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A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS FREE INSIDE THIS WEEK YOUR 2010 ARRAN BANNER CALENDAR

High speed broadband for remote Arran villages

Three of Arran's remote telephone exchanges have been earmarked for an urgent upgrade, following widespread condemnation of the poor provision of broadband on the island.

Now Machrie, Slidery and Pirmill have been named among the first 71 exchanges to be upgraded after local MSP Kenneth Gibson lobbied for the inclusion of areas in Arran.

In September the Scottish government announced an upgrade programme for rural telephone exchanges, prioritising areas most in need.

Frustration

'I fully recognise the frustration felt where people are unable to obtain a satisfactory broadband service,' said Mr Gibson. 'With broadband an increasingly vital tool for businesses and households, I am delighted that we are now moving forward. Upgrading three of Arran's exchanges will enable more islanders to benefit from a broadband service which people in most of Scotland already enjoy.'

Two months ago politicians from Ayrshire and Arran jointly condemned what they described as the 'disgraceful' provision of broadband serv-

ices throughout large parts of the country.

The major exchanges of Brodick, Lamash, Whiting Bay and Blackwaterfoot all provide good connection speeds for nearby households and businesses.

But pockets of the island are still struggling on with a slow dial-up connection, increasingly isolated from the online mainstream.

The exchanges at both Slidery and Machrie cannot take any further bandwidth without a significant upgrade.

Brendan Dick, director of BT Scotland, said: 'The burgeoning demand for broadband has led to capacity problems at some of our small, rural exchanges and we have worked closely with the Scottish government to find a viable solution to this issue.'

'Thanks to this new initiative, rural communities in Arran and across Scotland will benefit from an increase in broadband availability, a critical component of any modern society.'

Both Machrie and Slidery will be upgraded through the installation of additional capacity.

This will remove current constraints and means that



Santa makes appearance at Farmers market

Santa Claus was busy at the Kilmory Christmas Farmers market last Saturday. With his two little helpers, Kirstin Napier and Isobel Mulholland, he was handing out gifts to children who could assure him that they had been very good all year. Here he is with Murray Phillips, Cameron Ross Bain, John Mulholland, Isabel Buckby, Zoe Clark, Charley Napier, Erin Mulholland and Abbie Mulholland. 02_b52san01

more islanders will benefit from broadband at a download speed of 512 Kbps. Both upgrades will take place on April 15 next year.

The Pirmill exchange will be upgraded to full platform

asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) on November 10.

Benefit

New customers will benefit from broadband speeds of up to eight Mbps and be able

to choose from a full range of internet service providers (ISP).

The actual speed will depend on the distance from the exchange but once the upgrades are complete, existing custom-

ers on these exchanges can contact their ISPs about the broadband options available to them.

This has been hailed as a great step forward for the remote areas of the island.

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Affordable homes to be built for island residents at Kilmory

'We'd like to hear what people think of the plans'

Nine or ten new homes are to be built in Kilmory that will be sold as affordable housing for island residents.

Architect John Lamb is seeking planning permission for the development that will be built on the site of the old village primary school which was used as a workshop for Island Porcelain for many years.

Construction could begin as early as next summer on the detached and semi-detached three-bedroom properties.

'We have identified a strong

need for affordable housing that people can buy on the island,' said Mr Lamb. 'Kilmory is an ideal village for this because we want to provide proper family homes for people living on the island who wish to buy, not rent, their own property.'

Increase

Mr Lamb already has planning permission for five detached properties on the site but he is hoping to increase the size of the development.

'All the houses will be low-energy, sustainable buildings

which I would like to think will make an architectural statement while at the same time fitting in well with the overall village landscape,' he said.

A consultation will be carried out in the New Year to gauge the interest in the properties and whether there is a demand for properties of this kind.

'We'd like to hear what people think of the plans,' said Mr Lamb. 'If the need is there then we are keen to provide homes for people.'

Finnish forestry calendar features photo of Arran

A large photo of Arran features on one of the pages of a specialist forestry 2010 calendar.

The Finnish company Ponsse supplies timber harvesting machinery to over 40 countries and one of their machines

has been operating here on Arran.

Background

In their 2010 calendar the photo for June shows local forestry driver Ross Auld operating the machine on

Clauchlands Hill with Lam-lash Bay and Holy Isle in the background.

Arran head forester Andy Walker told the Banner: 'We have had one of their big machines working here with an outside contractor. It's called a forwarder and lifts and loads timber in one complete movement.'

The Arran photo in June is the only one from the UK and all other months feature different European countries.



Two pretty reindeer in Whiting Bay Hall

Mum and daughter, Kirsty Watson and Annie West, were transformed into two very pretty reindeers at the Whiting Bay Toddler Group last Wednesday afternoon.

Outreach Services

The pair had their faces painted by Nina

Hamilton of the North Ayrshire Council's children's outreach services.

The picture was taken by 'Stamp the Elf' who arrived for the meeting instead of Santa, who was too busy in his workshop making toys for all the children. b52rei01NO

Mystery racing driver and artist located

The mystery octogenarian Arran artist and former racing driver has been found.

In last week's Banner we reported that Robert and Lindsey Marr of Lam-lash had received a strange request from a motor racing fan in Germany to find the whereabouts of Sir Leslie Marr who had lived on Arran for some time in the 1980s and 1990s.

Leslie Marr, who has now dropped his title, is 87 years old and living and still painting in the Home Counties. He was born in Durham in 1922 and is described as a British painter and former Formula One racing driver.

On Monday Robert came in

to the Banner office to say that he had received a telephone call from Colin Taylor in Manchester to say that he knew where Leslie Marr was living. Mr Taylor is an art enthusiast and when he 'googled' the word Marr last Friday he came across the Arran Banner website with last week's story about the German racing fan trying to contact his hero.

Selected Artists

He told Robert that Leslie Marr was one of the selected artists to be exhibited in the prestigious Piano Nobile art gallery in Holland Park, London. Leslie Marr has several of his paintings hanging in the gallery owned by Dr Robert Travers.

Subsequently Robert spoke with Dr Travers who confirmed that he had a number of Leslie Marr's paintings on display including some of his Arran works and is in regular contact with the painter. Robert has arranged to forward the correspondence from Germany to the art gallery who will give it to Mr Marr.

He said: 'I'm quite happy that he is still alive and that we were able to find him through the Banner. Mike l'Anson of Whiting Bay also popped in to tell me that he remembers doing Leslie Marr's removal from Carlo House on the Corrie shore to Norfolk, about 20 years ago, along with hundreds of his paintings.'

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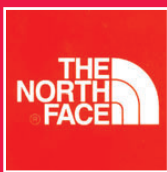


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Corporal Bradley Malone and Sacha Wilkinson outside Buckingham Palace where he proposed.

Sacha's hero proposes at the palace

When Julie Nelson from Whiting Bay heard that her granddaughter had recently become engaged it was understandably a very exciting moment.

Special

But for Julie the announcement was even more special because 24-year-old Sacha Wilkinson was proposed to at Buckingham Palace by her heroic Royal Marine boyfriend

just moments after he was awarded a medal for bravery.

Corporal Bradley Malone, who was commended for outstanding bravery in the face of three separate Taliban attacks - including leading a bayonet charge, got down on one knee at the prestigious investiture ceremony.

Julie said: 'I was absolutely thrilled when I heard the news. We're all so happy for them and it is really special because of the way Bradley proposed.'

Happy Summers

Sacha is the daughter of Arwen Wilkinson and along with her brothers she spent many happy summers and

Christmases on the island.

She now lives in Drymen near Loch Lomond where she works as a hairdresser.

'I'm surprised, really surprised and delighted, now it's a double celebration,' said Sacha.

Bradley is a member of 45 Commando and he received the award of the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross for displaying 'fighting prowess and gallantry' in Afghanistan.

Cpl Malone, who has been in a relationship with Sacha for three years, proposed in one of the rooms in the Palace.

Angel of the Southend

A strange figure has appeared at the Bennecarrigan end of the Ross Road.

Under cover of darkness a mystery local couple have erected an imposing effigy as their own version of the Angel of the North which overlooks the A1 outside Newcastle.

This figure is apparently called Angel of the South (End). The head is a washed-up buoy from Torrylinn beach, the hat an old satellite dish, it has two right-hand plastic gloves and is trimmed with shiny tinsel.

One villager said that it was quite spooky when she first saw it, picked out in the headlights of the Kilmory bus and appearing to give off a luminous glow.

But it is all just a bit of traditional homespun Southend fun designed to brighten up the festive season for passers-by.



The Angel of the Southend at Bennecarrigan.

02_b52ang01

History at the High School

As reported in the Banner earlier this year, it is planned to erect a number of commemorative plaques on one of the lobby walls at the new High School.

Former chair of the school board Jim McMaster said: 'Any former pupil can have their name on a plaque. Seventy-two have signed up so far.'

'It will be a piece of history. Former pupils can contact me on 860423 or hand their details in at the High School.'

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A Christmas Message from Rev Elizabeth Watson

It's Christmas Eve, and if you haven't wrapped that present or sent that card or bought that turkey, then it's too late!

By the time you read this, the 'it's the season to be jolly' has probably worn a bit thin, so take a few minutes out of all the hassle and think of what this celebration is all about. Christmas has been well and truly buried in tinsel and it is time to resurrect this season to be joyful!

We can be joyful because of one word - Immanuel. It was the prophet Isaiah who wrote some 750 years or so before the first Christmas these words: 'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. The Virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.'

Immanuel - God with us. Quite simply, Christmas proves absolutely God's great love for His world and that He is in it, in all its pain and suffering.

Christmas speaks of true love because God

came down to live in this world, to experience all the joy and sorrow of human existence, as a Baby and as a Man - Jesus Christ. God is not some remote deity, unconcerned about His creation; He is close by because He has been where we are, and He cares.

We all need to know that someone loves us and is there for us no matter what; we need to know that someone cares about what we are going through and we all need to know that there is more to life than just three score and ten, with the possibility of a few bonus years! Christmas means God with us and in the words of that well loved song we can know that 'all will live for ever more, because of Christmas Day.'

May you all have a lovely Christmas and find time to be joyful as you wonder at the message of the Baby who was born that first Christmas and may we all know the wonderful knowledge that God loves us. EW

Salvation Army makes a gift appeal

The Salvation Army on Arran would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who gave a gift, or in some cases, several gifts, to the Annual Gift Appeal.

This is an annual event across the UK where the public are invited to buy an extra gift and

give it to their local Salvation Army, who in turn distribute the gifts to families in need, in time for Christmas.

Generously

Although the Appeal did not operate on Arran this year, the local people who were aware of it, gave so generously and

as a result, many families in Irvine and the surrounding areas, will receive gifts this year. It has been a delight to witness such generosity of spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have given so generously. Lexie Andrade



A scene from Arran Torch Players' production of 'Rise and Shine' which won the Archie Kerr Wooley trophy for best play at the 2008 one-act drama festival.

Light goes out for Torch Players

Local good causes have benefited from the demise of the Arran Torch Players drama group.

Arran Torch Players, which was originally set up for the production of *The Life of Jesus Christ* in Brodick Castle gardens in 2005, sadly decided at its Annual General Meeting in November that the time had come to wind the club up.

Despite a number of successful entries in the Isle of

Arran one-act Drama Festival, culminating in an award for overall best production for *Rise and Shine* in 2008, and some public productions including Terry Pratchett's *Wyrd Sisters* in the spring of this year, the organisation proved eventually to be too big for the numbers still actively engaged.

Contribution

The retirement for health reasons of Mairi and George

Christie, who had been the founders and kingpins of the club, gave the final nudge. All remain profoundly grateful for their contribution.

Those still interested in amateur drama intend to appear again on the Arran stage under different auspices, so 'the show goes on'!

The club's constitution included a provision for the distribution of any surplus funds to good causes, and a final distribution was made of the following sums:

£300 each to Arran Hospice Appeal, Arran Riding for the Disabled, APAWS, Arran Elderly Forum and Arran Youth Foundations.

The remaining £237.50 went to Arran Rotary to compensate for lost revenue from the Wishing Well at Brodick Pier.

All the former Torch Players hope these beneficiaries are pleased with their Christmas present, and wish them well in their endeavours.

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Mr Burton Steele and his wife were presented with their Taste of Arran hamper by young Rory Morrison of Kilmory. b51ham01NO

Beware of TV holiday scam

David Bingham of Kilmory alerted *The Arran Banner* to another scam doing the rounds this week.

He was called on Wednesday night by a company claiming to be Florida Resort Holidays who said that he had won a holiday through GMTV.

After 20 minutes of discussions with this American voice at the end of the phone it transpired that not only had David won a holiday but a cruise to Las Vegas too.

However, they wanted David to pay £400 upfront for the flights.

After he gave them his credit card details he soon realised that it was a scam and thankfully he was able to cancel the transaction before any money was taken out.

'I just wanted to warn people so that this doesn't happen to anyone else on Arran,' said David.

Kilmory WRI

At the meeting on December 14 of Kilmory WRI the ladies enjoyed making Christmas decorations under the excellent guidance of Assja Baumgartner.

The competition for a Christmas cracker was won by Janet Mulholland and Phyllis Picken won the competition for Christmas jewellery. The next meeting will be on January 11 when it will be the Birthday Party.

The competition is for a £2 decorated parcel.

Teach your dog new tricks

If you think it might be time to take the lead and teach your canine friend a few new tricks then come along to the Isle of Arran dog training class.

A beginner's class run by Margaret Kay is starting in Whiting Bay Hall on January 6.

It will run for 10 weeks from 1.30pm every Wednesday afternoon and tea/coffee and biscuits will be available for dog owners. There are only three places left so for more information contact Margaret on 600725.

Senior citizens Christmas party

The Kildonan and Kilmory Senior Citizens committee praised the volunteers who helped to make their Christmas party at Kildonan Hotel such a success last week.

Special thanks went to Rod and Ann Acuna and their staff for the lovely meal in comfortable surroundings and to Elma Stevenson and Mark Brown and friends for the entertainment.

Santa also visited the party and left a present for everyone that had kindly been donated by a number of local businesses.

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Brodick Bridge Club results - starts up again on January 7

Brodick Bridge Club results for December 17:

N/S 1 J and J Beattie -740, 2 I McArthur and E McKellar -1810, 3 T Martin and D Hamilton -2160.

E/W 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie +3720, 2 M MacGill and E Sillars +3580, 3 P Adamson and J McBride +3380.

Brodick Bridge Club will re-start on Thursday January 7 in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion at 7.15pm.

Lucky holidaymakers pick up tasty hamper

Two lucky Arran holidaymakers were the recipients of a lovely Taste of Arran hamper this week after their names were drawn from a hat.

Mr and Mrs Burton Steele from Blantyre in Lanarkshire were just one of the many visitors who completed a VisitArran survey on a return sailing to Ardrossan during the year.

Maureen McKenna from

Taste of Arran said: 'Everyone who completed the survey on the ferry over the past year was entered into a prize draw for a Taste of Arran Hamper.'

Conducted

'The draw was conducted at last weeks meeting and the winner was Burton Steele. Coincidentally my parents also live in Blantyre so we decided to deliver their prize in person and my son Rory made

a great job of presenting this to them.'

The couple have been regular visitors to Arran for the past 30 years and were delighted to receive the prize just in time for Christmas!

Mr Steele and his wife have previously appeared in *The Banner* as they found a memory card at the Fallen Rocks last year that was successfully returned to the owner.

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Best Western

Kinloch Hotel

Wednesday 23rd December open from 11.30am until 11pm
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery open from 9.30am until 1pm

Christmas Eve open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
no evening meals will be served
bakery open from 9.30am until 3pm

Christmas Day CLOSED

Boxing Day public bar open from 3pm - midnight
no food will be served
bakery closed

Sunday 27th December open from mid-day until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery closed

Monday 28th December open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery open from 9.30am until 3pm

Tuesday 29th December open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery open from 9.30am until 3pm

Wednesday 30th December open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
bakery open from 9.30am until 1pm
no evening meals served

Hogmanay open from 11.30am until 11pm
lunches from 12.30pm until 2pm - reduced menu
bakery open from 9.30am until 3pm
no evening meals served

New Years Day open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm - reduced menu
no evening meals served
bakery closed

Saturday 2nd January open from 11.30am until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery open from 9.30am until 1pm

Sunday 3rd January open from midday until midnight
lunches from 12.30pm until 2.30pm
evening meals from 5.30pm until 8.30pm
bakery closed

THE ARRAN BANNER

Have a Merry Christmas!

Christmas is a Christian tradition that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, but in recent years political correctness in this country is challenging this tradition by trying to protect people of other faiths from being offended.

Political correctness affects all aspects of our lives because we now live in a world with far more restrictions placed upon us than ever before.

If you consider the ultimate symbol of Christmas – the nativity – think about how different it would be if it took place today.

The Shepherd's Union would no doubt complain that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that their members watch their flocks while seated on the ground. So stools, benches and orthopaedic chairs would need to be provided.

With the very cold weather we have recently been experiencing they might also request that they watch their sheep by CCTV from inside a well-heated observation hut.

Think about the little donkey that carried the heavily pregnant Mary all the way to Bethlehem. The SSPCA would require Joseph to adhere to strict guidelines about how heavy a load a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry; also he would need to make sure the animal was fed and rested properly over a four-hour plodding period.

Mary and Joseph might also need to wear facemasks because of the pollution on the now increasingly busy road to Bethlehem to prevent the inhalation of airborne particles.

And who knows if the Three Kings would actually make it to see the birth of Christ. If they were using satellite navigation systems on their four-wheel drives instead of following the stars, they might find themselves in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania instead of Palestine!

And only people who have been subject to a full disclosure check would be permitted to rock the baby Jesus. People would have to carry their disclosure and photo identification with them at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before the rocking commences.

Perhaps the above may sound a little bit cynical but that is why we must all remember that Christmas is about love, friends and family and being together.

It's about special memories that you will never forget, like the cosy Christmas Eve fires, or the Christmas morning you woke up and realized you were snowed in.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe." (Hebrews 1:1-2)

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

Wind power on its merits

Sir,
The trouble with wind power is the scale of site spread of turbines desired by their companies.

The worst example is that proposed for Shetland to cover most of the main island. In some scenery, the scale is such that the turbines blend into the landscape; elsewhere they are over-intrusive and un-neighbourly.

One answer for Sandy Mutch (Banner 12 December) is water-generated turbine power such as has provided the village of Rydal in the Lake District with all its electricity for some years now.

Glenashdale Falls' output should be harnessable, for instance.

There is also tidal power, as is now in operation in the north isles of Orkney. These methods deserve exploring and are less visually intrusive.

I used to back wind power but now I take each scheme on its merits rather than back the method wholesale on principle.

Yours,
Jeremy Godwin
15 Drovers Lane
Penrith
Cumbria

Arran Wind Power

Sir,
I read with interest the letter which appeared in the Banner on December 12 entitled 'Lack of Wind Power'.

The letter draws attention to the fact that Arran, unlike Gigha, does not have a wind farm. This is absolutely correct, although I would like to bring to the Mr Mutch's attention that Arran Wind Power, since its inception in 2006 has been doing everything in its power to develop a wind farm on the island.

The proposed small wind farm of 5 to 8 turbines is planned for Forestry Commission Scotland land located towards the south of the Isle of Arran (for the avoidance of doubt, a formal planning application has not yet been submitted, although North Ayrshire Council are fully aware of our proposal).

One of the principle reasons the development has not moved forward as quickly as we would have liked is access to the grid network. Quite simply, there is not enough spare capacity on the current system to be able to absorb the electricity we would generate.

Fortunately, there are grid improvements in the pipeline and it will eventually be possible for us to generate, but this may not happen until 2013 or beyond.

This is all very frustrating, but as Mr Mutch will understand it is not worth us build-

ing a wind farm until we are able to sell the electricity.

Finally, we thank Mr Mutch for raising the issue and would be very appreciative of his continued support for a wind farm on Arran. To keep up to date with what is happening in relation to the Arran Wind Power project there is a website: www.arranwindpower.co.uk.

Yours,
Craig Potter
Project Manager
Green Power
Cooperage Way
Alloa

Let there be light

Sir,
This is Liath, the person who switched on the Brodick lights.

I would like to say thank you to the lady who won the ticket but gave the prize to me.

I am glad I switched on the lights; it was great fun.

Yours
Liath Rintoul,
age 9 not 11
11 Glen Place
Brodick



Zoe Adams and Andrew Bambridge were married on December 6 at Moor Park Mansion, Rickmansworth, London. Andrew, son of Trevor and Sally Bambridge of Shiskine, is a police officer in the Metropolitan Police Force. Zoe, whose parents live in Cardiff and Syracuse, New York State is a graphic designer. The couple, who live in High Wycombe, spent two weeks in Mexico for their honeymoon.

Nicola Cameron, daughter of Angus and Christine Cameron of Redwood, Shiskine was married to Darren Greig, son of Albert and Georgina Greig of Linn View, Glasgow recently. Nicola is a training and development specialist for the Arnold Clark Group and Darren is a signal support engineer for Network Rail and is also in his fourth year of an honours degree in Railway Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University. The couple returned to their home in Burnside, Glasgow after a honeymoon in Hong Kong and Thailand.



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Dates for Arran Music Festival announced

The 2010 Arran Music Festival will be on March 24, 25 and 26.

When the Duchess of Montrose inaugurated the festival in 1923 it was hailed as a great success but there were some who doubted that with our small island population it would be sustainable on an annual basis. Yet here we are in 2010 making arrangements for our 81st festival.

Notwithstanding its title, it also includes verse speaking and Scottish country dancing. As usual there are classes for both novices and experienced performers, as individuals or in groups, offering them an opportunity to demonstrate their talents on stage.

The adjudicators are acknowledged experts in their particular fields and every competitor is given some written comments on the performance, usually with some suggestions

on how they might improve their standard even further.

The winners of most classes also have a trophy to take home and there are a limited number of monetary prizes as well.

Free copies of the syllabus have been distributed to the schools and certain shops, and please note that entry forms must be received by the Festival Secretary by Tuesday February 10.

The schools will submit entry forms for children's groups, and in most cases the primary schools will also be able to provide entry forms and copies of poems for individual entrants also.

Contact the Festival Secretary Tony Smith on 700203 if you would like more information or if you have difficulty in obtaining a syllabus or entry form. TS



Bobby McGhee of Ayrshire Sportsability management committee presents a cheque to pupils at Lamlash Primary School. b50hos01

Sports grant for Lamlash Primary School children

Lamlash Primary School has been awarded a grant from Ayrshire Sportsability.

The Sportsability charity promotes the wellbeing of children and young people with a disability through sports.

The grant of more than £200 will be used to help purchase a trampoline and balls which

children with a physical, sensory and learning difficulties can enjoy as part of the school's Headstart Group.

Opportunity

Dr Wai-yin Hatton, chair of Ayrshire Sportsability and chief executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'The aim of these grants is to offer children the opportunity to try

new sports.

'It is fantastic that we can help support local schools, such as Lamlash Primary, to provide these opportunities to its pupils.'

The next deadline for a grant application is January 5, 2010. For information contact Di-
anne.Campbell@aapct.scot.nhs.uk



Head girl Hannah Dobson and head boy Anthony Tetlow are presented with special drinking bottles by home economics teacher Emma Morrison, headmaster Douglas Auld and hospital manager Alan Stout.

Water bottles for all school pupils

Every pupil at Arran High School will be presented with a special drinking bottle by the Parent Council in an attempt to encourage them to drink more water during the school day.

The idea for the initiative came from Emma Morrison, the head of the home economics department, who wanted to encourage the Health Promoting Schools initiative.

A spokesman from the Parent

Council said: 'The water bottles will be given to each pupil after the Christmas break and will be clearly marked with their name.'

'The Parent Council are also actively fundraising for other projects within the school in the form of a Christmas Quiz which costs £1 per sheet and is available from the school office or from various retail outlets around the island.'

'The prize is £25 and quiz sheets should be returned to the school office by Monday 11 January.'

The Parent Council also raffled a large chocolate snowman kindly made by James of Arran at the school Christmas concert that took place last Monday. Hopefully these fundraising events will be the first of many to help support Arran High School and its pupils.

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Recycling...

the gift that keeps on giving

Merry Christmas from everyone at Cleansing Services, thanks for all your recycling this year.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Santa Claus, snowmen and shining stars



Santa and his little helper at Duchess Court last Sunday. 02_0526a01



Leah Jones with Santa's two huskies at the Duchess Court Christmas market. 0526a02



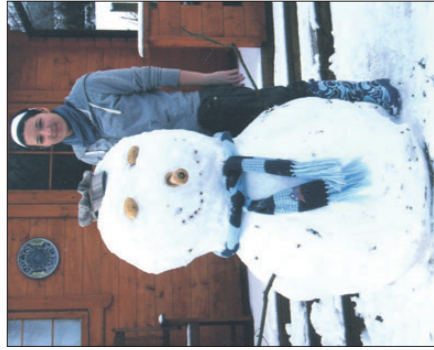
Brodick children with Santa at the village Christmas party. 0526a01



Arran Wildlife Festival co-ordinator Lucy Wallace at the Kilmory Christmas market. 02_0526a02



Kirstie Stewart, Ellie Miller and Asha Simpson using a dinghy as a large sled in Whiting Bay. 02_0526a03



Vicky Tulika made a snowman almost as big as herself on Sunday. 0526a01



Children playing in the snow at Sandbraes Park on Sunday. 02_0526a02

Arran gets into the festive spirit

Santa Claus and his many helpers have been extremely busy over the last few weeks. With so many children to visit, he has to make an early start so that everything is finished before Christmas Day morning.

He has already been seen at the Balmichael Centre in Shiskine, Duchess Court, Brodick and WRI children's parties in Shiskine, Lamblash and Whiting Bay village halls.

Most of the primary schools will also have had a visit from Santa. At the Duchess Court Christmas market at Home Farm, he even had his own Huskies to pull his sled.

Last Saturday he was at the Kilmory Farmers' Christmas market in the village hall and entertained children in his grotto.

He also dropped in to the Brodick community children's party in Brodick Hall. Since the demise of Brodick WRI, the Christmas party has fallen to a group of volunteers. The local children enjoyed a great party, funded solely from the special event to turn on the village Christmas

lights three weeks ago. The committee of the Brodick children's party want to thank everyone who gave their help, time and donations to make the event such a success.

In Whiting Bay a special illuminated Christmas star has been attached to the church bell tower. This will be the 28th year that the star has shone down over Sandbraes to guide worshippers to Church.

The winter festive spirit was certainly helped by a generous snowfall in the early hours of Sunday morning. By midday many children were out and about, making snowmen and sledging in the bright sunshine.

Santa's final duties on Arran will be down at the South-parties in Kildonan and Kilmory Halls before heading off and back home to Lapland.

If any children want to keep a check on Santa's progress around the world they should ask their parents to log on to the internet website noradsanta.org for a magical sleigh ride on Christmas Eve.



The Christmas star is attached to the bell tower at Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland. 02_0526a01



Sledging in style on Whiting Bay golf course. 02_0526a05



Ricky McMaster of Springfield Lamb and Mutton, selling Arran meat in his festive apron at the Kilmory Farmers market. 02_0526a01



Fun and games in Brodick hall last Saturday. 0526a02



Joel Armitage gets a push from dad at Sandbraes Park. 02_0526a04



Arran Brass serenaded the crowds at Duchess Court. 0526a03

Bird Notes - Purple Sandpiper

By Jim Cassels

These birds enjoy the wave washed intertidal zone on rocky outlets

December is a good month to look out for this shore bird on Arran.

Although there is a very small breeding population of the purple sandpiper in the north of Scotland, this is a bird with the most northernmost range of any shore bird, extending past the Arctic Circle to Franz Josef Land and stretching from the Taimyr Peninsula in Siberia to eastern Canada.

On Arran it is a passage migrant and winter visitor, with most records in recent years from December through to

early April. These birds enjoy the wave washed intertidal zone on rocky outlets feeding on small molluscs and often sharing this niche with the more common Turnstones. A good time to look for them is as high tide is approaching, when feeding areas become smaller.

Records

Most of the recent records for Arran have been from shores on the south and west coast.

Although there is very little purple about purple sandpipers, other than that their

slate grey winter plumage has a faint purple gloss in some light, their presence on our shores brightens a dull winter day.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send all sightings, giving 'what, when, where', to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Report 2008' and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Purple sandpiper. b52bir01no



Fiona Clarke serves Mary Kaiser and Margaret Stewart with cakes and biscuits. b52eld01no

Contact the Elderly at the High School

Contact the Elderly members and their escorts were regally entertained at Arran High School on Wednesday December 16.

Organiser Jean Peacock said: 'On arrival we were greeted by the students who took our coats and led us to the café. Inside the café the tables were nicely decorated and soon we were served with delicious soup, home made cakes and biscuits and tea or coffee.'

Next they were entertained musically by Ian McLaren and Mike Bailey on guitars, followed

by bingo called by Dave Wedge with the winners receiving Arran desk diaries produced by the pupils.

Demonstrated

The pupils then demonstrated their talent on a variety of musical instruments. The afternoon ended with a karaoke session then they all went home with a bag of home made sweets.

Jean Peacock said: 'It was a very enjoyable afternoon; thanks to Mr Auld and the staff and pupils of Arran High School.'

More guys needed for summer musical

After a shaky lead up to the rehearsals for the Arran Music and Drama Club's musical 'Guys and Dolls', things are now taking shape – although some more guys would surely be welcome!

Performed

The group performed this show back in 1994, yet some of the guys who appeared in that production, still haven't rejoined, despite the enjoy-

ment they had last time. However, it is not too late – so make it your new year's resolution to get involved guys!

Rehearsal

There will be a rehearsal break for the festive season until Thursday 7 January.

Most of the principal roles have been cast after the auditions on December 17, with two or three pleasant surprises guaranteed.

Socially, the following evening (December 18) was yet another great party/dance night that was enjoyed by everyone.

Looking Forward

The Grand Jumble sale is next on Saturday 6 February, but the group are also looking forward to meeting up gain on January 7.

See you there – 7.30pm in Brodick Village Hall.

New Year at THE DRIFT INN LAMLASH

HOGMANAY
Cathy's Family Quiz from 3pm
Meals served from 12.30pm – 3pm & 5.30pm – 7.45pm (last orders)

Disco from 10pm
Piper through the bells – open until 1am

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Bar open at 4pm – no food served today

SUNDAY JAN 3RD
Live football on the big screen Celtic v's Rangers starts 12.30pm

Tel: 01770 600608 All other times open as usual

Shanghai Chinese Takeaway
Kames Corner (by the post office) Tel 303777

Special Festive Offer available
VISIT US TO FIND OUT MORE

Festive Opening Times
Open every day till 3rd Jan
Sun – Thurs 4.30 – 10.30 Fri & Sat 4.30 – 11pm
CLOSED Jan 4th – 6th Reopen Jan 7th
From 7th January we will be open 7 days

Delivery available
Brodick £2 Lamlash £3 Whiting Bay £5
Last delivery order 10pm

Free raffle gifts 23rd – 25th december

The Ormidale
Brodick 01770 302293

HOME COOKED BAR MEALS
Served Daily from 6pm – 9pm Saturdays and Sundays from 12.30pm till 2pm
Malt Whiskies Children Welcome

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thursday- Christmas Eve Quiz - 10pm
Bar closed Christmas Day from 2pm
Saturday - Johnny and the Jetpatchers - 10pm

Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

THE ARRAN BANNER

- on holiday . . .



While in Toronto, Iain and Lavinia Hendry of Brodick were reunited with Jim McSkimming, formerly of Brodick, and his wife Lorna. Along with Bill Middleton of Brodick and Corrie and his wife Mary (Kerr of Lochranza), the group caught up on the news from Arran. Jim and Lorna are now retired and live in Bolton, 25 miles north of Toronto. Bill and Mary have been in Toronto since 1978 when Bill became minister of Armour Heights Presbyterian Church.



Andrew Smith and Sherie Walker of Altachorvie, Lamlash took their Banner all the way to South Africa, high in the Drakensburg mountains of KwaZulu Natal which borders the kingdom of Lesotho.



Sandra Robertson, a well-known Southend visitor, took her Banner to a very festive village in Lanzarote.

The Arran Banner in some strange and exotic places

Readers of The Arran Banner are still inundating us with photographs of themselves with the newspaper while on their holidays.

We have been truly amazed by some of the strange and exotic places Arran's much-loved weekly newspaper has been taken to this year.

In our latest instalment we have photographs from Canada, South Africa and Venezuela of all places!

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday. It could be from Crewe or the Caribbean, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ.



Perhaps it is not the Glenashdale Falls, but surely this is the first time anyone has read The Banner at Angel Falls, Venezuela? The photograph shows Mike Wallace of Glasgow.

Garden Notes for Christmas

Purchasing Christmas trees is usually an enjoyable task for the family, parents select the tree best suited to the available space in the house, the children get excited about dressing it, and of course the prospect of Santa arriving.

The three main types of Christmas trees are the old fashioned Norway spruce, which is usually the inexpensive option.

Needles

But unfortunately due to modern central heating systems, they tend to drop their needles readily therefore they should be purchased as close as possible to Christmas Day.

Nordman firs are very resinous and hold on to their glossy

dark green needles very well and needle drop is usually minimal.

Resinous

Noble firs are exceptionally resinous with dense branches and blue to green foliage, the needles very seldom drop and can stay attached from the beginning of December till the end of the festive season. In my opinion this is the best tree but again as for the previous mentioned trees, needles won't stay on if the house is like a furnace.

When purchasing a Christmas tree that has already been wrapped or netted ask the vendor to remove it, this will give you a good idea of its width and density and of course

balance, you do not want a tree that is like Gourock, all to the one side, and any broken foliage. It only takes a few moments to re-net it.

Hopefully I have given you,

the readers some useful ideas, and to everyone who reads the Arran Banner, wherever they are may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Bob McCaw

LAMLASH IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE
FAMILY CEILIDH
 Monday 28th December
 Dance with the
BOUGUILLE BAND
 at High School Lamlash
 7.30pm - 12.00
 Entry: Adult £10, Junior £5, Family £25
 Licensed Bar

The Coffee Pot
 Golf Course Rd, Whiting Bay
 Tel: 700393
 Paintings & Prints by Shiela Findlay on display Eat alfresco in our seafront garden
 Delicious Snacks & Light Meals. Homebaking always available
 Opening hours 10am - 5pm. Last food orders 4pm
 Closed Sunday & Monday

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall
TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR PARTY & DANCE
 Saturday 2nd January 2010
 8pm till 12.30am
 Tickets £5.00 at the door or from any committee member
 Sandwich Supper ~ Licensed Bar
 Everybody Welcome
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 For help contact Arran's only resident defence lawyer - a solicitor advocate with more than 25 years courtroom experience.
 Log on to **ARRANLAW.COM** or Tel: David Brookens on 01770 700535 or 07000 333363 (07000 DEFEND)

Brodict Improvements Committee
NEW YEAR'S DAY CEILIDH
 The famous
String Road Potholes Band
 (followed by disco)
 Friday 1st January 2010
 Brodict Hall
 7.30pm for 8pm
 BYOB
 Tickets from Bilslands and Book & card centre
 £8 adults, children under 14 £4

Whats On

ISLE OF
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www.arranbrewery.com Tel: 01770 302353

EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery (Monday - Friday)

Trout fishing
Hawk Walks
Fitness Assesments, Gym Induction, Personal Training

10am - 4pm
Loch Garbad, Bank
Lamlash
Auchrannie Spa & Gym

SATURDAY 26th DECEMBER

Blackwaterfoot Junior Football
Karate
Family Games Kids & Adults
Fun in the Spa Pool
Over 21's Disco
Arran Dancers (4 years and up)
Youth Cafe (High School Pupils)
Social Night
Charity Quiz (in aid of Marie Curie)
Live Rock - Johnny & The Jetpatchers
Boxing Day Dook
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Coaching, 10.30am - noon
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Arran High School, 10am
Brodict Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 6pm - Late
Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Lamlash Pier, 2pm

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

Alcoholics Anonymous
Family Games Kids & Adults
Folk Session
Fun in the Spa Pool
Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes
Folk Session
Motocross Practice (Weather Permitting)
East v West Rugby

Church Hall, Brodict, 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm
Auchrannie Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Library Annexe, 1.45pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Southbank FarmTrack
Ormidale Park, 1pm

MONDAY 28th DECEMBER

Senior Fitness
Over 50's Badminton
Badminton
Cardiac Rehab
Circuit Training
Citizens Advice
AB Attack
Aerobics Class
Weight Wise
Ladies Netball
Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games
Lamlash Bridge Club
Kickboxing
Badminton Club
Pre school Music & Drama Classes
Family Ceilidh, Lamlash Improvements

Auchrannie 9.30am - 10.30am (Gym)
Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Gym 12.30pm - 2pm
Auchrannie Spa, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)
Open 10am - 2pm
KA Leisure, fitness suite 6.30pm - 6.50pm
KA Leisure, dance studio, 6pm - 7pm
Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm
High School Sports Hall - Seniors 8pm - 9pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Auchrannie Dance Studio, Various Times, 10.45am - 2.30pm
High School, 7.30pm

TUESDAY 29th DECEMBER

Lochranza Swimming Club
Army Cadets
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Citizens Advice
Pulmonary Rehab

Kinloch 11am - 12pm
Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Brodict Church Hall - 2pm
Open 10am - 2pm 4 - 6pm (Appointment Only)
Auchrannie Gym 12pm - 1pm (Gym)



Open Music Session

Indoor Bowling
Junior Hockey Club
Brodict Toddler Group
Body Conditioning Class
Youth Club
Senior Fitness
Step Aerobics
Rotary Club
Scottish Country Dancing
Indoor Bowling
Seasonal Quiz

Catacol Bay Hotel, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Hall, 7pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm
Church Hall, 10am - 12pm
KA Leisure, dance studio 6pm - 7pm
Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm
Auchrannie, 10am - 11am
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 8pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Ormidale Hotel 10pm

WEDNESDAY 30th DECEMBER

Hockey
Jnr Rugby Training
AquaFIZZ
Circuit Training
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy
Kickboxing
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Rugby Club Seniors Training
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Country/ Blues session
Selt Making Class
Beavers
Yogalates
Quiz Night
Learn to Salza
Country Blues Session

Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm (Games Hall)
P4 - S4 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.15pm
Auchrannie Hotel, 9.45am - 10.30am (Hotel Pool)
Auchrannie, 6pm - 7.15pm (Gym)
10.30 - 12.30pm & 1.30 - 3.30pm
KA Leisure, dance studio, 7pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm - 9pm
Ormidale Park, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm
Ormidale. 9.30pm
Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm
High School, Lamlash 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Auchrannie Gym, 10am - 11am
Eden Lodge Hotel Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
Auchrannie Cruize Bar. 7pm - 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm

THURSDAY 31st DECEMBER

Senior Fitness
Citizens Advice
Lochranza Craft Club
Coffee Morning
Cardiac Rehab
Table Tennis
Legs, Bums & Tums Class
Indoor Bowling
Smoking Cessation Group
Brodict Embroidery Group
Youth Club
Cubs
Winter Bowling
Scouts
Brodict Bridge Club
The Wee Blether
Hogmanay - Bar closes at 10pm
Hogmanay Family Quiz
Disco
Hogmanay Party

Auchrannie 9.30am - 10.30am
Open 10am - 2pm
Hall, 2pm
St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm
Auchrannie Gym 2pm - 3pm
Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm
KA Leisure, gameshall, 6.30pm - 7.15pm
Auchrannie Hall 7pm
Ormidale Pavillion, 11am - 12pm
Brodict Library 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm
Shiskine Hall 6.30-8pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Shiskine Hall 8-9.30pm
Golf Clubhouse
Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30am - 1.30pm
Ormidale Hotel
Drift Inn, 3pm
Drift Inn, 10pm
Maclaren Hotel, Brodict

FRIDAY 1st JANUARY

AquaFIZZ
Quiz
Over 21's Disco
Yogalates
Street Dance
Lamlash Friday Club
Foundations at The Cabin
Open Folk Night
New Years Day - bar closed all day
New Years Day Ceilidh

Auchrannie Pool, 9.45am - 10.30am
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm
The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Gym, 10am - 11am
Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 8pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 3.30pm
The Cabin, 7pm - 9pm
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm

SATURDAY 2nd JANUARY

Sannox Cricket Club's New Year Match
New Year Disco
New Year Party and Dance

Ormidale Astro turf, 12pm
Ormidale Hotel 10pm
Lochranza and Catacol Hall, 8pm

To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

RECRUITMENT

THE ARRAN BANNER

MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT
PART TIME

The Arran Banner, Arran's established local newspaper requires a Marketing and Sales assistant to work in our Brodick office and assist with the further development of our products within the community. The successful applicant will play a key role in providing holiday and extra cover within our advertising department when necessary and be expected to deal with all aspects of the advertising reception. In addition they will also provide support to our sales team through selling and promotion of all our island titles and brand extensions. Excellent communications skills, flexibility, high levels of accuracy, computer literacy and a friendly and outgoing manner are vital.

A full driving licence is essential.

To apply please submit your CV and a covering letter to **Christine MacBryde, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB** or email to **personnel@obantimes.co.uk**

Brodick Bar & Brasserie

We have vacancies for a front of house manager or manageress.

Also waiters and waitresses, starting in the New Year.

May suit a couple, as a self-contained cottage is available.

Applicants must be reliable honest and self motivated.

Please apply in writing to **Mr I Mcfadzean**
Brodick Bar & Brasserie
KA27 8SU

VisitArran

OPERATIONS MANAGER REQUIRED FOR VISITARRAN

An experienced, well organised and self motivated Operations Manager is required for the island tourism organisation.

Reporting to the Chairman, this role requires a range of skills and experience, encompassing aspects of finance, sales, marketing, web management and operations. Excellent communication skills are vital.

The successful applicant should be proficient in word, excel and PowerPoint and be living on Arran. A proven track record in one or more of the following areas is required; senior general management, The Tourism Industry, Marketing or the Public Sector.

Initially this will be a 6 month contract, working from home on average 25 hours per week.

For further information or to submit a CV, please contact **info@visitarran.com** Closing date for applications is 8th January 2010

info@visitarran.com
www.visitarran.com

ARRAN
The Island


PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ARRAN

Domestic Refuse Collections
Domestic Refuse Collections over the festive period will remain unchanged.
Offices will close on Thursday 24th December 2009 and will re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2010.
Any additional refuse can be taken to the local Transfer Station opening hours as follows:

Transfer Station
Friday 25th December 2009 - Closed
Saturday 26th December 2009 - Closed
Sunday 27th December 2009 - 8.00am till 1.00pm
Monday 28th December 2009 - 8.00am till 1.00pm
Tuesday 29th - Thursday 31st December 2009 - Normal Opening Hours
Friday 1st January 2010 - Closed
Saturday 2nd January 2010 - Closed
Sunday 3rd January 2010 - 8.00am till 1.00pm
Please place any large items of cardboard beside your blue wheeled bin on the day of collection.
As in previous years the Cleansing Department will uplift Christmas trees for disposal. These should be placed beside the wheeled bin on the day of collection week commencing 18th January 2010.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE
KA12 8EE




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SC009086


Isle of Arran Homes
and
Arran Care & Repair office
will be closed from
1.00pm on Thursday 24 December 2009
and will reopen on Tuesday 5 January 2010

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




69%
of the business community read the regional press



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
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Arran Youth Foundations

AGM

Sat 9th Jan
10.30am
The Cabin, Brodick

BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES

BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES



Please note that
The Best Western Kinloch Hotel and Bakery
will close on **Monday 04th January**
re-opening on **Saturday 30th January.**

The public bar will remain open throughout from mid-day until 11pm.

No food will be served during this period of closure.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause

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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 waiting for an appointment outside Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash. Lots of people guessed correctly, but Ann Whattam of Blackwaterfoot was first, closely followed by old friend Fleck, fess, Grace Small, Morag Murchie and Cailean and Kate of Bearsden. This week he is perched on a bench, but where is that bench? 02_b52arc01



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CHURCH NOTICES

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Sunday 27 December
 (Church is on the road between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)
 Shiskine 11am
 Sunday School meets in the Church Hall
 Brodick 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)
 Rev David Karoon
 All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
 Sunday Morning Mass 11am
 First Mass of Christmas 9pm
 Christmas Morning Mass 11am

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH
Thursday 24 December
 There will be a service at 11.30pm to welcome Christmas Day. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served after the service. Everyone most welcome.
 Offering will go to Al Shurooq School for blind children, Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.

Friday 25 December
 There will be a short family service conducted by the minister at 10am on Christmas morning to which all children are invited to bring a gift from Santa to show. Offering will go to the Al Shurooq School, Bethlehem.

Sunday 27 December
 A service of praise and readings will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 (in full communion with the Church of England)
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 27 December
 Holy Communion, 11am
 Mr John Roberts
 Revd Paul Fletcher
 Coffee after service.
 All most welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 27 December
 Rev Gillian Maclean
 Kilmory 10am
 Lamlash 11.30am
 Family Service
 In both churches
 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
 All welcome, including families, children's area.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)
Sunday 27 December
 11am
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
 Evening Service
 5 Glen Road, 7pm
 Rev D MacLeod
 All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.
 Ormidale Pavilion
 Brodick.
Sunday 27 December
 10.45am Communion
 Tea and coffee from 11.10am
 11.30am For all the family
 Speaker: Rev 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 27 December
 Brodick 10.30am
 Corrie. 12pm
 Lochranza 10.15am.
 Shiskine 12pm
 A service of Worship will be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

DEATH
BRIGGS,
 Peacefully at Hairmyres Hospital on Sunday 20th December 2009, Archie, beloved husband of the late Sheena and dad of Stuart, Heather and Alasdair. A funeral service will take place on Tuesday 29th December at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium Dregghorn at 11.00am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
FOWLER - DAVID
 Margaret & family would like to thank Rev Gillean Maclean for her unstinting love & support during David's illness and for leading the funeral service on Wednesday 16th December in Lamlash Church. Thanks also to the staff at A.W.M.H. & the Home Care team who looked after David so well, friends for their practical support, letters and cards and David Hendry for efficient funeral arrangements. Donations in memory of David have been sent to the Mercy Ship's appeal.

PERSONALS
Thank you to all who helped make our new home possible, especially, Billy, Ian & Linda, Toby, Sean, Joe, Jamie, Arran Estates, all of the guys at Murchie's and Whiting Bay Caravan Park and last but not least to Sheila and Yvonne for being so kind and patient. We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas.
Lou & Kev.



The ladies from Lamlash Golf Club are pictured with their very festive Christmas hat creations at Corrie when they played a nine-hole Tri-am last Wednesday.

Morven Hedley would like to thank all her friends for their support over the last few weeks and wishes them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Wishing neighbours and friends a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year
Christine Hamilton



My sister Kate is feeling low
 Now she is the **'Big 60'**
 Give her a whisky, or maybe five
 And watch her suddenly come a live

ANNE & STUART REID AND FAMILY
 wish all their friends a very happy Christmas and heartfelt thanks for all the love and support during this year.

Lamlash Golf Club
 Gents: Thursday 17 December, 15-hole medal 12 competed on a fine day. Magic twos pool scooped by Jim Stewart who aced the 16th hole. 1 J Stewart 60-11=49 BIH, 2 Neil Mitchell 62-13=49 BIH, 3 Bob Hastings 61-12=49. Sunday 20 December, snowed out.
 Fixtures: Every Thursday 15 hole medal. Saturday 26 December, Boxing Day game from 11am. Sunday 27 December, Glenburn Cup. Thursday 31 December, Hogmanay in the club 9pm till late. Saturday 2 January, course to be played backwards, closed from 8am, competition start at 10.30am for 11am.
 Saturday 2 January, New Year Disco Dance, 9pm till late, members and friends welcome.
 Merry Christmas and a very good New Year to all Banner readers from Lamlash Golf Club.

Lamlash Ladies Golf
 Wednesday 2 December, First of the festive golf, Christmas cracker over Lamlash.
 Nine-hole Stableford: 1 Jenny Pattenden, 2 Jackie Winship. Wednesday 16 December, The ladies of Lamlash welcomed the ladies of Shiskine to join them at Corrie for a nine-hole Tri-am, 21 ladies played and 23 ladies enjoyed a beautiful lunch at Scotts.
 Off course hat prize: Selected from some fantastic hat creations, the winner was Trish Martin (Santa going down the chimney). The winners of the Tri-am on a beautiful morning were Jenny Pattenden, Trish Martin and Viv Parks.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2010.

Machrie Bay Golf Club
 Tuesday 15 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 35, 2 David Wilkinson 34, 3 Denise Sherwood 33. Scratch Brian Sherwood 77.
 Fixtures: Tuesday 29 December, Two-club Competition (one club and putter), 12pm tee-off. Saturday 2 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off at 12pm. Tuesday 5 January, Winter Cup, tee-off 12pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club
 Sunday 20 December, The friendly with Lamlash was postponed due to the snow and will be replayed at a later date.
 Fixtures: Sunday 27 December, Christmas Bottle, played as a Stableford competition off the yellow tees, draws at 9am and 11am. Saturday 2 January, nine-hole cross country competition, one draw at 11am. Sunday 3 January, Gents Medal.

Brodick Golf Club
 Sunday 20 December, Clochendichter was cancelled due to overnight snow. Many still turned up for an excellent Christmas lunch in the clubhouse. Thanks to Tricia and Rosie for the usual high standard of catering, and to Alastair Dobson for the Arran Blue cheese, which with the port went down all too well. There will now be two Clochendichters in January, on the 17th and 31st.
 Wednesday Winter Cup: Well having been unable to play golf for a few weeks it

seems my brain went to sleep and I forgot to report the action on the December 9. Thirteen played and the fins appeared again.

Eric Thompson won with a 72-14=58, second was Brian Boal 76-15=61 and third place was shared by Wolfi Kroner 74-11=63 and Bill Paul 84-21=63. For the second week in a row there were no magic twos so another rollover. Eric Thompson's handicap was savagely cut by 8 and he now plays off 6.

Wednesday 16 December twelve played on a fine cold winter day. First was Harry Davidson 76-14=62 and second equal were Hamish McArthur 80-17=63 and Dougie Robertson 74-11=63 again there were no magic twos so another rollover.

Well it looks as if the weather may rule out any further golf before Christmas so I will take this opportunity to wish all players and members a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Festive fixtures (weather permitting!): Sunday 27 December, Winter Cup, draws at 9am and 12pm. Friday 1 January, New Year bottle, arrange own games, or draw at 12pm.

Saturday 2 January, Backwards Competition. Sunday 3 January, Brandon and Winter Cup.



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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper



The winners in the Cairnhouse novice class.

Hannah and Lilly win Cairnhouse fancy dress

Hannah Bone and her horse Lilly won a special festive fancy dress competition at the Christmas Winter Points show at Cairnhouse Riding Centre, Blackwaterfoot.

Joolie Graham put a lot of time and effort into organizing it and entered into the spirit of things, dressing up her horse Benjie as a panda car while she was kitted out in an old-fashioned policeman's outfit. All ponies were breathalysed before entering the arena but no positive results were intimated!

Fourteen horse and rider combinations entered the fancy dress, expertly judged by Nan Reid and Sheena Murchie. Joolie also held a raffle with super prizes donated by local businesses and over £190 was raised with all proceeds going to Leukaemia Research. Many thanks to Joolie and all involved in such an entertaining and worthwhile class to start the show.

Fancy dress: 1 Hannah Bone on Lilly, 2 Hazel Ramage on Fran, 3 Lauren MacAlister on Fudge, 4 Laura Tulloch on Summer.

Twelve entered the Wobly classes with seven clear in the first round, nine went

round clear in round two and the following six went round double clear to collect the six points on offer: Ailsa McMillan, Katie Morrison, Lauren MacAlister, Eilidh McNeil and Isla Yuill.

Hannah Bone rode the fastest double clear on Lilly to win the class and pick up 10 points. Hannah has won this class three times on Lilly and is now no longer eligible to enter.

Lynn Ramage is novice winner

A field of 17 entered the Novice class and the weather conditions couldn't have been kinder. Ten riders made it round unscathed and into a jump off against the clock over the shortened course. Emma Hill on Dynah was first to go and she returned with a good clear in 27.16 seconds. Next was Amy Downard on Malakye and they whizzed round in a fabulous time, clear in 20.13 secs to take the lead.

It wasn't until Lynn Ramage came in ninth and also riding Malakye that the heat was on. Lynn had the little mare turning on a sixpence to smash the time and return an amazing clear in 19.35 secs to win the class and collect the red ribbon.

Novice results: 1 Lynn on Malakye, 2 Amy on Malakye, 3 Megan MacAlister on Ally, 4 Amie Latona on Merlin, 5 Emma on Dynah, 6 Isla on Velvet.

The mini challenge had 13 forward and there were three exchanges of the Duster badge with the spooky planks catching out Emma in spectacular style. Hannah was drawn first and she jumped the 100 one-way coming home on a top score of 245. Katie Bannatyne riding Owen sailed over the 100 both ways and managed to stay on this time! Scoring 285, she held on to her lead until last year's champion Megan came in on her own Ally to successfully clear nine fences and win with a top score of 375.

Mini challenge: 1 Megan on Ally, 2 Katie on Owen, 3 Hazel on Fran, 4 Lauren on Fudge, 5 equal Isla on Velvet and Hannah on Lilly.

The Clear round class had five of the 14 starters return a clear and collect a lovely Christmas rosette earning a valuable six points on the leader board. They were, Hannah, Katie B, Hazel, Amy and Lynn.

Amy takes Cairnhouse challenge on Malakye

The last class of the day

was the Cairnhouse challenge with the 100 fence at 3feet 3inches. Katie went first jumping nine fences for a top score of 190. Hannah was next and she also returned with 190. Laura had a good round with Summer and jumped the 100 to come back on 205. Her lead was cut short as Hazel jumped an incredible 10 fences in the time allowed and scored 380, however, sister Lynn was on a mission and rode a fantastic round to take the lead with a score of 390.

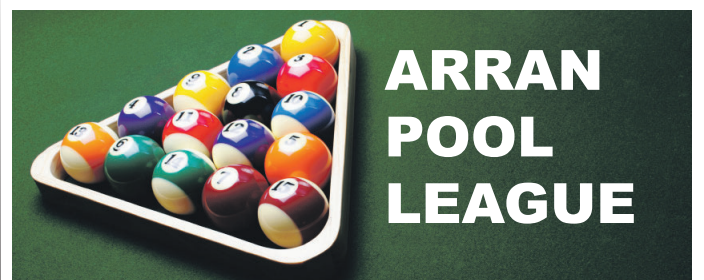
Two competitors later and Megan equalled Lynn's score. It went down to the wire, last to go Amy D and boy was she determined to turn the tables and turn her horse inside out. Jumping an unbelievable 11 fences and all the bigger ones at that, they finished on an amazing score of 430 to take top honours and 12 points.

Cairnhouse challenge: 1 Amy D on Malakye, 2 equal Lynne and Megan, 4 Hazel on Fran, 5 Laura on Summer, 6 equal Katie B and Hannah.

The first show of the New Year is on Sunday January 10, weather permitting. Dawn would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Nan Reid presented Hannah Bone and Lilly with the fancy dress first prize.



Bar Eden secure top spot

As the first half of the Arran pool league comes to an end it may be no surprise that the Bar Eden are sitting comfortably in first place.

The current team positions can be seen below.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bar Eden	7	6	0	1	18
PHT	7	5	0	2	15
Drift Inn	7	4	1	2	13
PT1934	7	3	0	4	9
Kildonan	7	2	2	3	8
Catacol	7	2	1	4	7
Team Goil	7	2	1	4	7
Mac's Bar	7	1	1	5	4

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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 1st January 2008 and 31st December 2008 was 3,313. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.