difficult to obtain?

Yours,
Ross Shepherd
Ponteland
Newcastle upon Tyne
Festive delights

Sir,
My job involves driving around Arran in the evenings, and at this time of year, because of the weather, state

of the roads etc, my journey can be a bit daunting. There is one thing that makes my travels a bit more pleasurable, and that is my trip around the Shiskine Valley.

From Torbeg to Balmichael, and all in between, it is a delight to see the festive lights that people have gone to a great effort (and expense) to decorate their homes, and businesses, with. So to all involved a big thanks and well done, you make my, and my colleagues, driving at night so much more enjoyable because of all your hard work.

Yours
Jean Fitzpatrick,
Ailsa View
Slidery
Bessie Arnold
remembered

Sir,
Today (28 December), it will be 105 years since the Bessie Arnold went down in a blizzard off the black rocks of Slidery.

Four of her five crewmen perished with her and are buried in Kilmory churchyard.

Only the evocative little white ship's figurehead marks the grave, but almost everyone who has grown up in Arran has heard the story of her wrecking and the brave rescue attempts by local people.

My husband is descended from the ship's first captain - not the man who was in command in 1908, but we have tried to trace what really happened, and a booklet of our findings is now lodged with the Arran Heritage Museum in Brodick.

If anyone is interested in reading about it, I would be happy to print an abridged copy for a small contribution to cover the ink and postage.

Yours,
Margaret Dodd
Ellan Geay Regaby
Ramsey
Isle of Man

Brodick's boozy pram

Sir,
On behalf of Brodick Nursery I'd like to thank the local businesses which donated bottles to our 'hamper' and which sold tickets on our behalf.

The mums and dads did a great job of trawling the depths of their drinks cabinets for donations and a truly magnificent selection was created!

The sum raised was a whopping £1,248 and the lucky winner was Mrs Maureen Cumming of Lochranza.

Thanks very much also to everyone who bought tickets and well done Maureen - party at the Cummings this Christmas!

Yours,
Laura Helliwell

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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.

This week we have a picture of Julia Mellor from Brodick who took her Banner with her to Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

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

It could be from Dumfries or Detroit, 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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Review of the Year

Part one - January to June



A consultation event was held in January to let members of the public put forward their views on a proposed biomass plant in the Dyemill Forestry. 01_b03bio01



The first of 56 affordable homes being built in Lamlash was taking shape by the end of January. 01_b04lam01

As 2013 draws to a close it is time once again to take our customary look at the news and views that have dominated the pages of The Arran Banner over the past year.

For most the main event of the year still remains the snow storms and power cuts that ravaged Arran at the end of March.

Trapped

After a relatively mild winter four-foot drifts of snow came as a huge surprise and left many islanders trapped in their homes for days.

When electricity pylons collapsed on Kintyre the entire island, even parts with not a flicker of snow, was left in the dark.

The power cuts forced the community together and Arran's brave volunteers and emergency service personnel worked tirelessly throughout.

The community rallied like never before and many les-

sons have been learnt from the events which cost power distributor SSE millions of pounds to rectify.

Community emergency plans are now in place - although it is unlikely that such a combination of snow and power cuts will ever happen again.

For the rest of 2013 the pages of The Banner were dominated with the usual good news stories documenting the successes and achievements of Arran's small population.

Important event

And once again The Banner ensured that the readers did not miss an important event from all corners of the island as it continues to cover the daily comings and goings of life here.

As we've said before The Banner is your newspaper and we really couldn't produce it without each and every one of you - so thank you!



Maureen McKenna was appointed as learning centre manager at the Lamlash branch of Argyll College in February. 01_b05col01

3%

recycle for North Ayrshire

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Review of the Year



The 84th Arran Music Festival was cut short in March by the heavy snow and power cuts which hit the island. 01_b12shi01

After 35 days at sea, rowing across the Atlantic in an attempt to break the world record, Calum McNicol of Brodick was welcomed home to Arran at the end of February.

01_b09cal01

Right: Samantha Payn, Eddie Picken and Jean Clark raise a glass to Kilmory's new social club which opened its doors in March. 01_b12bar02



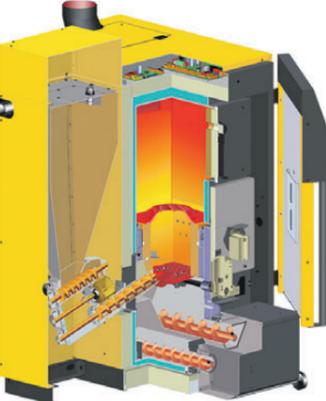
Above: Phone lines hang heavy with compacted snow in Catacol after the worst snow storm to hit Arran in living memory wreaked havoc across the island in March. 01_b13cat01



Left: The heroic efforts of local volunteers and mainland emergency responders were extolled by islanders following heavy snow falls and power cuts on March 27. 01_b13cat04

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It looked as though Balmichael Visitor Centre was to get a new lease of life in January when John Copperwheat, Stephen Scott and Bob Haddow signed an agreement with hopes of re-opening the popular tourist destination in the summer. 02_b02ba101



It was announced in February that made on Arran. The 'Naiads' will b depths of human desires. 02_b05fil01



Robert Lammie is pictured with two pure-bred Suffolk lambs and a two-crop ewe mother in early January - the first lambs of the year. 02_b02lam01



The Arran Bee Group received a cheque for £2,000 from the Arran Trust to support the reintroduction of the Scottish Black Bee on the island. 02_b06bee01

- January to June



The National Trust for Scotland unveiled big plans for Brodick Castle in February when the property was revealed as one of the trust's signature projects. 02_b08cas01



Senior pupils at Arran High School premiered a stunning feature film early in the year. Called Birds in Cages it was filmed on location at Brodick Castle.

b06bird01



Fifteen-year-old Olivia Barker from Whiting Bay wowed the judges in the TeenStar competition, which was scouring the country looking for our most talented young singers. 02_b07sing01



Past and present members of the Northend First Responder group gathered at the distillery in June to celebrate 10 years of service on Arran. 20_b24res08



Taste of Arran scooped a coveted food 'Oscar' in June when the Cheese Company's mustard cheddar won first place in the dairy category at the Scotland Food and Drink Awards. 20_b24awa01



Sheila Gilmore, Arran's very own Burns enthusiast, was flown to Chicago to give the Immortal Memory at one of the world's most prestigious Burns suppers.



The Kinloch Hotel was rocking in February when 'Gator' and 'Dip' celebrated their 110th birthday. Gator (Alaister Kerr) and Dip (Alistair Rankin) were 60 and 50 respectively. b06party01



It an epic feature film was to be a 'fantastic tale' exploring the

01



Sandra Butler, her brother Greg and mother Celia celebrated 25 years of caring for the elderly at their nursing home in Whiting Bay in May. 02_b21cor01



Chris Jenks was just one of many trophy winners at the One-Act Drama Festival in March. He won the Douglas Sillars trophy for best acting performance in a youth play. 02_b09cup02



In February Fiona Laing of Pirmill was nominated for a Citizen of the Year award at the North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards. 02_b07civ02



In May, Ian Small of Brodick renewed his campaign to have Arran's roads brought up to standard by vowing to send photos of the worst potholes to the council every day.



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

We have been serving the business community on Arran for over 20 years and look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

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Shiskine Primary School news

Children in Need fundraiser

The school's fundraising committee organised a fun afternoon in aid of Children in Need on November 29 and mums, dads and friends came along to support this.

There was a silent auction which everyone enjoyed and people were very generous with the sums they bid.

There was a quiz, stand up bingo, a beetle drive which some people knew how to play, and a tombola which some people were very lucky at.

There was also a treasure map that you had to find the treasure on.

The impressive sum of £235.82 was raised and everyone had lots of fun and there was lots of laughter.

Thank you for coming along, we hope you enjoyed it.

School committees

This year the school has four committees which meet every second week and have different roles to perform.

The committees are the same as the house groups and a teacher works with each one to give guidance.

Each term the house groups move to a different commit-

tee and this term they have been very busy.

The Eco Group (Beinn Nuis house group) sent an energy survey home to each family. The results showed that most families are very energy conscious but could improve on three areas.

Rechargeable batteries need to be used more, shower times need to be reduced to five minutes and toasters and microwaves need to be made full use of.

The Publicity Group (Gigha House Group) has been working on putting together a booklet giving information about transport, school lunches, playground games, P7 jobs and the school staff as well as advertising the Christmas Panto.

The Pupil Council (Sanda House Group) has helped to organise a Film Club which will take place after school each month.

They have also been discussing ideas which pupils put in to a suggestion box and are acting on those.

The Fundraising Group (Davaar House Group) organised the Children in Need Fundraiser mentioned above.

Class topics

This term the topic in the senior class was 'Light, Sound and the Senses'.

The senior class have done some fun experiments about



The community supported the school's Children in Need fundraiser back in November

light and sound, including making shadow pictures, looking at some of the senses and did lots of activities including muffling sound and reflections.

Both classes were involved in a topic about Judaism.

They did lots of exciting things including making model Torahs and a play about Moses, which was enjoyed very much.

Pupils also worked together to make up 10 rules we should live by.

The infant class were doing a topic about bears and they had a teddy bears' picnic where they had the chance to bring their favourite teddies into school.

They are now doing a new topic about toys where they will learn about the history of toys and do science and technology activities.

They have been to a toy exhibition and workshop at the Heritage Museum in Saltcoats where they learned about toys through the years.

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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 out the season of cancelled ferries is well 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 day on the mainland and make a day of it with an overnight stay.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 31 December, 1993

Miracle machine

When Jay Ferguson of Brodick saw an advert for a miracle machine that could turn water into alcohol he was sceptical, but intrigued.

'I was very interested to see it,' he said, 'but I couldn't believe that the machine could produce vodka, gin or lager.'

Anyway he was convinced and within a short time he had one in his home and was an agent for the Drinkcentre.

The machine uses a concentrate to produce the alcohol when mixed with water as a result it works out much cheaper than the normal price of drink and Jay thinks it could have a lot of appeal among revellers, particularly at a party. But so far he has had few takers.

Surgery talks

The saga over a new doctors surgery in Brodick is set to rumble into the new year.

Earlier in the year a report from the Land Tribunal gave the thumbs down to a new surgery in front of Brodick Bowling Green.

But a new location is still



Santa makes an appearance in Kildonan. b20twe03

being sought according to North Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust.

Now the chief executive has met with representatives

from Strabane Enterprises and Dr Kerr at the Inverclyde Surgery to discuss further the possibility of assisting with a surgery in Brodick.

Back in use

The famous post box at the Machrie Roadend is back in use after six months out of action.

Always a curio, due to the unusual markings on the sandstone blocks, it was demolished in a car crash last June.

Last month builder Ian Stewart repaired it and this week a new mail box was inserted in the base putting it back in use.



Christmas cheer at Shiskine School. b20twe01



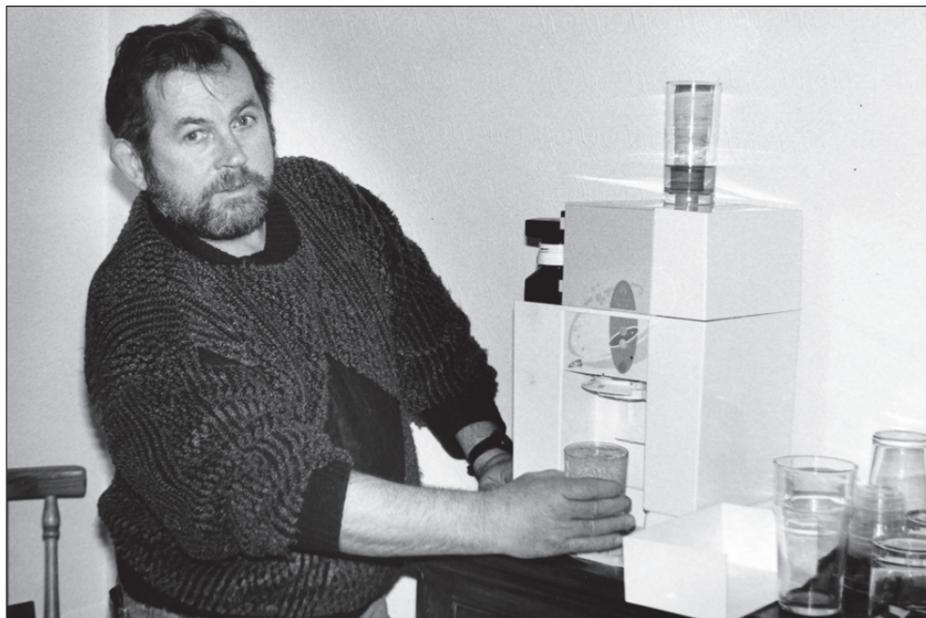
Christmas party in full swing in Corrie. b20twe02



Santa meets youngsters at Pirmill. b20twe04



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Jay Ferguson with his miracle machine. b20twe05

What's on

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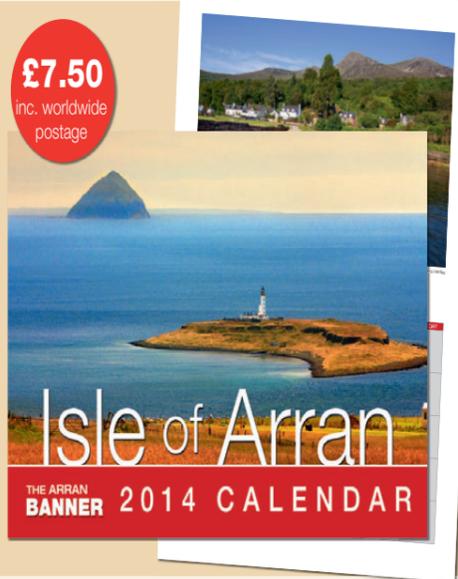
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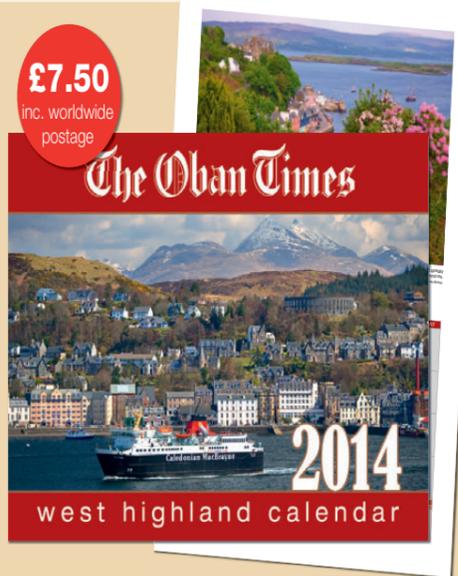
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Closed Sunday 2pm

Arran Brewery tour

Saturday 28th 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 29th 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

Monday 30th December

Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm

Tuesday 31st December

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Hogmanay Party Drift Inn, Lamlash 9pm-2am
New Year's Eve Quiz Drift Inn, Lamlash 3pm

Wednesday 1st January

New Year's Ceilidh Brodick Hall, 8pm-11pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm

Thursday 2nd January

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Boxing Day Quiz Drift Inn, Lamlash, 3pm

Friday 3rd January

RunArran Coaching Ormidale Park 9.30am
Active Buggies Ormidale Park, 10am
Overeaters Anonymous Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 11.30-1pm



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www.north-ayrshire.myjobscotland.gov.uk



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Please submit in writing to the Secretary

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Eilean Leodhais,

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Banner readers.**

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

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

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

Public Notice

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND SKILLS CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 - SESSION 2014/2015

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 13 January 2014.

As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live. The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration. Elderbank Primary School, Irvine will combine the current catchments of Broomlands, Fencedyke and Towerlands Primary Schools.

If your child is due to attend the new school in August 2014, you should contact Broomlands, Fencedyke or Towerlands Primary School to arrange a suitable date and time for registering your child.

Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

If you wish your child to attend a school outwith your catchment area then you must submit a placing request which you will be able to submit online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000. Registration at your catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school.

Carol Kirk
Corporate Director (Education and Skills)

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.

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CHURCH NOTICES

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 29th December
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

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

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 29th December
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Mrs. Sharon Macleod
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 29th December

A service of praise and readings will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 29th 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.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

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ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 29th December
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Ronnie Christie

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 29th December
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6-30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Wednesday 1st January
New Years Day Service, 11am
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

SALVATION ARMY

House Group/Bible Study.
Mondays 2.30pm.
If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

DEATH

ALLAN - Hight. Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Sunday, 21st December 2013. Hight, beloved husband of the late Mae, father of Sharon, Grandfather of Mhairi and Allan and Great Grandfather of James and Fraser. Funeral service in Whiting Bay church on Monday, 30th December at 11:30am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited.



Nursery Santa brightens up the Co-op

The children of Lamlash early years class are pictured presenting the team manager of the Co-operative store in Brodick, Pete Hollingsworth, with a model of Santa and his shopping list which the children made.

The youngsters talked about what things Santa would put in

his trolley while doing his Christmas shopping and why.

The staff and children of the nursery would like to thank Pete Hollingsworth for his generous gift of books, satsumas and chocolate buttons which the children thoroughly enjoyed at their Christmas party.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 22 December, 10 played in the third round of the Winter Cup in testing conditions - for some! The CSS rose to 64 and there were no

magic twos. 1 Graeme Crichton (13)58, 2 Gus Macleod (10)61, 3 Jamie MacPherson (5)66. Jamie also won scratch after countback with 71.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 December, Sweep from Yellow Tees. Thursday 2 January, nine-hole Cross Country. One draw at 10am. Sunday 5 January, Winter Cup Round 4.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 22 December, Winter Cup, 8 played, non-handicap counter. 1 D Hendry (13)37pts, 2 J Beattie (20)34pts, 3 B Jenkins (7)31pts.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 December, Winter Cup. Open draws 9am and 12pm. Wednesday 1 January, New Year Bottle and Hirsell Trophy. Arrange own games. Thursday 2 January, course backwards competition. Open Draws at 9am and 12pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 15 December, Lamlash v Whiting Bay (non-qualifying). 1 Ian Bremner 34pts, 2 Graeme Andrew 33pts, 3 Iain Murchie 32pts. Best Scratch Ian Bremner 29pts to stableford. Twos Iain Murchie at the 16th.

Result of the game Lamlash 3 Whiting Bay 0. Thursday 19 December, Yellow Medal - non qualifying. 1 Alan Smith 74-10=64, 2 Ian Bremner 70-5=65. Sunday 22 December, SS 63, Glenburn Cup. 1 Alan Smith 75-10=65, 2 Graeme Andrew 74-9=65. Best Scratch Graeme Andrew 74.

Fixtures: Sunday 29 December, Winter Stableford at 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday 2 January, Course Backwards at 10.30am for 11am start.

Sunday 5 January, Glenburn Cup 9.30am and 12noon starts.

Wishing all members and friends of Lamlash Golf Club on and off the island a and a peaceful and prosperous 2014.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday 16 December, 1 J McConnachie 65-4=61 BIH, 2 D Price 71-10=61, 3 D Crawford 78-14=64 BIH. Scratch J McConnachie 65. Magic two from I McMillan.

Saturday 21 December, Winter Cup. 1 A Smith 74-10=64, 2 D Price 76-11=65. Scratch A Smith 74 BIH. Magic two from D K Henderson.

Fixtures: Saturday 28 December, Sweep 8.30am and 12pm. Monday 30 December, tee-off 12pm. New Year's Day game tee-off 11am.



Corrie Golf Club.

Arran poem could win you £1,000

Now is your chance to write a prizewinning poem about Arran which could win you £1,000 in a competition aimed at getting more people to write poetry.

It's free to enter this annual competition and it's open to all UK residents, young or old.

All you have to do is send a poem about life on Arran to 'Local Poem', United Press Ltd, Admail 3735, London, EC1B 1JB or visit the website www.unitedpress.co.uk or call 0844 800 9177.

The best poem will win £1,000 cash and you can send up to three entries, which must be no more than 25 lines (each blank line counts as one line) and 160 words each.

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

'We find that poems written from personal observation and experience are the most heartfelt and expressive, so we're expecting some great entries from your readers.'

'The contest is designed to encourage ordinary people to write poetry - to both express themselves and be more creative.'

'Maybe this year the £1,000 will go to a poet from the Isle of Arran.'

Winning poems have been about a river, a tower, a local character, village life and local history. The closing date is December 31.

Sports Review of the Year

January to June



Wullie Stevenson of Whiting Bay is pictured with his young dog Birch who swept the board at the final Nursery Sheepdog Trials at Druid in January. 01_b08dog01



Torbeg captain Joe Faulkner proudly displays the 2013 Shiskine Golf Club Ryder Cup after a win for his team in February.



Alan Picken is presented with his trophy by his uncle Eddie as runner-up of the pool singles competition in March. 01_b12fn02



Kildonan pool team won the Second Chance Salver competition in January. 02_b05pool02



Arran's rising young rugby star, Ewan Bulger, was called up to the Scotland under-18 team in February. He then went on to be chosen for a prestigious rugby scholarship in New Zealand.



Dennis Smith won the coveted pool singles trophy in March after 27 years of attempts. He is pictured with league secretary and friend Eddie Picken. 01_b12fn03



Arran Pool Knockout champions for 2013 were PT1934 after their victory over the PHT in January. 02_b06cup01



Arran's Ladies Pool champion for 2013 was Cathy Hamilton, she is pictured with the other finalists. 02_b09pool01



PT1934 celebrated their win in the Arran pool League in March. 01_b12fn04



Max Worthington beat Robert Davidson in a five-frame final to be named Arran's open pool champion for 2013 in January.



Kevin Jackson and Billy Hamilton won the pool doubles competition in March after defeating Dave Nicholson and Ryan Hughes in the final. 01_b12fn01



Racing fans enjoyed three days at the Cheltenham Festival - from the comfort of the bar at the Kinloch Hotel in March. 01_b12kin01

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Sports Review of the Year

January to June



Former Ryder Cup player Ronan Rafferty took part in an exhibition golf match at Brodick in April and his caddy for the day was young Finlay Sillars. 02_b18ron04



Susan Butchard, right, was named Whiting Bay Golf Club's ladies' champion in June after beating Lesley Wood, left, in the final.



The ladies of Whiting Bay Golf Club won the Kiscadale Salver for the third year in a row in May.



Hamish Bannatyne, left, was named 2013 gents' champion at Shiskine Golf Club in June. Jenni Turnbull was the winner of the ladies championship and Robbie Crawford won the Duiskey Cup.



Jennifer Emsley from Whiting Bay, centre, successfully defended her Scottish national 10,000-metre track championship title at Grangemouth Athletics Stadium in June.



Arran Rugby Club celebrated the end of another successful season with a 41-26 win over Uddingston in April.



Malcolm Pennycott, left, was presented with the Club Championship Trophy by Whiting Bay Golf Club's captain Gus MacLeod in June.



Southend FC won the Arran Haulage Shield, the first silverware of a successful summer season, in June after defeating Lamlash. 02_b21foot01



Glen Mlotek from Brodick won the Arran Golfers Association junior matchplay competition in June.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.