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Arran's Weekly Newspaper | SATURDAY, 23 DECEMBER, 2006 | No 1575

Flats plan scrapped

Plans to demolish the McAlpine and McLaren hotels in Brodick and replace them with tenement blocks have been scrapped in a surprise U-turn by the owner of the hotels.

A total of 73 new flats were planned for Brodick by demolishing the McLaren Hotel and the back half of the McAlpine Hotel.

But owners of both hotels, Billy and Janie McLaren have decided to rescind the sale at the 11th hour following discussions with Arran Community Council and Kenneth Gibson, SNP candidate for Cunninghame North. Instead, the McAlpine/Douglas Hotel has been sold to former Arran man Sean Henry who plans to refurbish the property into a boutique hotel.

However, as part of the newly submitted plans, new affordable housing will be built with first option on the housing given to Arran Housing Association.

The news will be welcomed by the Arran community which was concerned the loss of two hotels would mean over-development and a loss of amenities.

Mr McLaren said: 'The McLaren Hotel will be retained by us.

'The plan is to completely refurbish the property to include a bar/bistro, letting rooms, and affordable housing for indigenous Islanders. This is not the best deal for Janie and I financially, however, it is the ideal solution for both visitors and residents of the Island.

'We have lived on Arran for the past six years and want to make a long-term commitment to the Island we adore. With these new developments the Island is the winner as the hotels will be upgraded, new homes built and jobs will be created.'

Mr Henry, a chartered surveyor based in St Petersburg, Russia, has the largest foreign-owned property company in Russia. However, the McAlpine is only the second commercial property he owns outside of Russia.

Mr Henry spent his teenage years in Brodick and Corrie and still has family and a house on the Island. He has big plans for the McAlpine Hotel, making all suite rooms, a restaurant and a health and fitness room.

Mr Henry said: 'The hotel has not been maintained the way a hotel should. I will need to spend a lot of money on it but as a property developer I have always wanted to own a commercial property on the Island and put something back into Brodick. It's a lovely hotel and given some investment and tender loving care there is no reason it can't be something special. I want it to be child-friendly and I plan to re-clad the outside of the building.'

The McLarens are holding a public meeting on 10 January in the McLaren Hotel to answer questions on the development.

Newborn is Island first

Pictured with Arran's first lamb of the season is Rory Currie from Birchburn Farm and his friend Carina Haouchine.

Arran's first lamb has been born well in time for Christmas, let alone New Year.

The new-born lamb becomes the latest addition to a flock owned by Willie Anderson of Birchburn Cottage, Shiskine.

The pure-bred Suffolk was born on Saturday 16 December, a week sooner than expected. Willie said: 'It was a surprise it was so early but we knew it was going to arrive around this time.'

Willie explained why one of his lambs was so early. He said: 'It was because of a little accident at show time. We were shifting sheep for the show and a tup got loose and was let in with the ewes.

'Luckily for us, it was the right breed.'

When Willie went into the house to tell his wife Alice that he had a lamb, she said there wasn't enough room in the freezer. Willie replied: 'It's not that kind of lamb!'

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Helpline to cut your winter heating bills

Disabled people, the elderly and young families on low incomes on Arran are being encouraged to contact a free new helpline for money saving advice on heating this winter.

The Home Heat Helpline (0800 336699) is available to residents in North Ayrshire and Arran and will offer advice on fuel bills, home insulation and supplier and government grants.

The service also welcomes calls from intermediaries such as carers, family members, social workers and health visitors and will advise regardless of supplier.

The excavation work at Cladach Mill

Diggers unearth Arran's buried treasure

Excavators replacing old water pipes have unearthed evidence of Arran's historical roots dating back 6,000 years.

National Trust Scotland archaeologist Derek Alexander decided to undertake a watching brief in case the work exposed evidence of past human activity and made some impressive discoveries.

A number of flint artefacts including a range of flakes, cores, blades, bladelets and a very fine scraper were found in Greenhyde Field, which has lain in pasture for many years.

According to Mr Alexander the tools are of Neolithic date and could be 6,000 years old.

Scottish and Southern Energy have been replacing the water pipe that feeds the hydro electric turbine at Cladach Mill below Brodick Castle.

The Neolithic tools found at Cladach Mill

The small hydro scheme was set up in 1949 but recent bursts in the old iron pipe led to its abandonment.

The new pipe is currently being laid all the way up the hill from the mill to the dam by Armitage Groundworks so the turbine can once more produce renewable energy.

Mr Alexander added: 'Greenhyde Field was probably an excellent place for a prehistoric settlement with its well-drained, south facing slopes overlooking Brodick Bay.'

Two in for ferry tender

Only two companies have been asked to tender for ferry services on Clyde and Hebridean routes.

An announcement last week by Transport Minister Tavish Scott revealed current ferry route providers CalMac Ferries Ltd and international ferry company V-Ships have both received confirmation of an invitation to tender (ITT) for the routes, which include the Brodick to Ardrossan service.

In his announcement, Mr Scott also confirmed that from winter 2007 there would be improvements to winter timetables regardless of who wins the ferry contract. One of these improvements will see an additional daily return sailing for Brodick to Ardrossan.

The Scottish Executive has decided on the improvement to the service following an assessment of affordability, value for money and operational impacts.

There were 53 comments on the Arran ferry service during the assessment, a number of which were about improving the winter timetable.

The extra winter sailing will bring the Arran service in line with the summer timetable and, according to the Executive, 'will enhance the economy in Arran by allowing mainland-based workers more daylight time on Arran and providing further opportunities to commuters'.

Arran Ferry Committee member and Arran councillor Margie Currie said: 'The ferry committee very much welcomes this development of an extra sailing because we have pressed very hard for it in the last two years. I think this is a small victory for the ferry committee. The sailing will allow people the option of a full working day on or off the Island all year round.'

Mrs Currie said the committee was aware of possible disruptions to the service. The extra sailing will be timetabled for 7am from Ardrossan but, because Ardrossan Harbour is not as suitable as Brodick, adverse weather may affect the first sailing.

'The ferry committee still believes it is worth having the timetable change and risk disruption,' she added.

The most notable change to the overall service will be a new £20 million ferry for the Islay run.

The open public tender has been a necessary step to comply with European law and further timetable improvements will be made to routes serving Islay, Mull and Coll and Tiree.

Following the ITT announcement both CalMac and V-Ships must return their tender bids by May 11 2007.

The selection and appointment of operator will be made in the summer of 2007 and the new contract will commence that autumn.

CalMac chairman Peter Timms said: 'We are delighted that the process has reached the final straight of the ITT process. The enhancements to services are most welcome.'

He added: 'The last few weeks have been hugely demanding and we believe we have come into our own when tackling the worst weather for 25 years.

'We will now set about the challenge of mounting a winning bid and that effort has already started.'

The National Transport Agency said research would be undertaken during the lifetime of the contract.

Issues to be considered will include, but not be restricted to, vessels, services, timetables and a review of the fares structure.

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Police Files

Teenager injured

A road accident, in which a teenager was injured, occurred on the A841 half a mile south of The Heights, Whiting Bay, at 8.20pm on Monday.

Following the accident, which involved one car, the 19-year-old driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Festive safety

In line with Strathclyde Police's festive safety campaign, Arran Police have been actively targeting drink drivers.

Officers stopped more than 20 drivers last week to do spot-check breathaliser tests.

Arran Police sergeant Helen Murison was pleased to report only one of the drivers was over the drink-driving limit.

As a result, a 58-year-old man, who was stopped in Shore Road, Lamlash, for alleged drink-driving at 8pm on 14 December, is subject to a report to the procurator fiscal.

However, Sergeant Murison added a number of people had to be warned about speeding.

She wished to remind people the festive safety campaign would be running until January and high profile policing would continue.

People should also be wary of the cold and frosty conditions and be extra vigilant in basic car maintenance to reduce their chances of having an accident.

Vandalism

The door of a forklift truck belonging to BARR Construction at the new high school site was vandalised over last weekend.

Anyone who saw or heard anything about this incident should contact Arran Police Station.

Found

Two pedal bikes have been found on Arran over the last fortnight.

One is a green and blue child's bike found near the Co-op, Brodick, on Friday 15 December.

The other is a blue/silver ladies mountain bike and was found on Tuesday 12 December in Alma Road, Brodick.

Anyone who can lay claim to these bikes can collect them at Arran Police Station.

Extra Arran dentists

Arran's dental service will undergo massive improvements in the New Year following the creation of two new dentist positions on the Island.

Many Islanders travel to the mainland for dental treatment as there is only one dentist for the island. But another Island-based dentist could be in place as early as January 2007, which is the provisional start date.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran said it is 'well advanced' with plans to employ a full-time and a part-time dentist for the Island and is hopeful of improving dental services at Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Should the improvements be made, the Island will also gain a dental hygienist.

These additions to the service are on top of the current service which, at present, is one full-time dentist as an independent contractor operating from Glenard House, Brodick.

Presently NHS Ayrshire and Arran employs a locum dentist on Arran to provide emergency treatment to people not registered with a dentist and is available from the Arran Dental Surgery on Thursdays.

Campbell Laing, chairman of Arran Health Services Committee, said: 'We [the committee] are absolutely delighted with this news.

'It has been a long time waiting for it and we would hope it allows people to join a new register and not have to travel to the mainland.

'Children won't have to take the day off school to go to the dentist and a new dentist will alleviate a lot of problems for people.'

The new full-time dentist will be based at The Arran Dental Surgery, 6 Douglas Centre, Brodick.

Both the full-time and part-time dentists will be based between the Douglas Centre and Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Alistair Swan, Clinical Director Community Dental Services, said: 'The demand and need for dental services on Arran is greater than we currently provide and we have been trying to attract an additional dentist to the island for some time.

'In the long term we are planning to replace Lamlash hospital and to incorporate a twin dental surgery in the new development.

'We hope to greatly improve the dental surgery currently sited at the hospital.

'The current service we provide is limited by the size of the current premises at the Douglas Centre.

'However, if we are successful in completing the improvement of the Lamlash facilities in the short term, a position for a dental hygienist will be advertised to provide additional support to the dentists.'

James is number one naturalist

James Mowatt, centre, has been named the Island's Young Naturalist of the Year. Runners-up up were Ben Leslie and Katie Mowatt. All are members of the Young Naturalist Club which meets once a month at Brodick Country Park to explore the natural world. The club is open to six - 11-year-olds and covers topics such as beautiful bugs, tracking and survival skills. The next meeting is on wildlife puppet making and is on Saturday 13 January. To find out more about the club contact the Ranger Service on 01770 302 462.

Brigade Bulletin

Brodick and Lamlash fire brigades have been praised for their response times following quick responses to two incidents in two days this week.

On Tuesday firefighters attended a chimney fire in Hill View, Brodick. After receiving the call at 5.04pm the crew was at the scene in six minutes.

Firefighters dealt with the problem within half-an-hour.

The next day both appliances were called to a fire in the kitchen of a home in Shore Road, Whiting Bay. Although the fire was extinguished before they arrived they had taken only nine minutes to get there.

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‘Hola’ from Arran’s Spanish fanatics

Liz Sloan with her Tuesday night Spanish class. b51spa01

Spanish phrases may soon become part of the Arran vocabulary following a huge surge in Islanders taking up the language.

The Spanish lessons, run by Arran Learning Centre manager Liz Sloan, have attracted more people than ever before.

Liz said: ‘We run two classes on Arran and we have about 15 people in each of the classes.

‘Before, we would have seven or eight at most in each class but this year we have had to turn people away because there are so many signed up.

‘Everywhere I go now, someone pipes up and says ‘buenos dias’.’

Niether Liz, nor the 12 Spanish learners who were present at a class last Tuesday could explain why the classes were so popular but Liz has an idea why.

‘One or two of the students have extended families abroad.

‘I know one man in the class who has family in South America.’

Liz takes the lessons as part of a James Watt College course and, through University of the Highlands and Islands uses video conferencing to give lessons on Campbeltown and Mull.

Fears for Island Post Offices

PUBS, community centres and village halls could become the new premises for rural post offices.

This was one of a number of new ideas being put forward by the Government alongside Trade and Industry Minister Alistair Darling’s announcement last week that 2,500 will close around the country.

There will also be new criteria that 95 per cent of the population in urban areas are within a mile of a post office; 95 per cent of the population in rural areas are within three miles of a post office; and in remote areas 95 per cent of the population in postcode districts are within six miles of a post office.

Mr Darling said last week: ‘There is widespread recognition that the current size of the network is unsustainable, that is why it is important to build on innovation. It is about the right post office for the right place.’

He has announced £1.7 billion investment, subject to European state aid approval, over five years; putting the Post Office Ltd in a strong position to bid for the new account when the Post Office Card Account contract ends in 2010; support to expend finances services, including 4,000 free-to-use cash machines; a continual annual subsidy until 2011 and 500 outlets for small, remote communities in village halls, community centres and pubs.

A 12-week consultation period will follow with Post Office Ltd developing restructuring plans to include the closures.

Postwatch Scotland chairman Tom Begg said: ‘This is not a simple numbers game of how many post office buildings are to close. The focus should be on ensuring customers have access to post office services. Solutions will vary from location to location.’

Concern

Irene Grents, sub-postmistress at Lamlash Post Office, said: ‘I am very concerned about our future.

‘It is not how busy the Post Office is that matters - it is essential to the people of the village as a social place and somewhere to come for advice.

‘Quite honestly, if the Post Office goes, the village could die.

‘As for putting a Post Office in the village hall, we won’t have a village hall soon.

‘We are angry that the government took all our business in the first place and the people don’t like it.

‘These are the same people who voted them in.’

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Blue Planet cameraman films on Arran

An award winning underwater cameraman has filmed, edited and produced two films on Arran to be used by Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

Doug Anderson has travelled the world as a freelance cameraman working on the BBC's *Planet Earth* and *Blue Planet* shows.

His love of diving began in Lamlash Bay where, as a child, he would swim and fish with his grandfather, Thomas MacNeish. As a teenager he became more serious about diving and it was the skills honed in Lamlash Bay that would see him develop into the diver he is today.

His uncle, Don MacNeish, is the chairman of COAST and invited him to film the island's shores for five weeks this summer.

For 10 years COAST has been trying to persuade the Scottish Executive to grant a no-take fishing zone in Lamlash Bay to allow the bay to regenerate.

The two films, *The Bay* and *Caught in Time*, have been made with this aim in mind but, while they point to a nationwide problem, it is hoped to keep them as local as possible; COAST members have been involved in making the films and it is hoped Henry Murdo of Brodick will narrate *The Bay* and Malcolm Ritchie, Pirnmill, will narrate *Caught in Time*.

The Bay, for which COAST has been given a £9,000 grant from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) for production costs, takes advantage of Doug's world-class film skills to capture shots of the sea life in Lamlash Bay and the shores of Arran. The film also explains more about COAST.

Caught in Time sees interviews with many of the environment and marine industry's top names.

The film also reveals why it has been so difficult for COAST to influence any change in Lamlash Bay.

Doug said: 'The two films cover two things. I hope people will watch *The Bay* and understand two things. Firstly, the amazing things that live just below the surface of this grey water and secondly, that it is okay to feel ownership of a piece of land underwater as you would on the surface.

'People get passionate about pylons going up but the sea is regarded as a place where people fish.

'*Caught in Time* is basically COAST's journey from past to present and will try to help people understand what happened to the eco-system and habitat and why its small trial has gone unsupported for many years.'

COAST vice-chairman Howard Wood said: 'Through the films I hope to move forward with what COAST is all about. It's not about stopping fishing, it's about regaining marine life.'

Wildlife cameraman Doug Anderson spent five weeks filming Arran's shores, above and below the water surface, in order to make two films relating to COAST's aim to see a no-take fishing zone in Lamlash Bay. Doug has travelled the world filming and won an Emmy Award for his shots of a Sei Whale feeding, the first time this had ever been shot.

Lochranza's festive residents on song

The first Community Carols night at Lochranza took place on Sunday with more than 60 finely tuned voices singing their favourite carols at Lochranza and Catacol hall.

The first few carols were sung outside and the festive feeling was strong at the hall thanks to hall committee members and other volunteers who provided decorations, lights, mince pies and mulled drinks for the event.

Teachers and pupils of Pirnmill Primary School made an enjoyable contribution to proceedings and even 'the man in red' made a surprise appearance.

One of the organisers, Aileen Wright, said: 'It was lovely to see the 60-plus who gathered at the hall to enjoy the community spirit. Donations of £30 each were taken for hall funds and Save the Children, both gratefully received.

Thank you also to MC Peter Chappel and special thanks to Lorna Haliburton for her musical accompaniment.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran wants you to have a safe, healthy and happy festive season.

During the party season alcohol may make you do things that you may regret so stay conscious and make presents the only surprise you get this year!

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), such as HIV, chlamydia, genital herpes and gonorrhoea have not gone away and are on the increase. If left untreated they may cause long term health problems.

Abstaining from sex can be a positive choice for you, but if you don't abstain, love them or hate them condoms or dams are the only forms of protection you have against these infections.

If you have had anal, vaginal or oral sex without using a condom you could be at risk.

Be safe, be sure,
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Cluster Christmas party

These children were all smiles after receiving a visit from Santa Claus. The occasion was the Arran Nursery Cluster Christmas party for the children of the Corrie, Shiskine and Kilmory nursery classes.

Voices of concern at fish farm meeting

There was one thing clear from a public meeting on the proposed Marine Harvest fish farm development at Clauchland's Point - there are huge reservations about the development among the Arran public.

It wasn't clear if there was enough opposition to prevent the plan to construct a new fish farm at the point but Marine Harvest representatives were not given an easy time by the 30-odd Islanders attending the meeting at Brodick Hall on Wednesday.

Marine Harvest's environmental manager Ben Hadfield explained the proposal is for a maximum of 14 (100 metre circumference) plastic circle pens, all with 16 metre deep nets.

An application has been submitted to The Crown Estate and SEPA but Mr Hadfield explained the final decision will be made by North Ayrshire Council (NAC) planners.

It is expected to create an extra four jobs and safeguard the six jobs at the current St. Molios fish farm in Lamlash Bay, a farm which may not be viable in years to come.

However, Marine Harvest representatives struggled to find any other reasons why the new development would benefit the island.

Mr Hadfield also fielded many questions about the effect on wildlife, both through activity and waste production from the farm, as well as concerns the farm would be an eyesore; visible from one of the island's most popular walks. The pollution aspect was partly dealt with by Arran's own Bill Currie of Lamlash Mussel Farm. He said: 'My mussel farm is right next to the current fish farm and we have samples taken from the mussels every month. If there are any effects from the fish farm, they haven't shown in my mussels. We are half a mile or so from the farm at the moment and it is safe - so far.'

The meeting learnt Marine Harvest had approached the Buddhists of Holy Isle to discuss developing off the island but was met with, according to Mr Hadfield, 'the threat of global opposition'.

A consultation period is currently running and anyone wishing to make representations should do so to the Crown Estate by 12 January.

In closing the meeting, chairman Campbell Laing said the farm plan was clearly an emotive subject and encouraged the public to contact the community council with their views, as well as The Crown Estate or NAC.

Havard Grontveld, Marine Harvest managing director, George Nicolson, Lamlash fish farm manager and community council chairman Laing Campbell are seated as Ben Hadfield begins to explain Marine Harvest's proposal. b51har01

Hospital Supporters League says goodbye to hall

Arran's Hospital Supporters League has held its last Christmas fayre in the current Lamlash Community Centre.

The group, which raises funding for Arran's medical services, collected £1,043 at its annual fayre on Sunday, December 3, an amount group secretary Dr Sheila MacLeod described as a 'superb effort'.

Dr MacLeod told *The Arran Banner*: 'Thanks must go to all the people who gave freely of their time to make the day such a success.

'Also a huge thank you must go to centre caretaker Allan Little who was always there with solutions to any problems that arose and made us feel very welcome as always.'

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The Arran Banner - 20 years ago

Christmas Cracker

Pantomime, summer play, drama festival, G & S, Arran has its regular stage shows.

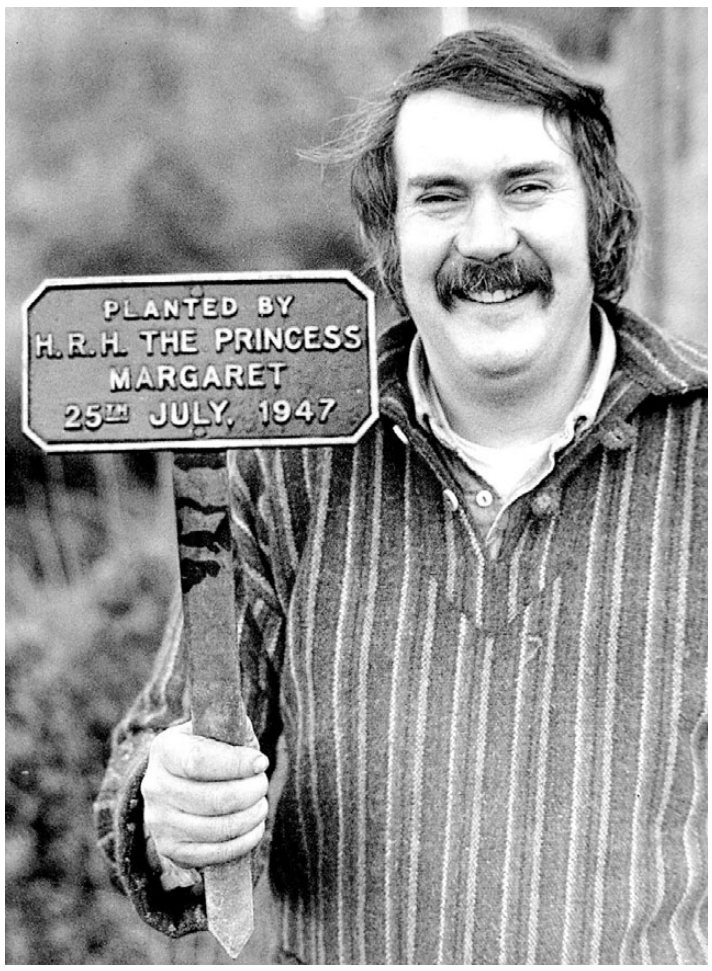
And then, every so often something appears which has no apparel, which cannot be compared to the one before or the one after.

Such was The Christmas Cruise in Whiting Bay last Saturday. It was a real Christmas Cracker,

Since around last May Mrs Marjorie McIntosh of Whiting Bay has been putting Brodick and Whiting Bay primary school children through dance steps and rehearsing little cameo parts.

Only she herself saw the whole it would become last Saturday when all the bits came together in a spectacular review called 'The Christmas Cruise'.

Santa visits Brodick Playgroup Christmas party. b51twe01



CalMac subsidy

The Secretary of State announced in Parliament on 17 December the subsidy for CalMac over the next year.

He said: 'I propose to give a deficit grant of £6.9 million to Caledonian MacBrayne.

For the second year running the company has performed well and made significant cost savings, particularly on fuel, which they expect to continue next year.

'Their funding requirement is therefore lower than this year.'

Mystery sign

No Jim Lees (pictured, left) wasn't planted by HRH in 1947.

In fact he was a lusty 18 months old at the time.

But while cutting rhododendrons in Merkland Wood he came across this sign in thick undergrowth which he initially thought was a 'keep of the grass' sign as they were worth money.

However, Jim was unsure as to whether this sign was worth anything and asked readers if they could help unearth the mystery.

New arrivals

A years ends and already the first lambs of the New Year are with us.

For at Torrylin Farm by Christmas Day Libby Cook had three of 1987's lambs already up and about in the shed enjoying the mild weather.

For it was on Monday that the first Suffolk twins were born, a right royal pair, having been conceived on show day (147 days gestation for Suffolk lambs).

And then on Tuesday 23 December another lamb was born.

Pirnmill Primary School pupils in costume for their nativity play.

Windy day

Last Saturday was a very windy day with a wind speed of 80mph recorded by the anemometer at Brodick Country Park.

This is the highest recorded wind speed since March this year.

HIDB grant

The HIDB has announced a grant of £1,930 as one of its social development grants awarded during November 1986.

In announcing the award which 'must be put forward by properly constituted local community groups' it described the grant as being 'towards the development of a sailing training club to include secondary school pupils.

Brodick children's party

In a break with tradition, the estate was unable to provide a Christmas tree this year.

However, Mr John Basford kindly stepped into the breach and the hall with sparkling new decorations looked its best.

The Children and Mothers enjoyed the usual games and party fare to say nothing of Santa's arrival.

Pianist was Sybil Martin and Ian and Maggie Frame helped with games and singing.

Lamlash WRI

A group of about 30 ladies gathered in Lamlash Community Centre on Wednesday 10 December to be informed, entertained and have a thoroughly good night out.

The information came from Mrs Mochrie who gave us a clear account of icing cakes and really made it seem so easy to get a professional looking finish.

Lamlash Bridge Club

Monday 15 December

NS: 1 Mrs J Murchie, Mrs P Currie - 50; 2 Mrs J McLure, Mrs A McKelvie - 290; 3 Mrs V Henderson, Mrs L Shaw - 1070.

EW: 1 Mrs L Murchie, Mrs C Mason + 1930; 2 Mrs J Fulton, B Turner + 990; 3 Mrs K Park, Mrs L Primrose + 960.

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THE ARRAN
BANNER
ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER Saturday 23rd DEC, 2006

There are few absolutes in this world - but one is that we have a superb ferry service. CalMac is not without its faults, overstaffed, oversubsidised, the dog wagging the tail but, in the end, we still get a first class service. Regular, reliable, comfortable, it is mostly courteous too.

On the front page of last week's Banner the manager of the Auchrannie is quoted as saying, ' . we need to have discussions with Calmac because there is a need for a reliable ferry service'.

The ferry is dependent on the weather and the officers and crew are experienced and competent seamen.

Arran is an island and the occasional unavoidable irregularity of the ferry is but one of the exigencies of living here. Living with this slight uncertainty is one of the skills of running a business on the Island.

It is also among the many things which make living here enjoyable and remove it from the humdrum.

We serve our island ill by making veiled threats and applying pressure on the only person who is in a position to decide whether the ferry should sail or not.

Anent the above, there are those very silly armchair critics who sometimes suggest that the captain should wait for a window in the weather and make a dash for Ardrossan. Perhaps they are thinking that a ship's officer's duty is to engage every difficulty, however dangerous.

They may be thinking of Admiral Byng who was court martialed and subsequently shot for 'failing to engage the French'. I should prefer that the captain did not engage the weather if he felt that it involved a danger to ship safety. After all, when Byng failed to go into action he handed the French a victory, but if our captain is patient, the weather will calm down.

Whatever happened to the Round Robin Christmas letter?

Amazingly efficient in getting all your information out to everybody you knew with minimum effort, they mushroomed as soon as computers allowed anybody to produce multiple copies. Yet they also managed to irritate people and, in so doing, undid all the good that they intended.

It now appears that most people love them and hate them at the same time. Even those who write them see the faults - in everybody's except their own. Vehicles for boasting about how well the children are doing, or the fabulous holidays one has been on, but half the names mentioned are unknown to you so that, instead of including you, you feel excluded. As for mild failure, did anybody hear of a circular letter telling that things had not gone well? At one point we got up to a dozen. This year we have seen only one. Is this my fault for being consistently rude about them? Or are they really in decline? A Happy Christmas.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK But the angel said to them "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord *(Luke 2:10)*

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner,* Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor

Ferry bookings

The following is a copy of a letter to Lawrie Sinclair, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne.

Sir,
The recent problems associated with ferry travel to and from the Island have received considerable publicity (recent Banner correspondence and news item).

I can sympathise with Mr Hugh D. MacLennan's frustration if inaccurate/unjustified criticism is levelled at the Company (Banner letter of same date).

The figure of 350 'non appearances' seems quite high - to help put it in context, it would be interesting to know what percentage that figure represents of the total bookings taken during the period.

From an island point of view however, there is a quite separate (as yet unpublished) figure also available which would identify (from the same records) the number of people who, having booked this autumn, were not able to travel on the preferred sailing due to ferry cancellations.

That represents a quite different 'Public Frustration Index'. Is it possible that the 'double booking' is not unconnected with the latter? i.e. Are people double booking to 'take out insurance' against ferry cancellations.

If the situation experienced this autumn is to continue, it will result in considerable damage to the island economy - people resident on the island may be captive, but visitors are not! The prospect is indeed one of a 'winter of discontent'.

The 'chaos' referred to by Mr MacLennan in the booking system is as nothing compared to the effect cancelled sailings have on the wider travelling public. The weather is something we all have to cope with one way or another - the question is - what has changed?

We know that weather in the final analysis can affect ferry sailings (particularly car ferries). This autumn we have had some extreme conditions, but we have also seen 'all day' cancellations against a background of other (smaller) ferries continuing to operate. It is becoming increasingly difficult for people to make travel arrangements due to this 'no go' situation.

It certainly helps (but does not resolve) the situation if, in the event of severe weather, the first and last sailings of the day could at least be relied on to operate by going to and from Gourock. Is this a problem?

The difficulties associated with negotiating Ardrossan Harbour entrance are well known to regular travellers (it is frequently the only real turbulent part of the crossing).

It was not just a matter of preference that in former times the Arran winter service operated to Fairlie. It would now seem that a 'disclaimer' statement should be added to your timetable to the effect that, in the event of winds exceeding force 6 from a southerly quarter, the schedule should be disregarded.

In the long term, provision of a more reliable service on the Arran route may well require considerable expenditure. If, for example, in the opinion of the vessels captains, that the major problem in operating the route is Ardrossan Harbour entrance, then in an era of increasing concern with safety, that issue needs to be given attention at the appropriate level.

This can only be done with the active support of yourselves as operators of the service (particularly a company dependent on public subsidy). What (other) improvements or recommendations do you consider necessary before more serious damage to the island economy results?

Strong South/South West winds are a known feature of our climate, apparently with increasing frequency. If the Harbour entrance presents an ongoing problem, can it be improved? (for ideas, see Thomas Telford's plans circa 1805).

If not, is Ardrossan the right choice of mainland terminal for the Arran service?

It would go some way towards reassuring people, if this aspect was under serious consideration (as distinct from the PR 'smokescreen' and patronising statements that we currently tend to get).

Robert Kerr.
Fereneze
Lochranza

Other islands too

Sir,
Re *The Arran Banner*, December 2.

My wife telephoned Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to book her car on a 9am ferry from Craignure to Oban.

The details were given and then she was asked for her credit/debit card details to which she replied that she had used the last of her 'book' of tickets and would purchase a further book at Craignure on the morning of travel.

She was told payment had to be made there and then, otherwise the reservation could not be made.

Let us now consider the plight of, for instance, a pensioner living in Bunessan, Isle of Mull who does not have a bank account but pays for everything by cash.

They then face a 50-mile round trip to buy a ticket before a reservation can be made for their vehicle, unless they risk queuing, unbooked, on the day of travel.

Once again, unthinking bureaucracy causes distress to the less affluent members of society living on a Scottish island to whom a car is a necessity, whereas a credit card would be an unnecessary and unattainable luxury.

Ian Drake,
3 Forestry Houses,
Isle of Mull.

Readers have the wrong attitude

Sir,
I am writing to express my amazement at the attitude of some readers with regards to the recent ferry disruptions.

I do not live on the island but as a frequent visitor I can appreciate that the service provided by CalMac is a vital link to the mainland. Suggesting that CalMac 'issue a precise set of conditions' in which the ferry will/will not sail is ridiculous!

I do not have sailing experience but am fully aware that despite modern technology, weather and sea conditions are neither controllable nor fully predictable!

It should also be remembered that the human beings sailing these vessels are ultimatley responsible for passenger safety.

Should one of the Captain's take a risk, with disastrous consequences, these people would be the first to complain that the ferry should not have sailed!

You have chosen to live on an island in an age where climate change is affecting many things, including, it would seem, ferry crossings.

I really feel that you cannot have your cake and eat it and that, despite your frustrations, you should learn to accept this unpredictable situation and respect the Captains' experience and decisions.

Annette Armitage
20, Holly Royd
Sowerby Bridge
West Yorkshire

Voice your views on local issues email - editorial@arranbanner.net

In fine voice for concert

This year's concert in Corrie Parish Church is on 22 December at 8pm and sees the complete 'Stanza' line up.

Crawford Logan is with the group again with a variety of Christmas verse and prose.

As well as his *Standing in the Rain* which Arran folk will know all about, Crawford has had great acclaim as Paul Temple in the recent Radio 4 serial *The O'Sullivan Mystery* by Francis Durbridge.

Baritone Peter Thomson is in wonderful voice and organisers are delighted that his wife, Michelle, will play for the company.

This year Peter and Michelle's two children, May and Lizzie, will be part of the entertainment. It should be an exciting concert for all the family.

Pirnmill collects £120

A community effort has helped Pirnmill Mini Youth Club collect £120 through a fundraising quiz.

The winner of the quiz, Mary Crawford of Brodick, will get a voucher for £50 to use in the Auchrannie Spa Resort. The prize was kindly donated by the company.

Also helpful in making the event a success were: Pirnmill Primary School for use of a photocopier, Pirnmill Village Shop and Catacol Bay Hotel for selling quiz sheets.

Also helping out were Sally and Boyd Sneddon of the Lighthouse Restaurant who donated £50 to youth club funds.

Group secretary Margaret McEachern thanked everyone who helped raise the money and who has supported the programme so far this year.

Belly dancing in Whiting Bay

The latest meeting of Whiting Bay gave a wonderful evening's entertainment when a group of belly dancers or, to be more correct, Middle Eastern Dancers, danced for them.

The highlight was a 'sabre dance' by the leader of the group who showed amazing agility and control by dancing while balancing a heavy metal sabre on her head.

Winner of the competition (four sweets) was Marion Devine and the winner of the exhibition (favourite bracelet) was Elizabeth McCormack.

The next main event on the calendar is the institute's New Year Party on 10 January.

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For the second quarter of 2006-07 (July to September), the independently monitored figures show that for the KA postcode 95.1 per cent of First Class mail was delivered the next working day after posting.

Exceeded

This far exceeded the local target of 91.5 per cent, set by the postal regulator Postcomm.

The Dumfries post code area came out as the best in Scotland at 95.9 per cent.

Andrew Wood, Royal Mail Area Manager for the area, said: 'Once again these independent figures have underlined the first class service that Royal Mail's customers in Arran are receiving.

'This is thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our postmen and women who do a first class job day in, day out.'

Complacency

But he added that there was no complacency in Royal Mail over the exceptional level of performance and will fight for every letter in the highly competitive postal market.

He said: 'The challenge we now face is to maintain the consistent, high quality service we are delivering to our customers in the run-up to the busy Christmas period.

'We are determined to meet that challenge.'

Guests at the Shiskine and Machrie senior citizens Christmas party.

Senior citizens celebrate Christmas with Casper

The Shiskine and Machrie senior citizens Christmas bash was held at the Kinloch on Wednesday 13 December.

Children from Shiskine Primary School provided the entertainment. This year's concert involved a nativity play which started off at the birthday of King Casper - one of the three kings.

When the new star was spotted, Casper and his two companion kings were nagged by their wives to follow it. This they did meeting many interesting individuals and almost being recruited into King Herod's army along the way until eventually they arrived at the stable and saw the baby Jesus.

Lunch was then served, which was enjoyed by everyone, and this was followed by a visit from Santa Claus proving that it's not only children who have to be good all year!

Before long it was the raffle and then it was time for all to head home with full tummies and memories to treasure of another successful primary school concert.

Glam and glitter at Kinloch '70s night

A '70s night took place at the Kinloch Hotel recently. Harking back three decades the Hotel put on a '70s style buffet which brought back fond memories to those of a certain age. After the buffet the music was provided by Funky Dunky when the numbers swelled to over 200. Said Fraser Hendrie, Food & Beverage Manager at the Hotel, 'We were delighted with the effort that people put into the evening. Everyone came to enjoy themselves and that certainly makes our jobs easier.' And Fraser warned Arran folks to get their stetsons and cowboys boots looked out because following the success of the '70s night the Kinloch's next theme night is going to be country and western. Yee-ha!

Shiskine WRI December meeting

At the December meeting of Shiskine WRI the guests were two ladies from the institute, Shiela and Jenny.

The ladies had made fruitless Christmas cakes and decorated them making this look very easy.

Four ladies were then invited up to decorate cakes, while the rest of the company were entertained to a quiz.

Elinor Kinnaird proposed a worthy vote of thanks to Shiela and Jenny.

Joan Stewart announced competition winners for four mincemeat pies: 1 Joan Stewart, 2 Jean Lammie.

Best wrapped parcel: 1 Joan Stewart, 2 Eunice Williamson.

Fifty-four pounds was collected from a bring and buy sale of parcels. The proceeds are going to CHAS.

The Children's Christmas Party in Shiskine hall is on 24 December 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Children from Blackwaterfoot, Shiskine and Machrie are all invited but must be accompanied by an adult.

Tomcat found

A dark grey neutered tomcat has been handed in to Arran Pets Associated Welfare Society (APAWS).

The cat was found in the Mayish Caravan Park.

Volunteers at APAWS say the cat is very friendly.

If you have lost a cat like this telephone Ina Craig on 302 150.

Kilmory WRI

At the meeting on 11th December, members enjoyed an informal evening of demonstrations of Christmas decoration making - foliage and floral wreaths for doors, and items made from card, such as lanterns and Christmas trees.

A lengthy paper chain was produced by members in the course of the evening, to be included in the decorations for the hall.

The Kilmory Children's Christmas Party will be held in Kilmory Hall at 5.30 pm on Saturday 23 December.

All contributions of food for the party should be brought to the Hall on Saturday afternoon.

The first meeting in the New Year will be a Party Night of Italian Fare, on Monday 8th January.

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CLOSED 24TH, 25TH & 26TH DECEMBER

Review of the year - a look back at

In the year 2006 many of the Island's top community posts, including a doctor, police sergeant and ministers changed hands.

It was also the year Arran welcomed the smoking ban in public places and the *MV Caledonian Isles* had to be taken off the Brodick - Ardrossan service following an outbreak of a virus among crew. January began with a dramatic helicopter rescue at sea during a ferry crossing from Brodick. However, it was soon apparent there was no danger as it was a mock rescue to give rescuers on the *HMS Gannet* Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter a chance to practice winching casualties from the ferry deck.

January - A Search and Rescue Sea King helicopter hovers over the Caledonian MacBrayne vessel *Caledonian Isles* while a crew man is lowered. b01cal1

Later that month Rev Dr Ian MacLeod stood down from ministering the people of Brodick and Corrie. He described the 32 years on the job as 'a joy from start to finish'.

In February, Arran activists were catapulted into action on hearing a field opposite Kilmory Stores, Lagg, was proposed as a site for new houses. A gathering of protesters to the development lined a side of the field with placards reading: 'Save this historic hamlet' and 'Hands off, no houses'.

With the smoking ban in public places coming into force on March 26, Bar Eden in Whiting Bay decided to ban smoking mid-February becoming the first bar on the Island to do so.

Arran also excelled on the sporting front this year thanks, in part, to the efforts of Arran Runners. In March, four of the five runners in the team came back from the North Ayrshire Schools Cross Country League after winning their respective age groups.

March saw the end of an era in Shiskine when the popular Doctors Libby and Alistair Grassie handed over the reins of the village surgery to another doctoring duet, Greg and Faye Hamill.

The same week, Whiting Bay couple Jim and Ingrid Kitson were less than lucky after their insurance company, More Than, refused to pay for substantial damages to their shed roof following a stormy night across Arran.

continued on page 11

February - Hands off, no houses say the Lagg objectors at the edge of a field where a development company from Dundee planned to build four large houses.

March - Doctors Libby and Alistair Grassie handed over the Shiskine surgery to Doctors Greg and Faye Hamill who have three children, from left, Megan, Julie and Eilidh. b11doc01

Hogmany Party
Corrie Hall
10.30pm BOYB

Ceilidh Dancing, Pipers,
Bonfire, Fireworks, Disco
Live Band Ice n' Fire

Tickets £5 available from Corrie Shop Tel 810209 - buy early to avoid disappointment

New Year Dance
Famous Kildonan Hall New Year Dance
1st January 2007
10pm till whenever
BYOB & nibbles
Entrance £5.00

Marc Head's Christmas Brain Cruncher
Breadalbane Hotel
Saturday 30th December
9.30pm
1

Balmichael Visitor Centre
Seasonal Opening Hours:
Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Closed Monday January 1st and Tuesday January 2nd.
Closed for 3 weeks from Monday 8th January and reopening on Wednesday 31st January.
Gift Vouchers available for Laser Shooting, Archery and Quad Treks.
Please Telephone 860526.
We wish all our friends and customers a Merry Christmas!

The Mclaren Hotel
Brodick Tel 302226
Introduces new chef Glen Spiers
Open for meals All day Sat and Sun
Weekdays 5pm – 8.30pm (9.30pm Fridays)
NEW YEAR PARTY
31st December
5 course Gala Dinner 7.30pm
Live Music from 9.30pm
Firework Display
Package including dinner £25 per person
We look forward to welcoming the locals

Machrie Bay Tearoom
Bumper Boxing Day Buffet
12.00 – 4.00
A buffet with a difference
not a turkey drumstick in sight!
3 courses plus tea or coffee
BRING YOUR OWN BOTTLE
£12.50 adults £7.00 under 14's
Everything Homemade
Soups, Pates, Fish Dishes, Vegetarian specialities, Quiches, Salads
Delicious desserts including our famous Banoffee Pie
We look forward to seeing you on Boxing Day

GOLDEN DRAGON
Chinese Restaurant
Shore Road,
Whiting Bay
Tel 700489
Open six days
CLOSED TUESDAY
Mon, Wed, Thur, Sun
WINTER SPECIAL
3 COURSE MEAL
£9.50
Restaurant Only

2006

continued from page 10

In April, the team behind an Arran musical, *Balloons*, were described as 'giant killers' after beating off 127 entrants from around the globe to be one of five finalists in a national drama competition.

The team consisted Alison Prince, Jon Hollingworth, David Boni and Heather Gough.

The same month Rev Angus Adamson became the first local ordained into an Arran charge since 1822 after he took over at Brodick and Corrie parish.

The beginning of May saw residents of Lamlash speak out against a spate of spray-paint vandalism in the village and started a petition to send to Strathclyde Police and councillor Margie Currie.

Also in May, nearly 300 people, a record number, attended the open day held by the Buddhists of Samye Ling on Holy Isle.

There was good news for Arran's farming community in May when it was announced a new venue had been found for the Arran Farmers Show. As a result the show took place in its new venue at the Castle Drive field in Brodick.

The show did have a permanent home in Lamlash but when the recreation park became a building site for the new high school, show committee members had to find a new home for the show.

In June Arran Coastguard team played its part in the rescue of a stricken 500-tonne French fishing vessel with nine crew on board.

It had been described as a 'major one' by the local coastguard team with the full 15 crew in attendance.

The *Mariette Le Rock* reported a loss of power to Clyde Coastguard and was drifting towards the iron rocks just off Cleats Shore in Southend.

Arran Coastguard set up generators and lamps on the shore and prepared themselves to perform a cliff rescue if needed.

Clarsach player Emily Ross of Brodick had a successful year winning three accolades in June.

❒ *Review of the Year 2006 will continue in next week's Banner when we look at July-December.*

May - These Lamlash lads took advantage of the Holy Isle open day, a once-a-year event. b20hol2

June - Clarsach player Emily Ross of Brodick was celebrating a triple success this month. Firstly, she was accepted to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, then she won North Ayrshire's Traditional Musician of the Year and finally, Irvine Folk Club presented her with a specially commissioned trophy. b25mus01

April - Enthusiastic minister Rev Angus Adamson BD, pictured with his wife, Susan, and sons, Robbie and Gregor, was the first local to be ordained into an Arran charge since 1822 . b17ang3

SHISKINE JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB MEETING

Thur 28 Dec at 2pm in Shiskine Hall

Anyone unable to attend but wanting to participate should contact Sheila 860403

All welcome (parents too)

Cameronia Hotel
Whiting Bay
Tel 700254

Friday 22nd December **Funky Dunky**

Boxing Day Johnny and The Jetpatchers Aran B

All events from 9.30pm
Over 18's only. ID will be requested

Open Christmas Night from 6pm

Nearly New Year
Lamlash Family Hoolie

Saturday 30th December
8pm – late

in Lamlash Community centre
featuring The Boguille Band
BYOB Refreshments available

Tickets on sale now

Phone Janice 600095 or Sarah Jane 600500

All proceeds to Lamlash Nursery

Due to the closure of the Hall, this will be the last New Year Hoolie so please come along and make this extra special

Graduation

Kirsty Davis

Graduated from the University of Leeds with a First Class Honours in Primary Education with Science. She also won the University Arms Prize for being top student in her year.

Bands together

The Arran Schools Brass Band Concert with Arran Brass

This was a unique occasion for Arran in brass band performances as the schools and Arran Brass bands held their first concert together in Whiting Bay Hall.

A most creditable first half by the schools band saw notable performances of *The Great Escape* (arr. C Mahon) and *Eye of the Tiger* by the same arranger and two carols to celebrate Christmas.

But the star performance, in this critic's view, was the Tocata and Fuge in D minor in a special arrangement by J Van Krayedonck which was the climax to a fine effort all round, conducted by musical director Craig Masterton.

A broad variety of music saw Arran Brass encompass pieces from film scores, notably *Who is he?* (arr. R Phillips) and *Music of the Night* (*Phantom of the Opera*).

In this critic's opinion the star performance was the band's rendition of *Can't take my eyes off you* in which Alan Reid's trombone solo excelled.

All in all, a fine night of entertainment was enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience.

Harry Ross.

Rotary raises £420

Isle of Arran Rotary Club raised £420 by selling quiz sheets on board the MV Caledonian Isles.

The money raised from the sale of quiz sheets will go towards the Rotary district charity choice of Barnardos.

The quiz answers and the lucky winners will be announced shortly.

The club thanked everyone who gave generously and Caledonian MacBrayne for allowing members to sell quiz sheets on board.

Arran bowling prizewinning results

We have been asked to point out the season's results for Brodick and Blackwaterfoot bowling clubs are as follows:

Brodick Bowling Club held its annual dinner and prizegiving at the Brodick Brasserie on Wednesday, December 6.

Gents Singles: J McConnachie. Ladies Singles; A Hollingworth

Pairs: J McConnachie and A Hollingworth.

Triples: J Lauder, J McConnachie and B Hendry.

Federation Trophies

Ladies Singles: A Hollingworth.

Rinks: J McConnachie, N Thomson, B Hendry and C Hendry

President's Bowl: J McConnachie.

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club's annual meeting and dinner were held at the Kinloch Hotel.

Winners of the 2006 club competitions were presented with trophies by club captain Jack Murchie. Ladies' Singles: Marian Brambles, Club Pairs: Vic Iutz and John Tinsley, Nominated Pairs: Peter and Jenny Harper, Opening Tournament and Champs Trophy: Ann Whattam, Triples: Peter Harper, Lyle Craig, Margaret Kerr, Thorburn Trophy: John Robinson.

Stanza's Christmas Extravaganza
In Corrie Parish Church
December 22nd at 8pm
Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies
Crawford Logan – Narrator
Peter Alexander Wilson – Tenor
Peter Thomson – Baritone
Michelle Thomson – Pianist
Wide selection of xmas music, both traditional and popular xmas songs, Christmas verse and poetry. Suitable for all ages
Tickets £6 available at Corrie Shop and Book and Card Shop

See out the old
See in the new
With Southern productions At
Kilmory Hall
31 Dec 2006
From 11.30pm
BYOB
"Entry by Donation"
Kilmory Community Bus available for home journey
Contact P Picken
870263

Shiskine Hall
BURNS SUPPER
(Licensed)
Speakers: Robbie Glen, Fiona Crawford
Joe Faulkner, Ewan Stewart
Fri 12th Jan 2007
7pm for 7.30pm
Tickets £12 avail from Sheila Gilmore 860403
1

BETTER BAR MEALS
HOTEL ORMIDALE
Brodick 01770 302293
HOME COOKED BAR MEALS
6pm – 9pm DAILY • Children Welcome
12.30 PM – 2.00PM Saturday / Sunday Only
WHAT'S ON AT THE ORMIDALE
Fri 22nd **over 21's Disco 10pm**
Sat 23rd **Xmas Disco, Over 21's 10pm**
Sun 24th **Afternoon Folk session**
Tue 26th Boxing Day **Pop Quiz 10pm**
Thur 28th **Xmas General Knowledge Quiz 10pm**
Fri 29th & Sat 30th **Over 21's Disco 10pm**
Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall
Phanta-C Events Presents Licensed
Hogmanay Party
9pm – 2am
entry £5
family of 4 £15 before 11pm
£5 each after 11pm

Brodick Improvements Committee
new year's day ceilidh
Boguille Band
(followed by Disco)
Monday 1st January 2007
Brodick Hall
8.15pm – 1am
BYOB
Tickets £8 – from Bilslands

THE ARRAN BANNER
Merry Christmas to all our readers

Christmas Greetings

Your personal messages for customers, clients, colleagues and friends

Cladach Sawmill

Wishes all customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Closed 23 Dec – 7 Jan inclusive

McNicol Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Wish all their customers A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Pierhead Tavern

Lamlash

Janie, Norrie and Gordon would like to wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Happy Healthy 2007
We would also like to thank everyone for their kind gifts given to Gordon on his 1st birthday
Merry Xmas from Janie, Norrie and Gordon

www.arranreflections.co.uk

Arran Reflections
wish all of our customers a very
Merry Christmas

JOHN THOMSON CONSTRUCTION LTD
Lamlash, Isle of Arran

We wish all our clients and customers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Petrol & Diesel Sales
Closed Friday 22 Dec – Mon 8 Jan 2007
Lamlash Garage
Open 27th, 28th & 29th Dec 2006
3rd, 4th & 5th Jan 2007

Malcolm J Wheeler MRCVS & Staff

Would like to wish all their clients and animals a Merry Christmas & A Healthy New Year

Festive Surgery Hours

No surgeries Christmas & New Years Day.

Boxing Day & 2nd January 9.30 to 10am

Otherwise as Normal

24 hour emergency over 302511

BAY STORES

Whiting Bay

Wishes all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day
Open Boxing Day and January 2nd
10am – 4pm

Season's Greetings from

BAROQUE WOODWORK

A big thank-you to all our customers past and present
All the best for 2007

BROOMBRAE GROUNDS & GARDENS Ltd.
Landscape & Groundworks Contractors.

Wish our Customers and Suppliers Seasons Greetings

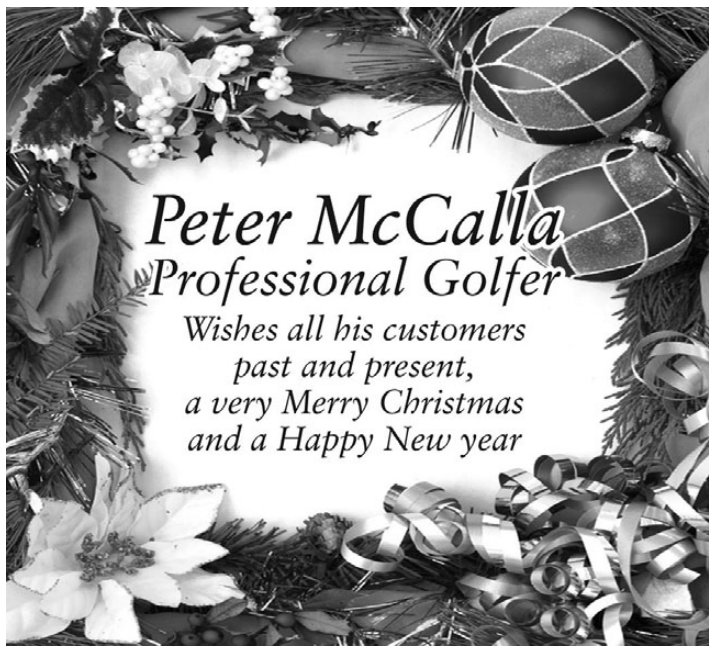
Auchrannie

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL AT AUCHRANNIE

Please note that **Cruize cafe bar** will be **closed** to the public on the evening of **Christmas, Hogmanay & Mon 1st Dec** - apologies for any inconvenience

cruize cafe bar

www.auchrannie.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302234



Peter McCalla
Professional Golfer
Wishes all his customers past and present, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

Angus, Lynn & Libby Raeburn

wish all their family and friends a Happy Christmas (We have donated this years Christmas Card money to Arran Riding for the Disabled)

Old Pier Tearoom

Robert and Lindsey wish all our staff, customers, suppliers and friends a very Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2007.

Thank you all for your continuing support & friendship. The tearoom will be open during the Christmas holidays.

Closed Christmas Day & 1st and 2nd January only
We will open on the Tuesday & Wednesday both weeks

Mike, Betty, Ethel & Fergus wish all our customers a happy Christmas and a successful, healthy prosperous New Year

SkotPRINT
WHITING BAY

Closed 23rd December to 7th January

Whiting Bay Garage
Tel 01770 700345
Full taxi cover over the festive period
Home No 01770 820286 Mob No 07987 587481
We wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Garage and Petrol Sales
Closed 24,25,26 &31 Dec. Also 1 & 2 Jan

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Legal and Protective Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine* between the hours of 9.00am and 4.45pm on weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) excepting Saturdays and Public Holidays.

Written representations may be made to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Protective Services) at the address below within the specified time from the date of publication of this notice. Any representations received will be open to public view.

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992

Applications for planning permission - Notice to be published in accordance with Article 12(5) Written comments to be made within 14 days.

Application No: N/06/01214/PP **Address:** The Abattoir, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8EZ **Proposed Development:** Installation of incinerator to side of building

Application No: N/06/01267/OPP **Address:** Site To West Of Greyholme,Brodick, Isle Of Arran **Proposed Development:** Erection of detached dwelling house

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 27th	Black bin collection	Brodick and South End
Thursday 28th	Black bin collection	North End and Lamlash
Friday 29th	Black bin collection	Blackwaterfoot Area and Lamlash
Wednesday 3rd	Blue bin collection 'Recyclate'	Brodick and South End
Thursday 4th	Blue bin collection 'Recyclate'	North End and Lamlash
Friday 5th	Blue bin collection 'Recyclate'	Blackwaterfoot Area and Lamlash

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATIONAL SERVICES EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools.

However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294-324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2007 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE by 2 February 2007.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2007, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published during the week commencing 1 January 2007.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 22nd December 2006 until 9am on Wednesday 3rd January, 2007

The following ONLY will be open between 27th and 30th December, 2006

REGISTRATION SERVICE

Irvine, Saltcoats and Isle of Arran Registration Offices
Wednesday 27th December - 9am to 4.45pm
Thursday 28th December - 9am to 4.45pm
Friday 29th December - 9am to 1pm

Kilbirnie Registration Office
Wednesday 27th December - 2pm to 4.45pm
Thursday 28th December - 9am to 12noon

Largs Registration Office
Wednesday 27th December - 9am to 12noon
Thursday 28th December - 2pm to 4.45pm
Friday 29th December - 9am to 12.30pm

All registration business is by appointment.

Irvine Registration Office: 01294 324988
Saltcoats Registration Office: 01294 463312
Largs Registration Office: 01475 674521
Kilbirnie Registration Office: 01505 682416
Arran Registration Office: 01770 600338

LICENSING

District Court, Townhouse, High Street, Irvine
Wednesday 27th December 2006: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 4.45pm
Thursday 28th December 2006: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 4.45pm
Friday 29th December 2006: 9am - 12.15pm

SOCIAL SERVICES

The following offices will be open on Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and until 12.30pm on Friday 29th December, 2006.

Elliott House, Irvine
Aitken Place, Ardrossan
Vernon Street, Saltcoats
Criminal Justice, 157 New St, Stevenston
DTTO Scheme, 11 Bank St, Irvine
Craigton Rd, Kilbirnie
Boyd Street, Largs
Byres Rd, Kilwinning
Bridgegate House, Irvine

LIBRARIES

Irvine, Kilwinning, Largs, Saltcoats
Closes: Saturday 23rd December at 5pm
Open: Thursday 28th December 9am-7.30pm
Friday 29th December 9am-7.30pm
and Saturday 30th December 10am-1pm
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 9am

Ardrossan, Beith, Bourtreehill, Dalry,Dreghorn, Kilbirnie, Stevenston, West Kilbride
Closes: Saturday 23rd December at 5pm
Open: Thursday 28th December 1pm-5pm & 6pm-7.30pm
Friday 29th December 10am-1pm & 2pm-5.30pm
and Saturday 30th December 10am-1pm
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 1pm

Arran
Closes: Saturday 23rd December at 1pm
Open: Thursday 28th December 10am-7.30pm
Friday 29th December 10am-7.30pm
and Saturday 30th December 10am-1pm
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 10am

Fairlie
Closes: Friday 22nd December at 7.30pm
Open: Friday 29th December 2.30pm-5pm & 5.30pm-7.30pm
Reopens: Friday 5th January 2007 at 2.30pm

Millport
Closes: Saturday 23rd December at 12noon
Opens: Thursday 28th December 3pm-5pm & 5.30pm-7.30pm
Friday 29th December 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
and Saturday 30th December 10am-12 noon
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 3pm

Skelmorlie
Closes: Friday 22nd December at 7.30pm
Open: Thursday 28th December 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
and Friday 29th December 1pm-5pm & 6pm-7.30pm
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 9am

Springside
Closes: Friday 22nd December at 5pm
Reopens: Monday 8th January 2007 at 6pm

Local History
Closes: Saturday 23rd December at 5pm
Open: Thursday 28th December 2pm-5pm
Friday 29th December 9.30am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
and Saturday 30th December 10am-1pm
Reopens: Thursday 4th January 2007 at 9.30am

Arran Mobile Library
No Service: Monday 25th December and Monday 1st January 2007

Mainland Mobile Library
No Service: Monday 25th December - Friday 5th January 2007 incl.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Housing Repairs - 0800 019 6444
Homeless Standby - 0800 019 6500
Roads & Lighting - 0845 603 0594
Water & Sewerage - 0845 600 8855

On behalf of North Ayrshire Council, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ian Snodgrass
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW

SCENES PICTURING OUR FISHING HERITAGE

Featuring
Carradale, Ullapool, Oban,
Barra, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Claonaig,
Tiree, Mull, Stornoway, Mallaig and Dunure

Available from all good retail outlets throughout the West Coast of Scotland
or Tel: 01631 568000 visit www.fishupdate.com

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times 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.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

MEETING TO PUBLICISE?

THE ARRAN BANNER

TEL: 01770 302142
FAX: 01770 302021

www.arranbanner.net

WHAT'S ON...

BANNER

EVERYDAY

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park 11am - 4pm
Trout fishing, banks, Loch Garbad
Hawk Walks, Lamlash

SATURDAY 23rd December

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers Brodick Primary School 11am - 4.15pm.
Over 21's Christmas disco, 10pm, Ormidale Hotel
Machrie Table Tennis & Games Club, Machrie Hall, 7.30-9pm
Karate Club Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am & 12.30pm
Winter indoor bowls, Auchrannie 2pm
Kilmory Christmas Party. 5.30pm. All welcome

SUNDAY 24th December

Alcoholics Anonymous, St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Santa at The Boathouse, Brodick, 12 - 3pm
Family Games Kids & Adults. Auchrannie Games Hall 2 - 3pm
Afternoon Folk session, Ormidale Hotel

MONDAY 25th December

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie, 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50s Badminton, Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Football coaching, Ormidale Park, 6 7.30pm (8-16yrs)
Badminton, Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Quiz, Cameronia 9.30pm
Weightwse, Hospital bungalow 6.30pm-7pm
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie, 12.45
Circuit Training. Auchrannie 6pm
Scottish Country Dancing,Corrie Hall, 2pm
Lamlash Bridge, Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm

TUESDAY 26th December

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am
Lochranza Swimming Club, Kinloch, 11am-noon
Pirmill Guild meeting - village hall 2pm
Legs, Bums & Tums, Auchrannie Spa, 6-6.45pm
Army Cadets, Auchrannie Road, 7.30-9.30pm
Pop quiz, Ormidale Hotel 10pm
Loch & Cat Coffee morning, hall 10am - 12pm
Alcoholics Anonymous, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Winter Bowls 3 carpets, Auchrannie 7pm
Scottish country dancing, Brodick church hall 7.30pm
Pop Quiz, Ormidale Hotel

WEDNESDAY 27th December

Advocacy service, drop in session, ACVS office, Lamlash 11am-
Mixed Indoor Hockey, Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-8pm
Youth Club, youth centre Lamlash 7-9pm
Aerobics class, High School 8pm - 9pm
Jnr Rugby Training, S1-U18s, Ormidale Park, 7pm
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am
Hockey, Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Accoustic Jam Session, McAlpine Hotel
Circuit Training. Auchrannie 6pm
Arran Heritage Museum, archives and genealogy 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.30pm

THURSDAY 28th December

Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Spa, 9.30am & 10.45am
Pilates, Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Christmas General Knowledge Quiz, Ormidale, Brodick, 10pm
Rock school, youth centre. Lamlash 7 - 9pm
Brodick Bridge Club,McLaren Hotel 7.15pm
Shiskine Junior Drama. Club Meeting, Hall, 2pm
Badminton, Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm Adults 7.30 - 9pm
Lochranza Craft Club, Hall 2pm
Senior Fitness, Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am & 1.45pm
Only abs, Auchrannie Studio, 5.30pm
Cardiac Rehab, Auchrannie, 12.45
Outdoor run, Auchrannie, 6pm
Pilates, Auchrannie 6pm
Belly Dancing, Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Embroidery Club, Library, 7.30pm
Winter indoor bowls, Auchrannie sports hall 7pm
Arran Junior Singers practice, Whiting Bay School, 6.45pm
Indoor Bowls, Auchrannie

FRIDAY 29th December

Arran Pipe Band practice, Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Quiz night, Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9.00pm
Loch & Cat Coffee morning 10am - 12pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club Quiz nights 9pm
Aquafizz, Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Water Polo, Auchrannie Pool, 7.30pm
Over 21's disco, 10pm, Ormidale Hotel

SATURDAY 30th December

Arran Rugby. East v West, Ormidale Park 2pm
Over 21's disco, 10pm, Ormidale Hotel
Quiz, Breadalbane Hotel, 9.30pm

Christmas Greetings

Your personal messages for customers, clients, colleagues and friends

Christine Hamilton
Wishing relatives, neighbours and numerous friends a very healthy New Year

Jimmy and Jenni
Turnbull wish all friends and family on the island a merry Christmas and a happy new year.
This year a donation is being made to the MS Society in lieu of local cards
1

Netta McDonald
Would like to wish all friends and relations a merry Christmas and a good new year. Donation will be given to ArCaS

Duncan, Steph, Duncan and David
Wish all friends and neighbours
All the best for 2007
1

Drew Crawford
Wishes friends on and off the island,
A merry Christmas and a happy new year

Lamlash P.O
Irene, Ann and Andy would like to wish all their customers A very Merry Xmas and A Happy New Year

The Coffee Pot
Kate, Dianne and Staff wish all our customers a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year

ASAP Services
Wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
1

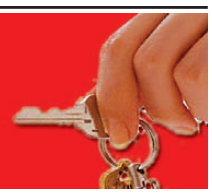
ARRAN ACTIVE
The Outdoor Shop
Andrew and Juliette
Wish all customers a merry Christmas and a happy new year

MIN AT THE SANDWICH STATION
Lochranza
Would like to wish all my friends and customers a very merry christmas and happy new year

Arran Cleaning Services
Wishes all customers a merry Christmas and a happy new year
1

James Brown and family
Wishes their friends on Arran, a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

BANNER PROPERTY



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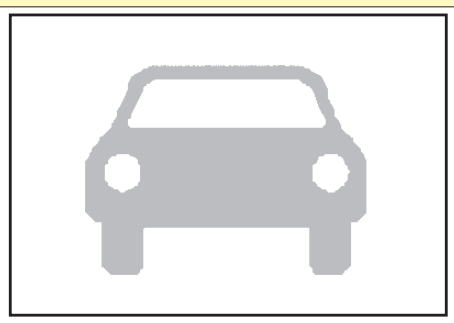

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TUESDAY 4pm

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BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES

Highlands & Islands ENTERPRISE

IOMAIRT na Gaidhealtachd

Christmas and New Year Office Closures

Local enterprise companies, Careers Scotland centres and administrative offices operated by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise network (HIE) will be closed from Monday 25 December until Tuesday 2 January inclusive.

The HIE network wishes everyone in the Highlands and Islands a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BRODICK HEALTH CENTRE
LAMLASH MEDICAL CENTRE
SHISKINE SURGERY

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

All island practices will be closed on 25 and 26 December 1 and 2 January

Please also note:
Brodick Medical Practice
Baby Clinic on Tuesday 9 January

LAMLASH MEDICAL CENTRE

Lamlash Baby Clinic on Tuesday 9 January
No Brodick Baby Clinic in January but patients may attend Lamlash Clinic
W/Bay Baby Clinic postponed until Thursday 11 January

SHISKINE SURGERY

Baby Clinic on Friday 5 January

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

BEST WESTERN Kinloch Hotel

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve–Bars open from mid-day - 1.30 p.m.
Bar lunch menu 12.30-2.30 p.m.
Evening Meals 6 p.m. until 8.30 p.m.
Christmas Day–CLOSED ● MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Boxing Day–Bars open from mid-day until midnight
Reduced bar lunch menu 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
No evening meals served

Wednesday 27 December–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until midnight
Bar lunches 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
Evening meals 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Thursday 28 December–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 a.m.
Bar lunches 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
Evening meals 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Friday 29 December–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 a.m.
Bar lunches 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
Evening meals 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Saturday 30 December–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 a.m.
Reduced bar lunch menu 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
No evening meals served

Hogmanay–Bars open from mid-day until 11 p.m.
Reduced bar lunch menu 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
Lounge bar closed to the public from 5 p.m.
No evening meals served

New Year's Day–Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until midnight
Reduced bar lunch menu 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
No evening meals served

Tuesday 2 January–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until midnight
Bar lunches 12.30 p.m.-2.30 p.m.
Evening meals 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Wednesday 3 January–
Bars open from 11.30 a.m. until midnight
Bar lunches 12.30-2.30 p.m.
Evening meals 6 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

Thursday 4 January–CLOSED

Friday 5 January–
Public Bar Open 4 p.m. until 11 p.m.
Leisure facilities and lounges closed
No lunches or evening meals served

Please note that the leisure facilities will be closed from 5 p.m. daily, with last admission at 4.30 p.m.

The leisure facilities will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The leisure facilities will be closed from January 3 until February 3 for annual maintenance.

NORTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

Applications to be considered at the Meeting of the above Licensing Board to be held within the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CUNNINGHAME HOUSE, IRVINE on 15 January 2007 AT 10AM.

FOR REGULAR EXTENSION OF PERMITTED HOURS

Name, designation and address of applicant or names, designation and addresses of both persons named in the application	Address of Premises	Type of Licence	Nature of Extension Applied For
Harbour Havens Limited Kildonan Hotel Kildonan Isle of Arran and Waldo Rodrigo Acuna Kildonan Hotel Kildonan Isle of Arran	Kildonan Hotel Kildonan Isle of Arran	HOTEL	Sun to Wed 11pm - midnight Thurs to Sat 11pm - 1am Sun 11am - 12.30pm and 2.30 - 6.30pm

APPLICANTS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY SHOULD ATTEND PERSONALLY OR BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING

Any objections, in terms of Section 16 of the Act, should be lodged with the undernoted and a copy of the objection sent to the applicant concerned in accordcance with the provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 no later than Friday 5 January 2007. OBJECTORS MUST SPECIFY THE GROUND(S) OF THEIR OBJECTION. An information leaflet may be obtained from the Board Office containing guidance for any person wishin to object to any application.

A. A. FRASER, Clerk to the Licensing Board.

Town House, 66 High Street, Irvine, KA12 0AZ
December 12, 2006

MEETING TO PUBLICISE?
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MISCELLANEOUS

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UNDER £30

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MISCELLANEOUS

PAIR OF GIRLS long black riding boots. Brand new, still in box. Size 12 £20 Tel 600500
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CHURCH NEWS

Arran Free Church of Scotland

Sunday 24 December,
Brodick11am
Mr David Gregg.
All welcome.

Lamlash Church

Sunday 24 December
You are invited to worship in Lamlash Church at 11 am.
Mr Alan Saunderson
Festival of lessons and Carols
All welcome.

Church of Scotland

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine.
Independent but working together.
Sunday 24 December
Minister Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst Mrs jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times.
All welcome.
Brodick Church, 10.30am,
Corrie Church, noon,
Montrose House 1.30pm
Lochranza Church, 9.30am
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am,
Shiskine Church, noon
Watchnight service Corrie Church 9pm
Brodick Church 11.30pm
Shiskine Church 11.30pm
Monday 25 December
Lochranza and Pirnmill service 11am

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church

Sunday 24 December.
There will be a service of Carols and Readings led by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served immediately after the service.
All most welcome.
Sunday 24 December.
Service at 11.30pm to welcome Christmas Day.
Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the service. Offering to Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong.
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.

Arran Open Gate Ministries (Linked with New Life Church Prestwick)

We are a group of like minded people from various Christian denominations who meet on Wednesday evenings. We enjoy lively meaningful worship and great company in a warm, friendly atmosphere.
New to Arran, or would like to know more about us. Telephone: 700424.

Kilmory Parish Church

Sunday 24 December.
Morning Worship at 10am with participation from the children of the Sunday School. A warm welcome to all.
Sunday 24 December.
Watchnight service at 11.30pm
A warm welcome is extended to all.

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Sunday morning mass 11am.
First Mass of Christmas 9pm-
Christmas Morning Mass 11am

Scottish Episcopal Church (in full communion with the Church of England)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 24 December: Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher
Coffee after service.
11.30pm Midnight Mass. Mrs Janis Gallagher
Monday 25 December
10.30am Christmas Communion. Mr J Roberts
Tuesday 26 December (St Stephen) 12.15pm Holy Communion. Dr Tony Martin
All Welcome.

Arran Baptist Church

Sunday 24 December at 11 am in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick
Christmas service
Everyone welcome

Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)

Sunday 24 December,
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate,Glen Cloy Rd.
Brodick, 11am
Evening Service,7pm
5 Glen Rd.
All Welcome.

PERSONALS

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY
of
SNOWY GARDNER

You went to heaven in December
25 – the date to remember
It is now five years since your passing
We treasure the memories – everlasting
MORAG and THE FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced between Will, son of Mr & Mrs Robert Severn of Loughborough, Leicestershire and Kirsty, daughter of Mr & Mrs William Davis of Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Wishing you both much love and happiness for the future

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH

SCREAIGH – CRAIG

Paul and Lesley are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Kirsty Elizabeth on December 3, 2006, in Perth, Australia.
All doing well.
A wee cousin for Rachael, Donald, John, Erin and Abbie Mulholland.

MICHIE

Colin and Susan (née Hamilton) are delighted to announce the arrival of Thomas McKinlay Hamilton on December 4, 2006, at Ninewells, Dundee.
A little brother for Chloe and Rachel.

We would like to thank the nurses, doctors and others for their care, consideration and love during my illness in Crosshouse. Because of this we would thank our wonderful friends for their thoughts and love during this time, and we would ask them to accept here our Christmas and New Year greetings
Jean & Duncan

BANNER PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

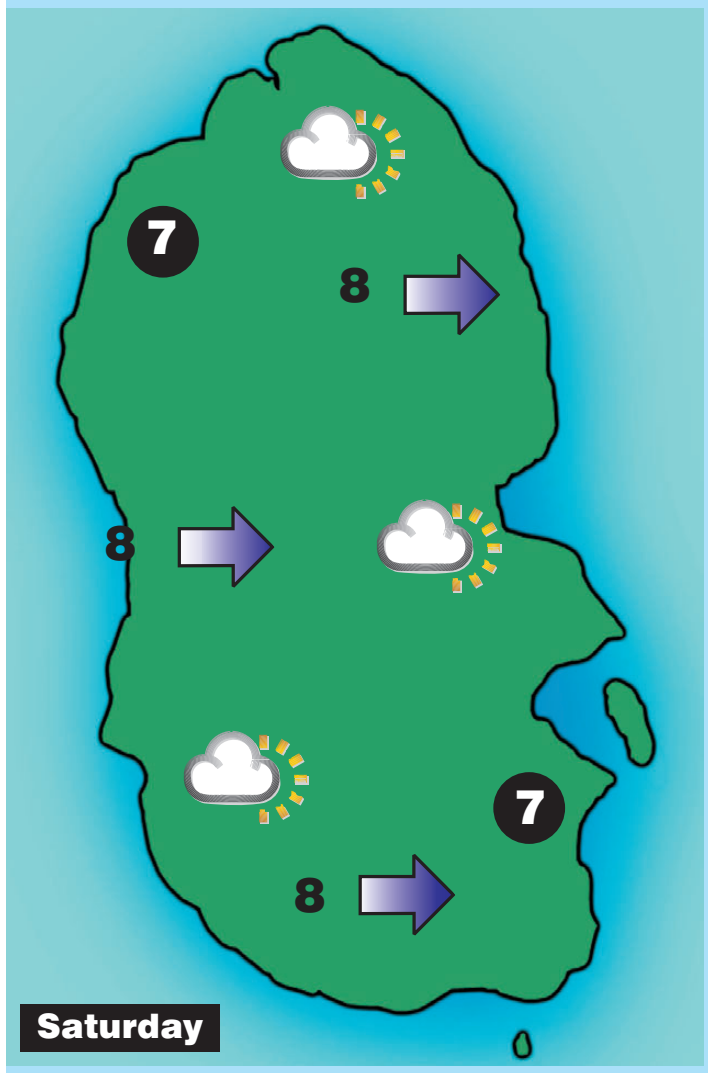
Tides

Tide tables for Lamlash during the week from **Saturday, December 23 2006** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Sat	0135	2.9	0711	0.6	1350	3.3	1942	0.3
Sun	0218	2.9	0755	0.6	1428	3.3	2027	0.3
Mon	0302	2.9	0841	0.7	1509	3.3	2115	0.3
Tues	0347	2.8	0930	0.7	1552	3.2	2207	0.4
Wed	0435	2.8	1021	0.8	1642	3.1	2304	0.4
Thur	0525	2.7	1118	0.9	2304	0.4	****	**
Fri	0006	0.5	0624	2.7	1225	1.0	1852	2.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Lamlash)

Blackwaterfoot	+0.25	Machrie	+0.25
Corrie	+0.20	Lochranza	+0.15
Whiting Bay	-0.02	Brodick Bay	+0.25
Kildonan	-0.05		



Saturday, December 23
Mainly Cloudy, feeling fresh
Temperature 7ºC.

Sunday, December 24
Showers throughout the day
Temperatures around 6ºC.

Monday and Tuesday
Mainly wet, though still mild 8ºC

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Ardrossan/ Brodick - Moderate

Claonaig/ Lochranza - Moderate

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Cairnhouse Winter Points' Christmas Edition is a cracker after rain delays

The Christmas Edition of Cairnhouse Riding Centre's Winter Points was a week later than planned due to the previous Sunday's dire weather conditions.

However, the right decision had been made as Sunday 17 December turned out to be a much better day all round, even though a few of the regulars were not present.

Eighteen were forward for the Wobblies.

The following seven collected a nice Christmas Rosette for going clear in the clear round class: Jennifer Logan, Beth Hamilton, Lisa Duncan, Nicola MacAlister, Amy Downard, Lauryn Fleming and Jennifer Gilmour. Eilidh McNeil, Katelyn McVicar and Kirsty McBain all made it round unscathed in class two, however, double clear rounds were a bit thin on the ground and just four earned points for managing a double clear: Jennifer Logan (Jo Lo), Beth, Lisa and Jennifer G, who picked up the three points on offer for riding the fastest double clear on her own Poppet in 36.22 secs.

The Duster Badge was won in spectacular style by a rather bewildered looking Laura. Organisers believe this is her first ever unplanned departure from a horse! But it wasn't to be held for long as Clare did her the honours by winning it not only once but twice.

The Novice had 14 entries but it was a while before seeing the first clear round and it was beautifully done by Hazel Ramage riding Summer.

Five more followed suit and a six rider jump-off against the clock ensued.

Jenna Wood, also riding Summer, was drawn first to go and rode a lovely clear in 33.01secs.

Katy Thompson was in next and went round slightly faster on Whisker in 31.42secs, but her lead was short lived as Hollie Adamson didn't really need the wings that she had on her back to help Merlin fly round to record what was to be the winning time of 24.97secs.

Jennifer G. rolled a pole with Poppet in 34.31secs. and Hazel had an unlucky run out.

Last to go, Amy, had a good steady clear on Storm to pick up fourth place in 41.02secs. Good enough for three points on the leader board.

The Mini Challenge had 13 riders up for challenge of picking your own line over the various fences. The scores ranged from 20 to the winning top score of 390 which was returned by Katy on Whisper. Jenna was close on her heels with a score of 360 for the blue ribbon. In third place was Jennifer G. with 350.

Hazel jumped eight fences to score 315 for fourth. Hollie scored 280 for fifth and Jennifer G. on her second ride for the day scored 220 on Ross to collect a point.

Just three out of the seven forward for the 2'6" Clear Round class made it round unscathed.

They were: Lynn Ramage riding Sue Tozer's Katie, Jennifer G. with Ross and Hollie on the flying machine Merlin.

The Cairnhouse Challenge had all the entrants pick up a point or two as just the six were forward.

Hollie and Merlin were back to their usual standard and won the class with a top score of 290.

Second was Katy on 255. The yellow ribbon went to Jenna with 230. Fourth equal were Lynn and Jennifer G. on a top score of 120 each and Jennifer also collected a point with Ross scoring 115.

The next Winter Points is 7 January (weather permitting).

Golf... Golf... Golf... Golf...

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 17 December, Stableford, six played. CSS 37

Sweep: 1 John O'Sullivan, 40pts (bih); 2 John McGovern, 40pts.

Scratch – John McGovern 68.

Magic twos – John McGovern at 16th.

Fixtures: Sunday 24 December – Glenburn Trophy at 9.30am and 11am.

Tuesday 26 December – Boxing Day Bottle at 11am.

Tuesday 2 January – Course backwards, 10.30am for 11am start.

Saturday 6 January – Glenburn Trophy at 9.30am and 11am.

Sunday 7 January – AGA Winter League.

Corrie Golf Club

Results: Monday Cup 11 December.

1 A MacDonald 64 – 4 = 60; 2 B Sherwood 66 – 3 = 63; 3 D Crawford 77 – 13 = 64.

Winter Cup 16 December

1 B Sherwood 67 – 8 = 59; 2 E I Cannon 78 – 16 = 62; 3 J McGovern 70 – 7 = 63.

Fixtures: Saturday 23 December, Winter Cup. Tee-off noon.

Saturday 30 December, Winter Cup. Tee-off noon.

Monday 1 January, New Year's Day Shield. Tee-off noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 17th December. Eight played in the third round of the Winter Cup.

1 Pete Rawlin 81-17=64, 2 Wolfi Kroner 79-14=65, 3 Malcolm Pennycott 70-2=68. Malcolm also won scratch with his 70 and there were no magic 2s.

Fixtures – Sat, 23 December, mixed fours at noon.

Sunday 24 December, Christmas Bottle. Sunday 31 December - Medal.

Brodick Golf Club

Results - Sat 16 December. Saturday Cup:

1 Jimmy Armit 6 62; 2 Bobby Mccrae 8 63; 3 Bryce Walker 15 67.

Scratch – Jimmy Armit 68.

Congratulations to Jimmy winning the much delayed Saturday Cup.

A 68 on seven temp greens was some score.

Clochendichter -At the half way stage Sun 17 December.

Knowe 3 Street 1
Village 2 Alma 2
Table
Village (yes the village) 17
Alma (on a high) 15
Knowe (it,s going to plan) 13
Street (only one way from here) 3

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 12 December. Winter Cup

1 Brian Sherwood, 68; 2 Alistair MacDonald, 70; 3 David Wilkinson, 83.

Scratch – Brian Sherwood, 75.

Fixtures: Tuesday 26 December, Two Club Competition. Saturday 6 January Lochranza Hotel Cup, both noon starts.

Shiskine Golf Club

Fixtures: Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza v Shiskine match on Saturday 23 December.

Boxing Day Texas Scramble on Tuesday 26 December. Tee-off from 9am-2.30pm. Prizegiving at 4.30pm.

Send your sports news to editorial@arranbanner.net

Arran pupils were among the top performers in the North Ayrshire Inter-Schools Chess Competition.

Arran chess players fly the flag

Four of the seven schools in the final of the North Ayrshire Inter-Schools Chess Competition were from Arran.

Six of the seven pupils from the Island made the final of the competition at Greenwood Teachers Centre, Greenwood Academy, Irvine, but unfortunately none came home with a winners medal.

A total of 28 primary school children from all over North Ayrshire and Arran took part in the event which also had a section for high school pupils.

Grateful

A spokesperson for North Ayrshire Council (NAC) said: 'We are very grateful to Mr Neil Gillies who ran the Arran heat stages for us.'

The schools competition has been running for 20 years thanks to the support of the Ayrshire Chess Association.

Chess has been encouraged among pupils in North Ayrshire and Arran as it helps improve critical thinking as well as mathematical and problem solving skills.

Bridge results

Lamlash Bridge - 11th. December, 2006

N/S: 1 J. McClure & A. McKelvie +2650; 2 T. Martin & P. Adamson +1670; 3 M. McGill & C. Bone +1530

E/W: 1 E. McConnell & C. Mason +1160; 2 H. Boyd & J. Murchie + 40; 3 J. Barclay & J. McArthur -2460.

Please note that the club will resume on 8th. January, 2007.

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