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## Arran Banner Christmas gift guide

*Your guide to the  
best Christmas gifts  
that Arran has to  
offer for 2017*

# Budget cutbacks see fewer forest paths maintained

**Colin Smeeton**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Cash cuts will see fewer forest paths on Arran being regularly maintained, it has been revealed.

Budgetary restraints at the Forestry Commission means there is less money available to spend on path maintenance. Following the meeting in which the environmental panel investigated the viability of the trails on Arran, a decision had to be made on how the limited resources could best be used.

The outcome of the meeting is that popular trails at Giant's Graves, Glenashdale Falls, Dyemill, Glenricard, King's Cave, the Fallen Rocks at North Sannox and one trail at Brodick Castle will be fully maintained, promoted and way-marked.

However, this will be at the expense of some of the other more minor routes under Forestry Commission care which will, in fu-

ture, be marked in a more low key manner and receive less promotion. They will be used to highlight the link with communities and other routes around the island.

One of the strains on the forestry budget, managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland, is that paths which are created under one off government and community schemes eventually fall on them to maintain.

A Forest Enterprise spokesman said: 'We had a very positive meeting with the environment panel on Arran to explain how we intend to continue promoting and developing what recreation facilities we offer on Arran. Part of this is how we tie in with others to help visitors explore other parts and attractions on the island.'

'Our research shows that visitor numbers to the island are increasing, however the demographic is also

Continued on page 4

## A sparkle of soul



The Soul Choir help to get everyone into the Christmas spirit as they perform a selection of carols and songs at Santa's Sparkle which, despite the weather, proved a resounding success. Full report pages 2 and 3. 01\_B48soul01

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# Santa's Sparkle has a



Santa arrives atop the Mogabout. 01\_B48sparkle03

### Words and photographs by Hugh Boag

The weather could have been kinder to the first community Santa's Sparkle last Saturday. But that did not stop the Lamlash community as well as people from across the island and the mainland coming out in their droves to support the event.

Two big marquees on Lamlash green, together with the church hall, were the venue for the events throughout the day and repeat-

ed downpours failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those taking part.

Top of the bill was Santa's grotto which attracted long queues all day in the church hall. But there was also musical entertainment throughout the day, a wide variety of stalls, a bustling Christmas market and outdoor games – including two runs of the colour run – all of which kept children and adults amused.

The day began with the appearance of San-



Santa and his Elf helper meets children in his grotto. 01\_B48sparkl405

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Members of the Arran Brass Band brave the driving rain to perform at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. 01\_B48sparkle12



The Soul Choir entertain a packed 01\_B48sparkle08



Heather Queen Alyssa McGarrie leads the parade. 01\_B48sparkle02

# real community spirit

ta at the pier atop the Mogabout followed by the traditional parade along the main street led by Lamlash Heather Queen Alys-sa McGarrie in an open-top car, followed by members of the Arran Viking Longship Society in full regalia.

### Finale

The day ended with traditional Christmas carols by the Arran Brass Band in the rain followed by the Heather Queen switching on the community Christmas tree lighting and a

fireworks display before the wet crowd headed into a finale with the Taiko Drummers performing in the marquee.

It was the first time community group Lamlash Events had organised the day and members were pleased with how it all went, although a few changes will be made if it goes ahead next year.

One supporter on social media said: 'It was a great event, with great planning. Well done for putting this together.'



Members of the Arran Viking Longship Society who entertained on the day, l to r, the Rev Adrian Fallows, Stephen Sparshott, Fiona Short and Ben Jay. 01\_B48sparkle01



Two little children don't know what to make of meeting Santa. 01\_B48sparkle06



marquee with Christmas songs.



Fireworks light up the night sky after the Christmas tree is lit. 01\_B48sparkle11

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# MBE for Dr John McLure

The man who looked after a generation of children in Ayrshire and Arran recently received his MBE at Buckingham Palace following his award in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Retired consultant paediatrician John McLure, 73, is now chairman of the Scottish Cot Death Trust and a regular visitor to Arran as he has a house in Corrie.

Dr McLure started as a junior doctor at Seafeld Hospital, Ayr, in October 1970 and returned as a consultant in 1975. He remained there until services were transferred to Seafeld Wing at the new Ayr Hospital in 1991.

Over the years Dr McLure treated thousands of youngsters, many of whom actually looked forward to seeing him and discovering what pattern would be on his bow tie that day.

He became a trustee of the Scottish Cot Death Trust

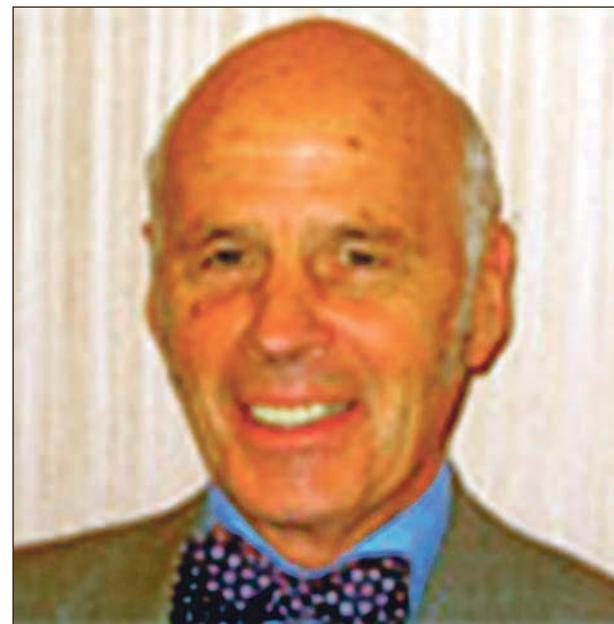
in 1991 and took over the chair in 2002. Dr McLure kept a focus on sudden infant death ever since the first Scottish surveys were conducted in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

He was also concerned with ensuring that good support for bereaved families was available across Scotland, and is recognised as a driving force in establishing a system of case reviews of sudden unexpected infant death.

### Leading role

As a paediatrician he was involved in major transformations in children's health, taking a leading role in developing services for cystic fibrosis, children's cancer and neonatal services in Ayrshire.

Since retirement he has enthusiastically continued as not only as the major player in the Scottish Cot Death Trust but also in campaigning on the risks



Dr John McLure was awarded an MBE recently.

and consequences of maternal alcohol consumption in pregnancy (foetal alcohol spectrum).

Dr McLure is an active campaigner on sudden unexpected death in infancy. He and colleagues at the Scottish Cot Death Trust are hosting an international conference on SIDS, stillbirth and baby survival in Glasgow next year, the first

time this event has come to Scotland.

Lynsay Allan, executive director of the Scottish Cot Death Trust, said: 'Dr McLure gives of his time and energy so generously. The fact that he has done so for so many years, ably supported by his wife Jean, is testament to his dedication to help children and their families across Scotland.'

## Cutbacks see fewer forest paths maintained

Continued from page 1 changing with more older people coming to Arran. We need to ensure that what we offer matches the expectations of these visitors as well as local people. 'We need to use our resources carefully and this could mean less promotion of some trails while focusing our attention on promoting the most popular trails that people are most likely to use.

'Once felling has completed at a number of forests, we aim to commence a programme of improvements at key walks on the island.



The start of the Dyemill path at Lamlash which has escaped the chop. 01\_B48path01

'We will also continue to work closely with local groups such as Visit-Arran, the Access Trust

and the community council to keep our promotional messages relevant and how you can access Arran's

forests on a wider scale.' As part of the programme of improvements the zigzag path at the Giant's Grave will receive a considerable amount of investment and improvement along with the nearby Glenashdale trail.

The Forestry Commission first came to Arran in 1950 and, on behalf of the people of Scotland, owns and manages about a quarter of the island, 11,000 hectares. Other than managing these forests, which were planted with sitka spruce that has now reached maturity, it also manages more than a dozen trails around Arran.

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## The Rock Pool

The Rock Pool is closing on 24th December

Until then it is business as usual with books and sundries 1/2 price.

Many thanks to all our customers who have supported us over the years.

NB: Ailsa is not retiring and her work can be seen at Bunty's in the meantime and other outlets in the New Year.

Anyone needing to contact Ailsa can email: [ailsa.mcnicol@btinternet.com](mailto:ailsa.mcnicol@btinternet.com)

# Back to basics for Sinbad pantomime

The Arran pantomime is going back to basics this year – oh yes, it is!

It has an Arabian theme as it takes us on *Sinbad's Desert Adventure* a panto the Lamlash Drama Group and friends presented a number of years ago, this time with a few additions.

This will be the club's 37th panto, starting with *Aladdin* back in 1981, and after the success of last year's *Beauty and the Beast*, which was a diversion from the typical 'panto', the group has decided to revert to true panto this year and perhaps alternate the styles yearly.

But it has not been all plain sailing as director/producer Maureen Smith

explained: 'Sadly we had to reshuffle the cast only three weeks ago due to one of our members having to pull out unexpectedly and we shall miss her very much, but she'll be back next time I'm sure.'

'This caused a major headache but as they say "the show must go on", and after a few frantic reshuffles, we got there and will be ready to go in two weeks time.'

'I always say this is the last time, but they won't let me stop. The youngsters love taking part even though it's an adult club, and we just keep going year in year out.'

'It's a real team effort and I am always grateful



A scene from the very first Lamlash Drama Club panto *Aladdin* in 1981 from the Banner archive.

to everyone who helps in whatever capacity,' Maureen added.

The panto will be held in the community theatre, Lamlash on three nights from Thursday December

14 to Saturday December 16 at 7.30pm. There will also be a Saturday matinee at 2pm.

Tickets are only on sale at the KA Campus at Arran High School today and

tomorrow (Saturday December 2 and Sunday December 3), and December 9 and 10, from 10am to 2pm. They will then be on sale at the door before performances.

## Join the art trail

Following the success of the first 12 months of the year-round Arran Art Trail, the organisers would like to invite any artists, photographers or crafts people who are interested in joining the trail to contact them.

The aim of the trail is to promote Arran's arts and crafts all year round and to enhance the annual Open Studios weekend which takes place every August. The feedback from visitors to the island during the first year was excellent and Trail members look forward to welcoming even more visitors to island studios next year as the word spreads.

The successful Arran Open Studios event, offering many more studios to visit, will run from August 10-14, 2018.

Further information and details can be obtained by email at [arranarttrail@gmail.com](mailto:arranarttrail@gmail.com) or telephone Ann Hume on 07975 589432 or Angela Elliott Walker on 01770 303906.

## Shop Arran extravaganza is here

Shoppers and those looking to secure festive bargains are in for a treat this weekend as Shop Arran begins today (Friday) with a host of discounts deals and surprises at participating stores.

The 25 stores taking part, which range from jewellery makers to home hardware and clothing, and everything in between, including foodstuff, gifts and artwork, are all offering various promotions ranging from free gifts to generous discounts.

In addition to the bargains on offer, three winners who have their Shop Arran cards stamped by six of the stores taking part can enter a competition to win three Ar-

ran cards preloaded with credit, which can be used in the vast majority of shops on Arran.

### Three winners

In previous years luxury hampers were up for grabs, however this year three winners can use the cards for spending on whatever they choose, be it in restaurants, shops or even accommodation on the island.

Shop Arran runs until close of business on Sunday. Check last week's *Banner* for full details of participating outlets, which will also have posters and signs to show they are taking part.

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Some of the volunteers who helped serve the soup and sandwiches.

### Super support for Dr Graham's Homes

Considering the dreich weather, what wonderful support the soup and sandwiches lunch, in support of Dr Graham's Homes, enjoyed at Brodick church hall on Saturday. People arrived continually until closing time to sample the delicious soup, sandwiches, chat and partake in the fabulous raffle.

Group leader, the Rev John Webster, was missing but his loyal team coped in his absence. Many thanks to the Friends of Kalimpong and their faithful supporters who helped raise the amazing sum of £818. This amount is almost enough to support a child at DGH for one year, making it a very rewarding day.

# Lamlash toilets are taken over

The future of the Lamlash public toilets has been secured.

Lamlash Improvements has taken over a temporary lease of the rundown toilet block at the pier and hopes to have them open as soon as possible.

They were opened for a single day last weekend for Santa's Sparkle and now the Lamlash Improvements Toilet Committee is working to get them open over the winter months, with a full opening in the spring.

Councillor Timothy Billings, who is also chairman of Lamlash Improvements, said: 'Once we have got a few things sorted, like a suitable lock, we will pub-

licise the opening. The council has painted the inside of the toilet, and there have already been some other repairs carried out by local tradespeople, so a big thanks to them, as well as the members of the toilet committee.'

He said initially the previous ladies' toilet would be converted into a unisex block, which also had disabled access. He said the gents was in a much worse state and required a remedial roof repair to stop the building getting any worse which, he said, was the first priority.

Councillor Billings told Arran Community Council this week that the long-

term aim was to complete a community asset transfer of the toilets block.

He also said Lamlash Improvements was trying to gain charity status which would allow it access to grants which could help it develop the toilets block

in the future. He said that once it had charity status there were 'all sorts of things we can do'.

Councillor Billings also said they were pressing ahead with a community asset transfer for three of the village swing parks.

## Lamlash carol concert will be a musical treat

The annual Arran carol concert will again feature more than 100 singers and musicians to launch the island's Christmas celebrations on Monday night.

The concert this year aims to bring people together and there are quite a number of unique combinations where singers and musicians are performing together.

The Arran Orchestra again features the strings of Arco, the high school woodwind players and, of course, Arran Brass, who will also play with the Isle of Arran Pipe Band. Mez-

zo soprano Frances Coyle sings, with Mandy Hunter on clarsach and Alice Maxwell on fiddle.

The Arran Soul Choir and the Trumpet Quartet appear for the first time and the singing group Vivace and Music Matters make a welcome return.

The addition of the Lamlash church organ will ensure a memorable combination of instruments. The concert is on Monday December 4, at 7.30pm at Lamlash Church and is in aid of CLIC Sargent, which provides support for young people with cancer.

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# Pupils join world's biggest sleep-out

Four pupils from Arran High School face a cold night exposed to the elements next weekend when they take part in the largest sleep-out in the world, to raise awareness about homelessness.

The girls are joining Sleep in the Park, which is expected to attract up to 9,000 participants, including First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and actor and comedian John Cleese, which is being in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh.

The event is being organised by Social Bite, a Scottish social enterprise which is working to eradicate homelessness over a five-year period.

The four students – Rachel

Janse Van Rensburg, Jessica Miller, Lauren Robertson and Louise Shankland – will be sleeping outside without shelter to simulate what homeless people have to experience every night.

For them, winter is an especially hard time as at night they often have little or no shelter and insufficient means to keep warm. The event is hoping to raise £4 million which will go towards temporary housing.

The students are very excited to be part of something which will have such a big impact on people's lives and are hoping to raise at least £250 in sponsorship. They have been planning several fundraisers, in-



The four Arran girls facing a cold night, but it is for a good cause.

cluding a raffle at parents' night. Anyone who would like to contribute to this

cause can visit: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) and go to the school Sleep in the

Park page. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

## Market report

Untied Auctions had forward 7,127 store lambs and feeding sheep at their sale in Stirling on Monday November 27.

Leading prices were: store lambs – Cnoc (TexX) £71; Craighdu (TexX) £66; Springfield (TexX) £64; Creagrainech (TexX) £62; Auchenhew (TexX) £62; Bloomfield (TexX) £52; Drumnaghinier (SuffX) £64; Creagrainech (SuffX) £63; Auchenhew (SuffX) £62.50; Sheddock (SuffX) £56.50; Creagrainech (Mule) £51; North Sannox (BF) £33; Ceither Gaoithe (Cross) £46.

Ewes – Ardbheinn (TexX) £82; Bridge (BF) £34; Sheddock (BF) £25. Tups – Springfield (Tex) £70.

## Club draw winners

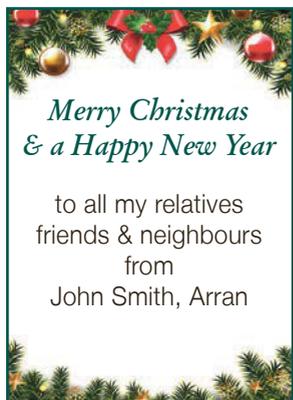
The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club October draw were: first prize Jane Nichol and second prize Eileen McAllister.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

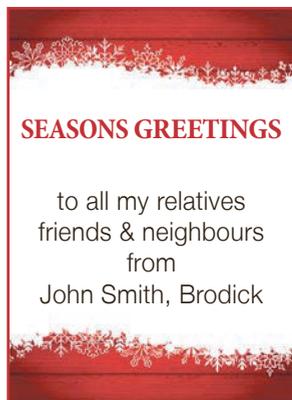
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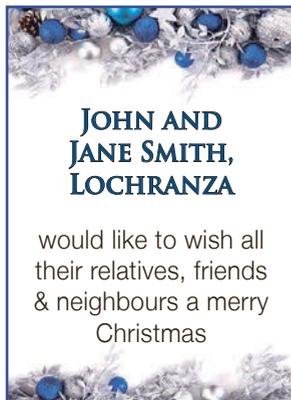
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## Editorial

### Forests for all

Any cutbacks in forest path maintenance have to be disappointing.

The Forestry Commission has been looking at the situation on Arran for some time and has come up with a plan which will see more resources thrown at the most popular paths, at the expense of those which are more off the beaten track, as it were.

And we can see where the FC, and the Forest Enterprise management, are coming from.

These are island assets which must be maintained at all costs for the enjoyment of both visitors and islanders, a lot of whom are not getting any younger.

They argue too that their tight resources are being stretched beyond their limit by fact that they are left to pick up the maintenance of paths which have been funded through government or other sources, and with that we too have some sympathy.

What we do not want to see, however, are more minor paths, which maybe don't have the footfall of say Glenashdale Falls, becoming overgrown and forgotten and leaving previous accessible parts of the island to become, virtually, out of bounds.

We are sure it is a difficult juggling act but it is must all be part of managing Arran's forests for everyone.

#### Thought for the week

'Prepare a road for the Lord through the wilderness, clear a highway across the desert for our God. Thus shall the glory of the Lord be revealed' (Isaiah 40:3).

### True cost of alcohol

Sir,

At last the Scottish Government's minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol will be law and I hope it will be effective.

But it would appear there is going to be another cost, this time to Arran's environment, with the Isle of Arran Distillery's proposal to discharge untreated distillery effluent and trade effluent directly into the sea around Arran's coast.

It proposes to do this next to Lennymor, which is a designated as a National Scenic Area (NSA). Into this NSA it is proposed to build a pumping station the size of a domestic garage, whose diesel generator will be running up to six hours a day to discharge two 30,000-litre tankers (60,000 litres per day) which will be parked next to the pump house.

The proposed hardcore turning area for the tankers is of a size that will easily accommodate the 15 to 20 campervans which it will inevitably attract. The effluent volume applied to be discharged is just over 20 million litres per year. This is an annual equivalent to one and a half times the domestic waste of the village of Lochranza into this pristine environment.

Surely this project should be 'called in' by the Scottish Government to re-examine this proposal and once again look at the minimum price Arran's environment should pay before this ill-considered project industrialises one of Arran's last accessible wilderness areas forever.

Yours,

**Donald Mackelvie,  
Macneish,  
Lamlash.**

### Double the discharge

Sir,

Why is it that everyone else is supposed to be looking after our seashore, but Arran Distillery is given a free hand to pump its effluent straight into the sea by local planners.

The castle spit in Lochranza is already coated regularly in scum, which makes the gravel shore dirty and difficult to walk and, being one of our main tourist attractions, it doesn't go down well.

Who is being paid to monitor our beach anyway? There are times when it's possible to shovel the scum off the surface of the water on a rising tide. Could this possibly be coming from material already being spread on the land and being washed into our rivers?

Unlike further up the west coast, we have very little tidal movement, one to two knots compared to, for example, sea areas around Islay and Jura having seven to eight knots.

With plans for another distillery to be built at the south of the island, does that mean further effluent will be brought to the north end to be disposed of, potentially doubling the amount discharged to 120,000 litres per day? Another beauty spot ruined. What next?

Yours,

**Innes Murchie,  
Lochranza.**

### What a farce

Sir,

Your article on the new ferry, together with the letters' page, made interesting reading last week.

Following that came the failure of the Caledonian Isles to sail for most of Friday, and the apparently mixed messages issued

about the likelihood or otherwise of any service that day, and one can only say: 'What a farce!'

Little seems to be said in favour of the new terminal at Brodick, while the continuing problem of berthing in Ardrossan remains unaddressed by port authorities, and, indeed, CalMac, whose new ship for the service is even bigger than the present one, and which may find entering Ardrossan harbour even more problematic.

Will this new larger ferry also have to take refuge overnight in Brodick every time winds gust above 30 knots, which is hardly exceptionally strong? It looks as though Arran will continue to be served by ships and ports, not to mention a ferry operator, which are not fit for the purpose.

And its coming into service will be delayed by mistakes/problems while it was being built – yet more incompetence.

I understand that much is being made of the new environmentally friendly feeling of the new ferry, but I have read that there is no facility in Scotland to provide/produce this new fuel, so there will be more air pollution involved in road tankers bring the fuel to Ardrossan.

Yours,

**Douglas Hamilton,  
Lamlash.**

### Seas not for sale

Sir,

In response to last week's article entitled 'Seas around Arran are not for sale', I support Arran constituents who are concerned about the potential expansion of St Molio's fish farm in Lamlash Bay. As accurately reported last week, I am opposed to such an expansion, as is Patricia Gibson MP. We have both written

to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Roseanna Cunningham MSP, cabinet secretary for environment, climate change and land reform, to make our position clear.

However, I was surprised by some of the content and the tone of last week's article. Given that such an application has not yet been received by SEPA, I think it is inappropriate and misguided to call for anyone to consult on an application which does not yet exist.

I was particularly concerned to read that '... participants could not understand how the same Scottish government that recognised in 2016 how special Arran's waters and sea-beds were – by enforcing a Marine Protected Area with seagrass meadows and maerl beds – is now considering allowing 1,000 tons of salmon sewage, including toxic chemicals, to go into Lamlash Bay untreated.'

The Scottish government is categorically not considering the above, because there has been no new application received and it has not yet been given the opportunity to consider the matter one way or another.

To monitor whether or not an application has been made, you can visit the following SEPA webpage: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Of course, if the Scottish Salmon Company does lodge an application, any islander can make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days. I would encourage everyone with an interest in this issue to make their views known.

Yours,

**Kenneth Gibson MSP,  
Cunningham North.**

## How to contact us

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## Press policy

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

THE EDITOR welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

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# Glamping site of the year award

A second Arran campsite was among the winners in the recent AA Caravan and Camping Awards 2018.

Runach Arainn in Kilmory was named glamping site of the year, the second Arran campsite to win an award, after Seal Shore won small campsite of the year, as reported in last week's *Banner*.

Brexit and the fall in the value of the pound are said to have helped contribute to the rise of glamping and luxury options available, helping to ensure these

camping and caravanning sites remain firm family favourites for holiday destinations. More and more sites now provide the likes of luxury yurts and huts, in addition to the more traditional family holiday options.

### Superb

The judges said: 'Runach Arainn, Gaelic for "Secret Arran", lives up to its name – three superb Scottish-made, 20ft-diameter yurts hidden away in a quiet and beautiful part of the Isle of Arran, just

a 15-minute walk from a lovely beach on the southern shore of this magical island. Access is via a quiet lane, which is a riot of wild flowers and flowering hawthorn in spring, providing the perfect introduction to Runach Arainn.

'It's a successful delivery of glamping style. The very high quality and spacious yurts have furnishings and fittings that create the rustic romance of camping, while the private bathrooms add creature comfort that is an essential component of a



One of the Runach Arrain yurts in Kilmory. 01\_B48glamp01

truly exceptional glamping experience.

'Fire pits and outdoor cooking facilities enhance rustic charm and appeal of the place.

'The yurts sit within a developing forest garden that the owners have created, and the purchase of neighbouring woodland has further expanded and

improved this true rural idyll. With chickens, geese, ducks and now beehives in the new wooded area, this is a true return to nature that's very much in tune with yurt living.'

Owner Pippa Downing said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have won this award and to have two winners on Arran covering

camping and glamping is just brilliant.'

All winners will feature in the 50th anniversary edition of the AA Caravanning and Camping Guide.

In another win for Arran, Cruickshanks Boutique B&B in Whiting Bay has been awarded 5 AA gold stars for its 'amazing hospitality'.

**Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems: UPDATE NOV 2017**



**FACT 1**  
If you have electric storage heaters, an oil, electric or LPG boiler the Government will pay you up to £11680\* to change over to an air source heat pump system which is more efficient, can be less costly to run and is kinder to the environment.

**FACT 2**  
The Scheme called The Renewable Heat Incentive is available for home owners, landlords and businesses.

**FACT 3**  
The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint. **Want to find out more and see how much you could reduce your energy costs by? Simply give us a ring today and speak to one of our friendly, fully qualified Domestic Energy Assessors. We are an award winning specialised installer of the Mitsubishi Ecodan range of air source heat pumps throughout Scotland. Talk to qualified heating engineers and Domestic Energy Assessors who are passionate about their craft and not pushy sales people.**

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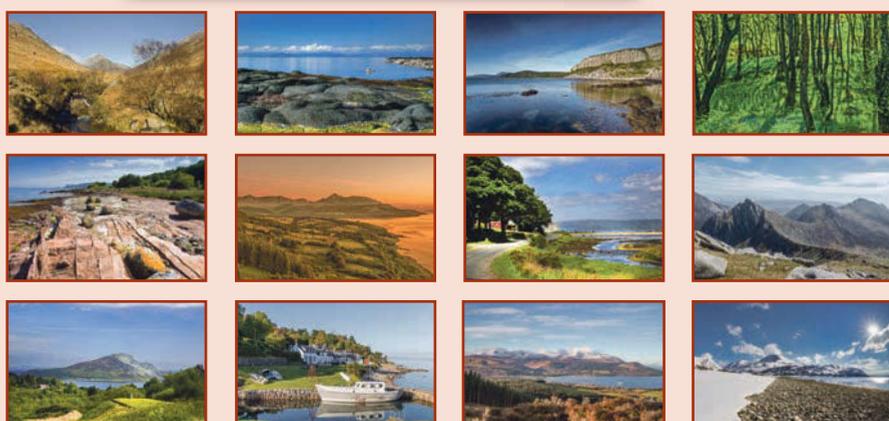
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## International Christmas dinner

The Brodick Free Church is hosting a Christmas dinner for internationals living on Arran to get together and share their festive food and traditions.

The friendly and social event is aimed at encouraging people to meet up and enjoy the company of interesting others and to experience food and festive treats from other countries.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a dish from their country to share with others and to try the dishes that others have brought with them.

The international Christmas dinner will take place on Saturday December 9 at Brodick Free Church, behind the Post Office, at 6pm. For further information contact Benjamin van Rensburg at: benandela2010@gmail.com

# Funding fayre is a big success

A recent funding fayre organised by Kenneth Gibson MSP and Patricia Gibson MP, was a resounding success, with representatives of more than 120 local community organisations attending throughout the

morning to find out from funders how they could secure grants and support.

A number of organisations from Arran attended the event in Saltcoats town hall including representatives from the com-

munity council, the elderly forum, St Bride's church committee, Corrie and Kilmory primary school parent council members, Arran Music, Arran Theatre and Arts, Arran Youth Foundations, the Community Land



A number of Arran organisations attended the funding fayre in Saltcoats.



Kenneth and Patricia Gibson with representatives who took part in the funding fayre.

Initiative, Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) and Lamlash Improvements Committee.

Afterward Mr Gibson said: 'There was such enthusiasm that the event began 15 minutes early and overran by another 45. There was also loads of networking going on.'

Mrs Gibson added: 'Funders were delighted

that so many people wanted help and information, with one suggesting that 'four out of five' groups are likely to be successful in applying to them for grants.

'Feedback from the community groups themselves was very positive and I have no doubt that many across North Ayrshire will benefit from having participated.'

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# Arran Banner Christmas gift guide



Christmas has come round again, the festive lights are on, the shops are bustling and Santas are appearing in shop front windows. So now it's time to sort your way through all the presents and gift ideas for family, friends and loved ones with the *Arran Banner's* great gift guide.

To help get your mind in the festive spirit, we've got a huge range of gift guides with suggestions for everyone. Whether it's to help Santa with toys for the children, a present for a wife or girlfriend, husband or boyfriend, something for your parents or a novelty prezzie for your co-worker there should be something here to fit the bill this year - all of which can be found on Arran.

**Happy shopping!**



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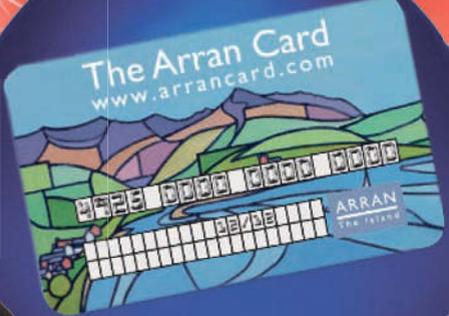
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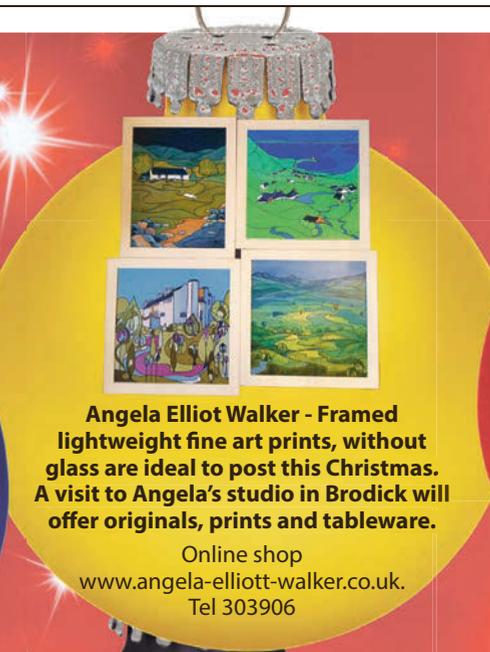




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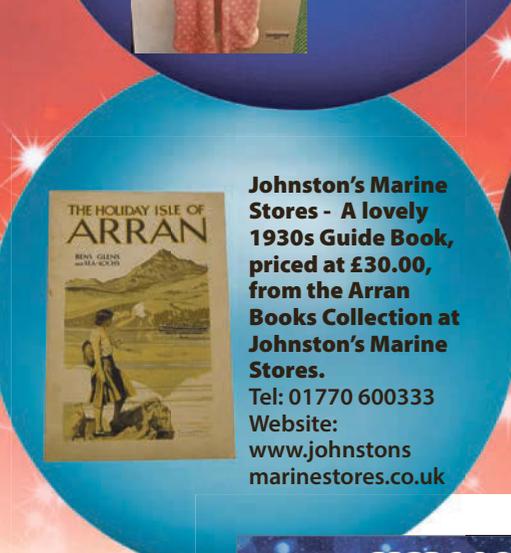
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## Arran Cottage Owners Website

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**To enter: All you need is 6 stamps from participating shops, 1 stamp per purchase, no minimum spend.**

# Nursery rhyme time at Corrie

Children at the Corrie early years class recently enjoyed some nursery rhyme time.

Organised by Ann Gray, as part of nursery rhyme week, the youngsters were joined by their parents and toddlers who will soon be joining the nursery.

Ann and other dressed-up helpers entertained the children with nursery rhymes, stories and songs and singing, but the biggest success was the story adventure We're Going on a Bear Hunt, which they took part in.



Ann leads the children on the bear hunt.

01\_B48nursery02



The children and parents who took part in the nursery rhyme time. 01\_B48nursery04



The children follow the bear hunt route.

01\_B48nursery03

## Get into the Christmas spirit with the Arran Singers

For many years now on Arran, among the events which celebrate the approach of Christmas have been the choral concerts. In the past, these concerts were given by the Rowan Singers and the Lochranza Choir, and now, for the past few years, by the Arran Singers, which took over the mantle of these two fine choirs.

This year will be no exception, and, following on the very successful and enjoyable concert last December in Whiting Bay hall, the Arran Singers hope to provide another dose of festive fun and enjoyment in Whiting

Bay hall on the afternoon of Sunday December 10 at 2.30pm.

The choir will be singing a variety of music, including some very attractive new Christmas carols, and, of course, there will also be community carol singing.

### Light-hearted

Apart from Christmas music, the choir will also be providing some light-hearted entertainment, and, as usual, will be able to draw on the talents of some of its fine soloists.

A further highlight will be the presence of several guests, including the

groups Vivace and Ain't Misbehavin', who will be bringing their own distinctive styles of music-making to the afternoon. Like last winter, the choir hopes also to welcome some younger musical talent from the high school, to add different music-making, both vocal and instrumental.

After playing so beautifully in its summer concert in Lochranza, Alison Provan will again be bringing her flute to delight the audience, while Nastassja Alberti, who won the overall best soloist at this year's music festival, will be singing.

And, to complete what promises to be a very enjoyable day, some festive refreshments are included in the ticket price. Profits from the concert will be going to provide fuel and heating tokens for the Arran foodbank, so a very worthwhile cause will benefit from your support.

So why not make it a date, and come along to Whiting Bay hall on Sunday December 10, for a festive start to the Christmas season at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from choir members, the Book and Card Centre, Brodick, and Whiting Bay Post Office.

# Shiskine SWI Heartstart talk

Fiona Laing was the speaker at the November meeting of Shiskine SWI. With her faithful sidekick Annie the doll, Fiona gave an interesting, instructive and entertaining demonstration on what to do for someone who has stopped breathing.

Fiona has become so adept in her role as the 'face' of Arran Heartstart that she knows exactly when to drop in a wee touch of gallows humour without losing sight of exactly why we were all listening so avidly and why she gives to much of her time.

At the end of her talk members felt better equipped to administer CPR and even to use a defibrillator. The fact that there are numerous public defibrillators around the island is entirely down to Fiona and her Heartstart colleagues. Following a break for supper, the meeting concluded with some business and the announcement of the evening's winners Joan Stewart, get well card, and Piet Johnston, favourite heart ornament. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday December 6 in Shiskine public hall.

Jenni Turnbull

# Getting crafty at Christmas fayre

The Crafts and Company collective held their first Christmas fayre in Whiting Bay hall recently.

The event attracted a healthy number of visitors throughout the day and the stalls did a roaring trade as visitors began their Christmas shopping in earnest. The tearoom, serving homebaking, was busy throughout the day and the tombola stall helped raise funds for charity.

**Right: Young Connie Watts tries to decide what to buy.**

01\_B46craft05



Stalls do a brisk trade at the Christmas fayre. 01\_B46craft01



**Below: Collective member Liz McCulloch was looking after the tombola stall.**

01\_B46craft03



Karen Bell with a selection of her artworks. 01\_B46craft02

## Christmas Concert

Corrie Parish Church of Scotland  
on Saturday 9th December  
at 7.30pm  
with Peter Alexander Wilson  
Crawford Logan and Friends

**Tickets £10.00**  
from Book and Card Shop

Tel: **01770 810210**  
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Charity No. - SC005030

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 December 2017. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

### WIN

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The Royal Scottish Shipping Line's latest venture is Spirit of Fortitude, a 130 feet long luxury yacht. This five star super yacht can host up to 12 guests, with a total crew of five Spirit of Fortitude cuts an impressive sight and includes a grand

saloon, a library, upper deck and whisky viewing room. The yacht is already proving popular with guests from home and abroad, and it is easy to see why, with an on-board personal chef and stewardess looking after their requirements.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
What is the name on The Royal Scottish Shipping Line Ltd latest venture called?**

Dates for the trip- 24 March, three nights for two people in the Kyles of Bute. Prize is non-refundable. Competition is only open to UK residents. Prize cannot be sold or exchanged for financial gain.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

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## Society in good health

The annual meeting of the Arran Horticultural Society held last Saturday showed the society is flourishing with an increase in participation at its events. Reports covering the year so far showed the annual shows being well supported, as was the coach trip to the Scottish Show at Ingliston.

The Garden Club also continues to flourish with popular programmes year on year.

Next year's programme is already available from Carol Vella-Boyle in Lam-lash or Angela Cassels in Blackwaterfoot.

The office bearers for the society are: president, John Sillars, secretary, Clive Harding, treasurer, Angela Cassels and show secretary, Colin Totty.



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# Tales of the Titanic and the White Star Line

At the November meeting 35 members of the Arran Historical Society heard Bill Fitzpatrick give his 42nd delivery of his talk on the White Star Line and in particular RMS Titanic. The society are very grateful to him for coming in place of the programmed speaker who had to cancel, writes *Norma Davidson*.

Bill was a member of the Kilmarnock and District History Group committee in 2011 when someone remarked that 2012 would be the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. The task for researching a lecture fell to Bill.

The Blue Riband awarded for the fastest crossing westbound of the Atlantic is still held today by the liner United States, but in the early years of the century it had been held by Germany. Nationalistic pride promoted the United Kingdom Government to provide finance for the building of two new liners with the sole intention to beat the Germans. These ships would be built so that their design could be adapted to serve as warships in the future if necessary.

All the White Star Liners were made by Harland and Wolff in Belfast. J Bruce Ismay of the White Star Line and Lord Pirie, managing director of the shipyard, supervised the project. These ships needed to compete with the Cunarders Mauretania and Lusitania, built in Clydebank. They were designed to be bigger and faster, with the same four funnels, although the aft funnel was purely cosmetic, used for ventilation and never smoked). Pirie's nephew, Thomas Andrews, was chief designer, and completion was promised for 1911.

The design incorporated the minimum Board of Trade requirements of 16 lifeboats. Titanic and Olympic were to be built side by side, and Britannic later. The shipyard did not have a big enough slipway for three giants, so their three slipways were scrapped and two large ones constructed side by side.

Olympic, with superstar Captain Edward Smith as

Captain, was a very good ship, but a bit accident prone, hitting HMS Hawke, a US Lightship, and a U-Boat in her career. Indeed, parts of the Titanic were used in one of her repairs.

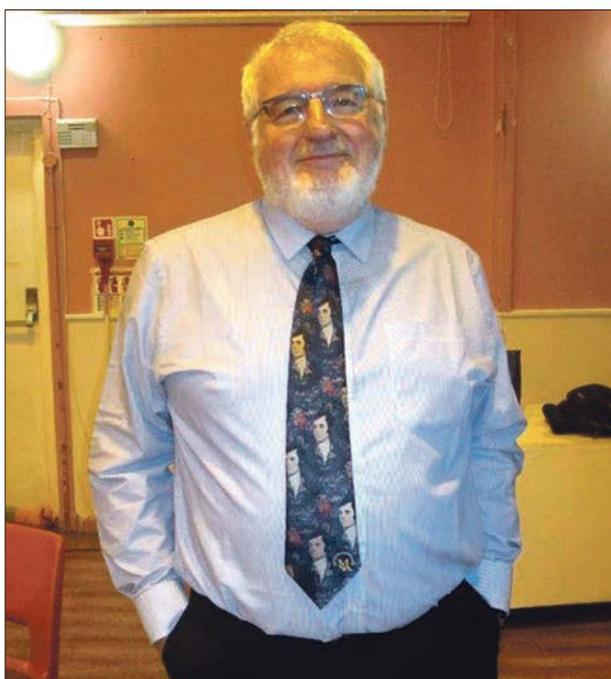
Titanic was to be the last word in luxury. Furnishing was sumptuous, and there was even a gymnasium on board. Her sea trials lasted only one day, and last minute snags were to be ironed out on the sailing to Southampton. One Officer on a postcard from Cork to his sister said it was a very unhappy ship, and in retrospect was ill-prepared for her maiden voyage. For example, the binoculars from the crow's nest were missing – locked in a cupboard!

Although seaworthiness was questionable, her provisioning was not. A few examples: she carried 40,000 eggs, 7,000 lettuces, 1 ton of coffee, 20,000 bottles of beer and 850 bottles of spirits – all for a voyage of less than a week. Crockery and cutlery too were lavish, and she carried 1,000 oyster forks.

She set sail on 10 April, 1912 at noon, pulled by six tugs. Her departure was not without problems, and she arrived at Cherbourg one hour late. She performed well on the leg to Queenstown in Ireland, where she took on a number of Irish emigrants bound for the USA. The engines were performing well and on the third day out she did a 519 miles run.

It had been a warm Arctic spring, and there was a lot of ice about, but speed was of the essence, and the ice did not seem to be a worry. Lifeboat drills for the crew were brief, and none for the passengers. There was no standard radio procedure, no system for ice warnings, no 24-hour watch. It was always thought that if a large liner was holed she could stay afloat long enough to safely evacuate those on board. On the fateful Sunday boat drill was cancelled, the radio had a malfunction and ice warnings were not conveyed to the bridge.

At 11.40pm the crow's nest reported: 'Object dead ahead in the water.' Moving at 20 knots,



**Bill Fitzpatrick of Troon who spoke to the society this month.**

despite steering hard to starboard and ringing 'engines astern', she hit a large blue iceberg and was significantly holed. Few knew there had been an accident. Despite the closing of watertight doors, six compartments were flooding, and a design fault meant flooding spread rapidly. Captain Smith realised she was going down, and sent calls for assistance and ordered the lifeboats to be prepared. 'Women and children first' was the order. There was still no sense of urgency, and some lifeboats were launched barely half full. She eventually sunk at 2.20am.

Captain Arthur Rostrom of the Carpathia and Captain Stanley Lord of the Californian were the nearest ships. The Carpathia increased speed to 17 knots and made ready to receive survivors, successfully rescuing 705. The Californian was only 12 miles away, but due to an earlier altercation with the Titanic's radio officer it ceased radio contact, and Captain Lord went to his cabin. Being an inexperienced and younger captain, and somewhat of a martinet, his crew did not disturb him until the tragedy became obvious.

The ships, Mackay Bennett and the Bremen recovered bodies later. There were 323 recovered and buried in Halifax, Nova Scotia and 119 were buried at sea. In South-

ampton a memorial to all the victims stands on the berth she sailed from. There are separate memorials to her musicians and her engineers, and in Dalbeattie one of her officers, Officer Murdoch, on the bridge at the time of impact, is commemorated. Subsequent inquiries both apportioned blame

to Captain Lord, and while he was at fault for not responding and rescuing passengers, he could not be blamed for the collision. Afterwards more stringent standards were imposed on all passenger-carrying vessels.

Sister ship Britannic, launched in 1914, became a hospital ship, and in 1915 hit a mine and sank while serving in the Dardanelles. One lucky survivor was Violet Jessop. She was a stewardess on the Olympic which rammed HMS Hawke, a stewardess on Titanic when she sank, a nurse on the Britannic when she was mined, and surviving all three episodes lived to the grand old age of 84.

Harland and Wolff said of the Titanic: 'She was alright when she left here!'

□ *This is Norma Davidson's last report as she is 'retiring' after 10 years reporting the historical society's meetings. The Banner wishes to thank Norma for all her efforts over the years which are much appreciated.*

## Society to hold annual meeting

The AGM of the Arran Historical Society will be held on January 15, 2018 at Brodick Golf Club in the early afternoon, when soup and sandwiches will be served at a cost of £5, followed by the AGM and a short film show of Arran scenes, events and life after the Second World War.

The programme for 2018 will start in February, when Penny MacWatters will speak on the Hamiltons and Lord Rossmore, who married into the Hamilton family in the 18th century and came to Arran. His wife's dowry included land on the west coast of Arran.

He recorded his impressions of local people and his life on Arran. Penny has researched the Rossmore family records in Ireland to obtain this information.

The committee is investigating the proposed annual trip to the NTS visitor centre at Bannockburn, and there is also a proposed field trip to Lochranza.

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Arran Brewery

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Brodict, 10am - 4pm  
Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm Friday & Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm,  
Sunday - Closed

## Saturday 2nd December

ShopArran  
Flow Yoga  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
RNLI Christmas shop  
Army Cadets  
Whiting Bay Christmas market  
ArCaS Christmas fair  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Jazz Cafe Band  
Live music - Rob Wolf Band  
Over 21s disco

Various Shops around the Island  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Lifeboat Station, Lamlash, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
Whiting Bay Village Hall, 11am - 3pm  
Brodict Hall, 11am - 4pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Whiting Bay Lesser Hall, 8pm-11pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Arran Skinnymalinks (festive focus)  
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)  
RUNclub - mixed ability  
Flow yoga  
Tae Kwondo  
Yoga-Arran  
Mixed hockey  
Burger and quiz night  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Family friendly pub quiz  
Rock an pop bingo

Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm  
Brodict Hall, 5.50pm-6.50pm  
Little Co-Op Car Park Brodict, 5.30pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm-9pm  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
The PHT, 8.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Sunday 3rd December

ShopArran  
Church family service, with ARCO (fiddle group)  
Christmas craft fair  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live music - Rob Wolf Band  
AA meeting

Various Shops around the Island  
Brodict Church, 10.30am  
Shiskine Clubhouse and Tee Room, Blackwaterfoot, 11am - 2pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

## Thursday 7th December

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Morning fitness, Auchrannie gym  
Arran Skinnymalinks (festive focus)  
Chair yoga  
Whiting Bay Thursday Club  
Quilt Arran  
Adult tennis  
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
Ladies' hockey  
Arran Soul Choir  
Arran Bridge Club  
Brodict Embroidery Group  
General knowledge quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
9.30-10.30am  
Brodict Church Hall 10:30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am  
Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 2pm  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Monday 4th December

Morning fitness  
Citizens' Advice  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Mature Movers  
Over 50s badminton  
Adult tennis  
Arran Skinnymalinks (festive focus)  
Arran Skinnymalinks (festive focus)  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit training  
Lamlash Aerobix  
Badminton  
Badminton  
Arran Bridge Club  
Isle of Arran carol concert  
Tae Kwondo

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
10.30 - 11.30, Brodict Church Hall  
Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
Shiskine Church Hall 5:15pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 6pm  
Ormidale Park, 6pm-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm-7pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Lamlash Church, 7.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall, adults and over-10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Friday 8th December

ShopArran  
Arran Vets  
Arran Vets  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee morning for charities  
Smart Recovery meeting  
Lochranza children's badminton  
AA meeting  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Tae Kwondo  
Lochranza adults' badminton  
Quiz  
Disco night

Various Shops around the Island  
Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 1.30pm - 3pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

## Saturday 9th December

ShopArran  
Flow yoga  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
RNLI Christmas shop  
Army Cadets  
Christmas market  
Christmas crafts fair  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
St Brides ladies' Christmas fair  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
International Christmas dinner  
Christmas concert  
Live music - Audiosin  
Over-21s disco

Various Shops around the Island  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Lifeboat Station, Lamlash, 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, 11am - 3pm  
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 12noon - 4pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Brodict Free Church, 6pm  
Corrie Parish Church, 7pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Tuesday 5th December

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Healthy Outdoors  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
Every Tuesday - Metafit Class  
Flow yoga  
Pilates  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
Auchrannie winter bowls  
Youth club  
Arran Rotary Club  
Scottish country dancing  
Pop quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Corrie Hall, 6pm  
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
Brodict, 7pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
The Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 7pm for 7.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Wednesday 6th December

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee morning  
Chair yoga  
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
Knittery and Natterly  
Parkinson's Support Group meeting  
Zumba Gold

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12 noon  
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm  
Brodict Hall, 4pm - 5pm



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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 6, 1997

## Golden Jubilee

Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music celebrated their Golden Jubilee on Saturday night. First established in 1947, and going strong ever since, the club held a get-together and buffet dance for 96 members guests and friends.

Officials from the Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) also took part in the celebrations and a special anniversary cake was cut by founder members Ella Lennox and Hamish Cook.

During the evening the SCDA chairwoman Morna Barron presented commemorative medals to Allan Nicol, Jim Donaldson, Zoe McGovern, Julie Nelson, Bob Fisher, Sheila Nicol, Ella Lennox, and Hamish Cook in recognition of their long service as active members of the association. A splendid plaque was then unveiled



TV presenter and DJ Chris Evans with golfing opponent Willie Kelso. 01\_B48twe02

listing the names of the past 51 presidents.

The Arran Drama Association was also presented with a new trophy by the club, to be awarded for the 'the best moment of theatre' at the annual drama festival.

## Tee Time

The fame of Shiskine Golf Club's Ryder Cup has spread to London.

The competition, now in its seventh year, has attracted the attention of none other than Chris Evans who was on Arran this week with his entourage from his Ginger Production company and took up residence at the Kinloch Hotel.

Chris was filming at Shiskine Golf Club for his new Channel 4 golf show, Tee Time, and was keen to take part in the Ryder Cup competition.

The team selection paired Chris with Kilpatrick captain Neil Henderson who beat Shiskine's Willie Kelso and Alan Johnston by two and a half points to one and a half.

## New minister

Lamlash and Kilmory Churches are on the way to having a new minister. The Rev Bill MacMillan was appointed on a restricted tenure just over four years ago and will be retiring at the end of January.

There has been concern for some time over the possibility of a reduction in the number of Church of Scotland ministers on the island, with Lamlash and Kilmory feeling under threat.

There were meetings of the congregations in both villages last week before four representatives attended a meeting of the presbytery in Saltcoats on Tuesday to put the case for a replacement minister.

One of the four, David Oaks, told the *Banner* that the presbytery were supportive and will now be sending a proposal to the Church of Scotland headquarters in Edinburgh recommending a new minister is appointed.



Fiona Brown presents a cheque for £470.30 to Arran Ladies Hockey Club captain Susan Currie from money raised by a hole-in-one competition held during the Arran Challenge. The money will go towards a new kit for the junior team. 01\_B48twe05



The presentations of long service awards by Morna Barron, chairwoman of the SCDA general council at the Golden Jubilee event. 01\_B48twe01



Ten policemen from Estonia visited Arran this week during an exchange trip with Strathclyde Police. They are in Scotland to learn leadership training and policing methods. They are pictured in Brodick with Sgt Jim Weir and other members of the Strathclyde force. 01\_B48twe04



Robin Crawford of the Kinloch Hotel is presented with a quich to mark 33 years in the various associations which have now formed into the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board by chairman Jim Tyldesley at the annual meeting this week. 01\_B48twe03

# Trade Classifieds

## PAINTER AND DECORATOR



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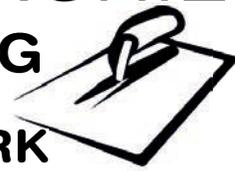
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OVER £50

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## Public Notices

### BRODICK GOLF CLUB Extraordinary General Meeting

An EGM will be held in the Clubhouse on Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.00pm.

All members are invited to attend. Only ordinary members may vote.

The item for discussion:

Is there a desire amongst the members for the Club to further investigate the possibility of selling the course and buildings?

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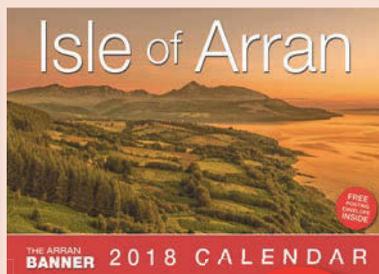
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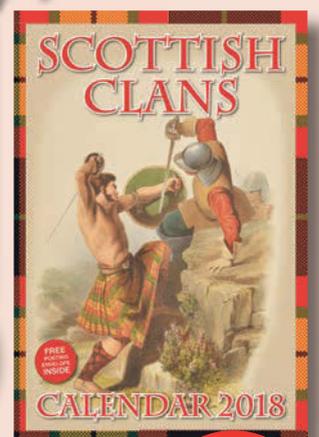
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The Triathlon Scotland AGM and awards ceremony at Glasgow Caledonian University last weekend. Photo: ImacImages Active Lifestyle Photography

# Double Legends awards for Arran Triathlon Club

Arran triathletes Luke Goatley and Rhea Webster have added to their club's success by being awarded a Legends ranking for their age group at the Triathlon Scotland Awards ceremony.

Arran Junior Triathlon Club members, Rhea was awarded for her third place ranking in the nine to 10 age group while Luke received a third position in the eight-year-old age group.

The two now join the three national winners at the club and add to its growing reputation, which has become known in triathlon circles for obtaining impressive results across

the board in just two short years. Head coach Craig Wood said: 'It's brilliant to be recognised for all the children's hard work – they train so hard – and it's a joy to watch the individuals grow in not just ability but all-round confidence. I've obtained so much enjoyment coaching the children.'

The club has grown rapidly in two years with six registered coaches and up to eight sessions a week for the newly formed school of sport children. The club's event – The Island-2-Island Triathlon – due to be held next year, has already sold out after its inaugural

event, and is the only triathlon in Scotland to sell out before December.

Craig added: 'We have an aim to double in size before 2019 and reach 50 junior members, all our sessions are free of charge and for children from seven to 16 years old.'

'If you are interested in your child being part of a flourishing and supportive environment and being part of the fastest growing sport in the world, please contact Craig.wood10@yahoo.com.'

In addition to the awards ceremony held on Sunday November 26, attendees at the Glasgow Caledonian



Members of the Arran Junior Triathlon Club continue to celebrate their success.



Luke Goatley who competes in the eight-year-old category received a third place Legends award.



Rhea Webster received a third place ranking at the Triathlon Scotland Awards for ages nine to 10.

University enjoyed a day of triathlon events starting with the skills school for members aged between eight and 16. The sessions involved a mixture of physical activity and group activities aimed at mental and physical training for the advancing of young athletes.

Parents of the children who attended could join the supporters' meeting or join in the Triathlon Scotland annual general meeting before the award ceremony where coaches, athletes, volunteers and Legends winners were presented with their awards.

## Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition played at Brodick on Thursday November 23 were: N/S 1 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. E/W 1 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamplash on Monday November 27 were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Doug Chase and Jennifer Wales, 3 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure. E/W 1 John and Jan Beattie, 2 Alison Bilsland and Andy Martin, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

# SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Double Legends awards for Arran Triathlon Club

# Bowling prizes handed out at Blackwaterfoot

A total of 21 members and friends sat down to an excellent lunch after the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club annual general meeting, held at the Kinloch Hotel on Thursday November 23.

The members heard reports of the activities and competitions held during the summer season, despite the very wet weather. The new committee was elected and now is up to its full strength, making life easier for members. The club also welcomes temporary winter members as it is the only club on the island which plays on an artificial surface.

The club trophies were presented and a fundraising raffle held, the latter causing a great deal of entertainment to the company.



This years prize-winners were from left to right: Margaret Kerr, Reuben Betley, Christine Robinson, Victor Lutz, Lorna Halliburton and John Robinson. Missing from photograph is Brian Sherwood.



The Arran Ladies hockey team. 01\_B48hockey01

## Ladies hope to end year on a high

The Arran Ladies hockey team are looking to end the year on a high as they travel to Ayr today for their final game of 2017.

At around the halfway point in the league, Arran sit a respectable third in the 3rd division of West District women's hockey league to which they were promoted last season.

After an arduous few months, sometimes struggling to secure a full team,

especially for long-distance away games, the ladies have played nine matches in total so far.

Out of those games, they have won six and lost three and had to concede one match by being unable to secure a team.

As a result they are currently sitting third equal with GHK Ladies 3s in the league table with 18 points.

At the top of the table sit Uddingston Clinetix Ladies

2s with 24 points and who remain undefeated.

Today (Saturday) the ladies travel to the mainland to take on Ayr Ladies 2s who sit at the bottom of the league with one win and seven losses. The passback is at 2pm and any travelling support is welcome.

Following a festive break, the season resumes with a home game against Dumfries Ladies 2s on Saturday January 13, 2018.

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran. Tel: 01770 302142, Fax: 01770 302021, Email: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



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 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.