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Seven Arran men are charged in Stagecoach fuel theft case

Relief drivers brought in from mainland

Three Arran men have been charged with the alleged theft of fuel from the Stagecoach depot in Market Road, Brodick.

In last week's Banner, we reported that four Arran men had been charged in connection with the incident.

The three subsequent arrests came after further examination of CCTV footage.

Following police enquiries, a total of three men have now been charged with the theft of fuel, and four men charged with receiving stolen goods. Six of the seven men are employees of Stagecoach.

Confirm

A spokeswoman for Stagecoach said: 'We can confirm that there is an ongoing police investigation into the theft of fuel from Brodick depot.'

'The matter is also subject to an internal investigation and disciplinary process.'

'A relief depot manager is in place and we have sufficient drivers in place to ensure we can continue operating the bus services we provide for local people.'

REPORT
by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Local police have confirmed that the three charged with theft are a 45-year-old Brodick man, a 50-year-old Lamash man and a 61-year-old Kildonan man.



The Stagecoach depot in Brodick. 02_b51sta01

Charged with receiving stolen goods are a 34-year-old Shiskine man, a 55-year-old Pirmill man, a 56-year-old

Brodick man and a 64-year-old Whiting Bay man.

A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Police report that much of the evidence in this case came from images on a closed circuit television camera system recently installed on the company premises.

There is a possibility that HM Revenue and Customs officials may also be involved in this investigation.

It is understood that the public service buses run on fuel that is not subject to the full excise duty.

The fuel alleged to have been stolen could have been used in private vehicles.

As cover for the suspended drivers, there are four relief Stagecoach drivers from the mainland currently working on Arran and staying in a Lamash hotel, three of whom have previously done relief duty on the island. One is reported to have said that he expects to be here indefinitely.

Stagecoach employ 17 drivers at Brodick depot and operate 13 vehicles.



Christmas lights switched on

Three youngsters from Shiskine Primary School took part in the switch-on of the valley's Christmas tree lights after taking part in a festive card competition.

Kirsty Crawford, aged 10,

from Shiskine was the lucky winner of the primary school's Christmas Card Competition and is the first person to switch on the lights at the inaugural Shiskine Community Christmas.

Her friends Daisy Urquhart-Dixon, left, and Lily Currie, right, helped Kirsty to switch on the lights.

See page three for full report and pictures.

01_b51shi02

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New children's play barn takes shape at Auchrannie

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The new children's play barn at Auchrannie Spa is under construction.

Covering 3,000 square feet of floor space, the barn will be a valuable addition to the facilities already on offer at the island's largest hotel.

Auchrannie general manager Richard Small told the Banner: 'This will be a major wet weather facility for us. It will be a significant extra attraction for families.'

The play barn is being built in the first car park on the approach to the Spa swimming pool and is planned to be ready for opening by Easter. It will be available for guests use and for the general public at a nominal charge.

Richard added: 'We will be looking to appoint a manager and staff, and the barn will be available for hire for private



The new children's play barn under construction at Auchrannie Spa. 02_b51ply01

functions and parties.

'It is unique and will not be competing with anything else currently on the island.'

Opening times are forecast to be from 10am to 6pm, and the company hopes to open the facility all year round.

Plans show a teen zone with Wi-Fi connection and large screen television and electronic amusements, a soft-play area for under 10-year-olds and outdoor area for up to 14-year-olds. Children must be accompanied by adults, who can while away the time in a café area and work or play on their laptops.

There will be vending

machines, limited catering and ladies and gents toilets.

Richard Small pointed out: 'Some of our regular guests come back three, four and five times a year. Families have come to expect children's leisure facilities that Crieff Hydro and other similar mainland resorts offer. Now we will be able to match them.'

Don't get caught out, warns rescue team

Last Wednesday evening, December 8, the Arran Mountain Rescue Team was contacted by Strathclyde Police after lights were seen above Brodick in the area of Glenshant Hill.

Members of the team made an initial search of the Creag Rosa area but after finding nothing and conditions underfoot being deemed dangerous a request was made for assistance by Royal Navy Sea King 177. Unfortunately due to other commitments neither the Sea King nor the police helicopter was available.

The team therefore reconvened the following morning and made a foot search of the area. After locating footprints in the area leading off, the team completed a search before standing down with no one

requiring assistance.

An AMRT spokesman said: 'We would like to remind people planning walking trips of the need to plan their day well and if possible make their way off the hill in good time.'

'They should take appropriate clothing, a map and a compass (and know how to use them), a whistle and a torch. If possible, let someone know where you are going and your expected return time. If you are caught out or simply doing some night walking please advise local police.'

'This will greatly assist those concerned should a search/rescue be required.'

Police report that the Ministry of Defence would neither confirm nor deny that there had been military activity in the area.

Police files

Careless driving

On the evening of Tuesday, December 7, a 19-year-old Lamalash man was charged with careless driving and failing to report an accident within Arran High School car park.

Car vandalised

A car was vandalised in the car park of the Kildonan Hotel between the afternoon of December 11 and December 12. Police are appealing for any information.

Safe and well

After a spell of severe weather, Arran police and coastguards were alerted to the remote Laggan Cottage north of the Fallen Rocks when there had been no sign of the occupant for some time.

The male occupant was found to be safe and well.



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The youngsters were joined by more than 50 adults as they took to the streets of Blackwaterfoot Carol Singing. 01_b51shi01

Villagers turn out in force for celebration

Villagers in the Blackwaterfoot and Shiskine area held their first Community Christmas celebration on Sunday evening.

An impressive crowd gathered by the Harbour Shop before they headed off around the houses carol singing.

After this Kirsty Crawford switched on the Christmas tree lights at the Harbour play park after she won a Christmas card design competition at school.

'I would like to thank all those who took part in the inaugural Tree Lighting Ceremony which was a great success and appeared to be enjoyed by everyone, young and old,' said Robert Waine from the Shiskine Valley Improvements Committee.

'The carol singing, roasted



Amelia Robertson meets Santa. 01_b51shi03

chestnuts and mulled wine all helped to create a truly festive atmosphere. As always a big thank you is due to all our long suffering local businesses who never fail to give unstintingly of their support and without whose help these events would not take place. Thanks also to the businesses on the other side of the island who helped.'

The festivities continue

over Christmas and New Year with some of the highlights including the Shiskine Primary and Nursery Christmas Concert, the Senior Citizens' Party, the Children's Christmas Party and the Big Festive Quiz at Kinloch on December 23. Details of these can be found on the Christmas flyer available in the shops or on the web site www.shiskinevalley.org

Praise for ferry firm that didn't leave couple high and dry

'A very big thank-you to CalMac'

An Arran couple have praised CalMac this week after the ferry operator held the boat back for them after they became trapped in heavy snow.

Christine Lyle, from Whiting Bay, and her husband Alisdair live on the island but on Monday, December 6, they had to travel to the petrol station they own in Perth.

'We set off on the 8.20am sailing,' said Christine. 'As we approached Glasgow heavy snow started to fall.'

Christine told The Banner that the traffic was very slow and by the time they got to Moodiesburn in north-east Glasgow it was at a standstill.

She said: 'On the radio we heard that the M80 was to be

REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

closed and that the A9 was down to a single line only.

'So we decided to turn round and come home.'

They had a tough drive through Glasgow before reaching the junction for the M77 where the police were blocking the slip road as the M77 was closed.

'We turned off at the A737 but got as far as the Johnstone turn off and then stopped again,' said Christine.

'After sitting for a couple of hours we decided to take the A761 to Kilmacolm then down to Port Glasgow and down the coast road to Ardrossan.'

At 5.15pm as they drove

through Inverkip, Christine realised that they might not make the 6pm sailing to Brodick.

So she phoned the harbour and explained their situation.

They were told to keep driving and to phone pier staff when they got closer.

'We kept them up to date and at 5.55pm we drove on to the ferry before they closed the doors behind us' said Christine.

'After spending some eight and a half hours travelling in what everyone knows to be very difficult conditions, we would like to say a very big thank you to the staff of CalMac. All we ever hear is complaints but on Monday they could not have been better.'

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Brodick Castle celebrates



Pupils from Brodick and Corrie Primary Schools singing Christmas Carols in the Castle kitchens. 01_b51cas09



The Arran Brass Band created the perfect festive setting with their rendition of much loved Christmas carols. 01_b51cas02

'Our Victorian Christmas is always a popular event'

The staff at Brodick Castle put on a wonderful festive treat for visitors on Sunday when the ancient building was transported back in time to a Victorian Christmas.

Advantage

The castle itself and the grounds were busy with people taking advantage of the beautiful weather.

Property manager Ken Thornburn said: 'Our Victorian Christmas is always a very popular event with entertainment for visitors of all ages.'

'Young visitors can deck themselves out from the dressing up chest, try their hands at seasonal crafts and, of course, visit that very special gentleman in red!

'The Duke and Duchess, their houseguests and staff all extended a warm welcome to one and all.

Special

'And the chestnuts roasting on the fire, mulled wine and refreshments in our tearoom, as well as stalls selling local crafts make it a very special day every year.'



Diane Wright and Anne Hill. 01_b51cas06



The castle guides dressed in Victorian clothing for the day. 01_b51cas10



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Victorian Christmas



Friends of Brodick Castle, John and Maureen Moore, were guests at the castle's Victorian Christmas. 01_b51cas01



Ann Hollingworth and Vivienne Haigh. 01_b51cas07



Mr and Mrs Claus wait on the excited youngsters to arrive. 01_b51cas08



Jean Peacock in the Duchess' drawing room. 01_b51cas05



Playing the Duchess for the day was Margaret Anderson. 01_b51cas03



Left: Jane Cowell was a Victorian lady for the day. 01_b51cas04

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Craig McCartney, Jim Henderson, Mary Kirkwood and Ruth Devlin in the new relatives' room at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash. 02_b51hos01

New relatives' room for Arran hospital

Arran War Memorial Hospital has a new relatives' room.

This room is designed to be available as short-term accommodation for relatives of terminally ill patients. The renovation and fittings have been supplied by the Arran cancer charity ArCaS, at a cost of £7,500.

Fifteen years ago, in April 1995, the first such room was provided by ArCaS in a different part of the hospital. It had previously been a two-bed ward, but gave excellent service as a quiet place for relatives to get some rest.

Then two years ago, it was taken out of use, due to fire regulations and lack of space. Now the committee of ArCaS has spent £7,500 of money raised in the charity shop at Brodick pier in renovating this new room at the back of the hospital.

Last Monday three members of the executive committee, Jim Henderson, Ruth Devlin and Mary Kirkwood, met to officially hand over the room to hospital Admin Supervisor

Craig McCartney. The room is spacious enough for one person with the luxuries of a reclining armchair, television, and hospitality tray for tea and coffee, as well as a comfortable bed.

The tasteful decorations include paintings from Jim Williamson, Janet Rawlin and Jim McIntosh. To complete the facility, there is a shower room and toilet next door, and the occupant would have use of the staff kitchen nearby.

Jim Henderson said: 'This room is specifically designed for relatives of terminally ill patients. For example, they could live far away and come to be with a dying relative. The last thing you need to worry about at a time like that is somewhere to stay.'

'This could be a place to lay their head for a few days until other accommodation can be sorted out.'

Mark Kirkwood added: 'If anyone can spare a few hours, we are always looking for more volunteers to help in the shop at Brodick pier.'

Kildonan SWRI

The children's Christmas party will be held in Kildonan Hall on Friday December 24 at 5.30pm.

All the village children aged from birth to Primary 7 are warmly invited to come along for the party.

Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club

At our November meeting, members were delighted to hear Peggy Grundy's account of her time as Head Guide at Brodick Castle.

In December Elma Stevenson told us of her experiences as a 'Wee Heide'.

In January the club welcomes Jean Bowden

and David Scobie for a 'Taste of Scotland'. Any senior citizen from Corrie and Sannox wishing to go to the Christmas lunch on Wednesday 22 December, please contact 810268 by 19 December.

Robert Stevenson, Sannox.

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Council works round the clock to keep roads clear

North Ayrshire Council Roads staff worked throughout the day and night last week to keep all the main roads across the area open, despite temperatures dropping as low as minus 12.5 degrees Celsius some nights.

The team of 59 roads staff operating 17 gritters, snow ploughs and tractors were on round-the-clock duty during the severe weather, treating priority roads such as the main bus routes and primary access roads. On Arran, all three gritters and ploughs were on duty.

Workers spread 2,500 tonnes of salt in just three days to ensure that all main roads were passable. The council still has 2,400 tonnes of salt left in stock, 1,700 on the mainland and a further 700 tonnes on Arran. In addition to

this, another 3,200 tonnes is on order. Staff have now moved on to treat the remainder of the local roads network, including minor roads and rural roads.

The Council's Head of Infrastructure, Angus Bodie, said: 'We have used a total of 4,000 tonnes of salt since November 19, with 2,500 tonnes of that being spread between Monday and Wednesday of this week.'

'In order to plan well ahead, we are seeking long term forecast information for the period after the New Year. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government as part of the national resilience effort where resources are being planned at a regional and national level.'

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FABULOUSLY FEMININE GIFTS



Duncan Rae is pictured with his Banner at the bottom of the hotel pool in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt - with thankfully not a shark in sight!

Shark scare restricts diver to the hotel pool

Tourists at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh fled the beach last week after a series of shark attacks left one woman dead and four more seriously injured.

One of those tourists was Duncan Rae, a qualified diver and the son of Joe and Dorothy Rae who grew up in Lamlash.

He was on holiday with his wife Heather and son Logan.

But rather than worrying about the possibility of a

shark attack, Duncan was more upset that he wasn't able to get a photo of himself in the sea with The Banner.

Planned

'We've just returned from Sharm el Sheikh where I had planned to show you a picture of me reading The Banner 30 metres under the Red Sea as we were there to dive,' said Duncan.

'However I am sure you will have seen on the news that there were four shark attacks

and one death while we were there. I have attached a photo of the best I could do under the circumstances and I am reading The Banner at the bottom of the Hilton pool in Sharm; bonus points to any reader who can work out how you can read a paper under water!' added Duncan.

The beaches were shut eight out of the nine days that Duncan and his family were there so the pool was a much safer option.

Carers could be missing out on thousands in unclaimed allowances

Carers on Arran could be losing out on almost £90,000.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson urged carers on Arran not in receipt of Carers Allowance to claim money that they are entitled to.

Recent findings by Carers Scotland show that Arran carers are missing out on an estimated £89,057 in benefits simply by not claiming them.

Mr Gibson said: 'Arran's carers save the tax payer a fortune by looking after some of the island's most disabled, ill and elderly members.

'In fact, Carers Scotland estimates that most carers work at least 50 hours per week.

'Many are forced to give up work and end up suffering serious health problems as a consequence of the stress brought on by their caring

responsibilities, which can be particularly difficult at this time of year.

'Many carers also struggle financially, especially at Christmas, despite looking after the most vulnerable in society, including people suffering from life-threatening illnesses.

'That's why carers are entitled to claim Carers Allowance if they meet certain conditions, such as working at least 35 hours per week,' he added

Arran carers who think they may be missing out on Carers Allowance or other benefits they are entitled to should phone Carers Scotland at 0141 445 3070 for further advice and information.

Alternatively, details can also be found at www.carers-scotland.org.

Arran victims in line for Equitable pay-out

Arran victims of the Equitable Life pension company collapse are celebrating this week after the government agreed to pay compensation to all those affected by the crisis.

The UK Government recently announced that £1.5 billion would be paid out to those who held Equitable Life policies from the middle of 2011 but that compensation would be limited to those who took policies with the company out after September 1992.

Katy Clark, Arran's MP voted in favour of an amendment to the Equitable Life (Payments) Bill which will make sure all who lost out as a result of the collapse of the pension company will be compensated.

Ms Clark said she was pleased with the outcome of the debate, but she added: 'I do however believe it is wrong that those who took out policies prior to September 1992 are to be excluded as they also suffered losses as a result of the maladministration of the company and regulatory failures which took place over a number of years.

'I have been contacted by a number of constituents who were negatively impacted in this way and who are understandably very disappointed at the Government's announcement.'

She added: 'I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that they receive justice and appropriate compensation for their losses.'

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Do you deserve a visit from Santa?

This is without a doubt the busiest time of year for Santa Claus, yet last weekend the man in red gave up his weekend to visit children all across the island.

He could be seen at Home Farm on Saturday and at Brodick Castle and in Blackwaterfoot on Sunday.

And we hear that he is doing the rounds of all Arran's primary schools before visiting shops and restaurants before Christmas Eve.

But do all of us really deserve a visit from Santa this year?

One of the country's leading greeting cards manufacturers contacted The Banner this week because they are encouraging us ill-behaved Brits to come clean and confess our naughtiest Christmas antics.

Some of the most common confessions, which have been sent through, include pinching food and blaming siblings or pets, hiding sprouts in napkins and plant pots, and sneakily seeking out hidden presents before the big day arrives.

More shocking declarations, which might need a little more than a virtual confessional, include pinching gifts meant for others from underneath the Christmas tree and kissing a girlfriend's best friend beneath the mistletoe!

Many individuals, including parents, also use the time of year to bribe children into behaving by saying that Rudolf will eat them if they're bad.

Or worse still, that Santa won't come if they misbehave.

But in all honesty, do any of us really deserve any presents at all this year? The country is still suffering under the gigantic weight of the financial meltdown that took place two years ago and the government is cutting back funding and jobs left, right and centre.

It has been reported that Britons have spent a record amount on Christmas presents yet again this year.

It seems that despite the VAT rise in January and increasing prices people still go a bit mad at Christmas.

There are many that will argue that after the doom and gloom of another financial crisis, the joys of Christmas are the perfect antidote.

Banks are already preparing themselves for huge numbers of people defaulting on credit card payments in the New Year as they scramble to pay off the debt of Christmas.

It is believed that the average person will use around £700 in credit or loans to buy presents for their families.

It may seem old fashioned to say that we need to cut back and remember the true meaning of Christmas but if it stops people getting into unimaginable debt then it cannot be a bad thing.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

press policy

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

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

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

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

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Best days of your life?

Sir,
Doubtless, on Arran anyway, it is as David Oakes said to the 1972 class's reunion, that 'school days are the best days of your life. You don't have worries about jobs, money or family'.

But in many a school elsewhere in Britain, plenty of children are worried about any or all of those things in broken homes, jobless, skint, in debt, and about crime, drugs etc ongoing around them. Also, many are being bullied, to scar them perhaps for life, mentally as well as physically.

Others are victims of peer-group pressures, to have the latest in clothes, consumer goods etc., or be ostracised or beaten up for being different. Others again, are carers for housebound members of their family, as well as being school pupils.

David Oakes was speaking to a happy reunion, it is fine; but the above said things need saying.

The expression 'the happiest days of your life' was a cliché of the 1940s for schooldays.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
Drovers Lane
Penrith

CAB closure fight

Below is a letter sent to Dave Patterson, spokesman of the Save Arran Advice Service group by Elma Murray, chief executive of North Ayrshire Council.

Dear Mr Patterson,
Thank you for a copy of the petition calling for the continuation of an advice centre on Arran following the decision of the North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service board to close the Citizens Advice Service office.

This obviously represents the strength of local feeling on this matter. As I am sure you are aware, NACAS is an independent voluntary organisation affiliated to Citizens Advice Scotland and dependent on North Ayrshire Council for its core funding. The council, as you state in your letter, has agreed a

funding package over the next three years which sees its funding reduced by three per cent each year (a nine per cent cut from a budget which is being cut by 20 per cent over that period).

The council has protected NACAS from the worst of the cuts in recognition of the important work it carries out.

NACAS is still due to receive over £180,000 next year. The council has a Service Level Agreement with NACAS and an officer from within my service acts as Monitoring Officer.

There are quarterly monitoring meetings and these proposed changes were announced at the November monitoring meeting.

The SLA will require to be renegotiated as a result of the changes that have been announced and this will be in place for the start of the new financial year.

In the meantime, the Monitoring Officer has been in contact with the NACAS Board discussing the changes and asking questions on behalf of concerned elected members and members of the public to ensure that all options are being properly considered. The chair of the NACAS board has now replied to these questions setting out how the board intends to proceed.

Here are some of the answers that have been given to the council's Monitoring Officer by the chair of the NACAS:

1. Alternative less costly bases in Arran and Largs could not be considered before staff restructuring was in place, and are now being considered.

2. Volunteers are a core part of both board discussions and service delivery.

3. Continuing the involvement of volunteers in Arran and Largs will indeed require a place to meet clients, but the General manager is still to report on locations.

4. One of the service managers will manage the Arran volunteers.

5. The decisions will come out of discussions between the general manager and the staff members appointed, along with the volunteers, and I do not know for sure when a

definite system will be decided - we would all hope within a few weeks.

6. We decided to keep Arran and Largs offices available for use up to the end of February. If necessary, we will extend that timetable, to ensure there is no disruption to the service. I hope this is of some assistance in understanding the council's position in relation to this.

Kind regards,
Elma Murray
Chief executive
North Ayrshire Council

Truth difficult to glean

Sir,
The Arran Banner has given recent coverage to the budget being made available this year to North Ayrshire Council by the Scottish Government following John Swinney's announcement on 17 November.

This was followed up by a letter from Kenneth Gibson MSP suggesting that the cut in the budget will be 2.6 per cent rather than the forecast 20 per cent and that the Council should be grateful for that. The truth however is always difficult to glean from politicians trying to score points off one another. UNISON Scotland suggest that the real level of cuts this year is far higher than the figure being trumpeted - more like 5 or 6 per cent, and being a one year settlement, puts off much of the pain until next year after the Scottish elections.

In that sense the £64 million cuts over three years figure, remains a reality hanging over North Ayrshire.

However, there is no doubt that the Council has more funds available this year than they thought they might have. On this basis we asked them at a meeting a few days after the budget announcement, whether they might reconsider their decision to privatise half of the care at home service - a policy that affects hundreds of low paid jobs and the conditions that go with them, as well as quality of service to the area's most vulnerable old and disabled people.

The reply from Councillor

O'Neill was a straight 'Na'.

No wonder many of our members are losing heart with politicians of all the mainstream parties, all of whom seem to accept that cuts are somehow inevitable and necessary.

We, however, do not believe the economic arguments behind the bailout of the banks and the consequences for the rest of us. We will continue to argue that politicians should unite to defend our communities and refuse to preside over the destruction of jobs and services

Yours,
Colin Turbett,
Chairperson
Stephanie Herd,
Secretary
North Ayrshire UNISON

Rowan Singers concert

Sir,
As you will have seen in our advert for this concert, it is being held in the Community Theatre at the High School in Lamlash at 2.30pm on Sunday 19 December.

The programme that will be performed should have something for everyone to enjoy with a wide range of music from Stanford's 'Magnificat' to traditional carols including a section for audience participation, which was one of the highlights of our summer concert.

Our guest artistes are Arran Brass and Kerrie Calder, a young, highly talented flautist who was a pupil of Diana Hamilton, our conductor. Arran Brass will be accompanying the choir and the audience for the traditional carols as well as playing music of their own choice.

They will also be playing when the audience arrives and at the interval. As is usual the choir decides which charity it is going to support by donating any profit to that charity, and this year it will be 'Friends of the Beatson'.

The more people who come, the more we can donate.

Yours,
Hugh M Thomson
Chairman of
Committee of Trustees
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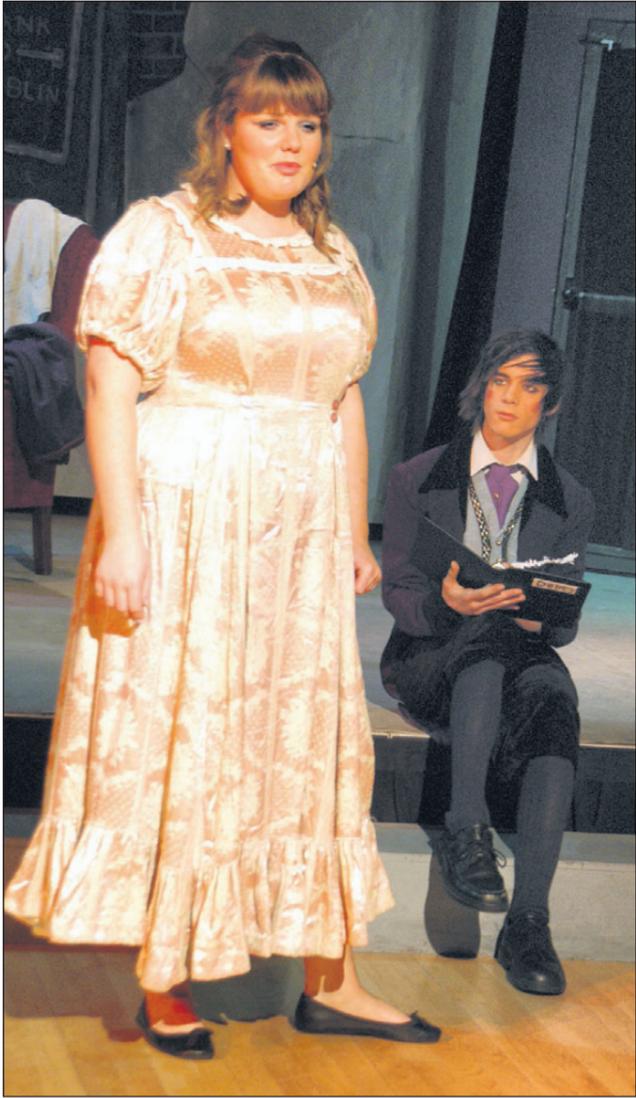
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A young Scrooge played by James MacAleer looks on as his lost love Belle (Lauren Davidson) mourns the end of their attachment. 01_b51pan10



Christmas

Lamlash pantomime



Worker Ealana Swinton-Boyle helps Bob Cratchit (Steve Garraway) to brighten up the Chocolate Factory in time for Christmas. 01_b51pan01

You know the story, it's Christmas Eve and the meanest and most cold-hearted man in London, Ebenezer Scrooge has no time for merriment or mistletoe.

But as the clock strikes midnight Scrooge's world turns around as he is taken on a vivid journey by three spirits who show him visions of happy memories from his past, cruel realities from his present and the very likely future should Scrooge continue with his unloving and uncaring ways.

Can the spirits convince Scrooge to change his ways in time for Christmas Day?

Well the show opened on Thursday night in the Community Theatre at the High School and the audience was quick to warm to the out-

rageous antics of yet another Lamlash panto.

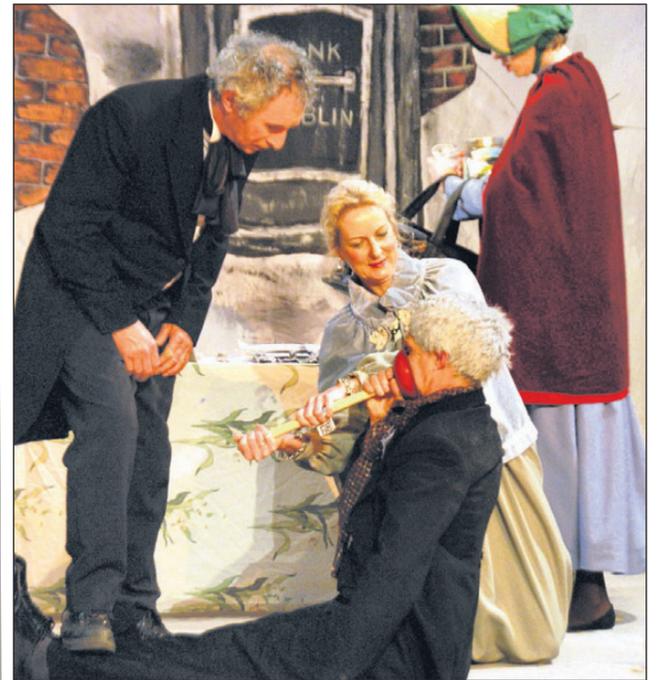
'Lamlash has had it's own pantomime for 25 years so you'd think we could get it right for once this time,' said Maureen Smith, producer of the show.

'There have been a few changes to the company over the years with some new faces appearing for the first time this year and unfortunately a few familiar faces no longer able to be with us.'

It was fantastic this year to see such a large cast of young people taking to the stage.

The highlight across the four performances was undoubtedly seven-year-old James Reid from Clauchlands who played the much-loved Tiny Tim.

He had the audience in tears



Scrooge had to be resuscitated after he's asked for a Christmas donation. 01_b51pan06

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Carol gets scrooged

had audience spellbound . . .

at one point when he sang the most wonderful song all by himself.

His cheery voice crying 'God bless us one and all' really invoked that true meaning of Christmas that Dickens was so keen to convey when he wrote 'A Christmas Carol'.

The benchmark miser of all times, Ebenezer Scrooge, was played by local acting sensation Allan Nicol.

Despite his miserly attitude and insistence that his staff work on Christmas Day, Allan managed to gain some sympathy from the audience who were clearly glad to see him get his happy ending.

Steve Garraway's interpre-

tation of the downtrodden employee Bob Cratchit was brilliant and the scenes with his wife (Debbie Robertson) and their family in their cold, damp house were heart warming.

As always with a pantomime the laughs came from the dame, this year played by the fabulous Lynda Davidson.

Her portrayal of Jan Butty, the over-the-top tea lady, had the audience in stitches.

Her scenes with the ghost of Jacob Marley, played by Campbell Seaton, were an absolute riot - especially when she tried to take the ghost home to her bed!

She was joined on stage by

Doh and Nut whose comic antics included throwing cakes and rock buns into the audience.

The three ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future were played by Sheila Gilmore, Holly Beedie/Dawn Ulivi and Campbell Seaton.

Sheila's ghost of Christmas Past was cold and distant when showing Scrooge the misery of his childhood days.

While Holly and Dawn, who took turns at the role, were full of energy and hilarity while showing Ebenezer what he was missing out on.

Campbell's ominously silent Ghost of Christmas Future sent chills up the spine of the audi-

ence when he took Scrooge to his own graveside.

It was really very well done.

But all pantomimes must end with a wedding and thankfully this one was no different.

Scrooge changed his ways and ended up hitched to the over-the-top Jan Butty while Bob Cratchit and his family celebrated his promotion to Scrooge's partner and received the news that they were going to live in one of the new Corrie Quarry houses.

The last lines were of course given to Tiny Tim who cried 'God bless us, everyone'.

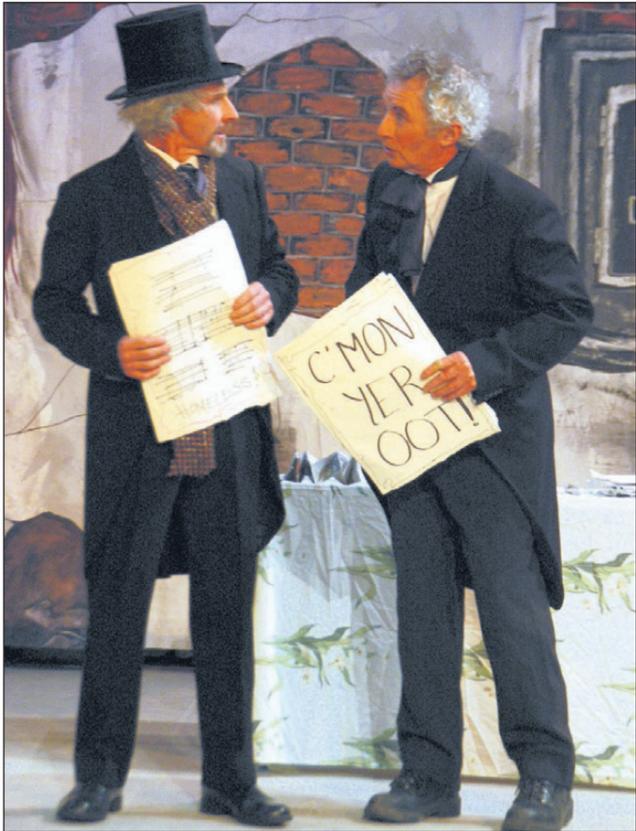
The perfect end to a wonderful Christmas pantomime.



The debauched and hilarious Nut played by Isla Blair. 01_b51pan08



Scrooge (Allan Nicol) gets cake on his face when he realises what he's been missing out on. 01_b51pan12



Scrooge (Allan Nicol) tells Bob Cratchit (Steve Garraway) to deliver eviction notices on Christmas Eve. 01_b51pan02



When the Ghost of Christmas Future visits Scrooge he can no longer accept his miserable behaviour. 01_b51pan15



Little James Reid's fantastic portrayal of Tiny Tim had the audience in tears. 01_b51pan18



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Christmas pantomime . . .



Mrs Cratchit (Debbie Robertson) can't contain her delight when Bob (Steve Garraway) brings home their tiny Christmas tree. 01_b51pan14



Every pantomime should end in a wedding and this one was no different as Scrooge decided to take Jan Butty as his wife. 01_b51pan17



The wonderful Jan Butty (Lynda Davidson) gets a surprise when the ghost of Jacob Marley (Campbell Seaton) appears in her kitchen. 01_b51pan07



Marjory and Shirley, the two charity workers, look shocked when the new and improved Scrooge gives them a cheque for £2,000. 01b51pan16



The Ghost of Christmas Present (Holly Beedie) arrives to show Scrooge what fun and delights he is missing out on. 01_b51pan11



Scrooge collapses on the ground when charity collectors ask him for a donation. 01_b51pan05



Scrooge (Allan Nicol) gets an unexpected visitor in the night when the Ghost of Christmas Past (Shelia Gilmore) appears by his bed. 01_b51pan09



Jan Butty (Lynda Davidson) with her terrible-tuosome Dough and Nut played by Mary Crawford and Isla Blair. 01_b51pan13

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Tutor Alison Armstrong with young Jake McAllister, and residents Josie Holmes and Gladys Earle with a display of goods made by them and their fellow residents. 02_b51she01

Toys bring cheer to Arran cancer charity

The residents of McKelvie Road sheltered housing in Lamlash have been making themselves busy over the past months. And all in a good cause.

A number of them have been meeting in the lounge every Thursday afternoon

and making soft toys and craft items under the expert guidance of Alison Armstrong and Marjorie McDougall.

Last Friday they held an open afternoon when these goods were on sale to the general public, and all money raised was going to be donated

to ArCaS, the Arran cancer charity. Alison and Marjorie are members of AVA, the Arran Visual Arts group, and the work of some of the McKelvie Road residents will be on display at their regular AVA exhibitions in Lochranza and Kilmory Halls.

£1,146 for Save the Children

The annual Save the Children Christmas Quiz raised £1,146 for the local branch of the charity.

This was over and above the money raised at the Christmas Fayre. The committee would like to thank David Oakes

who compiled the quiz and to all who participated and helped to raise this amazing amount.

Information appeal for centenary brochure

The members of Brodick Church are making a final appeal for contributions of photographs, sketches or newspaper articles to add to a special brochure to celebrate the centenary of the Church.

Session Clerk Alex Lawrie said: 'We have now reached the half way stage in our year of events to celebrate 100 years of worship at Brodick Church.

'Behind us we have a number of events, the most notable being the blockbuster performance of Handel's

REPORT

by HOWARD DRIVER
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Messiah in a day which filled the church to almost capacity. Plans are well advanced for a further series of events in the New Year leading up to a Homecoming Gathering of people whose names appear on the Baptismal Roll on the weekend of 2/3 July.

'This will be followed by a Service of Rededication on Sunday 3 July when the Moderator of the General

Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rev David Arnott, will preach the sermon and pronounce the Benediction.

'We want to make a final appeal for information for a brochure to give an insight and explanation of the church and its people over the last 100 years.

'In particular, we would like photographs showing the Church interior as originally constructed, with the pulpit in the centre of the apse before its repositioning in 1960.

Also the original stained glass windows which were replaced then. We would like photographs of the various ministers of the Church during its lifespan.

Information please to Alex Lawrie, 16, Sheean Drive, Brodick KA27 8DH or by email at LIZ-ALEX@sky.com The Church website is 'brodickchurch.org'

Brodick Bridge Club

The results from Thursday 9 December were: N/S 1 B and B Livingstone +530, 2 R Thompson and E McNiven -230, 3 J McBride and P Adamson -280. E/W 1 D Hamilton and T Martin +2500, 2 M McGill and E McConnell +1310, 3 J McClure and A McKelvie +920.

Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday 13 December were as follows: N/S 1 E McNiven and E Paul +4780, 2 H Boyd and J Murdoch +3020, 3 D and M Bruce +2270. E/W 1 A Bilsland and T Martin -900, 2 J Maclure and A McKelvie -1130, 3 J Barclay and J McArthur -1540.

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Fundraising weekend will help disabled Albanians get about

Three years ago a young Albanian woman was brought to Arran by a Whiting Bay couple who were determined to help the girl walk again. Now, not only can Valdete walk - she is helping Sue and Julian Davidson to set up a day care centre in Tirana, the Albanian capital, for young disabled people. Below is a letter from Sue in which she outlines the latest developments in their campaign.

The Valdete Trust gained charitable status in July 2010 and has begun working in Albania.

Our vision is to open a day care centre for young people with a variety of physical disabilities.

They need physical, emotional and spiritual support. Their families feel very isolated and also have many needs.

We have been told that about 75 per cent of primary health

care and social services is provided by foreign charities like ourselves.

During our recent visit in October it became obvious that these young people could not even come to a day centre without a wheelchair to use. Some young disabled people have never had a wheelchair or they share with someone else.

Disability aids for independent living which are all provided in Britain, are not

even available in Albania even if the people had the money to buy them.

We are holding a fundraising event in Brodick Co-op on Friday, December 17, and Saturday, December 18, to buy wheelchairs for five young people and Sue will take them to Albania in January.

British Airways have agreed to transport them free of charge, which is a great help.

We have received a very generous donation so we have half the money we need for the chairs.

It will be great to see their faces when they see their very own wheelchair which will mean so much to them. We'll take lots of photos.

This is a great way of getting to know these young people and building a relationship with them so that when the centre opens they know they'll be among friends.

Please come and see us to see photos and find out more about this work. SD



Singing ensemble 'Vivace' at Duchess Courts, from left to right, Juliette Walsh, Lesley Lockhart, Liz Jardine, Sarah Cook and Josephine Broekhuizen. b51vi01NO

Santa drops in on Home Farm's winter wonderland

Home Farm near Brodick was transformed into a winter wonderland on Saturday afternoon as the shops held their Christmas Fayre. Youngsters were eagerly anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus and at 2pm on the dot the great man himself arrived.

A queue quickly formed outside his home at the 'North Pole' and the island's kids

were delighted to be able to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

While walking around the shops, visitors were entertained by local singing ensem-

ble 'Vivace' who performed Acappella carols.

They spent half an hour singing outside and half inside and raised a respectable £89 for the Arran Hospice.



Six-year-old Ethan Sillars from Brodick chats to Santa. b51san01NO

Old Byre Showroom and Coffee Shop

Hamza and Lorna thank everyone for their continued custom and wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Thanks to all staff for all their hard work and support.

No Local cards sent - donation given to Alzheimer's

❄️ **THE HARBOUR SHOP** ❄️
 ❄️ BLACKWATERFOOT ❄️
 ❄️ GILLIAN, AILEEN, GINA AND JENNIFER ❄️
 ❄️ WOULD LIKE TO WISH THEIR CUSTOMERS A ❄️
 ❄️ VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ❄️
 ❄️ A HAPPY NEW YEAR ❄️

Christmas at Kirkend

Whiting Bay Tel 700683

Hampers made to order

Choose your own produce - from old-fashioned sweets and soft toys to homemade jams

Hampers can be made while you wait

NEWS FLASH

Did you know we sell our own home produced lamb and pork from sausages to joints

Come and look. You will be amazed at what we have to offer, from old-fashioned sweets to coal, kindling and logs

Open 7 days 10am - 5pm

Fresh Christmas Trees
 Holly wreaths
 Hyacinth bowls
 Cyclamen
 Grave Pots
 All available from 7th December



McNicol Plumbing and Heating Ltd

Would like to wish all customers past and present, a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year



An Initiative of Trust Housing Association

Isle of Arran Homes and Arran Care & Repair office will be closed from

1.00pm on Friday 24 December 2010

and will reopen on

Wednesday 5 January 2011

If you have an emergency repair please contact 0800 783 3615

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our tenants, members and contractors

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



JIMMI'S BARBER SHOP

Beside Macs Bar

Wishes all his customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Closing 4pm 23rd December Reopening 18th January 2011

Tel 07813 937259



HENDRY'S FUNERAL SERVICES LTD

15 Glen Avenue, Brodick
 Tel Clair on 01770 302233

Would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year

The Arran Banner 20 years ago

Saturday, December 22, 1990

Sense of arrival

Building has begun on the new Visitor Centre at Brodick Castle.

Costing £543,000, it will consist of a 100-metre long building on the site of the bluebell wood.

Inside will be the reception area and gift shop.

Also included in the cost is a new Ranger Centre that will be built some 200 yards away.

Caught in the act?

A Shiskine man was spotted crouching furtively behind a tree on the Machrie Moor last week.

When the vehicle got near to him it stopped and it soon transpired that the man was cutting his family's Christmas tree.

Unfortunately the driver of the car happened to be the owner of the land – and trees – but in the spirit of the season he merely asked the tree snatcher to cut one for him while he was at it.

Hair shorn

One-time hippy and former electrician, Stephen McGovern, had his long flowing locks shorn in Nags Inn on Sunday night.

The shearing raised £126 towards the Whiting Bay Children's Christmas party.

Although Christine McLeod made the first cut, local hairdresser Julie Nelson was on-hand to make sure it was tidied up.

Man hole fall

Elsbeth McRae of Alma Park, Brodick broke her collar-bone early in the week when she tripped and fell on a man hole cover outside her home.

The cover that surrounds a British Telecom manhole had recently been used in connection with a current rewiring.

The pavement was quickly repaired soon after her fall.

Mainland footie

Arran High School pupil,

James Sheridan, has been selected for the Ayrshire schools football team and will play in a mainland cup competition next week.

News from the Gulf

Local soldier, Lance Corporal Vincent Hagan, whose parents live at Kildonan, is looking for advice on how to relieve his boredom while stationed in the Gulf.

Out there with the army Electrical Corps (REME) he wants to know if any Banner readers can suggest how he can use his time constructively and keep cool in the 100 degrees plus temperature.

Any suggestions via our letters page will be passed on to the Lance Corporal by his father.

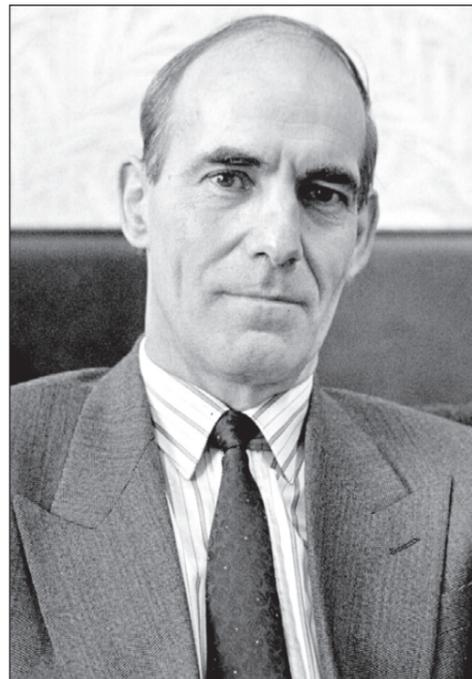
New role

Tracy Warwick of Whiting Bay, until last week a familiar face at the Tourist Office, has begun work this week as a sales supervisor at Arran Provisions.



Lynn Hamilton, Rachel Fowler, Colin Currie, Anna Kilshaw and Joanne Dee entertain parents and friends at Shiskine Primary School's Christmas Concert.

b51twe04



Mr Gordon Reid is the new manager at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Brodick. From West Kilbride originally, he was a senior assistant at the Largs branch before moving to Arran. He takes over from Roger McGaw who has retired early after a period of ill health.



Jane Thompson of Whiting Bay is selling trendy clothes 'with a designer look' for children through her company Badjelly Clothes.



To raise money for the school, Shiskine Primary are selling mugs with a pupil's drawing of his classmates on the side. Glenn Stewart is the artist and we are told each class member can be identified.

Best Western
Kinloch Hotel

Best Western Kinloch Hotel
Presents
THE GREAT WINTER MEAL DEAL!

2 course meal
plus glass of wine, beer or soft drink
£9.95 per person

3 course meal £12.95

Offer starts Monday 4th October

Available daily from 12pm – 2.30pm and 5.30pm – 6.30pm
(drinks are 125ml glass of house wine, half pint beer/lager or can of juice)

17TH & 18TH DECEMBER CLOSED FROM 7PM FOR PARTY NIGHTS

Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles

and **THE ARRAN TEAM**,
Arran's own property management specialists

Tel: 01770 303113 Email: help@thearranteam.co.uk www.thearranteam.co.uk

If you think you know then post your answer on the website
www.arranbanner.co.uk
Or email us at:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Last week Archie was sitting next to a snowman outside Lochranza distillery. First correct was Ann from Blackwaterfoot, followed closely by Archie's doggy pals Patch from Lochranza and Jack Russell Ellie of Lamlash. This week he is at the entrance to which well-known site?

02_b51arc01

Winners bowled over

Brodick Bowling Club held their annual dinner and prizegiving in Brodick Golf clubhouse last Wednesday night.

Prizewinners were; John Lauder, gents champion; Peter Lee, runner-up pairs; Charlie Weir, runner-up triples; Lavinia Hendry, ladies champion; Ian Hendry, triples champion; Tony Wooden, Stewart Cup; Charles Hendry, President's Cup.



Pictured with their bowling trophies, from left, John Lauder, Peter Lee, Charlie Weir, Lavinia Hendry, Ian Hendry, Tony Wooden and Charles Hendry. b51brd01no

Latest news from the golf courses

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 12 December, 10 played on a rather white course in the third round of the Winter Cup. Despite the tricky conditions there were a couple of excellent scores from Nicol and Dave. 1 Dave Hackett (16) 61, 2 Nicol Auld (1) 62, 3 Graeme Crichton (17) 67. Nicol won scratch with a super 63.

Fixtures: Sunday 19 December, Friendly with Lamlash at Whiting Bay, tee offs from 10.30am to 11am. Open to all gents. Sunday 26 December, Christmas Bottle.

Arran Golfers Association Winter League, Duncan Trophy, 2010/2011.

Second Round at Shiskine Golf Club. Unfortunately due to the snow and ice, the green keeper advised the course would not be playable at the weekend on Thursday afternoon which is when the matches were called off. Sometimes the host club is in a no win situation when calling off matches and the decision was taken on Thursday so that everyone could make alternative arrangements for the weekend, hopefully everyone appreciates a decision has to be made each month and will understand that the rapid thaw from Thursday to Saturday morning was hard to predict.

Lets hope for better weather for January's matches.

Everyone at the Association wishes all golfers and clubs a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday December 12, first match of the Ryder Cup.

Great to see some many out playing, the weather was very kind.

The course was in superb condition, and we must thank the greenkeepers for all their hard work over the past year.

Shiskine 4 Kilpatrick 4, Blackwaterfoot 2 Torbeg 6. Nearest the pin: Kenny Gilroy at the 4th and Jamie Stewart at the 10th.

Fixtures: Saturday 18 December, Lochranza Match, shotgun start at 1.30pm. Sunday 19 December, Ryder Cup Singles. Boxing Day Texas Scramble - teams of four with at least one lady. Please book a time with the Pro Shop.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 11 December, Winter Cup, 16 played, CSS 61. 1 A Smith 69-10=59 BIH, 2 B Rooney 72-13=59, 3 A McDonald 73-11=62 BIH over S Wood. Best scratch was E McKinnon 65. There were magic twos from D Price, B Rooney and A Smith.

Fixtures: Saturday 18 December, Winter Cup at 8.30am and 12pm (11.50am). Wednesday 20 December, Monday Cup at 12pm (11.50am).

REMEMBER

GP surgery open
Fri 24th Dec

CLOSED
FOR 4 DAYS
(25th - 28th Dec)

Reopens
Wed 29th Dec.



Please note your GP surgery will be closed for four days at Christmas. If you are ill and can't wait until your GP surgery reopens call NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24.

For self-care health advice, or help if you run out of medication, visit your local pharmacist.

For information on how to keep well this winter, log on to www.nhsinform.co.uk

Be Ready for WINTER



The Boathouse

BRODICK TEL 302868

Saturday 17th December
SPECIAL XMAS OFFER

The 30th customer will receive **30% DISCOUNT** on all their purchases.

Come along and join us for sherry and mince pies.

CREELERS



CREELERS SMOKEHOUSE

Open daily for all your seafood needs from 9am - 6pm

We stock a wide selection of smoked fish, meats and pates. Fresh fish and shellfish also available

Please visit the shop or telephone 302797 to discuss your needs. The shop will close at 2pm xmas eve and reopen tuesday 28th.

Whats On

ISLE OF

ARRAN

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com Tel: 01770 302353

BREWERY

EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery Open Mon - Fri 11am-12.30pm & 2pm - 4pm Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank
 Hawk Walks Lamlash
 Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily 9am - dusk

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm
 Quiz Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm
 Open Music Session Pirmill Village Hall, 8.30pm
 Quiz Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
 Lamlash SWRI Christmas Party (Birth - P5) High School, 2.30pm
 RNLI Shop Open Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Christmas Dance with DJ Alan Little Lamlash Golf Club, 9pm - 1am
 Childrens Xmas Party Whiting Bay Hall, 4pm

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm
 Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool
 Quiz PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

MONDAY 20th DECEMBER

Over 50's Badminton Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
 Ladies Netball High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games Ormidale Park, 6pm
 Junior Basketball (P1 - P7) Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym
 BreathWalk Class Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm
 Quiz Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Badminton Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm

TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER

Lochranza Swimming Club Kinloch 11am - 12pm
 Army Cadets Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall - 2pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
 Rotary Club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
 Junior Hockey Club Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm
 Open Music Session Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
 Motocross Practice (Weather Permitting) Southbank Farm Track, 6pm
 Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm
 Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm
 Scottish Country Dancing Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Indoor Bowls Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Youth Club Brodick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm
 Cricket Arran High School. 7pm

WEDNESDAY 22nd DECEMBER

Hockey Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall
 Tae KwonDo KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
 Selt Making Class Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
 Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am
 Yoga for Every Body 10am -11.30am
 Senior Badminton High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm
 Museum, Archives & Geneology Service 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
 Yogalates 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Learn to Salsa Cruize, 7pm - 8.15pm
 Healing Rooms Ormidale Pavilion 11am - 12.30pm

THURSDAY 23rd DECEMBER

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Arran Music & Drama 'Sweeny Todd' Rehearsals Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Lochranza Craft Club Hall, 2pm
 Coffee Morning St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
 Table Tennis Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
 Youth Club Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
 Brodick Bridge Club Golf Clubhouse
 Athletics High School Games Hall, 4.45pm - 6pm
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym
 Ladies Night Bar Eden, Whiting Bay
 Pilates 6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio
 Pub Quiz Kinloch Hotel, 9pm
 Ladies Night Bar Eden, Whiting Bay

FRIDAY 24th DECEMBER

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle, Shop and Tearoom 11am - 4pm
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool
 Yogalates 10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio
 DJ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am
 Seniors Badminton (Over 50) Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm
 Ladies Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Mens Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Kildonan WRI Christmas Party (Birth - P7) Kildonan Hall, 5.30pm
 Kilmory Childrens Christmas Party Kilmory Hall, 5.30pm sharp



To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

All offices and facilities will be closed from 4.45pm on Friday 24 December 2010 until 9am on Wednesday 5 January, 2011

The following ONLY will be open between 29 and 31 December, 2010

Registration Service

Irvine, Saltcoats and Arran Offices

29 December: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 4.45pm
30 December: 9am - 12.30pm and 1.15pm - 4.45pm
31 December: 9am - 1pm

Kilbirnie Registration Office

29 December: 9am - 12.30pm 30 December: 2pm - 4.45pm
31 December: closed

Largs Registration Office

29 December: 2pm - 4.30pm 30 December: 9am - 12.30pm
31 December: 9am - 12.30pm

All registration business is by appointment.

Irvine Registration Office: 01294 324988
Saltcoats Registration Office: 01294 463312
Largs Registration Office: 01475 687591
Kilbirnie Registration Office: 01505 682416

Licensing

Townhouse, High Street, Irvine

29 December: 9am - 4.45pm
30 December: 9am - 4.45pm
31 December: 9am - 12.30pm

Social Services

The following offices will be open on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 December (normal hours) and until 1pm on Friday 31 December 2010:

Dirrass Resource Centre, Irvine
Independent Living Service, Pavilion 9, Ayrshire Central Hospital, Irvine

Aitken Place, Ardrossan
Vernon Street, Saltcoats
Criminal Justice, 157 New Street, Stevenston
Craigton Road, Kilbirnie
Brooksby, Largs
Byres Road, Kilwinning
Bridgegate House, Irvine
Shore Road, Lamlash, Arran

Libraries

Irvine and Largs

24 December: 9am - 5pm
25 December - 4 January 2011: Closed
5 January 2011: Re-open 9.30am

Saltcoats

24 December: 9am - 5pm
25 December - 12 January 2011: Closed
13 January 2011: Re-open 9.00am

Kilwinning

24 December: 9am - 5pm
25 December - 5 January 2011: Closed
6 January 2011: Re-open 9am

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

24 December: 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm
25 December - 5 January 2011: Closed
6 January 2011: Re-open 1pm

Arran

24 December: 10am - 5pm
25 December - 5 January 2011: Closed
6 January 2011: Re-open 10am

Fairlie

24 December: 2.30pm - 5pm
25 December - 6 January 2011: Closed
7 January 2011: Re-open 2.30pm

Millport

24 December: 9am - 4.45pm
25 December - 4 January 2011: Closed
5 January 2011: Re-open 9am

Skelmorlie

24 December: 1pm - 5pm
25 December - 5 January 2011: Closed
6 January 2011: Re-open 9am

Springside

23 December: 6pm - 7.30pm
24 December - 5 January 2011: Closed
6 January 2011: Re-open 6pm

Heritage Centre

24 December: 9.30am - 5pm
25th December - 4 January 2011: Closed
5 January 2011: Re-open 9.30am

Arran Mobile

No service Monday 27 December - Wednesday 5 January 2011 incl.

Mainland Mobile

No service Monday 27 December - Tuesday 4 January 2011 incl.

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

Please note that no Councillors' surgeries will be held from the 25 December 2010 until the 7 January 2011 inclusive. Councillors of North Ayrshire Council wish all their constituents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

EDUCATION AND SKILLS EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request. Information concerning the Council's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and from North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE (telephone: 01294 324439). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries and on the Council's web site at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for the session beginning in August 2011 should be sent to North Ayrshire Council, Education and Skills, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE prior to the closing date of 15 March 2011.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2011, 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 27 December 2010.

CAROL KIRK
Corporate Director (Educational Services)

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Amended date of AGM

**Arran Council for Voluntary Service
Annual General Meeting
with Guest Speaker Kenneth Gibson MSP
to be held in Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
at 7.30pm**
will now be held on
Tuesday 11th January 2011
(previously advertised as Wednesday 12th)
ALL WELCOME

Brodick Health Centre Lamlash Medical Centre Shiskine Surgery

FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

The island practices will be closed on
27th and 28th December
3rd and 4th January

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

Please also note that Child Health Clinics will be held on the following dates:

Brodick Health Centre
Child Health Clinic on **Wed 5th January**
(Please note change of day)

Lamlash Medical Centre
Whiting Bay Child Health Clinic on **Thurs 6th January**
Lamlash Child Health Clinic on **Tues 11th January**

Shiskine Surgery
Child Health Clinic on **Fri 7th January**

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

Great stories, news, views and photos are just a click away



VISIT US AT
www.arranbanner.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE TO UPLIFT

BAGGED MANURE. Oak-bank, Lamlash. Donation if desired to Arran RDA Tel 600752

TOYS

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE wooden cooker with accessories £20 ono Tel 700626

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

DIGITAL PIANO Technics SX-PX552M -as new. £390 incl. delivery on the island. Tel 860435 or 07522 860435

BABY EQUIPMENT

TRAVEL COT, with bedding. Good con £40 Tel 302274
CHILD'S BOOSTER seat for a dining table, with feeding tray £10 Tel 302274

HEATING

DIMPLEX ELECTRIC fire. Brushed steel effect. Inset or free standing, with coals or pebbles. Used once. Cost £179 - accept £80 Tel 302626

WANTED

EXERCISE BIKE Tel 302807
COMFORTABLE ARCHAIR in good con. Seat height 20" Tel 302539
SPARES for Peugeot 205 Tel 810659

MISCELLANEOUS

YAMAHA electric keyboard £25 Tel 600716
COMPUTER DESK and chair. £20 Tel 600716
BANDSAW BLADES, various sizes Tel 600238

**BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS**

PROPERTY

The Barn, Kilmory, Isle of Arran

**New build due for completion
Spring 2011**

2 bedroom semi-detached cottage

Fixed Price £160,000

For details telephone 303971

Writer Seeks 4 Year Continuous Let
I require sufficient 'SPACE' from other dwellings for the necessary quiet to do some quality writing.

Nothing fancy - open fire, kettle, electric light, cooker.

On a farm perhaps?

Contact Mr T Leach, 5 Cloudsley Rd,
Hastings TN37 6JN

**BANNER PROPERTY
BANNER PROPERTY
BANNER PROPERTY
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UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

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Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan, opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554

CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 19 December
 Shiskine, 11am
 Sunday School in the Church Hall
 (Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
 Rev David Karoon
 All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Morning Mass 11am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 19 December
 Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
 Mrs Janis Gallagher. Parish lunch after service after service.
 Carol Service, 2.30pm
 Wednesday 22nd December:
 Holy Communion 12.15 pm.
 Friday 24th December
 Christmas Midnight Mass 11.30 pm. Mr John Roberts.
 ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SCO15072)
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 19 December
 Rev Gillean Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 In both churches:
 All welcome, including families; children's area
 All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 19 December
 Morning Service 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service 7pm
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick
 Rev. W. Macleod
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
 Ormidale Pavilion Brodick.
Sunday 19 December
 10.45 - Communion
 Tea and Coffee from 11.10am
 11.30am - For all the family
 Speaker: Willie Wright
 Everyone very welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill 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, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome
Sunday 19 December
 Brodick Church 10.30am
 Corrie Church 12pm
 Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am
 at Lochranza, Chrisingle Service
 Shiskine Church 12pm Chrisingle Service
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 19 December
 An all age service for Christmas, with a family communion will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. All most welcome. Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service. There will be a service in 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

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Sunday 19 December
 11am
 2 The Lodge, Lochranza
 Enquiries to Steph 830210

DEATHS
HEYDON RICHARD GORDON
 better known as Dick and beloved father of David, Paul & Jill. Died peacefully on 7 December aged 95. Sadly missed by daughters-in-law Judith and Karen, and son-in-law Geoff. Proud grandfather of five grandchildren and one great grandson. Funeral 11.30am, Lamlash Church on 20th December. Donations for Arran Hospital Supporters League/Arran Cancer Support to funeral Director, D Hendry, Low Glenclay, Brodick, KA27 8DW.

MEMORIAMS
NANCY COOPER
 Died 17 December 2007
 Miss you Mum
 With love from Isla, Lorna, Willie, Andy and all the family.
THOMPSON
 Precious memories of Marion. Mum, mother-in-law and grandmother who died 20th December 1997
 Your presence we miss,
 Your memory we treasure,
 Loving you always,
 Forgetting you never,
 Sadly missed,
 But together with Dad.
 Maureen, Jackie, Marion and families

Pat & David of Lamlash

Seasons Greetings to all our friends

SEASONS GREETINGS

To all friends and neighbours
 Johann McHarg

JEAN & BETTY Lamlash & Brodick

Thankyou to all the cal-mac crew on and offshore for all the help we receive when travelling on the ferry. With best wishes for the festive season

Helen Boyd

Wishes all her friends on Arran a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

JIM BONE

Wishes all his friends a Happy Christmas and good health in the New Year

Andy & Lorna Craig

Would like to wish friends relations and neighbours a very Merry Christmas

Peter & Mary Mackenzie

wish our family and friends a Happy Christmas and good health in the New Year

NETTA MCDONALD

Wishes friends and family a Happy Christmas and a good New Year

Andy, Irene and Ann Lamlash P.O.

would like to wish all their customers a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

Janet Mauchlen Manager of Montrose House

Wishes all residents, staff, friends and colleagues a very Merry Christmas and good health in the New Year

JIMMY & JENNI TURNBULL

Send Seasons Greetings to all island friends and family
 Donation to MS.

JEAN SHAW

wishes her friends, relatives and carers a Happy Christmas and a good New Year

BANNER PERSONALS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Jean Todd would like to thank relatives and friends for their support and kind expressions of sympathy. Sincere thanks to Jean Hunter for conducting services at Linn Crematorium and Montrose House, and to Hendry's Funeral services for their efficient professionalism. Our special appreciation goes to the wonderful staff at Montrose House and Arran War Memorial Hospital for their exceptional standard of care.

Chris & Jean Stone & Mackie

Would like to wish all their friends a very Merry Xmas and a happy New Year.

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Rugby success for Robbie and Ewan

Arran boys play for Glasgow Giants

Arran boys Robbie Bayne and Ewan Bulger have successfully completed the SRU national player pathway scheme, training and playing for Glasgow Giants Under16 team 2010.

The boys spent nine Monday evenings training at Whitecraigs Rugby Club and were selected to represent Glasgow in the Glasgow Giants team against the other four teams in Glasgow district.

Separate

The first game they played was against Southwest Warriors, then they played all the teams on two separate occasions at Cartha RFC and GHA RFC grounds.

The boys played well and

received good feedback for their efforts.

Ewan was selected during the summer to train at Scotland's youth training camp in Struan, from where he was further selected for specialist training at Scotstoun Stadium with five other players for Glasgow district along with six players from each age group up to Under20 level.

Ewan is receiving training from Gregor Townsend, Duncan Hodge, Bernardo Stortoni (who plays for Glasgow Warriors and Argentina) and Massimo Cuttitta (ex Harlequins and Italy captain, who now is Scotland's scrum coach). Well done to both boys.



Robbie Bayne and Ewan Bulger.

Whiting Bay Bowling Club prizewinners

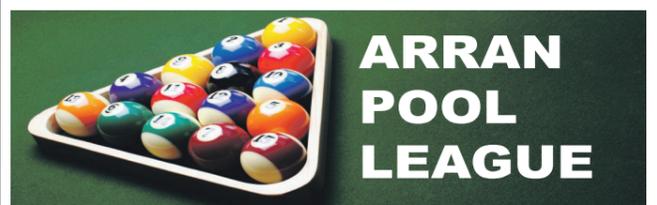


Whiting Bay Bowling Club held their annual dinner and prizegiving at the Bar Eden last Friday night.

Trophy winners for 2010 were:

Triples, J Douglass, J Allan and I Davidson; Co-op Salver, K Irving and I Davidson; Fun Week Shield, A Hobbs, S Kirk, D Bland and G Baxter; Shurig Trophy, S McArthur, C Hendry, N Baxter and G Baxter; 50th Anniversary Competition, A Cook,

J Caldwell and J McGovern (Open Triples); Kiscadale Pairs, A Cook and J McGovern; Sets Competition, A Hobbs and S Allen (Two Bowl Pairs); Drawn Pairs, N Pringle and A Hobbs (Targe); Nominated Pairs, A Cook and J McGovern (Gordon McDonald Trophy); Ladies Singles, M Pringle; Gents Singles, I Davidson; 15 Best Scores, K Kelsall; Federation Rinks, Whiting Bay Bowling Club. 02b51whb02



ARRAN POOL LEAGUE

THE results from Thursday 9 December were as follows: Kildonan 4 Bar Eden B 6 (G), Drift 3 Mac's Bar 7 (G), Bar Eden 6 (G) Catacol 4 and teamGoil 2 PT1934 8 (G).

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Eden A	6	4	1	1	13
PT1934	6	4	1	1	13
Eden B	7	4	3	0	12
Catacol	6	3	2	1	10
PHT	6	3	3	1	10
Drift	7	1	3	3	6
Mac's	6	2	4	0	6
teamGoil	6	1	3	2	5
Kildonan	6	1	4	1	4

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