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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 25 DECEMBER, 2010

No 1785 55p



**Merry Christmas**  
*to all our readers*

# Advice centre to remain open without island manager



Sheridan Waldon

The volunteers are said to be distraught

**REPORT**  
by JENNIFER LYON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The manager of the Arran Citizens Advice Service has been told she must leave her post on December 21 – just four days before Christmas.

This is despite confirmation that the North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service (NACAS) has backtracked on plans to close the Lamlash based advice centre.

Sheridan Waldon has been the bureau manager in Lamlash for three-and-a-half-years and has 20 years experience working in advice centres, but at the beginning of the week she was relieved of her post.

**Grateful**

Nina Smith, general manager of NACAS, said: 'We are grateful for all of the comments we have received from Arran services and residents. 'As a result we have delayed the closure of our Lamlash

office for the time-being.' She added: 'We do however need the support of local people. We have for a while now been short of available volunteers for our static office in Lamlash and from the New Year it will be necessary to reduce our opening hours to the public in the short term.'

**Distraught**

The volunteers are said to be distraught at the loss of Sheridan after they were told at a meeting on Wednesday the service will remain open but with a mainland based manager.

A source told The Banner: 'I don't think NACAS realise how much organisation goes in to keeping the office open.

'All the volunteers have lives outside the centre and without a manager here all the time it could be difficult to keep the

service running at the level it did before. Many of the volunteers have other commitments or jobs, and they will take holidays or have days off.

'When that happened Sheridan always filled in but NACAS have made it clear that won't be an option in future.'

Arran's MSP, Kenneth Gibson told The Banner that there may be no change to the Arran set up in terms of working from the ACVS office and the hours the CAB will open.

**Introduced**

'Technology is not yet able to deliver the outreach service required, so when introduced, outreach on Arran will be limited,' he said. 'The main change is that Arran CAB will be managed from Saltcoats. An island based supervisor will look after Arran.'



## Santa Claus comes to town

Three-year-old Theo Nicholson from Lamlash was first in line to meet Santa in his grotto at Home Farm in Brodick last weekend.

The youngster told Santa what he wanted for Christmas and was given an early present from the man in red to celebrate Home Farm's festive extravaganza. 01\_b51san01



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Not your usual decorations!



Someone has been busy in the weeks running up to Christmas, preparing homemade decorations for this tree in Whiting Bay. In a commendable display of recycling, this Christmas tree next to the car park in the village centre has been tastefully decorated with colourful empty beer cans. 02\_b52tre01

# Old Christmas trees could help save coast from erosion

## Control survey stations set up to monitor Brodick beach

Don't throw away your old Christmas tree; it could help to save Brodick beach.

The sandy beach beyond The Boathouse has been repaired.

Following storms earlier in the year, rubbish from the old Brodick coup was exposed onto the beach. After consultation with coastal defence experts, North Ayrshire Council appointed local contractors to carry out repairs.

A NAC spokesperson said: 'Despite periods of inclement weather and poor tidal conditions, local contrac-

tor Murchies completed the works on time and on budget. The interlocking geotextile containers have been filled with existing beach material to form a revetment that will stand up to severe storms.

'The sandy beach has been restored completely, covering the sand containers. Planting Marram grass to protect the beach cannot take place until spring.'

The local community has suggested that discarded Christmas trees could be collected and used with chesspale fencing to aid sand

stabilisation. This is apparently an established practice in managing coastal erosion, and council officers will be happy to work with the local community. It is hoped to begin this work early in the New Year.

Control survey stations have been set up to monitor the beach.

Additional survey stations have been established at other areas of concern in front of the golf course to allow consideration of the wider implications of coastal erosion within Brodick Bay.

# Brave souls plan to take the plunge for RNLI

Fancy a swim on Boxing Day?

Next Sunday, December 26, a collection of brave souls will strip off and take the plunge into the icy waters of Lamlash Bay, and all in a good cause.

This will be the fourth annual Lamlash Boxing Day Dook when otherwise sane people swim around Lamlash pier to raise funds for the RNLI.

It is an established festive event on the Arran Christmas calendar, and spectators and swimmers alike are most welcome to come along.

The plucky dookers will be walking down the slipway at 2pm.

Fancy dress is optional, and members of the local lifeboat crew will be on hand to offer assistance if required.

Refreshments and mince pies will be available in the lifeboat station.

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# Where are grit bins?

With a thick covering of snow on many Arran pavements, residents are asking 'Where are the old grit bins?'

North Ayrshire Council (NAC) workers get around to clearing the main pavements after the roads have been treated, but it was always the custom of local authorities to provide grit bins for residents to exercise some self-help.

There are nine public grit bins on Arran and a spokesman for NAC said: 'Residents

are welcome to take enough mix to treat their immediate streets and pathways.'

There is one bin in Lamlash, opposite numbers 1 and 2 Hillside Terrace.

In Whiting Bay, the five bins are at Auchencairn, Silverburn Road, Caberfeidh, Canny Corner and Silverhill Chalets.

In Brodick, there are three bins, at West Mayish, Brathwick Place and Corriegills Road.

# Police to the rescue as couple struggle up hill

Four weeks ago we reported on a 'knight in a high-vis jacket' who came to the aid of three ladies in a flooded car.

Now we hear about the similar Good Samaritan actions by local police last Sunday night.

Chris and Jan Atkins, of Brodick, encountered difficulties getting up Brodick hill from Lamlash.

They told The Banner: 'As the temperature plummeted last Sunday evening, slush

turned to ice and the hill proved insurmountable to any two-wheel drive car.

'Imagine our relief when a police Landrover materialised out of the darkness, from which two officers emerged, tow rope in hand. Without demur, they hitched us up and towed us to the top of the incline, immediately returning to rescue the other vehicles.'

'Yet again, we feel privileged to live on this island with such tremendous support.'

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# Delivery of salt averts roads crisis on Arran. . .

Fears that a freezing Arran could run out of salt by the end of the week after the council used 80 per cent of their entire stockpile in just four days were allayed on Monday when more salt was delivered to the island.

North Ayrshire Council admitted on Tuesday they were down to their last

1,500 tons after spreading an enormous 4,000 tons on roads and footpaths on the mainland between Friday and Tuesday morning.

But thankfully Arran's roads department received an extra 650 tons of salt on Monday, which will see the island through to the New Year.

However, on the mainland it

is a different story and North Ayrshire Council may have to beg the Scottish government for extra supplies to avoid a disastrous and chaotic winter.

Only last week the local authority boasted they were ready to cope with the cold snap escaped by most of North Ayrshire.

A council source said: 'We've been caught short again.'

'It's not as if we can say the weather has been more severe than it was last time round.'

'If anything North Ayrshire has got off lightly compared to other parts of the country,' he added.

## . . . as first substantial snowfall of the winter arrives

The first real snow of the winter hit Arran last weekend.

Falls of up to 10 centimetres (four inches) were reported in Lochranza and Whiting Bay on Friday night, followed by further falls on Sunday afternoon.

Most roads were passable

with care, but a layer of compacted snow made driving hazardous. In Whiting Bay, self-help was evident as much of the snow was cleared from roads by Chris Marriott with his digger, earning him a pat on the back from Gege Kroner of the Trafalgar. She

said: 'Merry Christmas to all the unsung heroes; the hall committee, the improvements and the WRI and all the other groups who work quietly away. And Chris gets a standing ovation.'

Arran youngsters were out in numbers on local golf

courses and at Ormidale Park with plastic sledges and some even improvised with empty fertiliser bags.

All were well wrapped up against the bitter cold, and the only complaint was that there was almost too much snow for high speed sledging.



Gregor and Grace Crichton are well wrapped up against the cold on Saturday afternoon. 02\_b52sl02



Even the older kids had great fun sledging on Whiting Bay golf course. 02\_b52sl01

## Skipper's trial adjourned until May

A fishing boat skipper charged with risking lives by leaving his wheelhouse unmanned has had his trial delayed until next year.

William Paterson, 49, allegedly went below decks while the Avalon II was moving close to shore at North Machrie Bay off the Isle of Arran.

But his case trial was adjourned because of the weather, despite his lawyer urging the court to proceed due to the distance Paterson had travelled.

Paterson, of Carradale, is accused of risking death or serious injury by failing to

keep a proper lookout and placing the safety of the vessel in danger in July 2009.

He denies three charges under the Merchant Shipping Act and will now face trial at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court in May.

Alan Oman, 68, also of Carradale, denied failing to ensure a proper lookout as owner of the vessel and also faces trial.

The accused's lawyer, Christian Kane, said he had contacted prosecutors the week before to suggest adjourning the trial without the accused attending but was assured it would be going

ahead.

However, despite sailing for six hours from Carradale to Troon and then making their way to court, Paterson, Oman and a witness were sent home after Sheriff Brian Murphy agreed to a prosecution motion to adjourn because of weather difficulties.

Campbeltown-based Mr Kane said: 'I would have expected the procurator fiscal's office to have had the courtesy to have phoned me on the Monday after I had called them on the Friday.'

'The expected weather conditions were fairly obvious.'

## Still no fuel discount scheme for Arran

Kenneth Gibson MSP has told the Banner that he has finally received a response from Danny Alexander MP, Secretary to the Treasury regarding island fuel discount.

Mr Gibson had asked for Arran to be included in the Pilot Fuel Discount Scheme. He said: 'It is still clear that while the UK Government is still considering the exact

scope of the pilot scheme' it is clear that it does not intend to include the Clyde islands at this stage.

'I am sure islanders will find this response disappointing.'

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# Call for cross-party support to extend RET pilot scheme

## 'Disgrace' to have been excluded

A campaign for 'island parity' being waged by the Arran branch of the Scottish Labour Party has received a major boost with the submission of an amendment to a Scottish Parliamentary motion.

Arran's SNP MSP Kenneth Gibson has put his name to the Pilot Island Fuel Discount Scheme and Labour's Transport spokesman Charlie Gordon is calling on the Scottish government to include Arran in the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) pilot.

'My amendment to Kenneth Gibson's motion was signed by four Labour MSPs within hours of its submission and I'm sure other colleagues will soon support the RET pilot's extension too,' said Mr Gordon.

'Labour are committed to ending the current

### REPORT

by JENNIFER LYON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk  
discrimination against Arran and the other Clyde and Argyll islands by the present SNP Government and hopefully we will get an opportunity to debate this in parliament if my amendment to Kenneth Gibson's motion is accepted by him.'

Labour's Scottish parliamentary candidate for Arran, Allan Wilson said that he was pleased Arran's MSP had written to The Banner urging Labour MSPs to sign his motion to extend the pilot fuel duty scheme to Arran.

'Hopefully Mr Gibson can support Mr Gordon's amendment and we can have a cross party campaign for Arran to be included in both pilot schemes,' said Mr Wilson.

'It is a disgrace that Arran should have been excluded from the RET pilot when it was extended recently and it is unacceptable that a further 18 months should have to elapse before this discrimination in fares is ended. Arran should be included in both pilots at the earliest opportunity.'

HE added that in the meantime the Arran Labour Party will continue to build support for its campaign across the island communities of the Clyde and in Argyll for fair and affordable fares for all the islands.

'Arran islanders have been disadvantaged for too long - seeing ferry fares rise above the cost of inflation - while RET is extended in the Western Isles for a further year at a cost of £6.5m is disgraceful,' he said.



The Young Naturalists at Brodick Castle Ranger Centre with Toni holding her trophy and runners-up Sarah and Esther holding their book awards. b51nat01no

## Toni is Young Naturalist of the Year

For 20 years the National Trust for Scotland Ranger Service at Brodick Castle has been running a Young Naturalists Club, with a presentation to the Young Naturalist of the Year each Christmas.

This year, the Young Naturalist of the Year is Toni Jardine and the runners-up were Esther Jardine and Sarah

Jackson. Head Ranger Kate Sampson said: 'Each year the award is presented to the person who has shown the most commitment and enthusiasm and Toni has attained a deep understanding of nature through building on her knowledge throughout the year.'

'Sadly, this year's leavers

were Ross Kerr and Lewis Coyne who have both been dedicated Young Nats for at least five years.

'They didn't leave empty handed, but were presented with a 'do it yourself' bird box making kit, and we hope they will return next year to tell us about all the wildlife experiences they have had.'

## New guidance on protection of children welcomed on isle

The future protection of children on Arran is set to change after the council welcomed the launch of the Scottish government's revised National Child Protection Guidance this week.

The new guidance incorporates existing children's services policies while meeting the challenges that this complex area of practice now presents.

With increasing concerns throughout Britain about the treatment of children by

local authorities, the Scottish government has ensured that the responsibility for the child is now attributed to a wider range of organisations than ever before.

Councillor John Bell, the council's portfolio holder for children's services, said: 'While North Ayrshire has a very good record in child protection, we believe that the new guidance will allow us to continue to improve the service and ensure that we provide the best possible

protection for our children.'

Within the new guidelines there are also implications for child protection practice.

Joanne Sharp, chairman of the North Ayrshire child protection committee said: 'While we know that the children and young people in North Ayrshire are well protected, we are firmly committed to continuous improvement and we look forward to embedding the new national guidance in our practice.'



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The youngsters from Pirnmill Primary School and Nursery show off their presents from Santa Claus.



The pupils in Pirnmill tuck in to their festive lunch.

## Festive fun at Pirnmill

The boys and girls of Pirnmill Primary School and Nursery Class gathered together with staff this week for their Christmas lunch and party.

After a traditional turkey lunch they enjoyed a special treat with fruit spears and a chocolate fountain.

Then it was time to change into party clothes and enjoy their party games.

All this came to a very abrupt halt with the arrival of a very special visitor!

The children shared Christmas jokes with Santa before receiving an early present from the man himself.

Merry Christmas, everyone, from Pirnmill Primary School!

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## Kilmory SWRI

At the meeting on Monday 13 December, the members of Kilmory WRI thoroughly enjoyed a visit by Elma Stevenson and Isla Blair.

The pair had travelled on a very frosty night from Corrie and Brodick to give an interesting demonstration of cross-stitch.

Members were given squares of canvas to stitch their own Christmas tree.

The competition for a Christmas card was won by Janet Mulholland and the competition for a cake plate was won by Johann McHarg.

The next meeting will be on Monday 10 January when the members will hold their birthday party.

The competition will be a £2 decorated parcel.

Tonight (Friday 24 December) the Christmas Party will be held in Kilmory Hall at 5.30pm.

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# Loved ones missing at Christmas time

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson has drawn attention to the plight of those Arran families which spend the festive season worrying about loved ones who have gone missing.

Thousands of people go missing every year in Scotland.

In fact, Children's Charity Aberlour Childcare Trust estimates that over 9,000 Scottish children alone run away from home every year. While the vast majority return home soon, some do not.

Mr Gibson said: 'The rea-

sons people of all ages run away or go missing range from relationship breakdowns to mental health problems.

'In the case of children, one in every six who runs away has been the victim of sexual or other physical abuse outside the home.

'Whatever the cause for running away or going missing, the impact on the families they leave behind can be devastating. While most island families will gather around the Christmas tree this December, many others will find

themselves in a state of limbo, wondering what has become of missing loved ones.

'The charity Missing People has a 24-hour confidential runaway helpline that can be reached at 0808 800 70 70. Anyone, of any age, on Arran who is thinking of running away can phone this number for support.

'Families who have a missing loved one and would like help can to perhaps make contact or be reunited can also call Missing People at 0500 700 700.'

## Lochranza hall secures kitchen funding

The Lochranza Village Hall committee got an early Christmas present this week when they received a £10,000 grant towards their community kitchen project.

The money from 'Awards for All' will be combined with £2,000 from the Co-op Community Fund and £3,000 from in-house fund raising events.

The committee are still waiting to hear if they will get any funds from the Scottish Government Leader programme.

Joan MacKenzie, a spokesman for the hall committee said: 'This award means that if we are unlucky with the Leader Programme, we can still do something about improving our kitchen facility.'

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Santa is coming!

All those boys and girls who have been very good can look forward a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, hopefully with a present or two. All year round the cheery chap has been busy with his elves at the North Pole, making toys and gifts for youngsters all over the world.

Then, finally the big moment comes for take-off. With so many children to visit, he has to make sure of a safe passage through the winter skies.

Arran children can follow Santa by asking a grown-up to log on to the website 'Norad Tracks Santa' to be part of a magical journey.

Norad is the North American Aerospace Defense Command agency, and for several years it has taken responsibility for making sure that Santa gets to his destinations safely.

On Christmas Eve morning you can watch him taking off from his village at the North Pole, led by his trusty reindeers, Dancer, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and of course, Rudolph. He will be seen making his first calls in New Zealand and Australia.

You can watch him flying over Sydney Opera House, round the Taj Mahal, over the Great Wall of China and past the Pyramids as he heads west towards Arran.

And after all those miles, all those children and all those presents, you can be sure that Santa will be putting his feet up on Christmas Day for a well-earned rest.

Arran's primary schools have been celebrating the festive season with their annual nativity plays and Christmas concerts this week.

Glancing around the school halls and theatres it was heart warming to see the parents, grand parents siblings and friends watching these very young children re-enacting the birth of Jesus.

The joy and the happiness and the pride in those rooms was wonderful to see.

Whatever your views on religion, if you celebrate Christmas each year with your family there is no denying the religious beginnings of this festival.

In an increasingly consumer led society where Christmas is more about spending as much money as possible it is lovely to see the children celebrating the true meaning of the festival.

Christmas is a time for families to gather together, it is a time for joy and happiness and being thankful for what we have. So whether you believe in the story of the nativity or not, Merry Christmas to you all!

### 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

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

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## your letters

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## Letters to the Editor



### Church myth corrected

Sir,  
There seems to be a myth currently circulating at present, that at the time it was built in 1822, the Congregational Church at Sannox 'was the only place of worship between Lamlash and Pirmill' (Arran Banner, December 4).

This is certainly not accurate, as in 2012, St Bride's, the Parish Church of Lochranza, will celebrate its tercentenary.

Standing on the site of a much older medieval chapel, Arran's oldest ecclesiastical building still in use, was built in 1712 and substantially renovated in 1785.

Under the supervision of a catechist, a non-ordained licentiate of the church, who acted as assistant to the Church of Scotland ministers at Kilmory and Kilbride (Lamlash), the preaching house, as it was then known, served as the place of worship for the area stretching from the Iorsa Water at Dougarie on the west of Arran, to Corrie on the east.

The catechist in charge at Lochranza until April 1822, when he was ordained to Kilmory, was Angus Macmillan, a native of North Sannox.

His replacement was John McMaster, who was appointed some three months later on August 11 the same year.

We hope besides setting the record straight, this information might be of interest to your readers.

Yours,  
The Kirk Session of Lochranza and Pirmill Church of Scotland

### Panto praise

Sir,  
Linda and I went to see 'Scrooge the Panto' in Lamlash on Saturday, December 11 – a first class, outstanding show if ever I saw one.

It was entertaining from start to finish and Maureen Smith deserves a medal for a great production.

There's definitely something special about this lady as everyone on stage was on their toes which created a great and entertaining classic.

Congratulations!  
Yours,  
Harry and Linda Ross  
Whiting Bay

### Ferry fares response

Sir,  
It was encouraging to see the response to the local Labour Party's campaign for fair and affordable ferry fares and freight charges for Arran although I was a bit surprised at Councillor Margie Currie's position (letters 11/12).

I would have thought she would have welcomed the opportunity to campaign for a fair deal for her constituents but it appears not.

She repeats our MSP's mantra that Labour's pledge to reduce fares by 40 per cent was undeliverable.

In fact nothing could be further from the truth. The pledge was costed and would have been delivered had Labour won that election.

In fact, what subsequently happened was that the SNP government took the money allocated and used it to pay for their RET, a scheme now proposed to continue for a further financial year until April 2012 at a cost to the taxpayer of £6.5m and to Arran residents in higher fares!

Extending RET to include Arran and other Clyde islands is indeed a more expensive option – made more affordable by increases in usage - but you would have thought that an island councillor would recognise the benefit to her constituents.

Contrary to what Jim Lees argues, I support the extension of the proposed 'fuel duty' pilot to Arran – along with RET fares – and I wish the coalition government well in their efforts to secure EU approval if they can devise a workable scheme.

Curiously, Ms Currie attempts to bring up Labour's record in office.

I don't want to cast aspersions on her memory but I thought she would have recalled the free fares for the over 60s, the 12 per cent increase in journeys and the summer service and additional Ardrossan to Brodick sailing introduced under Labour.

All of this has been lost subsequently under the SNP and I would hope Councillor Currie would forsake their excuses and still join with Arran Labour Party in campaigning for their reinstatement and for fair and affordable fares and freight charges for Arran residents and businesses more generally.

Yours,  
Allan Wilson  
Labour's Scottish parliamentary candidate for Arran  
Kilbirnie

### Arran deliberately omitted

Sir,  
I would like to respond to Jim Lees' suggestion (Banner No 1783) that all MSPs sign Kenneth Gibson's Parliamentary motion on the Pilot Island Fuel Discount Scheme where it is stated that they 'believe this (Arran's omission from the scheme) to have been an oversight rather than a deliberate omission'.

Although this is a commendable attempt to extract a response from the Scottish Government there is already an answer to the principal question the motion addresses in government documents further South.

I quote from Hansard October 20, 2010: 'Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for pilot schemes to reduce fuel prices (a) on the Isle of Arran and (b) in other remote rural areas.

'Justine Greening: The Government intend to introduce a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of five pence per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas. The

Government are considering the exact scope of the pilots and at present has announced its intention to include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, and the Isles of Scilly. The Government will report back to the House, in due course, prior to submitting a formal proposal on the scope and design of the scheme to the European Commission.'

That sums it up nicely; we were deliberately omitted. Arran and the Clyde Islands are not considered 'remote rural areas' which seems to be the criteria rather than the cost of the fuel.

Once again, what have our elected representatives done to influence the criteria for inclusion?

There is a slim chance however of being included in the final scope of the scheme to be put to the EC.

I suggest we all get behind a campaign (much like Ian Small did for our pot holes) and sign a petition that is delivered to Number 10 very publicly.

Six thousand or so signatures from Clyde islanders should help our cause.

Yours,  
David Lilly  
Glaister Farm

### Hot water bottle

Sir,  
Many Banner readers will have recently received a leaflet from our MSP containing energy saving tips.

I recently received a new type of environmentally friendly hot water bottle.

It is fur covered, runs on renewable fuel and remains warm all night.

It comes in a variety of sizes and some are self-mobile.

The manufacturers claim it also catches vermin and acts as a house alarm, but this is yet to be proved. Unfortunately it comes with complex operating instructions and is therefore not suitable as a present.

Yours,  
Dave Freeman  
Lamlash

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# Bank clarifies Sannox Church position

'It's essential that we carry out due diligence'

Triodos Bank would like to clarify their position following an article that appeared in The Banner on Saturday 4 December, which stated that plans to turn Sannox Church into affordable housing were halted by bank demands.

A spokesman said: 'Triodos Bank works with hundreds of community groups across the UK and we are a leading ethical and sustainable bank and one of few banks to lend consistently to community projects such as these.'

Because we only lend to businesses delivering a positive social, environmental or cultural impact, our customers tend to be incredibly passionate about and engaged in what they are doing.

Indeed, this is one of the pleasures of working with customers in these sectors and in fact that our customers are engaged and passionate about what they're involved in is one of our key lending criteria.

Of course, any project we lend to must also be financially viable.

We have a duty of care to protect the money our savers deposit with us and to ensure that the borrower is able to service any loan we provide.

So, it's essential that we carry out due diligence to ensure that borrowing is right for a project.

We sometimes find a project is not financially sustainable, though we try very hard to work with customers to ensure their proposal is as sound as possible – as was the case with HIFAR.

## Requested

We requested a first valuation to establish the pre- and post works value of the property and confirm the amount of credit that we could provide.

This valuation identified further works required to render the buildings to a fully habitable and operational state.

As a result of this valuation, and given the extent of the works to be carried out, we then recommended that a structural survey be conducted so that HIFAR would have a full list of all works relating

to the project and both parties could establish a final cost for completing the project.

This was essential, as HIFAR had no funding of its own to support the Triodos loan or finance any cost overrun. This is all fairly common practice for projects of this nature.

It was at this point that HIFAR decided not to continue seeking finance from Triodos to fund the project.

While this must be disappointing for HIFAR members, a further survey may well save them a lot of heartache in the long run, as failing to complete a full survey could lead to further unforeseen problems once renovation is underway.

This is not a risk that Triodos was willing to take with the funds entrusted to us as a responsible, sustainable bank.

Triodos is an expert in social lending to community projects and would like to ensure it is perceived fairly among readers of the Arran Banner and among community groups across the UK.'



Peter Lee buys a ticket for the Valdete hamper in Brodick Co-op from Sue and Julian Davidson. 02\_b52va101

## Co-op donates hamper for Valdete Trust

Sue and Julian Davidson of Whiting Bay held a fundraising event in Brodick Co-op last Friday.

They were collecting money to buy five wheelchairs for disabled youngsters in Albania under the auspices of the Valdete Trust. Three years ago the couple brought Valdete, a young

Albanian girl, to Britain for life-changing surgery to help her walk again and have since then set up a day care centre for young disabled people in Tirana, the Albanian capital.

The Co-op kindly donated a large hamper of goodies and Sue and Julian were selling raffle tickets in aid of the Trust.

# A HUGE 'THANK YOU'

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### Our staff...

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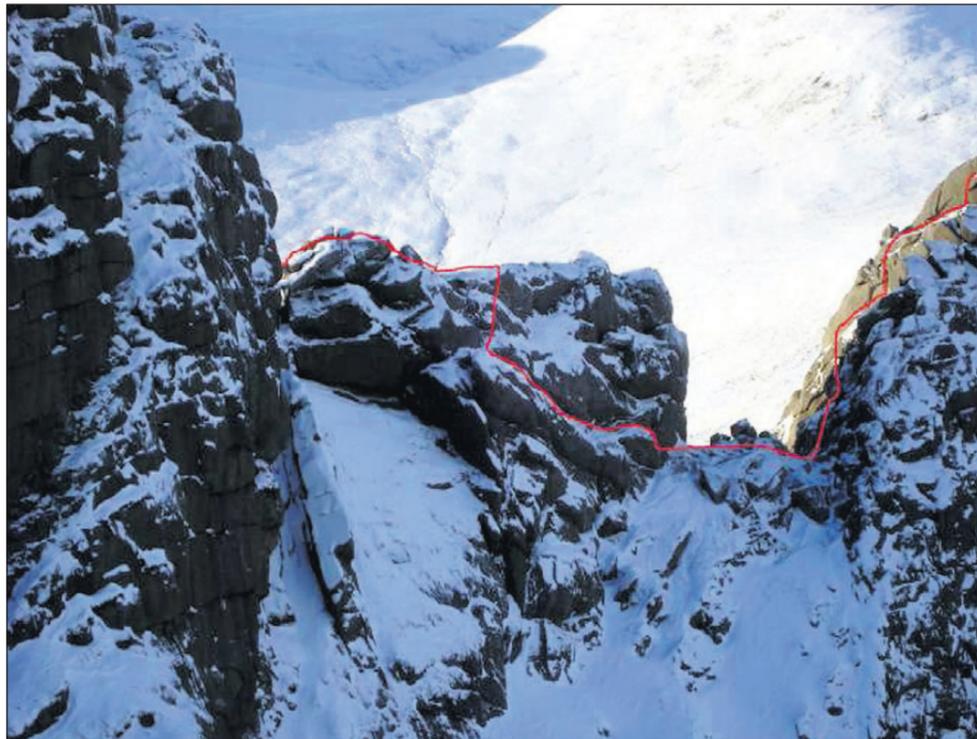
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# Winter climbing on

Local climbers David Lilly and Darryl Urquart-Dixon took to the hills in the ice and snow on December 8 to complete one of Arran's most dangerous climbs along the A'Chir Ridge at the north of Glen Rosa.

The pair did the same climb in the summer but this was a completely different challenge, as they had to brave icy conditions and freezing temperatures.

Below is David's account of the climb, which took them a total of 12 hours, from dawn to dusk, to complete.



Pic 6. The A' Chir Ridge, east facing Mauvais Pas section with line of route, and the top of Glen Iorsa below to the west.

Early snow and sub-zero temperatures presented an opportunity for some rare pre-Christmas winter mountaineering this year on Arran. So last Wednesday Darryl Urquart-Dixon of Arran Mountain Rescue Team and I decided we would attempt a winter traverse of A'Chir Ridge.

Having completed the ridge often in warmer climes we knew the route well and fancied our chances in winter.

#### Completed

Obviously the gear differs in winter, notably with crampons and axes. I wondered whether Messrs' Douglas, Campbell, Gibson, Robertson, Fleming and Dr Leith completed the first traverse of A'Chir Ridge on January 30, 1892 in similar conditions. They had hob-nail boots, woollen socks and tweed, not crampons, multi-layered Gortex and down jackets!

Without a cloud in the sky we were walking up Glen Rosa enjoying the sunrise lighting up the summit of Beinn á Chliabhain in silver-white rays; pink fell upon Goat Fell and orange on Cir Mhor.

By 9am we arrived at Coire Buidhe with Cir Mhor's 'South Ridge Direct' lit up above us. We pressed on to join the saddle at 591metres where we prepared ourselves for the ridge.

Despite the -5 degrees Celsius temperature, perhaps -15 with wind-chill factor, we marveled at the most breathtaking views across our western hills and beyond to the Paps of Jura.

It was a winter wonderland - a carpet of snow from where we stood to as far as we could see, only interrupted by the still icy blue waters of the Sounds of Kilbrannan and Jura.

#### Virgin Snow

We started to gain height toward the top of the first buttress at about 9.30am creating the first foot steps in the virgin snow as we went (pic1).

So far so good, but that soon came to an end. We arrived at the first down climb into the gully that leads to the Mauvais Pas section.

In summer this is an easy scramble but in these conditions we needed to abseil. The first abseil to a horizontal ledge went fine (pic 2).

For the second abseil we slung the rope around a conical spike



Pic 5. Darryl working hard to lead the Mauvais Pas section.

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# Arran's mountains



is Chimney pitch onto the third main buttress.

of rock at the far end of the ledge to traverse down the face of the wall below. I remained attached to the rope at the spike belay so Darryl could abseil in safety.

I followed, edging my way off the ledge but was unable to guide the rope through a crack, as Darryl had, to keep me close to the face.

With the rope running around the outside of the wall I felt myself being pulled away from the face and toward the 100m drop below.

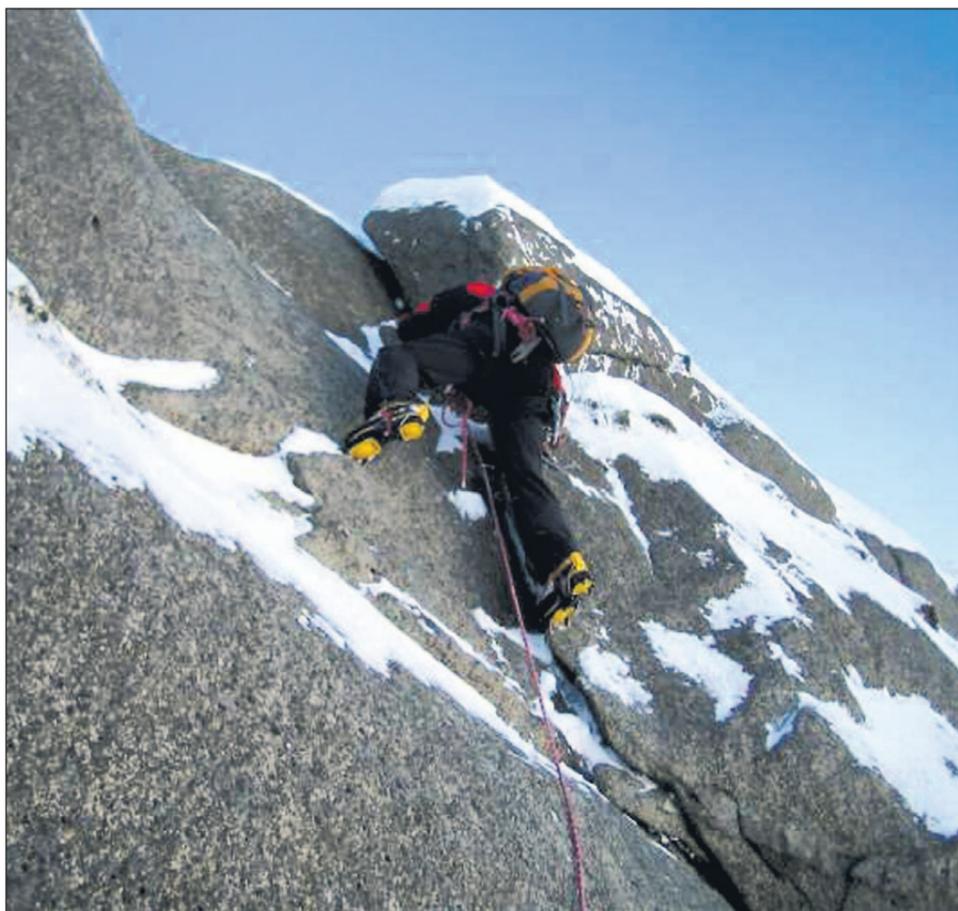
### Severe Danger

At this point the rope started to rise up the spike and with no-one on the belay I was in severe danger had I continued (pic 3), so I climbed up and fixed a new belay, from which I could suspend a Scottish Prop Forward, and made my way down.

Nerves in check I readied for the bicycle step chimney, the first part of the 'Mauvais Pas' section.

Darryl led in his usual voracious fashion, whilst I followed by gentler means only to find again that this ridge in winter

**Continued on Page 10**



Pic 4. David leading the climb from the Ledge to the Mauvais Pas section.



Pic 2. Darryl Urquart-Dixon makes the first abseil off buttress one.

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SC024915

# 'I felt myself being pulled away from the face toward the 100m drop below'

## Continued from Page 9

shares none of its summer hospitality.

Snow and haw-frosted rock aside, I managed to get my right crampon stuck in the chimney and had to lower myself down on one axe to lever it out with the other, then haul myself up until I could get some purchase with my feet.

I sat on the one-foot wide ledge looking down the 50m sheer face below thinking how utterly useless I felt. I blethered on about summer sun, vertical hot granite walls, sticky rock shoes and how I was made to go up; not down, sideways and in holes with unforgiving crampons on my feet! Darryl - in his element said: 'I don't do all that fancy dancing about on rock stuff, this is my kind of climbing!'

And with that, off he went up the ledge to the next belay under the vertical section (pic 4).

As I arrived at the belay, enjoying the exposure, Darryl asked if I was going to lead my usual bit. Absolutely; it was a perfect almost vertical climb up good rock with a few cracks for solid gear placement to protect me on the way.

## Continued

Clearing the snow out of the seams and flakes with my axe, about half way up I placed a good Cam (pic 5) and then continued up to the top to body belay Darryl behind me.

As soon as he arrived, looking at my Cheshire grin, he knew I'd redeemed myself.

Ahead, we crossed the 'Mauvais Pas' (Bad Step) with an abyss either side of the one-foot

wide hole, as we approached the chimney leading up the third buttress.

We cut our way up the steep 20m chimney, which often wet through summer, was surprisingly void of ice.

Instead, unconsolidated fresh snow often gave way under foot and the quartzite rich granite in this section broke repeatedly under the lightest axe placement (pic 6).

With little gear placement possible, it became hard work for both of us and at the top we could see our hands trembling with adrenaline from our battle with this unforgiving pitch.

We continued up the ridge toward the summit taking lines as conditions dictated, forgetting our prefixed ideas about the route from previous summer experiences.

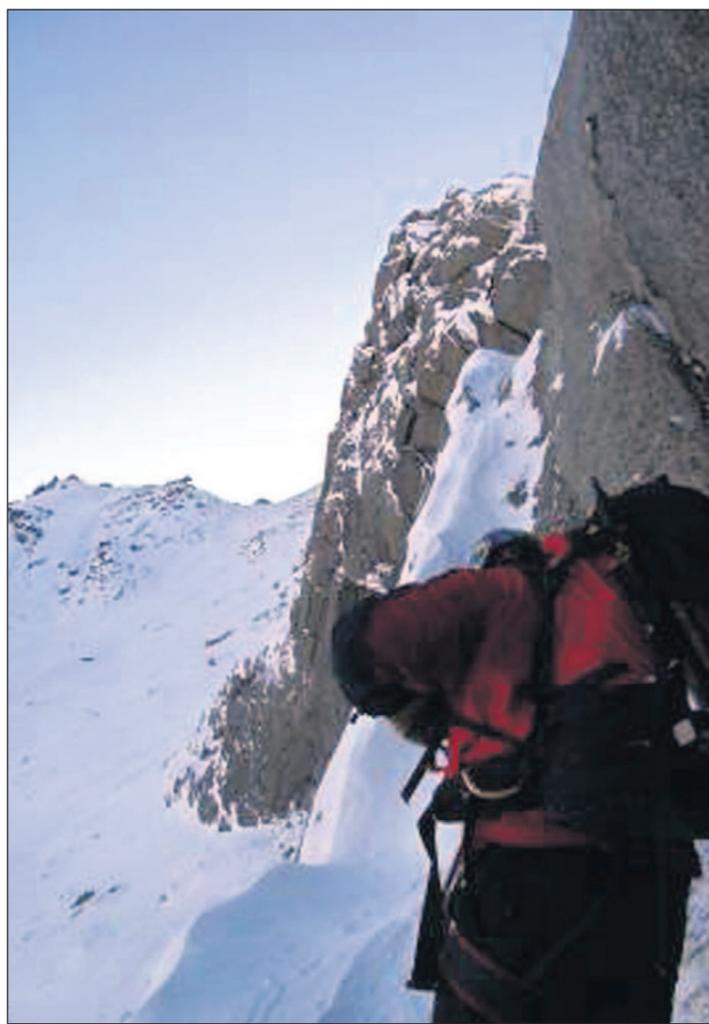
Topping out at 745m we considered our options seated in a wind free hole at the summit whilst tucking in to our lunch and some much needed hot brew.

## Agreed

At 2.30 pm we agreed to call it a day, we were both wearier than expected at this point and needed a further one and a half hours to complete the remaining third of the ridge plus the down time.

We took an exit route Darryl had previously used with Mountain Rescue, which leads to an outcropping crag directly east of the summit, from where we looked back at our work on the Ridge (pic 7), and then descended 300m down the northern slope to Coire Buidhe.

To remind us of how our day started out, we were just down in time to see a different array of colours as the sun set with the



Pic 3. Darryl moving up Mauvais Pas Ledge.



Pic 1. David Lilly climbing the first buttress at the north end of the A' Chir Ridge.

mountain tops ablaze with crimson.

We didn't feel beaten by the ridge, we felt privileged, perhaps accomplished to have achieved what we did on our first winter attempt.

## Experience

With this experience, no doubt we will be back to complete it another day, hopefully on some harder snow to assist progress.

A' Chir Ridge (north to south) in winter is possibly a Grade III or IV depending on conditions and a long haul; possibly a five to six hour traverse with good snow and weather conditions, plus the four hours to walk in and out.

A high level of endurance is a must and it bears no resemblance to the nature of the route in summer!

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Last week Archie was sitting in the driveway of the now-demolished Breadalbane Hotel in Kildonan. First correct answer was from Stuart of Cheshire. This week Archie is making his annual visit to see Santa Claus who wants to know if he has been good all year. We don't think so. But where is Santa's grotto? Do you know?  
02\_b52arc01





## Lamlash Christmas concert

Some familiar faces joined pupils at Lamlash Primary School on stage at the school's annual Christmas concert last Wednesday night in the community theatre.

Parents and friends of the school were invited to join in as they sang a selection of lovely festive songs to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. Photo Alex Ulivi

## Poles to identify no take zone

Line of sight poles that help vessels at sea identify the boundaries of the Lamlash No Take Zone (NTZ) are now being erected.

### Negotiations

After two years of negotiations, COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust) has moved closer to this important part of the implementation of Scotland's first NTZ thanks to the kind assistance of local landowners.

Two line of sight poles have been put up in Lamlash and a further two poles will be erected at the back of Holy Island at the 'Two Burns' as soon as the weather allows. While setting out the position of the boundary line from the back of Holy Island to Hamilton Rock, it was noted a set of commercial fishing pots had been placed inside the no-take area.

The name and identifica-

tion number were noted and passed onto the Marine Scotland Compliance in Campbeltown.

### Thank You

COAST wish to say a particular thank you Marine Scotland Compliance who funded the line of sight markers, and also to Arran Estates, Mr A Reid of Clauchlands Farm and the Holy Island Project for allowing the placement of these poles on their land.

# Christmas and New Year Message

From the Provost of North Ayrshire Council - Councillor Pat McPhee

It was a great honour for me to be appointed as Provost of North Ayrshire in June this year. And it was an even greater privilege to know that I was following in the footsteps of former Provost, Councillor Robert Rae, who did such a great job as the Civic Head of North Ayrshire.

During my first six months as Provost I have had the privilege to meet so many people in our communities who do so much work to help the less fortunate and vulnerable members of our society.

It amazes me that all of this hard work is carried out for no personal reward whatsoever to the many volunteers involved - other than the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped another person or their own community.

It has also been very reward-

ing to spend time with many of our young people and see for myself the incredible range of abilities and talents that exist within our communities.

It is for the reasons stated above that I am proud to call myself a citizen of North Ayrshire.

### Committed

I cannot ignore the challenges that 2010 has presented for North Ayrshire Council. We are facing tough financial pressures. However, as always, we are committed to providing essential services for the needy and vulnerable in our communities.

We started 2010 with snow and we are ending the year with more of the same. In spite of - or maybe even because of - the weather we have fostered a greater sense of community spirit where neighbours are

looking out for each other and friends and families are united.

On behalf of North Ayrshire Council I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



NAC Provost Pat McPhee. 02\_b52prv01

**THE ARRAN BANNER** - on holiday . . .

Since 'The Banner on Holiday' feature started more than a year ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

This week, Rachel Phillips of Sannox reads her Banner with her daughter Marianne at Broken Hill, Australia during a three-and-a-half day rail journey from Sydney to Perth on the Indian Pacific Railway. b12ban01

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# How traditional carol could have referred to the 12 birds of Christmas

## Bird Notes by Jim Cassels

Birds are very much associated with Christmas.

Robins are a favourite on Christmas cards, and turkey, geese and chickens are all feasted on.

The traditional carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' features an array of birds, most of which would have been eaten at this festive time.

There are many versions of the carol. First published in English in 1780, the carol is thought to originate from an

earlier French version. The pear tree referred to in verse one, it has been suggested, is perdris.

It is French for partridge and pronounced per-dree and was simply copied down incorrectly when the oral version of the carol was written down. If the 'partridge in a pear tree' is taken literally it is more likely to have been a Red-legged Partridge (French) which more readily perches in trees rather than the native Grey Partridge.

The Red-legged Partridge was successfully introduced into the UK around 1770.

The two Turtle Doves would have been unseasonal wild birds but could well have been caged and are known as emblems of devoted love. The three French hens probably refer to domestic fowl, a still popular food.

The four calling birds, it is suggested, refer to four colley birds. That is, four Blackbirds, colley meaning black.

You traditionally need 'four and twenty' for a pie but by the end of the carol you would have 30, six more than enough for a pie!

Five gold rings could refer to five 'gold spinks' or Goldfinches, another popular cage bird. Another interpretation is that it refers to ring necked birds such as pheasants, another popular table bird.

Six geese and seven swans refer to birds that would have been eaten at the time the carol was written.

In the later verses, could the drummers drumming be Common Snipe and the pipers piping be another



Red-legged partridge. b52bir01no

wader like a sandpiper or an Oystercatcher?

By the Twelfth Night the table would have been heaving with 12 partridges, 22 doves, 30 hens, 36 blackbirds, 40 pheasants, 42 geese, 42 swans etc etc., and after that I would be surprised if the lords would

have had energy for leaping or the maids for milking.

Have a good Christmas and enjoy your birding.

☐ Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot,

KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net.

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2009 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Blackbird. b52bir02no

## High school students organise party time for Arran Contact the Elderly group

Members of the Arran Contact the Elderly group enjoyed a festive treat last week when they attended a soup and sandwich lunch at the high school. The group praised the pupils at the school for putting on such a great party for the elderly people.

'We thoroughly enjoyed our outing,' said a member of the group. 'We think we are extremely lucky to have a high school that takes such an

interest in the older members of the community.'

The group was greeted by team leader Lisa Percy and her helpers, Nicola MacAlister, Kimberley Fleming, Bobbi Adamson and Michael Jenks, who whisked away the coats and led their guests to the hospitality suite.

Once seated at the festively decorated tables, the group was treated to mountains of food that included delicious

soup, sandwiches and sausage rolls before mince pies were served with tea and coffee.

While waiting for the entertainment they attempted Mrs Taylor's quiz – and were pleased to do a lot better this year.

A spokesman for the group said: 'Soon the piano was in place to accompany first Donald McEachern on clarinet followed by a song by Toni Mcphee. It was delightful.

'Next was the return of the popular duo Mr McLaren and Mr Bailey who always go down well with us. Before we knew it, it was time to leave, but first there was a surprise raffle of a Christmas cake made by Lisa which was won by Mary Davies.'

There was one more surprise – as they left they were all given a coaster with a picture of the Christmas table inside.

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**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Xmas Eve Disco 10pm Sat Bar open 12pm - 2.30pm only  
Sun Boxing Day Disco 10pm  
Tues Xmas Pop Quiz  
Thur 30th Seasonal General Knowledge Quiz  
Fri 31st Bar Closes 10pm

Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

# Recycling - Let's get it sorted this Christmas

During the festive season it is important to remember that Christmas is a time when waste in North Ayrshire is at its highest level.

More waste is produced over the festive period - such as wrapping paper, cardboard boxes, Christmas trees, old decorations, bottles and leftover food - and this often means that recycling is forgotten about and waste is simply bundled up into one bag and thrown away.

However, it is easier than ever to make sure that you keep up the good work which has enabled North Ayrshire residents to recycle 41 percent of our waste.

## Did you know?

- Over 1 billion Christmas cards are sent each year.
- We use around 750 million bottles and glass containers and 500 million drinks cans over the festive period.
- Over 7.5 million real Christmas Trees are bought every year.

*The frightening thing is that most of this could end up in our bins in the New Year.*

This year we are asking you to think seriously about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste not just over the festive period but to make this a choice for life.

- **Real Christmas Trees** - put out at the kerbside week commencing 17 January on your normal refuse collection day and our operatives will collect.
- **Use your blue bins** for recycling any paper, or cards that you dispose of over Christmas and the New Year (please do not include foil wrapping paper).
- **A lot more glass bottles and jars are used over the Christmas period.** Why not recycle at one of the many bottle banks across the Island.

## Christmas Uplift arrangements

Domestic refuse collections over the festive period will be as follows:

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 27 December 2010	Wednesday 29 December 2010
Tuesday 28 December 2010	Thursday 30 December 2010
Wednesday 29 December 2010	Friday 31 December 2010
Monday 3 January 2011	Wednesday 5 January 2011
Tuesday 4 January 2011	Thursday 6 January 2011
Wednesday 5 January 2011	Friday 7 January 2011

Offices will be closed on Monday 27 December, Tuesday 28 December and closed from 1pm on Friday 31 December 2010. Offices are also closed Monday 3 January and Tuesday 4 January 2011.

Any additional refuse can be taken to the local Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will be closed 25 - 28 December 2010 and 1 - 4 January 2011, but will be open as normal every other day.

Please place any large items of cardboard beside your blue wheeled bin on the day of collection. As in previous years the Cleansing Services will uplift Christmas trees for disposal. These should be placed beside the wheeled bin on the day of collection week commencing 17 January 2011.

Have a Happy and Environmentally Friendly Christmas!

## Reduce

- Say no to unwanted carrier bags when shopping - try to reuse your old ones;
- Avoid buying goods that have unnecessary packaging or try to buy food and drink packaged in materials that can be recycled;
- Buy drinks like lemonade in large containers, rather than lots of small ones; and
- Avoid using paper plates and cups if you are planning a party.

## Reuse

- Why not make gift tags from your old greetings cards;
- Pass any unwanted gifts to your local charity shop rather than throwing them away; and
- Buy rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.

## Recycle

### Blue wheeled bins

A lot of the waste created during the festive period can be recycled. Wrapping paper (no foil), cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and steel and aluminium cans should be recycled using your blue bin.

### Glass bottles and jars

Glass bottles can be recycled at one of the many bottle banks across the Island.

### Electrical goods

Many people will have small electrical items such as straighteners, hairdryers and white goods to replace during the festive period. All electrical items can be disposed of at the Transfer Station.

### Food waste

Food is a huge part of the Christmas celebration. However, it is often the case that a lot of good food goes to waste. When you are preparing meals make sure that you aren't making lots more than you expect to serve - although there is always room for some second helpings.

Everyone has experience of turkey sandwiches for days after Christmas, but there are plenty of recipes which can utilise those leftovers in a far more creative way. Pick up some tips at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com).

Check this out [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

LOVE FOOD hate waste

We'll recycle your Christmas cards

## Special Uplift arrangements

Special uplifts will be suspended from 24 December 2010 and will start again week beginning 10 January 2011.

**Councillor Tom Barr, Portfolio Holder for the Environment, said:**

*"Over the Christmas and New Year period recycling becomes even more important as we produce much more waste at this time of year.*

*"Thanks to everyone who plays a part in protecting our environment."*

## Transfer Station

Site	Location	Fluorescent & Energy Saving Lighbulbs	Glass	Cans	Paper	Plastic Bottles	Cardboard	Textiles	Rubble	Electrical Appliances & TVs	White Goods	Metal	Household Batteries
Brodick	Market Road	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Reduce Reuse Recycle  
towards zero waste



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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Sunday 26 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**  
 First Mass of Christmas  
 Friday 9pm  
 Christmas Morning Mass 11am  
 Sunday Morning Mass 11am

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 (in full communion with the Church of England)  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Friday 24 December**  
 Midnight Mass  
 11.30 pm.  
 Mr John Roberts.  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 Holy Communion 11am.  
 Mrs Janis Gallagher  
 Coffee after service  
**Wednesday 29 December**  
 Holy Communion 12.15pm.  
 ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SC015072)**  
 Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Friday 24 December**  
 Rev Gillean Maclean  
 Kilmory 9pm  
 Lamlash 11.30pm  
**Saturday 25 December**  
 Kilmory 11.30am  
 Lamlash 10am  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 Kilmory 10am  
 Lamlash 11.30am  
 In both churches:  
 Service of Lessons and Carols  
 All welcome, including families; children's area  
 All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 Morning Service 11am  
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service 7pm  
 13 Glen Avenue, Brodick  
 Rev.D.N.Macleod  
 All welcome  
**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
 Ormidale Pavilion  
 Brodick.  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 No Service

**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

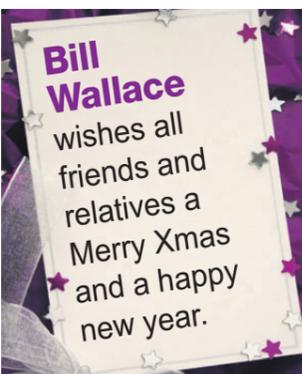
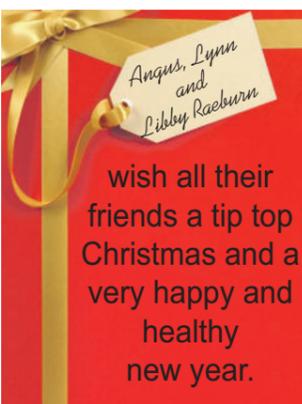
**Friday 24 December**  
 Corrie Church 9pm  
 Brodick Church 11.30pm  
 Shiskine Church 11.20pm  
**Saturday 25 December**  
 Lochranza Church 11am  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 Brodick Church 11.30am  
 Corrie Church 12pm  
 Lochranza/Pirmill 10.15am at Pirmill.  
 Service of Praise and Readings  
 A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (SC014005)**

**Friday 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 Arran Riding for the Disabled.  
**Saturday 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. Everyone most welcome. Offering will go to Arran Riding for the Disabled.  
**Sunday 26 December**  
 A service of praise and readings will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome

**MEMORIAMS**

**KENNY CRAIG**  
 Died 27 December 2009, aged 36  
 Deeply loved, sorely missed.  
 Forever in our thoughts  
 Lots of love Mum, Dad and Bryan



**Whats on** ISLE OF ARRAN  
 in association with Isle of Arran Brewery  
**www.arranbrewery.com** Tel: 01770 302353

**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

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

**SATURDAY 25th 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

**WEDNESDAY 29th 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

**SUNDAY 26th 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  
 Quiz Catacol Bay Hotel, 9pm  
 Boxing Day Dook Lamlash Pier, 2pm

**THURSDAY 30th DECEMBER**

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm  
 Arran Music & Drama 'Sweeney 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

**MONDAY 27th 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

**FRIDAY 31st 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  
 Ladies Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Mens Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Rockmanay 2010 with Live Music Whiting Bay Hall, 10pm - 3am  
 Hogmanay Hoolie with DJ Alan Little Lamlash Golf Club, 9pm - 1am

**TUESDAY 28th 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 Movemenet. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm

**SATURDAY 1st JANUARY**

New Years Day Ceilidh Brodick Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm  
 New Year Dance Kildonan Hall, 10pm - late



To appear in Whats On telephone the Arran Banner 01770 302142

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# RECRUITMENT

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with all services and full planning permission.  
Lovely land and see views

*Open to offers.*

Tel 01770 870269

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**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**

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**  
**SECOND HAND DEALER LICENCES**

North Ayrshire Council gives notice that it intends to make a resolution in terms of Section 9 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, to amend its list of second hand goods the sale of which requires a licence, so as to exclude the sale of Assisted Living Aids which are only sold for the use of disabled people (including Second Hand Mobility Scooters, Powerchairs and Manual Wheelchairs).

Representations about this resolution must be made in writing to the Chief Legal Officer, North Ayrshire Council, Licensing Section, Town House, 66 High Street, Irvine, KA12 0AZ, to be received no later than **Friday 21 January 2011**.

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

Domestic refuse collections over the festive period will be as follows:

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 27 December 2010	Wednesday 29 December 2010
Tuesday 28 December 2010	Thursday 30 December 2010
Wednesday 29 December 2010	Friday 31 December 2010
Monday 3 January 2011	Wednesday 5 January 2011
Tuesday 4 January 2011	Thursday 6 January 2011
Wednesday 5 January 2011	Friday 7 January 2011

Offices will be closed on Monday 27, Tuesday 28 and from 1pm on 31 December 2010. Offices are also closed on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 January 2011.

Any additional refuse can be taken to the local Transfer Station. The Transfer Station will be closed 25 - 28 December 2010 and 1 - 4 January 2011, but will be open as normal every other day.

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 17 January 2011.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**



Find us on **facebook**

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Arran Youth Foundations  
**AGM**  
**Saturday**  
**15th January 2011**  
**11am**  
Auchrannie Spa Hotel  
*All welcome*

**BANNER**  
PUBLIC NOTICES  
**BANNER**  
PUBLIC NOTICES

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

## ARRAN PROPERTY

Among the Rental Services we offer: -

- Tenant Finder Service -
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If you prefer to manage your rental directly, you can still use our Rent Check Service for a detailed tenant history and valuable peace of mind.



The young riders and their horses in festive mood at Cairnhouse last Saturday.

## Fancy dress festive fun at Blackwaterfoot

Christmas came early at Cairnhouse stables in Blackwaterfoot last Saturday.

Dawn MacAlister's weekly class of young riders met for a special festive fancy dress

and games day.

Both riders and horses braved the cold weather and

snow on a bright sunny day. And the highlight of the afternoon was a visit from Santa.

## Tight at the top as just three points separate top five teams

The results from Thursday, December 16, were as follows: teamGoil (G) 5 Bar Eden 5, Catacol 6 Mac's Bar 4 (G), Drift (G) 8 Kildonan 2, PT1934 5 PHT 5 (G).

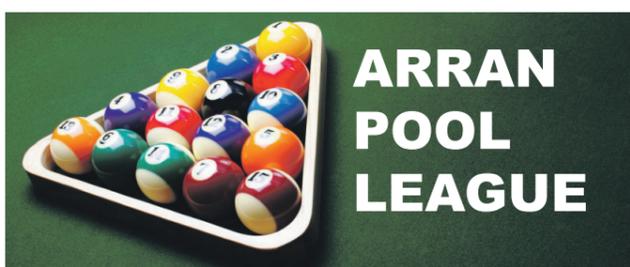
The next league games will be played on Thursday, January 6, when Bar Eden take on PT1934, Catacol play Kildonan, teamGoil play Mac's Bar and the PHT take on Bar Eden B.

The Drift Inn have a bye. The draw for the first round of the singles matches has been competed.

All matches should be played on or by Sunday, January 16, at 8pm.

The winner should phone the PHT on 600418 with results. The draw is as follows: B

McLaren (Mac's) v S Kilpatrick (PT) at Drift, S Pringle (Eden) v P Stewart (PHT) at the Drift, K Jackson (Eden B) v A Jeffrey (Cat) at Mac's, S McGovern (Eden) v D Bell (Cat) at Mac's, L Little (PHT) v J McKechnie (Goil) at Bar Eden, M Worthington (PT) v T Mulholland (PT) at Kildonan, J Green (Mac's) v J Ainsworth (Goil) at PHT, B McCallum (Cat) v D Hackett (Eden) at Mac's, B Lewis (Cat) v F Barr (Eden) at Mac's, B Hamilton (Eden B) v J Picken (PT) at Kildonan, D Head (Eden) v M Brobson (PHT) at the Drift, S Scott (Drift) v H Driver (Kildonan) at Bar Eden, E Ingram (Eden) v P McKinnon (Cat) at Mac's, B Banbury (Kildonan) v E Picken (PT) at Bar Eden.



### League standings after December 16 results:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Bar Eden	7	4	1	2	14
PT1934	7	4	1	2	14
Catacol	7	4	2	1	13
Eden B	7	4	3	0	12
PHT	7	3	2	2	11
Drift	8	2	3	3	9
Mac's	7	2	5	0	6
TeamGoil	7	1	3	3	6
Kildonan	7	1	5	1	4

## Bridge players tuck into latest contests

### Brodick Bridge Club

Twenty-eight members enjoyed a superb Christmas Dinner at Brodick Golf Club on Thursday, December 16.

The results for the evening were: N/S 1 A Bilsland and E McNiven +3010, 2 T Martin and J McArthur +2550, 3 J Barclay and L Trickett +1780.

E/W 1 B Livingstone and M Cummings +130, 2 J McClure and M Gardner -800, 3 D Scobie and F Crawford -990. Bridge will resume at 7.15pm on Thursday, January 6, in Brodick Golf Clubhouse.

### Lamlash Bridge Club

The results from Monday, December 20, were as follows: N/S 1 E McNiven and E Paul +770, 2 I McArthur and E McKellar -1220, 3 M McGill and L Trickett -2540.

E/W 1 J Barclay and J McArthur +1670, 2 A Bilsland and T Martin +1480, 3 B Livingstone and M Gardner +890.

We hope all of our members have a very happy Christmas and wish them a happy, healthy 2011.

Weather permitting, the club will resume its meetings on Monday, January 3.

## Ron takes Winter Cup with a 63

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Results: Tuesday 14 December Winter Cup. 1 Ron Woods 63, 2 David Price 67, 3 Elizabeth Ross 70 bih. Scratch David Price 74,

Fixtures: Tuesday 28 December Two club competition played over nine holes (remember, one club and a putter). Tee off noon.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday 19 December. The match with Lamlash was postponed and will now be played in January.



Fixtures: Sunday 26 December, Christmas Bottle. Sunday 2 January, 9 hole Cross Country Competition.

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### NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran  
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021  
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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - [www.abc.org.uk](http://www.abc.org.uk). The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009 was 3,172. The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.