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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 2008

No 1679



Hotel demolition off

McLaren flats plan put on hold for a year

Plans to demolish the McLaren Hotel on the Brodick seafront and build 24 flats have been put on hold for a year after the developer was forced to pull out of the project.

Mark Bulman, the managing director of Brodick Homes Ltd of St Helens, Lancashire had planned to demolish the hotel to build flats but the uncertain economic climate means he has withdrawn his funding.

Hotel owner Mr Billy McLaren said: 'The original investor, Mark Bulman, is not in a position to fund this project at the moment. He has spent more than £100,000 on planning and architects for this project and the stress of it all has landed him in hospital. We're back to square one for the time being.'

Objections

The McLarens first lodged plans for the development nearly three years ago but they met with objections from Brodick residents.

This resulted in them holding public meetings and amending the plans several times.

Eventually the couple were delighted to receive planning permission in April for the demolition of the existing hotel and construction of 24 flats and

By JENNIFER LYON

a bar and bistro restaurant on the site. In August the plans were amended yet again to remove the section 75 agreement after Isle of Arran Homes declined to buy 12 of the flats for affordable housing.

This meant that all 24 flats would be offered on the general housing market.

'We are going to put these plans on hold for another year,' said Mr McLaren. 'In the meantime we are going to refurbish all the hotel rooms and put new carpets into Mac's Bar. We want to have live music and entertainment again on Saturday nights and return the hotel to its original use for a while.'

In June, Mr McLaren said the demolition of the building would begin in October as refurbishing the hotel was no longer a viable option.

Brodick community councillor Harry Davidson said it was excellent news the building is to be refurbished as it had become a bit of a sorry site on the seafront.

'There will be a number of people who live nearby as well as those who objected to the plans that will be happy to hear this news and that Brodick is to retain another hotel for the summer.'



In Brodick a child was born....

Charlie Aitken and Freya McNicol played Mary and Joseph in Brodick Nursery School's interpretation of the nativity on Wednesday morning. Parents and grandparents flooded the village hall to see their little ones on stage in the traditional line up of donkeys, kings, stars and angels bringing gifts to the beautiful baby Jesus. b51one01

Stuck bus blocks northend road

The road between Catacol and Pirmill was blocked for several hours on Monday night after a Stagecoach bus became wedged across the carriage-way.

At about 5pm the driver of the bus had attempted to turn the vehicle in the large grassy area at Lenimore but got stuck.

A few motorists managed to drive around the trapped bus but a number of drivers were stranded at both sides including another Stagecoach bus.

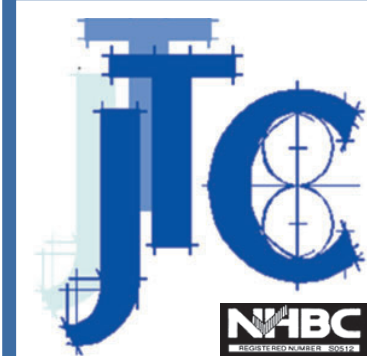
Stagecoach depot manager Steve Kirk said: 'Perhaps because of resurfacing work, there is now quite a raised lip between the lay-by and the road. The engine was caught on and the bus could not be moved.'

At around 6pm Stagecoach mechanics arrived with a huge jack and tried to lever the bus off the raised ground but it did not work.

Eventually Donald Logan from Pirmill was called and with his tractor he managed to tow the bus back onto the road.

By 7pm the road was open again.

'Buses use that lay-by to turn all the time,' said Steve, 'so there was nothing unusual about the manoeuvre. The driver is very experienced and would not try to move the bus unless he knew it was a safe.'



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Police files

Fire engine charge

A man has been charged with taking a fire engine and crashing it into a wall while drunk. Alistair Linton, 49, denies driving the tender without permission while double the alcohol limit in his home village of Corriecrievie.

He faces trial at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on April 3.

Motoring offences

A Sliddery man was stopped by police last Thursday at 4pm and found to have no tax or MOT.

On the same day police stopped a Lamlash woman on Shore Road who had no tax or car insurance. Both drivers have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

Alcohol offence

A Lamlash woman has been reported to the procurator fiscal for buying alcohol for underage drinkers.

Police stopped the woman outside the Lamlash Coop last Friday at 8pm.

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Bernie Jackson with grandsons Rhys, two, and Ryan, five, admiring the lights. b51ber02

Bernie is having another bright Christmas for charity

Bernie Jackson from Whiting Bay has once again adorned his home with brightly coloured Christmas lights to raise money for charity.

Those who take a walk along Montrose Terrace to admire the display can leave donations that will be given to Whiting Bay Primary School to help them buy much needed equipment.

Bernie said: 'About 16 or 17 years ago no one seemed to

celebrate Christmas on Arran. The place was so dull and boring, so one year I put up a tree in the front garden with some lights. The children were fascinated and I suppose it has just developed since then.'

In the years since many have followed his example but he is proud still to be ahead of the rest with more elaborate designs each year.

This year he has a giant in-

flatable Santa Claus that dips in and out of a huge inflatable chimney.

Each year he places a collection box at his front gate to raise money for local charities and by now it is an established attraction at 16 Montrose Terrace.

Parents and children drive by or stop to admire the sight.

He said that the electricity cost is worth it to see the youngsters' smiling faces.

Plant disease under control

A contagious plant disease that has been spreading through the Merkland Wood near Brodick has been brought under control and has stopped dispersing through the forest.

The disease called phytophthora kernoviae particularly affects rhododendron and beech and was first reported in Brodick Castle gardens in February in the Banner.

Last month the disease was identified in a blueberry tree in Merkland Wood, more than one kilometre from the nearest outbreak.

It was the first time phytophthora kernoviae had been found in the wild in Scotland.

Infected

Head ranger Kate Sampson told *The Banner* this week: 'We are continuing to contain the disease in the areas where it has already been identified. Although we are still getting some positive test results back, they are all in the areas already infected.'

'We have secured Merkland Wood with better fencing to try and stop people walking in the closed area. This is particularly important during the Christmas period as we don't want visitors or locals walking in the woods with their feet or dogs and spreading it to their gardens or to other parts of the Country. We have treated the infected plants in Merkland but it is better to be cautious.'

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Pupils from Corrie Primary School entertained residents at the Montrose House Christmas party.

Old and young enjoy Christmas party

Pupils and staff from Corrie Primary School joined the Corrie and Sannox WRI when they made their annual visit to Montrose House in Brodick. The adults were treated to a preview of the school's Christmas concert that featured country dancing and music on the fiddle, fifes, recorder and flute.

'School was never like this when I was a pupil at Corrie,' said Ruth Young who was accompanying her mother Ruth Russell.

Residents, staff and visitors enjoyed the concert and the rural afternoon tea after which the junior members chatted to the seniors, an important skill that is promoted at Corrie Primary.

Energy efficiency grants could benefit Arran community

Community groups on Arran could be benefiting from thousands of pounds of grants towards energy efficiency measures.

Specialist sustainable energy consultants will be visiting Arran in January to carry out consultations to see what efficiency measures could be implemented across the island.

Shiskine Village Hall committee members contacted the Energy Saving Trust earlier this year to find out how they can become more energy efficient.

Development officers from the Energy Agency are meeting Gordon Kinniburgh at Shiskine Hall next month and while here the agency officers wish to meet with as many community groups as possible.

Gordon Kinniburgh, vice chairman of Shiskine Village Hall said: 'Everyone is becoming more aware of their fuel consumption and we wanted

to try and reduce this both for an environmental and economic standpoint,' said Gordon. 'When the Energy Agency visits Arran it will be an ideal opportunity for other community groups to benefit from first-hand advice.'

Carola Menzel, renewables development officer at the Energy Agency, said: 'In line with the Scottish Community and Householder Renewable Initiative, the purpose of my job is to advise and support community groups, which are interested in renewable energy sources.'

'So for example I can look at a building and help the organisation to decide whether biomass boilers, heat pumps, solar hot water systems or wind power would be appropriate.'

Carola is contracted by the Energy Saving Trust, which provides funding towards energy and energy efficiency

sources that all community groups on Arran could benefit from.

'The majority of organisations I am in contact with are village halls as they often have inadequate heating in place which results in high bills and partly cold halls,' she said. 'Other groups are charities and local authorities that want to reduce bills and operate in a

sustainable manner.'

Carola's colleague at the Energy Agency, Jim Mitchell, is also hoping to visit the island to carry out household visits.

Any community groups on Arran which would like to meet with Carola and her colleague for consultations at their own premises in January can telephone her at Auchincruive in Ayr on 01292 525508.



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Graham says goodbye to Lamlash Cubs

After nearly 19 years as the Lamlash Cub Scout leader, Graham Tinto handed in his 'neckie and woggle' on Thursday night as he stepped down from the role.

A special party attended by cubs past and present as well as former leaders was held in the Arran High School on Thursday night to thank Graham for all his hard work.

Graham officially became the Lamlash Cub leader, or Akela, on May 7, 1990 and since then he has become a valued member of the Scouting Organisation on Arran.

'For nearly 19 years, the scouting movement has been a huge part of my life and

my families,' said Graham. 'I joined the cubs when I was at school but unlike most boys my age I didn't progress up to Scouts. So it wasn't until my own four sons became part of the Scouting movement that I once again became involved.'

He said that his whole family had benefited from his role in the organisation. 'All of my sons have been on Scout expeditions and I know it was a very important part of their childhood.'

Speaking about Graham's time with the pack, Carole Boon the depute district commissioner, said: 'Graham has done so much over the past decades to make sure that all

cubs on the island have had a fantastic and enjoyable experience. The only reason I am involved with the organisation now is because of Graham so I suppose I must say thank you to him for that.'

Kay Stout, the leader of the Shiskine Cubs said: 'I think all of the leaders here tonight will agree that we owe so much to Graham. When we first started we didn't know anything and his help and guidance has been incredible.'

Rachel Armitage and Nina Crisp have very gratefully taken over as cub leaders in the wake of Graham's departure.

The Lamlash Cubs will begin their 2009 season in January.



Graham Tinto, retiring cub leader with the three newly invested cub scouts, Cir Tulloch, Anna Crisp and Megan Ingham. b51eub01



Each summer, Graham took the Lamlash Cubs to camp in the Kilmory Village Hall. He is pictured here, on the far right, on Lenamhor beach with the cubs in 1997. b51eub02

Urgent appeal from Lamlash Beavers

The Lamlash Beaver scout colony is urgently appealing for a new leader in the hope that someone will be able to help keep the organisation running.

Depute district commissioner, Carole Boon said: 'We are in urgent need of help for the Lamlash Beavers. When I left in June the Beavers had a new leader but due to circumstances this person has been unable to restart the group.'

'Therefore I am looking for someone male or female who would be able to take on this role. Assistant leaders will also be required.'

The Beavers have a very strong colony of boys who attend the meetings every week. girls can also join the group providing a new leader is found.

'It would be very disappointing if after 18 years the colony had to be discontinued,' said Carole. 'We have helped many young boys aged between five and eight over the years. I would very much like to see the Lamlash Beavers continue. Please will someone give this some thought an help to keep the colony going.'

For further information please contact Carole on 700658.

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Lamlash Primary puts on music extravaganza

Parents and grandparents were treated to a visual and musical delight on Tuesday evening as the pupils at Lamlash Primary School held their annual Christmas concert.

All the students from primary one to seven took part in the musical extravaganza that took the audience on a magical trip around the world.

Marcel Gren, Sarah Cunningham, Lina Locatelli, Eva Young, Kurt Inglis, Michaela Welsh, Tilly Ford, Autumn Smyth, and Rebecca Crawford were just a few of the youngsters from the school taking part on the night. b51lam01



Crucial clean-up for stags heads

The 90 stags heads that grace the main staircase in Brodick Castle were given a seasonal clean last week – for the first time in five years.

Every stag head was removed from the towering hallway in the 800-year-old castle before the team recorded their condition and cleaned them.

Each one was checked to make sure it was not infested with insects before it was re-

turned to the spot where it has hung for decades.

It took a dedicated team of conservators and property staff five days to carry out the important work.

Clare Meredith, head of collections conservation services at the National Trust for Scotland, said: 'Cleaning this number of stag heads is not on everyone's to do list, but that is the beauty of the National Trust

for Scotland. We have an extraordinary variety of historic collections on open display at our properties – paintings, furniture, textiles and clocks as well as taxidermy – and the scale for which we care for them presents us daily with enormous challenges.

'This unusual project brought conservation professionals, property staff and volunteers together to play their part in

helping to preserve these important symbols of Brodick's history.'

Brodick's stag head collection dates back to the period before it was owned by the trust – with the oldest head dating from 1848.

Back then, the castle was a popular hunting base for the Dukes of Hamilton and the island supported a strong population of red deer. The last head was hung in 1937.



One of the dedicated team of conservators delicately cleans a stag head at Brodick Castle.

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Christmas party joy

The Kildonan and Kilmory Senior Citizens Committee would like to thank everyone for the donations and raffle prizes for their annual Christmas party.

Staff at the Kildonan Hotel provided a lovely meal in comfortable surroundings that was greatly enjoyed by all.

Once again the group were treated to some fantastic entertainment and the annual visit from Santa Claus who brought presents for everyone.

Isabelle Adamson was the lucky winner of this year's Christmas hamper.

Bridge club results

Lamlash Bridge Club results for Monday, December 15: N/S: 1 P Adamson and E McKellar -380, 2 M Gardner and L Trickett -840, 3 M McGill and C Bone -1120. E/W: 1 E Paul and E McNiven +1870, 2 A Bilsland and T Martin +1840, 3 H Boyd and J Murchie +1570.

Brodick Bridge Club results for Thursday, December 11: N/S: 1 T Martin and D Hamilton +120, 2 J McArthur and M Cumming -130, 3 D Bruce and D Scobie -430. E/W: 1 L Trickett and E McNiven +1780, 2 J Barclay and M Gardiner +1580, 3 H Boyd and L Paul +1420.

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Gibson welcomes shorter waiting times for tests

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the news from the Scottish Government that hospital waiting times are to be slashed.

Over the past two years the number of patients waiting more than nine weeks for key tests has fallen dramatically from 10,638 to only two.

Maximum

Following an announcement by Health Secretary Nicola

Sturgeon that the current nine weeks maximum for key diagnostic tests will be reduced by one-third to a maximum of six-weeks the MSP said: 'This is fantastic news. Scotland has already seen a massive reduction in waiting times since May of last year and this further reduction will undoubtedly provide a better health service for the people of Ayrshire and Arran while reducing the anxiety of patients waiting for vital test results.'

ety of patients waiting for vital test results.

Investment

'We have seen unprecedented success with the drop of those waiting for key tests over nine-weeks from 10,638 down to only two people. By providing an additional £50 million of investment the Scottish Government has ensured this success and one that should be welcomed universally.'

Round the Rurals

Delegates from the Isle of Arran SWRI Federation met at the Auchrannie Spa on December 4.

The main business of the meeting was the 2009 show to be held on August 5 in the Arran High School, where the convener will be Mrs Gill Butcher from the Lamlash Institute.

The following show schedule items were agreed: The theme for the community tray and handcraft competitions is 'wedding'.

The items for the tray are a six-inch cake; the decoration only to be judged, four different canapés, a drink (specify

if alcoholic), four different sweets and two items of your own choice.

The handcraft competition is one knitted or crocheted article, one sewn article and two items of own choice, but of different crafts.

The magazine competition is a rich Jamaican loaf, the recipe for which is in the October 2008 magazine.

The Jamaican loaf recipe is the same for the Anne Wallace sugar sifting competition.

Members wishing to enter this should bring their loaf to the June 2009 Federation meeting, where the winner will be chosen to go forward

to the National Conference in September.

After coffee and hot mince pies the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the president Mrs Eunice Williamson.

Lamlash SWRI

The annual children's Christmas party organised by the ladies of the Lamlash SWRI will be held in Arran High School on Saturday December 20 between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Members look forward to seeing all children up to, and including, primary five there.

Santa has promised to be there at 4pm. Please come along and enjoy the festive fun.



Three honorary members of the Corrie and Sannox SWRI: Bessie Sillars, Ruth Russell and Betty Kerr. b51wri01

Honorary members with 70 years service to WRI

Three honorary members of the Corrie and Sannox WRI with a combined age of 267 years attended the afternoon meeting of the branch last Thursday afternoon.

All three ladies have been members of the Women's Rural Institute for more than 70 years but often are not able to attend the meetings in the evening.

Ruth Russell is 99 and her two companions, Bessie Sillars and Betty Kerr are both in their 80s.

'When we were young women, with young families, the SWRI was often the only night out you got each month,' said Bessie. 'It was a great place to meet up with people your own age and older women too. Nearly everyone went along. It was fun.'

Promote

The aim of the SWRI has always been to promote a social network between women who live in remote rural areas. All three ladies said that in the

early days the meetings were held on the evening of a full moon. 'There were no street lights,' said Betty. 'You relied on the moon to see where you were going.'

Speaking about there many years in the SWRI Ruth, Bessie and Betty appear to have very many happy memories and they said that they are happy to see more younger women attending the meetings.

'It's not all about jam making,' said Betty.



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Preparations begin for 2009 music festival

This March the Isle of Arran Music Festival will celebrate its 80th anniversary by once again providing the opportunity for performers to demonstrate their talents on stage.

Experienced

Young or old, experienced or novice, on your own or in a group – it doesn't matter, everyone

is welcome to enter the festival. There are more than 100 classes to choose from and there will be a limited number of monetary prizes in addition to the usual trophies for the best performers.

Copies of the free syllabus have been distributed to all schools on the island and

several shops. So get a hold of one and send your entry form in before the closing date of February 10.

Information

Contact the festival secretary Tony Smith on 700203 if you would like more information or have difficulty in obtaining a syllabus.

Something just a little bit different for Boxing Day

If you are looking for something a little bit different to do this year on December 26 then why not head down to Lamlash Pier for the annual Boxing Day Dook.

Staged at the lifeboat station to raise funds for the RNLI, the dook sees an impressive number of brave people launching themselves into the sea.

Organiser Sally Hunter said: 'This year fancy dress and wetsuits are optional but there will be prizes for the best senior and junior. There will be hot soup to warm everyone up in the Lifeboat Station afterwards.'

Each swimmer must pay a £5 donation to take part in the event that will be donated to the RNLI.

To take part in the dook please phone Sally on 600952 to register.



Neil Gillies and Neil Bulger launch themselves into the icy water below at last year's Boxing Day Dook. b51swm01

Arran's MP calls for safe driving this Christmas

Arran's MP Katy Clark is urging the people of the island to leave their cars at home if they intend to drink this festive period.

Katy Clark said: 'The festive period is a time for celebration but each year people are killed as a consequence of drink driving.'

'That is why I urge the people of Arran to enjoy themselves without endangering peoples lives.'

Each year people are killed and seriously injured as a consequence of drink driving and in 2006 30 people in Scotland lost their life because of drink driving.

'If you intend on drinking this Christmas, don't get behind the wheel,' she added. 'You not only risk wrecking your own life but also that of others.'

Kildonan WRI

Eleven members of the Kildonan branch of the SWRI met at the Balmichael Centre in Shiskine on December 10 for an afternoon of lunch and shopping.

Alison Garrett from Kildonan won the competition for a Christmas cracker.

The members will meet again for a joint meeting with Kilmory and Whiting Bay Rurals in Kildonan Village Hall on Tuesday January 13.

The Kildonan Children's Party will be held in Kildonan Hall on Wednesday December 24 from 5.30pm. All village children are most welcome.

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Anthony Robson arrived on Arran just over a year ago and has quickly established an excellent reputation of being a dependable and talented tradesman, in two separate fields.

Having trained and qualified both as an electrician and plasterer, he has a very good eye for detail and can visualise how a project will come together, achieving exactly the outcome he had in mind.

If you are looking to add value to your home, why not consider simply re-decorating. To get the correct finish which will last for around 20-30 years, you could begin with completely re-plastering your rooms, this will mean that all fresh wall paper can be applied effortlessly. If you are thinking of wall lights or a mounted television screen you

must prepare the walls at the earliest stage, this will save on unsightly cable being visible when the job is done.

Anthony recently completed renovating his own bathroom, and as you can see the transformation is really something. It is difficult to imagine that this bathroom once had been an original cold meat store. Now with a fitted electric shower and under floor heating it is a cosy and relaxing modern addition to the house.

Fitting digital aerials & set top boxes, maintenance on electric boilers, installing and extending fire alarm systems & lighting circuits are just a few of the jobs that Anthony has been busy with recently and in the future he will be adding solar and wind turbine heating to his list of areas of expertise.



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THE ARRAN

BANNER

ARRAN'S WEEKLY PAPER

Saturday 1st April, 2007

**Have a good Christmas
– a goodwill Christmas**

It was dark and wet outside, but inside Brodick Village Hall on Wednesday morning a small group of nursery children were working hard to warm people's hearts by depicting the traditional nativity scene.

On the stage the youngsters were dressed in the most fantastic costumes. Little sheep, donkeys and cows joined beautiful angels and bright stars as well as the three kings and the shepherds.

In groups of three these young children stepped forward to play their part in the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

At such a young age they are probably not entirely aware of the reason for celebrating the life of this tiny baby.

To them it is simply an excuse to get dressed up in pretty costumes and look forward to Santa coming down the chimney in a few days time.

But glancing around the hall you get a sense of the real meaning of Christmas.

It is not perhaps as peaceful as the original nativity – 20 children under the age of five pushing, shoving and trying to wave at mum on a stage the size of a shoebox – but it is symbolic all the same.

Three, sometimes even four, generations of one family were gathered in that hall watching appreciatively as their youngest members re-enacted that iconic day when Christ was born.

We are all brought up with the nativity and taught to embrace its meaning. The remembrance and re-enactment of the nativity scene are central to the Christian celebration of Christmas, which believes that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah promised to save the earth.

Whether you believe in the nativity or not is of no importance as long as you understand that Christmas represents a time of year when the community unites with a heightened sense of goodwill towards our fellow man.

People can be affected by different aspects of Christmas – the twinkling lights, the parties, the smell of the turkey, snow, or maybe just the presents – but really the most important thing is having the privilege of sharing joy and goodwill with others.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

press policy

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

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor**Attitude to disabled drivers much change**

Sir,
I read with interest your front-page story in last week's *Banner* about the failure to provide suitable parking for disabled drivers at Brodick Pier.

For two and a half years I have travelled on the MV Caledonian Isles as a disabled passenger.

Like Mr Blythe I can never find a parking space near to the terminal building and I would have great difficulty walking along Market Road.

The disabled spaces at the pier are not just used by ignorant ferry passengers they are more often than not being used by the local garage owner to park his cars that are for hire or by people who work in the shops and cafes at the pier.

But this problem is not just found at the pier. The Brodick Coop only has four disabled parking spaces that are often used by other non-disabled drivers.

I travel on the ferry at least once a week so to rectify this problem of not finding a parking space Mr Colin McCort allows me to park my car at the bottom of the gangway in the winter.

I leave my keys with the staff in the terminal so that while I'm away they can move the car if need be.

I have always found the CalMac staff to be very very helpful. Once I have parked the car I am wheeled up the ramp in a wheelchair and always enjoy the chat I get from whoever is pushing me.

About six weeks ago CalMac acquired a new electric wheel-

chair that means it is now much easier for the boys to wheel me up the ramp – so it is more fun for me and for them.

I just wanted to make it clear that the problem at the pier is not the fault of CalMac and they do everything in their power to make sure disabled passengers like myself have a pleasant journey.

Until the attitude of drivers to disabled motorists changes the problem at the pier will continue.

Yours,
Janet Lacey
Mayfield Farm House
Dippin

High school memorial plaque

Sir,
I am writing with a festive reminder about the 'Old Arran High School' Commemorative Plaque.

If any ex-pupils would like to help raise funds for the parent council on behalf of today's pupils please call me on 860423.

A variety of ex-pupils have already donated £10 to have their names inscribed on the commemorative plaque, which will be placed in the new high school.

So far these include family groups, the first ever school captains, Arran ex-pats and a groups of friends.

Perhaps this would make an ideal gift this Christmas?

Many thanks to those who have already donated and we are looking forward to seeing many more names on the plaque

Yours,
Jim McMaster
Bloomfield Farm
Shiskine

No such thing as burglary

Sir,
While Scotland as yet does not have independence, we do have our own law and if you search it you will not find the crime of burglary mentioned.

I refer to your police files last week - Burglary at Brodick. Our forefathers being more practical named the crime housebreaking and the perpetrators housebreakers. If your quote was given by the

police (I sincerely hope not) then if I see a character dressed in a bonnet, black mask and carrying a sack over his shoulder marked Swag, I promise to inform them immediately. I am aware that you have many readers from south of the border, but please remember the indigenous Scots!

Yours,
Donald Cowan,
Lochinver,
Arranton,
Lamlash

Editor - The world burglary was not quoted by the police, it was used by the reporter.

Thank you from the people of Ethiopia

Sir,
We have just returned from our latest visit to Ethiopia and would like to thank everyone on Arran who have helped us to support the people of Gondar, Gondar Hospital and St Luke's Hospital in Wolisso.

Whiting Bay Golf Club, Lamlash Guild, Corrie Church and everyone who supports the Corrie coffee mornings as well as our colleagues at Arran War Memorial Hospital, all deserve a special mention.

There really are too many others to mention them all.

We are pleased to report that projects out there are progressing well and remain ongoing. All our friends, colleagues and recipients of help in Ethiopia forward their gratitude and greetings to all.

Yours,
Sarah and Howard Kemp
Burnbank
High Corrie

Banner appreciation

Sir,
I would just like to say many thanks for the beautiful 2009 Arran Calendar I received as one of your subscribers.

The superb views are stunning. I have really enjoyed reading the splendid *Arran Banner* for a number of years now and I deeply love the enchanting Isle of Arran.

Nollaig Chridheil Agus Bliadhnd Mhath Ur, festive greetings to all.

Yours,
Fiona Fraser
Crawford Avenue
West Kilbride

**Kildonan wedding for Carly McGovern**

Carly McGovern, daughter of John McGovern and Nikki Surrudge, was married at the Kildonan Hotel on Saturday December 13 to Rizqy Renan from Indonesia.

Carly works for Kelt as an English teacher in Surabaya, Java where Rizqy is a tattoo artist. The couple are honeymooning in Edinburgh before heading to the north of Scotland. They will return to Indonesia in the New Year where they will celebrate again with Rizqy's family.

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From the range of winter visitors reported in November, the highlight was undoubtedly the waxwings. b51wax01NO

Bird Notes for November

by Jim Cassels

November started with a cold spell and ended with a cold spell with snow, even at sea level.

Despite this, there were still reports of birds considered to be summer visitors including a wheatear at Clachlands on November 2, a chiffchaff in High Kildonan on the 8th, a swallow over Sandbraes on the 19th, plus reports of overwintering blackcaps in gardens in Lamlash on the 17th and in Whiting Bay on the 30th.

In the October notes, I asked readers to keep their eye out for returning goldeneye and shelduck. The first shelduck report was from Merkland Point and the first goldeneye was from Clachlands both on the 16th.

The great skua reported in the October Bird Notes remained on the shore by the car park at Shiskine Golf Course until November 2. Also on that stretch of shore on that date, was a snow bunting.

Other winter visitors included nine twite on Cleats shore on the 2nd, around 150 redwing in

Shiskine on the 5th, a brambling in a Whiting Bay garden on the 9th, a greenshank at Clachlands on the 16th, two rooks on the shore in Blackwaterfoot on the 18th, a yellowhammer in a garden in Machrie on the 20th, and over 200 fieldfare in Lamlash on the 29th.

From the range of winter visitors reported in November, the highlight was undoubtedly the waxwings.

Even non-birdwatchers can get excited about these distinctive, colourful and famously approachable birds.

Appreciate

They usually offer ample opportunity to appreciate their sandy plumage with a full crest, black bib, yellow tips to the tail feathers and white markings in the wings.

Even the little red waxy tips on some wing feathers, from which waxwings get their name, can often be seen very well.

They have a call like a tinkling bell and superficially they look a bit like starlings in shape, flight and action, but

are much lighter coloured and when startled raise an amazing crest.

Waxwings nest in remote parts of northern Europe, including Siberia, where they rarely see humans. Food shortages in their usual Scandinavian wintering grounds occasionally drive waxwings across the sea to Britain.

This winter has been such a year.

Last reported in Arran in January 2007, in this November groups were reported from Kilmory, Whiting Bay, Brodick, and Corrie with the first report on the 12th, and the last report on the 22nd. The largest group was up to 100 in Whiting Bay on the 17th.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with "what, when, where" to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Quiz night at Kilmory SWRI

At the meeting of the Kilmory SWRI on December 8 the members enjoyed a lively quiz night.

Joan Lewis won the competition for a table decoration and Sarah Pierce won the Yule log contest.

The family Christmas party will be held in Kilmory Village Hall on Wednesday December 24 at 5.30pm.

Anyone willing to make sandwiches or cakes for the party please let Phyllis Picken know on 870263.

Winter Bowling at Auchrannie

The last winter bowling date of the season will be Tuesday December 23.

It is not yet guaranteed whether the bowling will take place on December 30. See The Banner for further information.

Results:

November 18, 21 bowlers: R Smith, J Steed, C Haggarty, and J Donaldson. November 20, 17 bowlers: A Hobbs, I Wilson and J McGovern. November 25, 19 bowlers: J Donaldson, A Hollingworth, K Irvine and I Hendry. November 27, 17 bowlers: J Steed, C Hendry and N Pringle.

December 2, 13 bowlers: C Haggarty, D Hendry, P Milligan and I Wilson. December 4, 16 bowlers: C Weir and P McKenzie. December 9, 14 bowlers: C Weir and J Steed. December 11, 13 bowlers: joint winners on rink number three were C Hendry, M Megarrell, D Hendry and J McConnachie.

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Victorian Christmas at Brodick Castle



Maureen and John Moore welcomed guests to the castle for a special Victorian Christmas experience. b51vic02



A large group of Victorian ladies sang traditional Christmas carols by the fire in the drawing room. b51vic11



Findlay Elliott from Torbeg tells Santa what he wants for Christmas. b51vic13



Children from Brodick Primary School were singing Christmas carols on the great staircase. b51vic04



Wilma Morton welcomed visitors to the castle. b51vic09



Susan Mills, a Victorian lady. b51vic08



Brodick Castle housekeepers, Richard and Anne Hill were two of the houseguests for the Victorian Christmas Day. b51vic05

Mac's Bar Brodick

Every Friday and Saturday Night Karaoke / Disco From 9pm
 Regular Compere needed for these events. Contact Billy

26th December Karaoke Competition
 1st Prize £100

31st December. Hogmanay Party from 10pm onwards
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Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Also open Sat 2th through til 31st and again from 2nd - 4th Jan
 Close at 5pm on 4th January and re-open Wednesday 28th

From everyone at the Centre we would like to wish all our customers 'Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year'



Also try our Family Treasure Hunt throughout December



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Victorian Christmas at Brodick Castle

Celebrating a special time of year in a different era

Visitors to Brodick Castle on Sunday afternoon were transported 150 years back to a traditional Victorian Christmas.

At the castle there was great excitement as families joined the building's Victorian inhabitants to celebrate this special time of year.

Before entering the building people were enticed into the grounds by the smell of Colin Totty's hot roasting chestnuts to warm them up in the cold winter air.

Inside the castle was decked with greenery and the Christmas trees were trimmed with traditional decorations.

Castle staff were dressed as their Victorian

counterparts for the day and they could be seen throughout the castle welcoming the visitors and enjoying the festive cheer.

Lord and Lady Merkland (Maureen and John Moore) were in the hallway to welcome guests while upstairs the duchess (Julie Nelson) had taken to her bed with the vapours.

Down in the kitchen Mrs Potts the cook was being helped by some eager young helpers to make a delicious Christmas pudding.

After wandering through the castle and meeting Santa Claus there was mulled wine and mince pies in the tearoom to get everyone in the mood for Christmas.



Anne Hollingworth sits by the beautiful Christmas tree in the castle drawing room. b51vic12



June McLean was waiting on the Duchess in the lady's bedroom. b51vic06



Freddie Bunyan from Brodick meets Santa Claus in the castle library. b51vic14



Scott and Cameron MacKay with nanny Elspeth McDonald. b51vic10



Duchess for the day was Julie Nelson with her maid by her side, Zoe McGovern. b51vic07

Christmas and New Year at



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Whiting Bay Tel: 01770 700357
24th Dec – Home made meals from 12.30 until 9pm plus Christmas Eve Disco 'till late
Christmas Day Closed
Open 26th December – 4th January
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30th December New Year Quiz – proceeds go to local organisations
Hogmany bar open until 11pm



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Festive Events in Lamlash



NEW YEAR CEILIDH

High School Theatre
Saturday 27th December
From 8pm

Bring your own booze, drinks and snacks
(No glass please, use plastic and cans)
£10 Adults, £5 children £25 Family

Pay on the door, contact Janice 600095 to reserve a table.

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Our regular advertisers would like to take this opportunity to thank their customers and wish them a very merry Christmas and a happy new year

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Landscape & Groundworks Contractors.

We wish our Customers & Suppliers Seasons Greetings
See www.broombrae.co.uk
Mobile 07522 860435

Slidery Supplies

Stockists & Suppliers of Agricultural & General Hardware

Phil and Helen thank all customers on Arran and elsewhere for their custom during 2008 and wish you all a **Happy Christmas and a peaceful and successful 2009**

STEVIE'S DÉCOR

Stevie and Staff would like to wish all customers past and present, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009.

ANNE CURTIS

would like to wish all her clients a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Tel 01770 870281
Mob 07748 588761



GLENISLE Hotel & Restaurant

Lamlash

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Geoffrey and Timothy
See you all when reopen with our new look in March 2009.



RED DOOR Brodick



Stacey & Ruth would like to thank all of their customers - we wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year

McNICOL PLUMBING

Wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous 2009.

Auchrannie

House Hotel & Spa Resort

wish all our customers a very merry christmas and a happy new year

we look forward to seeing you in 2009!

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 19 Dec - Monday 5 Jan 2009

Lamlash Garage
Closed Friday 19 Dec - Monday 5 Jan 2009



Malcolm J Wheeler & Staff wish clients and their animals a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year

No surgeries on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day & the 2nd Jan, otherwise surgeries as normal with emergency cover throughout the holidays on 01770 302511

The Coffee Pot
Golf Course Rd
Whiting Bay
Tel: 700393

Paintings & Prints by Sheila Findlay on display ~ Eat alfresco in our seafront garden ~

Diane and all staff Wish all their customers and friends a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

The Harbour Shop

Blackwaterfoot wishes all it's customers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



From Gillian, Aileen & Gina

Lamlash Post Office

Irene & Andy Would like to wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Isle of Arran Cheese Shop

Gordon and his staff would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a joyful new year.

WWW.ARRANCHEESE.COM

Best Western

Kinloch Hotel



Robbie and Barbara and all of the staff at The Kinloch Hotel would like to wish all of their customers a very happy Christmas and every success for 2009

Blackwaterfoot, The Isle of Arran KA27 8ET
Tel: 01770 860444 Web site: www.bw-kinlochhotel.co.uk

Kenneth Morrison and his staff would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful new Year

ADVANCED FINANCIAL STRATEGIES LTD
Independent Financial Advisors and Estate Planners

Old Pier Tearoom

Robert & Lindsey wish all our staff, customers, suppliers and friends a very happy Christmas & Best wishes for 2009. Thank you all for your continuing support & friendship. The tearoom will be open during the Christmas holidays. Closed Christmas Day and 1st January only. We will be open on the Tuesday & Wednesday both weeks

Lamlash 01770 600249

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, December 23, 1988

Hall's well

A truce has been declared on Pirmill Hall. Readers will recall that when the building was completed three weeks ago the keys were not handed over because the bill had not been paid, and the bill was not paid because it was £3000 above the expected cost.

Now following a meeting between John Sillars, chairman of the Arran Community Council and builder Donald Logan it has been agreed that the keys will be handed over to Pirmill councillor Mrs Christine Black on Thursday.

The Community Council are nominal owners of the hall and have accepted that the extra money will have to be paid although, said one councillor: 'The cash will have to come from Strathclyde or the HIDB. After all the extra costs are the result of the 18 month delay caused by Strathclyde property department.'

When asked if there would be an official opening he added: 'That's up to the Pirmill people. When the key is handed over they will be wanting to do some decoration first.'

No contamination

Curries of Brodick (The Spar) do not stock a product that is the subject of a contamination scare.

One litre of Spar Longlife orange juice (sell by date May 89) is being recalled due to contamination with a cleaning compound.

The contaminated juice is not poisonous but tastes 'very unpleasant' said a Spar spokesman.

Alan Little of Curries reassured customers 'It is not a product we stock!'

Sales force strengthened

Eight people is a big company by Arran standards, eight of a sales staff alone makes it a huge company and last week the Arran Provisions sales staff met up for the first time.

They attended a two-day conference on planning strategy at the Auchrannie Hotel.

Two years ago Iain Russell was the only person selling the Lamplash produced mustards, jams and gifts.

Now this team under sales director Ronald Finlay is tak-

ing the name of Arran all over the world.

Ian told us that it costs an average of £25,000 to keep one salesman on the road for a year and it means selling a lot of mustard to cover that.

Company turnover is now at £2million and, with the extra sales drive, they are aiming for a turnover of £5million by 1991.

Community council questions

Arran's Community Council is to ask Strathclyde Education Department why teachers who left the island last June have not yet been replaced by permanent teachers.

'We have departments here without full time head teachers,' said Jim Lees of Corrie who raised the matter at the community council meeting on Tuesday.

The English, PE and Art departments have no fulltime principal teachers.

'It's a wee bit like a rudderless ship,' said Jim. 'The department is going to mark time until someone takes it over. And I say this with no disrespect to the people there.'



Pupils and their parents enjoy Christmas lunch at Corrie Primary School. b51twe01

Word spreads across the globe

Word of the Arran Challenge Golf Championship (won last week by Alan Johnston) has travelled far and wide.

A reader brought in a cutting about it from the Owenboro Messenger and Inquirer from Kentucky USA.

The rather long article all about the golf tournament focused on the difficulties of getting to such a remote spot as Blackwaterfoot and the chill winds experienced on the course.

If you live in Kentucky then Blackwaterfoot will probably seem very remote.

Property for sale

17A Hamilton Terrace, Lamplash: semi detached property comprising living room, kitchen, three bedrooms and shower room.

Good sized garden, ample storage, well maintained. Some furnishings included. Offers over £16,000.

Right: Santa mingles with the children at Brodick Primary School. b51twe03



The Christmas nativity cast at Pirmill Primary School. b51twe02

The Coffee Pot

Golf Course Rd
Whiting Bay
Tel: 700393

~ Eat alfresco in our
seafront garden ~

Delicious Snacks & Light Meals
Homebaking always available

CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY - OPENING HOURS
10am - 5pm. Last food orders 4pm

It pays to advertise in the
ARRAN BANNER

The Ormidale

Brodick 01770 302293

HOME COOKED BAR MEALS

Served daily 6pm - 9pm and 12.30pm - 2pm at weekends
Beer Garden Children Welcome

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

19TH Dec Disco 10pm
21st Dec Folk Session 10pm
23rd Dec Xmas Quiz 10pm
24th Dec Christmas Eve Disco 10pm

Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

Forestry Office,
Auchrannie Road,
Every weekday 8th - 24th
December
Also Saturday 13th
December.
Open Midday - 4.30pm


Forestry Commission
Scotland

The Lighthouse Restaurant
Pirmill 850240

WINTER OPENING HOURS
Friday - Sunday 12pm - 8.30pm
Open Xmas Day for Lunch
12pm - 3pm
New Years Day for Lunch 12 - 3pm
Pre-Booking is essential
Alison and Andy Pattison
BYOB

Arran's Social Scene

E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Telephone: 01770 302142

Web: www.arranbanner.co.uk

To buy photos, log on to www.arranbanner.co.uk and click on "buy a photograph" or call 01770 302142



Calum Duncan and a very hairy Ian Small. b51soc03



Frazer Mitchell was dressed as Scottish historian and TV presenter Neil Oliver while Tim Keen of Brodick was a rather delectable lady for the evening. b51soc01



Team leader Jamie McKinnon, almost unrecognizable as himself, with brother Ewan McKinnon and one of the chuckle brothers, Martin Ross. b51soc04



Angus Raeburn and David Boal had a blonde ambition on the night. b51soc02

Mountain Rescue Team let their hair down

Members of Arran's Mountain Rescue team enjoyed their annual Christmas night out on Friday with an evening of fun and frolics in Brodick.

Each year the men and women come in a different fancy dress outfit and this year the idea was to come 'unrecognisable as yourself'.

In the room there was a number of very strange looking men with moustaches, as well as a gorilla and a manly looking lady.

And then there was Niall Hume in a mankini.

The evening traditionally begins at about 7pm in the Mountain Rescue Hut in Brodick.

Here members take part in some lighthearted party games and quizzes before moving onto the Brodick Bar.

The Ormidale Hotel is the next venue where the team spent the rest of the evening.

The Christmas Party is the only night of the year that the full Mountain Rescue team is allowed to let their hair down.

On call 24 hours a day, 365 days a week the team do an exceptionally important job on Arran.

They are as likely to have to leave a warm bed in the small hours of the morning to rescue a climber on some blizzard-blown crag on the A'Chir Ridge as hunt the grounds of Brodick Castle looking for a missing person.

They are a dedicated bunch and dare we say it, a breed of their own.



Angus Raeburn, Frazer Mitchell and Calum Duncan. b51soc06



A very blonde Henry Murdo with the beautiful Tim Keen. b51soc05

James McDowall & SONS

*Quality Cuts
Delivered to your Door*

Best Scottish Beef, Lamb, Chicken, Haggis & Speciality Sausages all at competitive prices.

We supply to Hotels, Pubs, Restaurants & Households.

**Phone today to place your order
Tel: 0141 889 2606**

**James McDowall & Sons
Specialist Butcher
Delivering on Arran**



The Brodick Bar & Brasserie

Festive Opening Hours
We are open Monday - Saturday
Light Lunches & Snacks Served from 12 - 2.30pm
Evening Meals from 5.30pm - 9pm
Closed Thursday 25th December and Friday 26th December
Re-open Saturday 27th throughout the New Year
Lunches and evening meals as above

We are also open Sunday 28th December and Sunday 4th January
Lunches 12 noon until 2.30pm
Evening Meals 6pm until 9pm

Our winter warmer lunch special at £10.50 continues through December, come along and enjoy.
We still have a few places left for our early sitting from 5.30pm for Hogmanay Dinner £36pp. Children's menu available.
Phone 01770 302169 to book your table
We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

(Opposite Post Office), Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302169

Indonesian Jewellery SALE

Ormidale Hotel
Sunday 21st December 2pm
Sandals, belts, bags
Last minute Christmas gifts

ARRAN transport Ltd

Petrol, Car Hire & Newspapers at Brodick Pier

Festive Opening Times:
Christmas Day - CLOSED
Friday 26th - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
New Year's Day - CLOSED

All other days as normal - 8 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
Fridays - 8 a.m. - 7.30 pm
Sundays - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

We wish all our customers a happy and safe Christmas & New Year.
Tel: 01770 302121

BANNER**WHAT'S ON...****EVERYDAY**

Brodick Castle Gardens & Country Park	11am - 4pm
Trout fishing	Loch Garbad, Bank
Hawk Walks	Lamlash
Fitness Assesments, Gym Induction, Personal Training	Auchrannie Spa & Gym

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football	Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Arran Dancers	Arran High School 11am - 4.15pm
Karate	Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Learn to Salsa	KA Campus, 9.30am - 10.30am
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
RNLI shop Open	Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Youth Cafe for all High School Pupils	Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 10pm
RNLI shop Open	Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Highland Dancing Lesson	Brodick Church Hall 11am - 1pm

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

Alcoholics Anonyous	St Margarets Church, Whiting Bay, 4.30pm
Shiskine WRI Kids Xmas Party	Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Family Games Kids & Adults	Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Arran Pipe Band	Balmichael Visitor Centre, 1pm
Fun in the Spa Pool	Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes	Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Arran War Games	Arran High School 1 - 4pm

MONDAY 21st DECEMBER

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.45am
Over 50's Badminton	Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Quiz	Cameronia 9.30pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Badminton	Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Cardiac Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Core Strength	Auchrannie Gym 5.30 - 6pm
Circuit Training	Auchrannie Spa, 6.00 - 7.15pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm
Lamlash Bridge Club	Arran High School, 6.45pm
ABS Class	KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
Aerobics Class	KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8pm
Indoor Cricket	Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm
Carol Singing with The Arran Brass Monkeys	Kilmory Hall, 6.30pm

TUESDAY 22nd DECEMBER

Senior Fitness	Auchrannie 9.30am & 10.30am
Lochranza Swimming Club	Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Legs Bums & Tums	Auchrannie Spa 6pm - 6.45pm
Army Cadets	Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Pop Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
Rotary Club	Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Citizens Advice	Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Pulmonary Rehab	Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Open Music Session	Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Indoor Bowling	Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Rowan Singers Christmas Concert	Brodick Hall, 8pm
Indoor Bowling	Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Brodick Toddler Group
Body Conditioning Class
Country Dancing
Shapers

Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym 7 - 8pm

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER

Mixed Hockey
Corrie & Sannox Wednesday Club
Core Strength
Jnr Rugby Training
Aquafizz
Circuit Training
Yogalates
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy
Kickboxing
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training
Arran Brass Rehearsal

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm
Auchrannie 5.30 - 6pm
P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm- 7.15pm
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am
Auchrannie, 6pm
Auchrannie Studio, 10am - 11am
10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER

Senior Fitness
Senior Aerobics
Citizens Advice
Badminton
Lochranza Craft Club
Outdoor Run
Pilates
Aerobics
Coffee Morning
Arran Music & Drama Club Rehearsal
Cardiac Rehab
Table Tennis
KA Jog
Legs, Bums & Tums Class
Arran Junior Singers Practise
Shiskine Cubs
Scouts
Embroidery Group
Lamlash Cubs
Junior Scottish Country Dancing
Brodick Toddler Group
Brodick Bridge Club
Indoor Bowling
Outdoor Boot Camp
Kilmory WRI Family Christmas Party
Children's Christmas Party

Auchrannie 10.45am - 11.45am
Auchrannie 9.30 - 10.30am
Open 10am - 2pm
Kilmory Hall, Juniors 6.30 - 7.30pm, Adults 7.30 - 9pm
Hall, 2pm
Auchrannie, 6pm
Auchrannie Studio, 6pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Leisure, front reception 5.30pm
KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Whiting Bay School 6.45pm
Shiskine Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
Shiskine Hall 8pm - 9.30pm
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Arran High School, 6.15pm - 8pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, 7.15pm
Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Ormidale Park 7pm
Kilmory Hall, 5.30pm
Kildonan Hall, 5.30pm

FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice
Lochranza & Catacol Coffee Morning
Aquafizz
Citizens Advice
Circuit Training
Arran Ceilidh Dancers

Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
10am - 12pm
Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am
Open 10am - 2pm
Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm
Corrie Hall, 8pm

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER

Boxing Day Dook

Lamlash Pier, 1pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the
Arran Banner 01770 302142



PUBLIC NOTICES



2009 Courses at Arran Learning Centre

Start date/time	Title	Venue
Mon 5 Jan - 2.00-4.00	Yoga	Brodick Hall
Wed 7 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Yoga	Whiting Bay School
- 6.00-8.00	Beg. T'ai Chi	Arran High
- 8.00-10.00	Adv. T'ai Chi	Arran High
Thurs 8 Jan - 7.30-9.30	Line Dancing	Brodick Primary
- 7.00-9.00	*Digital Photography	Arran High
Mon 12 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Cookery is Fun!	Arran High
- 7.00-9.00	*Beginners' Computing	College
Tues 13 Jan - 10.00-12.00	*Beyond Basics Computing	College
- 7.30-9.30	Art	Arran High
- 7.00-9.00	Fun with Drama	College
Wed 14 Jan - 10.00-12.00	*Beginners' Computing	College
Thurs 15 Jan - 7.00-9.00	Rag Rug Making	College
Fri 16 Jan - 2.00-4.00	Art	Rangers' Centre
Tues 20 Jan - 4.00-6.00	Creative Writing	College
Wed 21 Jan - 4.00-6.00	*Beginners' German	College
Tues 27 Jan - 4.00-6.00	*French Conversation	College

*These courses can be part-paid for with your ILA. You must present your ILA card at enrolment!

If you have already completed a course this academic year, you will receive a £15 reduction on the cost of your next one. Courses cost £45 or £33.75 for the over 60s.

All classes will run subject to minimum numbers

Argyll College also offers a range of open learning courses from introductory to degree level.

For more information and to book a place on any of these courses, please contact Jenny on 01770 600152.

YOUR LOCAL COLLEGE

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



Contract Opportunity – Social Enterprise Support

The purpose of the contract is to assist the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Partnership in the development of a stronger 3rd Sector to deliver more public services in its area. For further details and contract documentation please contact

Jim McCrossan
Community Learning and Regeneration Manager
Argyll and Bute Council
Tel: 01369 708543 or e-mail: jim.mccrossan@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The deadline for requesting contract documents is Tuesday, 30 December 2008. The closing date for submission of tenders is 12noon on Friday 30 January 2009.

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

THE ARRAN
BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142

www.arranbanner.co.uk



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 2009 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE by 1 February 2009.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2009, 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 29 December 2008.

CAROL KIRK Corporate Director (Educational Services)

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, Lamslash

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/08/00904/PP **Address:** Shiskine Golf And Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8HA **Proposed Development:** Erection of new clubhouse including demolition of existing clubhouse

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

Application No: N/08/00916/LBC **Address:** The Surgery, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran KA27 8PX **Proposed Development:** Alterations to former doctors surgery, including dormer to front, internal alterations and replacement of chimney

REFUSE COLLECTION & TRANSFER STATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Domestic Refuse Collections

22nd, 23rd and 24th December - service as normal
Christmas Day and Boxing Day - no service
29th, 30th and 31st December - service as normal
New Years Day and 2nd January - no service

Saturday 27th December - open as normal
29th, 30th and 31st December - open as normal
New Years Day and 2nd January - closed
Saturday 3rd January - open as normal

Transfer Station Opening Hours

22nd, 23rd and 24th December - open as normal
Christmas Day and Boxing Day - closed

Please remember to book ahead for visits to transfer station on 27th or 3rd on 600338 and keep recyclable packaging separate.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.45 pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008 until 9.00 am on Monday 5 January, 2009

The following ONLY will be open between 29 and 31 December, 2008

REGISTRATION SERVICE

Irvine, Saltcoats and Arran Offices
29 December - 9.00 am to 4.45 pm 30 December - 9.00 am to 4.45 pm 31 December - 9.00 am to 1.00 pm
Kilbirnie Registration Office
29 December - 2.00 pm to 4.45 pm 30 December - 9.00 am to 12 noon 31 December - closed
Largs Registration Office
29 December - 9.00 am to 12 noon
30 December - 2.00 pm to 4.45 pm
31 December - 9.00 am to 12.30 pm
All registration business is by appointment.
Irvine Registration Office : 01294 324988
Saltcoats Registration Office : 01294 463312
Largs Registration Office : 01475 676552
Kilbirnie Registration Office : 01505 682416

Kilwinning
22 - 23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 - 30 December - Open (normal hours)
5 January 2009 - Re-open 9.00 am
Ardrossan, Beith, Bourtreehill, Dalry, Dreghorn, Kilbirnie, Stevenston, West Kilbride
22 - 23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 - 30 December - Open (normal hours)
5 January 2009 - Re-open 1.00 pm
Arran
23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 December - Open (normal hours)
6 January 2009 - Re-open 10.00 am
Fairlie
23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 December - Open (normal hours)
6 January - Re-open 2.30 pm
Millport
23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 December - Open (normal hours)
6 January 2009 - Re-open 1.45 pm
Skelmorlie
23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 December - Open (normal hours)
5 January 2009 - Re-open 1.00 pm
Springside
19 December - Close 5.00 pm
5 January 2009 - Re-open 6.00 pm
Local History
22 - 23 December - Open (normal hours)
29 - 30 December - Open (normal hours)
5 January 2009 - Re-open 9.30 am
Arran Mobile
No service Thursday 25 - Friday 26 December
No service Thursday 1 - Friday 2 January 2009
Mainland Mobile
No service Monday 22 December - Friday 2 January 2009 incl.

LICENSING

District Court, Townhouse, High Street, Irvine
29 December : 9.00 am - 12.30 pm and 1.15 pm - 4.45 pm
30 December : 9.00 am - 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm
31 December : 9.00 am - 12.30 pm

SOCIAL SERVICES

The following offices will be open on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 December (normal hours) and until 12.30 pm on Wednesday 31 December 2008:

Dirrans Resource Centre, Irvine
Independent Living Service, Pavilion 9, Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine
Aitken Place, Ardrossan
Vernon Street, Saltcoats
Criminal Justice, 1 Glebe Street, Stevenston
Craigton Road, Kilbirnie
Boyd Street, Largs
Byres Road, Kilwinning
Bridgegate House, Irvine
Shore Road, Lamslash, Arran

LIBRARIES

Irvine, Largs and Saltcoats
22 - 23 December - Open (normal hours)
24 December - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
29 - 30 December - Open (normal hours)
31 December - Open 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
5 January 2009 - Re-open 9.00 am

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Housing Repairs - 0800 0196 444
Homelessness - 0800 0196 500
Roads & Lighting - 0845 603 0594
Trunk Road Repairs - Road & Lighting Faults (A78, A737, A738) - 0800 028 1414
Scottish Water - Water & Sewerage - 0845 601 8855
Scottish Gas/Transco - 0800 111 999

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

Ian Snodgrass, Chief Executive,
Cunninghame House IRVINE KA12 8EE



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

RECRUITMENT

Personal Assistant / Carer

For 53-year-old man seeking to maintain independence at home.

Permanent part-time position in Shiskine area.

Hours 9am – 4pm 2 days per week plus holiday cover.

Experience in moving and assisting would be advantageous as this will be an essential part of your roll – training can be provided.

Reply in writing to Arran Banner Box No. 127

CLEANERS REQUIRED

Mite PFI are currently recruiting for cleaners at Arran High School

- 2 x 16 hour per week, term time posts. £6.14 per hour pro rata
- 1 x 20 hour per week, 52 week post £6.14 per hour

To apply telephone 01294 608909 or Susan on 07500 815754

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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- 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.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Brodict Health Centre
Lamlash Medical Centre
Shiskine Surgery**

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

All island practices will be closed on Friday 25th and Thursday 26th December (Open Mon 29th – Wed 31st December) Friday 1st and Thursday 2nd January (Open Monday 5th January onwards)

Please also note:

Brodict Medical Practice
Baby Clinic on Tuesday 6th January

Lamlash Medical Centre
Lamlash Baby Clinic on Tues 13th January
Whiting Bay Baby Clinic on Thurs 8th January

Shiskine Surgery
Next Baby Clinic Friday 9th January

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



An Initiative of Trust Housing Association

Isle of Arran Homes
and

Arran Care & Repair office

will be closed from 1.00pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008 and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2008

If you have an emergency repair please contact 0800 783 3615

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

PROPERTY



GROUSE LODGE, DIPPIN

Substantial sandstone villa set in approximately 7 acres of grounds in prominent elevated location at the south of Arran, enjoying spectacular views across the Firth of Clyde to Ailsa Craig and beyond. Accommodation comprises side entrance to covered courtyard/conservatory, den/bedroom 4, spacious central reception/morning room, large kitchen, open plan dining and lounge area, shower room and ground floor bedroom with adjacent bathroom and on the upper floor a further 2 bedrooms and bathroom. Substantial appended workshop/boiler room and several outbuildings. Beautifully refurbished property in much sought after location.



POA
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Robert N Brass FRICS FNAEA
Tel: 01770 302310 / 302313
enquiries@arranestateagents.co.uk | www.arranestateagents.co.uk

Three bedroom family home for rent in Lamlash, large garden in quiet area, close to village centre.
Available from January.
Interested call 01397701995

BANNER PROPERTY BANNER PROPERTY

John Thomson Construction Ltd. Properties For Sale



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Luxury 3/4 Bedroom Villas



Laigh Letter Row, Lamlash

3 Bedroom semi detached villas

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No. 9 Glen Court – Brodict

3 Bedroom semi detached villa in quiet residential location.

Fixed Price £ 200,000

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2 bedroom flat, in the centre of Brodict available for long term let. (Sorry no DHSS or pets)

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Brodict

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I would like to wish all of my customers a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2009

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The Curtain House
Lamlash (down lane next to church)

To all my Friends, Family and Customers Merry Christmas and Every Happiness for 2009 from Ginelle

In place of cards this year there will be a donation to Arran Riding for the Disabled. Thank you.

Telephone: 600 753

Arran General Insurance Services

Telephone **01770830206**

Wishes all friends and clients a merry Christmas and a happy new year.
Alistair Yates.

ASAP Services (Arran) Ltd

Wishes all customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES LTD

Home Farm, Brodict, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
Tel: 01770 302777 Fax: 01770 302500
Email: info@arranhaulage.co.uk

Happy to serve the people of Arran
Merry Christmas and Every Success for 2009

Shiskine Pro Shop @ Shiskine Golf Club

For a wide range of quality Gents & Ladies clothing & accessories

Dougie wishes all customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanks them for all their custom during 2008

WOOLEYS

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BELL ROBERT (BOB)

Nancy and family wish to thank everyone for their cards and letters, the Rev Angus Adamson for his warm and moving service and D Hendry & Sons for funeral arrangements.

Special thanks to all staff at Cooriedoon who looked after Bob during his time there. The collection raised for Cooriedoon was £600

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine. *Independent but working together.*
Minister
 Rev Angus Adamson.
Parish Asst
 Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times.

Sunday 21 December
 Brodick Church 10.30am Sunday School Service
 Corrie Church 12pm
 Pirnmill 10.15am.
 Shiskine 12pm.

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

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 21 December
 (Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Shiskine 11am
 Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)

Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
 Rev David Karoon
 All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11am
 First Mass of Christmas Wednesday, 8pm
 Christmas Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH

Sunday 21 December
 An all age service for Christmas, with a family communion will be conducted by the minister Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. There will be the usual

monthly sale of Traidcraft goods.

There will be a service in the Hospital at 1.30pm, Cooriedoon at 2.30pm and Craigielea at 3.15pm. All most welcome. At 6.30pm in the Church transept, there will be an informal evening service of praise and discussion. All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 21 December
 Holy Communion and carols. 11.00 am. Mrs Janis Gallagher Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 24 December
 Christmas Eve Midnight Mass 11.30pm
 Revd Paul Fletcher
 All Welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 21 December
 Rev. Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 All welcome

In Kilmory: Christmas Eve

Family Service 9pm
Christmas Day
 Family Service 11.30am
 (Please bring an unopened present to open during the service)

In Lamlash: Christmas Eve

Watchnight Service 11.30pm
Christmas Day
 Family Service 10am
 (Please bring an unopened present to open during the service)
 All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 21 December
 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge
 Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service
 5 Glen Road, 7pm
 Rev D Macleod

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.
Sunday 14 December
 10.45 Communion
 Tea and coffee from 11.10
 11.30 'Worship and Word'
 Speaker: Willie Wright
 Everyone welcome.

MOIRA STARKS

thanks all those friends who visited, sent cards, telephoned or wrote letters during her eight week stay in hospital.

There is no doubt that your support helped to pull me through. Special thanks to Cathie and John Steed and Jan Macgregor.

To each and every one of you I send warmest greetings for Christmas and the best of health and happiness for 2009.

Jimmy, Jenni, Leah & James
 wish all family and friends on Arran, Seasons Greetings
 Donations to MS Society in lieu of local cards




Johann McHarg
 Seasons Greetings to all friends and neighbours.



Dick Heydon
 Wishes all his friends on Arran a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year



Bill Wallace of Rosalynn, Brodick
 wishes all his friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Mary & Peter Mackenzie
 Wish all our friends a very Happy Christmas and good health in 2009



Jim & Pat Ferguson
 Wish all our friends a merry Christmas and a happy new year



Christine Hamilton
 wishes all friends and neighbours a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year



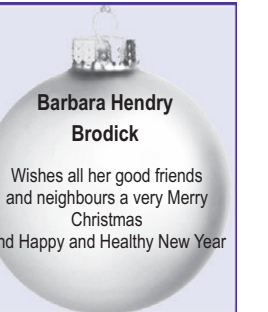
Drew Crawford
 Wishes friends on and off the island Merry christmas and Happy New Year



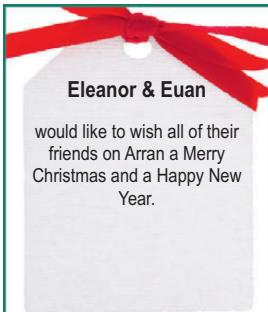
From the Jenks family
 To all our friends on Arran. We wish you a joyful Christmas



Barbara Hendry Brodick
 Wishes all her good friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year



Eleanor & Euan
 would like to wish all of their friends on Arran a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Your personal Christmas greetings



Arran Golfers Association

AGA Winter League 2008/2009. Second round results from Whiting Bay Golf Club on Sunday December 14. The rescheduled second round got under way on a soggy Whiting Bay Golf Course.

Thanks to Whiting Bay for hosting and the delicious soup and rolls, much appreciated by all players, also the condition of the course was a credit considering the weather it's had thrown at it in recent weeks. First up was the host club against last month's 4-0 victors Machrie. Unfortunately for Machrie they ended up on the end of a 4-0 whitewash this time with Whiting Bay getting much needed points after the opening day defeat to Lamlash.

Whiting Bay were fielding a stronger team than last month with the return of Nicol and Malcolm adding to an already strong team. Last up was Lamlash against Shiskine.

The strength and depth of Lamlash showed with a 3-1 victory even with a last minute call off and a slight reshuffle of pairings. The score slightly flattered Lamlash as two of the games went to the second last and one going to the last with Lee Girbow managing to hole a four footer for the game.

Shiskine possibly will feel a point would have been a fairer result but the win puts Lamlash in an already

strong position with their home tie still to come. Brodick couldn't manage to play on the rescheduled date due to a club competition so will rearrange with Corrie and play the game at a later date suitable to both teams and with the agreement of Whiting Bay on tee times.

Fixtures: Next up for the Association is round three at Corrie Golf Club in January. All the best to all Arran golfers and hope you have a great Christmas and New Year from all at AGA.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 14. At last the weather relented and allowed golf to be played again in the rearranged Winter League fixtures. Whiting Bay beat Machrie Bay by a convincing 4-0 score.

Fixtures: Sunday December 21, friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay, tee offs from 10.30am to 11am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 14, Brandon and Winter Cup, 24 played, CSS 67. Sweep Results 1 C Pattenden 76(11)65, 2 A Dobson 76(10)66, 3 G Hendry 75(8)67 BIH from M Dobson. Scratch J Armit 73. First class Brandon Chris Pattenden, second class Brandon Matthew Dobson.

Fixtures: Sunday December 21 and Sunday December 28

Clochendichter. If demand is there, also a sweep on both dates to follow Clochendichter games.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday December 11 Ladies 18 hole Medal. 1 Elizabeth Ross 85-19=66, 2 Viv Parks 92-24=68, 3 Jenni Turnbull 91-21=70. Best Scratch Fiona Crawford 85 BIH.

Fixtures: Boxing Day Texas Scramble. Wednesday December 31, Mahogany Trophy. Thursday January 1, Colditz Quaich and Alan Smith Plate. Friday January 2, D S Bannatyne Shield.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 9, Winter Cup. 1 David Price 62, 2 Ian Buchanan 62, 3 Brian Sherwood 67. Scratch David Price 70. **Fixtures:** Tuesday December 23, Winter Cup 12pm tee-off. Tuesday December 30 two Club Competition 1pm shotgun start.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 11, 13 hole medal. 1 A Smith 56-7=49, 2 J O'Sullivan 60-10=50, 3 G Andrew 58-7=51. Sunday December 13, well done to the Lamlash

team who defeated Shiskine 3-1 at Whiting Bay Golf Club in the winter league.

Fixtures: Sunday December 21, friendly v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay, 10.30am for 11am start. Friday December 26, Boxing Day Game, Greensome at 11am. Sunday December 28, Green Burn Cup, 9.30am - 11am start. Friday January 2, course backwards, 10.30am for 11am start.

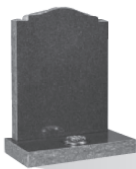
Happy Christmas to all our members and friends and wishing you all the best for the New Year.

Ladies: A good turn out for this traditional stableford game (12 holes), which was enhanced at the start by sherry and sweets courtesy of the lady captain. This was further enhanced by the superb crisp and bright weather. A very close game with only three points between the top five. Yvonne Brothers was first with 21 points and wins a voucher for Galbraith's butcher. Pat McDonald was second with 20 points, another voucher. Elizabeth Sinclair was third with 19 points ACB, Morag Gardner was fourth with 19 points ACB, Kate McAdam was fifth with ACB. Following the game the ladies all retired to the Drift Inn for lunch and prizegiving.



The ladies from Lamlash Golf Club gathered at the course for their traditional Christmas stableford game.

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£15 voucher per set of property keys
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Festive fun at winter points competition

Arran's horse riders gathered at the Blackwaterfoot stables on Sunday for the annual Cairnhouse Riding Centre Christmas Show.

Julie Graham of Lochranza organized a special fancy dress class for charity and there was a great turnout for this event.

There was a lot of tinsel and bobbles about and all of the riders had made an effort to get into the Christmas spirit but Isla Yuill and Anna Downard won the first and second prizes.

Julie also ran a raffle, which was drawn by Margie Currie and managed to raise over £150 towards medicine and equipment for the Helambu

region health camps in Nepal.

Seventeen riders took part in the wobbles class with 13 going clear in the first round.

Lauren MacAlister, Lina Locatelli, Sarah McNeil, Abbie MacAlister, Hannah Bone and Amie Latona made it a double clear to earn themselves double points on the leader board.

Shannon MacAlister whizzed round at top speed on Rosie to pick up 10 points and the red rosette for returning with the fastest double clear in 31.35 seconds.

In the novice class there were 18 riders and 11 went through in the jump off against the clock.

Nicola MacAlister went first

and came back with a clear round in 36.19 seconds.

Megan MacAlister shaved 10 seconds off Nicola's time giving the next riders something to think about.

Clear in 26.63, Megan stayed in poll position until Nicola Currie pipped her at the post in an amazing 26.22 seconds to win the class.

Sixteen entered the Mini Challenge class and the 100 fence was successfully jumped by no less than 11 of the riders.

Nicola Currie stormed around the course and went into the lead by jumping nine fences and scoring 380. However, Megan MacAlister wasn't let-



A special fancy dress class was organised for charity at the Cairnhouse Christmas Show.

ting Nicola get it all her own way and she also scored 380 to share the top spot and the 12 points up for grabs.

The clear round class was next and only three of the 12 riders made it round unscathed to collect six points.

The Cairnhouse Challenge is the last class of the day and the 100 fence was put up to 3'3".

The first to jump it success-

fully was Lynn Ramage who finished with a top score of 170 and went into the lead but it was short lived as Amie Latona flew round and came back with a score of 220.

But Megan MacAlister was the only one to jump the 100 both ways and win the class with a brilliant top score of 330.

At the half way stage of the

Winter Points competition the top ten are as follows: Juniors Shannon MacAlister 19. Abbie MacAlister and Sarah McNeil 10, Lauren MacAlister and Hannah Bone 9. Seniors Megan MacAlister 60, Amie Latona 45, Amy Downard 41, Nicola Currie 37 and Lynn Ramage 34.

The next show is on January 11.

Disappointing defeat for Arran

Carrick 18 Isle of Arran 16
There was disappointment amongst Arran's senior rugby players on Saturday afternoon when they lost to Carrick RFC by just two points.

Arran travelled to Maybole to take on the team, which are now only second from the top of the west second division.

Carrick had already defeated the island team in a league game earlier in the season but Arran beat them 26-10 in November in a crucial cup-tie.

Speaking after Saturday's game, team captain Murray Picken said he was disappointed by the defeat. 'I really think that we deserved a win on Saturday, he said. 'We had a good try disqualified by the referee which was really unfair.'

With half an hour gone the two teams were drawing 3-3 after two successful penalty kicks.

Arran's last line of de-



The Arran Banner's man of the match was Frazer Barr

fence was always good when needed but in the 36th minute a Carrick maul was heaved across the line to take them into the lead 8-3.

Minutes later Arran's Frazer Barr kicked another penalty to give them a much-needed extra three points. 8-6

Another penalty awarded to Carrick just before the half-time whistle was sounded

gave them an 11-6 lead as the teams retreated to the sidelines.

A converted try from the mainland team just three minutes into the second half gave Carrick a comfortable 12-point lead. 18-6

Frazer Barr secured another penalty for Arran literally one minute later but Carrick were still nine points ahead.

Arran thought they had a try when they drove over the line and grounded the ball but a contentious decision from the referee saw the try disallowed.

For the majority of the second half neither team could break through their oppositions defence until suddenly in the 73rd minute Arran's captain Murray Picken picked up the ball in his own 22 and after outpacing Carrick's defence stormed across the line.

Frazer Barr's trusty boot converted the score to 18-16.

Youngsters prove their worth

Ardrossan 56 Isle of Arran 29
Arran's under 16 rugby players proved that they've got what it takes to be the players of the future when they took part in a dazzling game of rugby against Ardrossan last Sunday.

The Ardrossan boys quickly ran in four tries in the first half by using strong fast players to punch holes in Arran's defence.

Arran did not let the score line affect them and after a concerted effort in the opposition's half, they where awarded a penalty. Cry's of 'Kick the points!' could be heard from the touch-line but the lads had a plan and took a tap penalty releasing Andrew Earl at the Ardrossan defensive line like a bull at a gate.

They were awarded another penalty and the same attack was launched, resulting in yet another penalty only five yards out.

In the end it was third time lucky for Andrew as he crashed his way over the line for Arran's first and only try of the first half, which ended 30 points to 5.

The half time talk resulted in Arran returning to the pitch with a different game plan, using brains as well as brawn!

Sam Tattersfield took charge of kicking using the wind to his advantage, time and time again keeping the Ardrossan lads pinned down in their own half.

They continued to use the now familiar tactic of releasing Andrew at speed through their last line of defence.

This worked a total of four times during the match, much to the frustration of the opposition.

Arran's fifth try came from a speedy backs move with Jack Barbour cutting back inside for a well-deserved score.

Sam kicked two of his three conversion attempts but Ardrossan still kept pace with their own scoring and when the final whistle blew the score finished Ardrossan 56 points to Arran's 29 points.

It was a close decision for the man of the match but in the end Chris McNeil of Brodick was chosen for his cheeky scrum half play.

SPORTSDESK
01770 302142



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