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*Your Christmas messages inside*

**WIN WIN WIN**  
**A TRIP FOR TWO**  
**TO SHETLAND OR ORKNEY**



# Sad new Machrie Moor search for missing John

A new search will be held at the weekend in the continuing hunt for missing pensioner John Smith.

A wide area across Machrie Moor will be painstakingly searched inch by inch in the hope of finally ending months of anguish for the family.

It is more than six months since the 77-year-old disappeared from his home in Machrie, but Police Scot-

land say they have not given up hope of finding him and are continuing to appeal for information.

Over two days, starting tomorrow (Sunday) the Arran Mountain Rescue Team will join the Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team in another thorough search of the moor. While the rough and treacherous ground has been searched before with the help of the RAF and Coastguard helicopter, as well as the public, the police still have hope for the latest search.

Mr Smith was last seen by a neighbour near to Machrie Golf Club around 6.10pm on Tuesday May 30. He was understood to have been heading in an easterly direction to meet a friend, but he never arrived. He is described as white, 5ft 4in, of slim build, with short grey hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He was last seen



Missing John Smith.

Continued on page two

## The dash is on for Christmas



Island runners took to the streets of Brodick last Sunday for the annual Santa Dash. Dressed in a variety of festive costumes, they were in good spirits as they prepared for the 5k run. See page 22 for more photos.

All pictures by Christopher Hogge.

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# Arran MSP highlights unfair delivery charges

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson is calling for an end to the unfair parcel delivery charges facing online shoppers on Arran.

Speaking in a Scottish Parliament debate on Wednesday, Mr Gibson highlighted new research

from Citizens Advice Scotland which shows that online shoppers on Arran can be expected to pay a postcode penalty of 50 per cent more than the rest of the UK, purely because of where they live. However, not all companies penalise

deliveries to Arran, so it is worth shopping around.

Mr Gibson said: 'This is an issue of real concern to islanders. It is extremely unfair that some of the most loyal online shoppers on Arran and across rural Scotland are facing location discrimination by having to pay a postcode penalty to get items delivered this Christmas.

**£19 extra**

'Citizens Advice Scotland's research shows that many businesses and families are having to pay an average of nearly £19 extra when buying goods online.

'I am delighted that my colleague Richard Lochhead MSP brought this issue to parliament so we can

highlight the problem and stop businesses charging wildly different delivery fees for island communities simply because they can.

'Having convened the cross-party group on postal services for five years, this is something we lobbied the UK Government about for years, given that postal services are reserved to Westminster.

'Hopefully, the campaign will finally persuade the UK Government and online businesses to stop this discrimination and adopt set standards for deliveries to every corner of the UK, including Arran, just as we have for the delivery of letters through the Universal Service Obligation.'



Kenneth Gibson MSP.

## Fishing boat rescue

Arran RNLI crew had a late-night rescue to assist a stricken fishing vessel on Monday night.

The Arran lifeboat volunteers assembled and launched the inshore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick, making best speed to the fishing vessel which had fouled its propeller on a loose creel line that had been floating in the Clyde.

A crew member went aboard the fishing vessel to establish a tow and ensure they could safely bring the fishing vessel to Lamlash where, thanks to tidal conditions, it was secured at Lamlash pier.

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## North Ayrshire Council warned it is running out of reserves

North Ayrshire Council insisted this week it had robust plans in place after the public spending watchdog warned it was one of three Scottish councils running out of cash reserves.

The Accounts Commission found the council, along with Moray and Clackmannanshire, faced running out of spare money for emergencies. North Ayrshire was among the 20 councils to draw on their cash reserves this year, a marked increase from the eight out of 32 local authorities that did so last year.

The report stated that if North Ayrshire continues to

spend its cash reserves at its current rates, it will run out within the next two or three years. It further notes that it was the only local authority in Scotland to report an overspend, largely due to spending on health and social care.

However, a North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We welcome the report and the recognition of the financial challenges facing all local government. These challenges continue to grow as a result of real-term funding reductions compounded by increasing costs and demand for services.

'The council has clear plans to utilise reserves in support of service initiatives and our transformation programme which will result in a planned reduction over time.

'The council holds a level of unearmarked reserves, this is currently £6.4m, and is in place to mitigate risks and support medium-term financial planning.

'We recently published a long-term financial outlook which identifies a potential funding gap of £156m over the next 10 years, with savings of £70m requiring to be identified over the next three years.'

## Machrie Moor search for missing John

Continued from page one  
wearing a dark coloured jacket, dark trousers, a woolly hat and brown hiking boots.

Chief Inspector Brian Shaw said: 'Extensive enquiries and rigorous land searches have been carried out in order to trace John. However, despite our efforts, he is still missing.

'Members of the Arran

Mountain Rescue Team and Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team will continue the search with equipment suitable for the terrain and do a shoulder to shoulder search of the area between the Machrie Moor Road, the String Road and the A841 on Sunday and Monday.

'We remain committed to finding John and would

urge the local community, who have been very supportive, to continue to assist us by passing on any information which could help our investigation.

'Anyone with information is asked to contact officers at Lamlash or Irvine police stations via 101 and quote incident number 4049 of Tuesday May 30, 2017.'

# Offer on the table to buy Brodick club

## Members to vote on golf course sale

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A bid is being made to buy Brodick Golf Club which could turn it into the best course on the island.

However, it is up to the club membership to decide if the proposals are to be accepted and they will now be considered at an emergency general meeting later this month.

Club professional John Wilson is the man behind the offer to buy the club. He has pledged to invest money to improve the course and its facilities, and club captain Lindsay Keir, who supports the plan, believes it could be turned into 'a little gem' of a course.

Mr Wilson, who is from Ayr, has been the club professional at Brodick for nine months but spent many years in Germany as a golf teaching professional. It is understood it is a German consortium who have made the offer to buy the club.

Mr Keir admitted the course had suffered a 'bit

of neglect' and highlighted the 9th, 10th and 12th fairways closest to the shore were particularly waterlogged. However, he said, the cost of just repairing these three fairways was in excess of £100,000.

He said: 'The plan would be to remodel the course to make it a more interesting links-type course which make it a little gem of a golf course.'

Mr Keir added that any deal would have to guarantee the rights of members – tee times, competitions, the use of the course for inter-island matches. While the new owners, he said, would be responsible for managing the clubhouse, the catering and maintaining the course.

The club currently has just under 200 members and it is understood Mr Wilson has pledged there would be no increase in fees for two years and after that only in line with inflation. But Mr Keir said: 'That has still to be negotiated.'

He said if the vote was passed by a simple majori-

ty at the EGM, to be held in the clubhouse on Monday December 18, that negotiations would start in early 2018.

He said: 'It would certainly be a pleasure to play golf and not worry about how we are going to make ends meet, but it is up to the membership to decide.'

He also explained that getting members to fill positions within the club was proving more and more difficult, adding: 'I find being captain, as my predecessors have also found, is a full-time job.'

Mr Keir said: 'A new course would hopefully encourage more members and in particular get younger people to take up the sport. It would also help to attract more visitors, which in turn would bring more revenue into the club. We are confident if we can give them a better course more visitors will want to come and play.'

Mr Wilson told the *Banner* he did not wish to comment on the proposals at this time.



The pro-shop and clubhouse at Brodick golf course. 01\_B49brodick01

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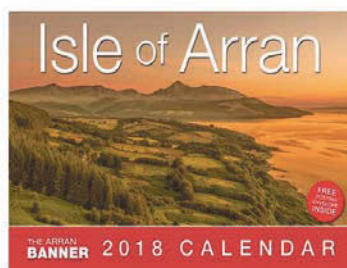
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# Mixed reaction and reject Machrie slipway

**Hugh Boag**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Reaction has been mixed this week after a plan to build a slipway and timber transfer yard at Machrie was thrown out.

Permission was refused by planning officials at North Ayrshire Council after a lengthy deliberation of the application which was submitted in August, but has been on the drawing board for much longer.

Forest Enterprise Scotland wanted to create a timber stacking yard within a one metre bund, including dense woodland planting, and formation of the adjacent slipway on a site to the north of Dunedin, Machrie.

But the £300,000 plan has been controversial since it was first mooted more than two and half years

ago. The plan was to use the slipway to ship 3,000 tonnes of trees a month to the mainland, which are to be felled on the west side of the island. That would have avoided the need to transfer all the wood over the String Road to Brodick for shipping.

The proposal had met stiff opposition from residents and businesses in the area claiming the semi-industrial development would spoil the tranquility of the area and harm the environment and tourism.

The plan had been to build a slipway on the shore and a timber stacking yard on the other side of the main road, which would have meant dozens of timber lorries crossing the road when the barges were being filled.

A total of 27 objections were made, mainly from the Machrie area, although, importantly, Arran community council also said they were unable to support the plan. Only a handful of letters in support were belated sent in, when it became obviously the plans were in serious trouble.

In their submission they acknowledged that 'some additional journeys' over the String Road would be required by timber trucks if the proposal did not go ahead. However, they said they were swayed against the plan by the volume of opposition from Machrie residents and business operators.

One of the objectors Lorna Mansfield of the Old Byre Visitor Centre near the proposed slipway was



The proposed site of the Machrie slipway.

delighted by the decision and told the *Banner*: 'The whole appeal of Machrie is its natural beauty, wildlife and tranquillity. To locate an industrial timber yard here would threaten all this and tourism. Having many timber lorries crossing the peat-based Machrie moor, together with the need to cross a main road 340 times in order to load a barge, is nonsensical and would undoubtedly, at some point, cause a dangerous if not fatal accident.'

'While we recognise and support that timber has to be extracted, it needs to be via a safe and trustworthy method within an industrial area,' she added.

However, away from Machrie the decision has met with a mixed response



The timber transfer station would have been across the road from the slipway, meaning trucks would have had to cross the main road. 01\_B49machrie02

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# s planners slipway plan



slipway. 01\_B49machrie01

with some residents on the existing timber route and in Brodick concerned at the prospect of a big increase in timber trucks on the roads.

Chairman of the Arran Economic Group Tom Tracey believes the decision is wrong.

He said: 'Forestry Enterprise Scotland had a strategy of building slipways close to forests which would significantly reduce heavy truck traffic on Arran roads and villages. This would have been good for residents and visitor safety, the environment, traffic congestion generally

and specifically around the Brodick Port and last but not least, our roads.

'Unfortunately, the strategy is likely to fail based on local objections, which are understandable, but not necessarily in the best interests of the island.

'NAC's planning permission refusal for the Machrie slipway means we will see significant increases in truck traffic over the coming years with all the disadvantages to road users that brings. Frankly, the decision seems so bad, for all the reasons given, and it will surprise many residents and businesses.

Hopefully, something can be done about it.

'If not timber movement through our roads and villages will more than double over the next couple of years to 4,000 lorry movements mostly through Shiskine, over the String and through Brodick to Thomson's slipway in Market Road. Future extraction from the South End will flow through Whiting Bay, Lamlash and Brodick.'

It is not yet known if Forest Enterprise Scotland will appeal against the decision. An FES spokesman said: 'We are naturally disappointed at the decision but we plan to continue working closely with the council, local communities and other stakeholders to explore solutions for handling timber supplies on Arran. By working together we should be able to find a way forward which overcomes the challenges and boosts economic and forestry activity on the island.

'We need time to reflect on the decision and explore what options are available. We will do this by working closely with the council, local people and other stakeholders on the island.'

## A place of scenic beauty

*A total of 27 objections were made to the Machrie proposal including a submission by Arran community council. Several objectors wanted the road re-routed behind the stacking yard. Here are some of the other views:*

**'Machrie is a place of peace, quiet and serenity – not to mention scenic beauty. This development would in my view detract from all these features and it seems wholly inappropriate to contemplate such a development when an alternative means of shipping timber is already available.'**

'The siting of the yard will be in full public view, unlike other industrial stacking yards. There will be a lot of mess and noise pollution. To cross the main road 340 times in order to fill the barge will cause disruption to traffic. Log lorries, at least 10 per day, coming over the small Machrie moor road poses extreme danger and spending 1.2 million on six passing places is not a sensible spend of public money. Machrie has always been a place of natural beauty, that is why tourists come to it, to make it into an industrial site will take that away forever.'

**'Large timber lorries coming over the Machrie moor cause grave danger, only six passing places are now**

**proposed and there are many blind bends. As a family who uses this road, on average 20 plus times a week, usually with children in the car, it is deeply concerning as lorries will not reverse. The road is peat based and not suitable for 10-plus heavy loads per day, ultimately causing costly road repairs.'**

'Machrie is exposed and commonly flooded, south west winds will cause disruptions to the barge as well as flooding in the field and mess on the road, despite proposed cattle grids. The noise pollution as well as the emissions from the barge should also be considered.'

**'There can be little doubt that the traffic, the visual eyesore created and the noise will make Machrie a less frequented spot for visitors to the detriment of the economy both local and of the island itself.'**

'If permission is granted then a flagrant act of vandalism will be enacted upon one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland.'

**'Machrie Bay is a beautiful and tranquil part of Arran, with many species of flora and fauna which will be disturbed or displaced by the noise, dirt and general disruption.'**

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# Christmas joy at uplifting



Conductor James O'Neil directs the singers of the Arran Soul Choir. 01\_B49carol06



The sound of the Arran Pipe Band combined with Arran Brass provided a powerful rendition of Highland Cathedral. 01\_B49carol04

The Lamlash Church annual carol concert, featuring more than 100 musicians and singers, once again filled the church with an appreciative audience who were treated to over two hours of carols in aid of cancer charity CLIC Sargent.

Besides the wide range of performers, the audience also sung familiar and favourite carols accompanied by the musicians of Arco, Arran Brass and Arran High School with Jo Earle on the organ.

Among the performers were Music Matters, a trumpet quartet made up of Arran High School pupils, the operatic and uplifting voice

of Frances Coyle and the melodic clarsach expertly played by Mandy Hunter.

Interspersed between the carols, the Rev Lily McKinnon, the Rev Vince Jennings and Father Noel Colford, along with Helen Kerr and Jennifer Webster, read pertinent passages from the Bible.

The crescendo of the evening was a joint performance by the Isle of Arran Pipe Band and Arran Brass whose rendition of *Highland Cathedral* filled the church and had the audience tapping their feet and nodding their heads appreciatively.

During one of the carols, a collection was taken which

will be donated to CLIC Sargent to support children and families living with cancer.

Rounding off the musical evening, the ladies of Vivace performed vocally inspiring renditions of *Joy to the World* and *Coventry Carol* while the Arran Soul Choir impressed with soloists Jill McKillop and Mike Bailey performing *Thankful* and *You Raise Me Up* respectively.

The uplifting and memorable evening concluded with the Benediction by Rev Vince Jennings, who blessed the congregation and the ill children who will benefit from the collection for CLIC Sargent.



Frances Coyle accompanied by Mandy Hunter on clarsach and Alice Maxwell on fiddle sang Christ Child Lullaby. 01\_B49carol03

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# g carol concert



James Smith, Daisy Urquhart-Dixon, Innis Thorburn and Lois Ashley played Feliz Navidad on their trumpets.

01\_B49carol01



Vivace had the audience dancing in their seats with their version of Joy to the World.

01\_B49carol05



Mandy Hunter performs the melodic The Gael on her clarsach.

01\_B49carol02

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## Editorial

### A way forward

Running a golf club isn't easy these days. The time when there were long waiting lists for even the smallest of private clubs have long gone. Clubs have to grab any members they can.

Likewise, the age of golfers is also going up as competing demands, and an ever wider range of sports opportunities mean younger people aren't taking up the sport in the numbers they used to.

Even the legendary golfing weekend, fabled among many ageing men, may not have gone but they have, in many instances, evolved into a different kind of gathering. On Arran, the golfers still come, but not in the numbers they once did.

So what can be done? Well, Brodick has been handed a way forward with an offer from the club professional to buy the club and invest in its future.

Some of members are known to back the plan while others are not so keen, believing it could see them somehow lose 'their' club, which was formed in 1897.

All members will get the chance to have their say and vote on the way forward at an emergency general meeting later this month. We hope they make an informed choice.

#### Thought for the week

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

### Effluent concern

Sir,  
I am concerned to learn that the Arran distillery is intending to add to the relentless pollution that the marine environment is already having to absorb by discharging distillery and trade effluent in to the water next to Lennymor. This is an unspoiled area designated as a National Scenic Area (NSA).

The impact of plastic on marine life worldwide is already causing great concern and has become a topical choice of conversation, probably partly due to Sir David Attenborough alerting the public to this environmental emergency after the filming of the incredible *Blue Planet 2* series.

SEPA (the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) reassuringly states in its new strategy: 'The people of Scotland will benefit from more powerful protection of our nation's beautiful natural environment.' Hopefully, the Scottish Government will take into consideration SEPA's statement and rethink this proposal.

Yours,  
**Carol Vella-Boyle,  
Lamlash.**

### Singalong success

Sir,  
We enjoyed a super singalong at the Mary's Meals festive fundraiser. I am delighted to report that we raised £1,089.82 on the day which will be matched under the 'Double The Love' initiative.

With knitting orders and donations in advance our Knit & Natter fundraising total is a fantastic £1,352.92. Huge thanks to everyone involved in any way to make the afternoon

such a happy success. Special mentions to Brodick Co-op for their kind donation of mince pies and refreshments, Graeme McKinnon for playing the piano, singers Betty and George McCormack, Iain Auld and Jean Bowden, all our wonderful knitters who produced such lovely festive mindings, Lamlash Church for use of the hall and to all those who came out on a cold and wet afternoon to support us.

I'm bowled over by all the acts of loving kindness and generosity of our Arran community.

Yours,  
**Alison Page,  
Mary's Meals  
Ambassador,  
Isle of Arran.**

### Church thanks

Sir,  
As chairman of Arran Churches Together, I wish to register our appreciation of how, over the years, your paper has printed week by week notification of times of worship in all our island churches free of charge.

Please accept our sincere thanks,  
Yours,  
**Rev Ben van Rensburg,  
ACT chairman.**

### Toilet dignity

Sir,  
Last week was a big week for toilet news. The mayor of London announced plans for more public toilets across the city, saying: 'Toilets are a vital public service.' He added: 'We need a range of toilets ... giving people the confidence to move around London with dignity.'

In China, the president, continuing his 2015 'toilet revolution', announced a widening of the programme to build better facilities at tourist sites, say-

ing: 'The toilet issue is no small thing - it's an important part of building civilised cities and countryside.'

Closer to home, we learned that Lamlash Improvements Group has had to take over the toilets there, because our own local government, while it knows the price of everything, doesn't seem to place the same value on public service, civilisation and dignity.

Yours,  
**Geoffrey Botterill,  
Brodick.**

### Motorhome tax

Sir,  
Until a few years ago, we would take our mobile home across to Europe and, after a brief lunchtime stop by one of the many Dutch rivers, we would head for the Rhine in Germany. There, we knew we could park at a Gasthof (inn) or at one of the many Parplatz scattered around the country.

For the price of an evening meal, we had use of the Gasthof's toilets and showers; sometimes even an electric hook-up. Parkplatzes provided a fresh water tap, a sump for emptying the toilet tank and, often, electric hook-ups too. The charge is five euros, a return to the local community.

We were always made welcome, wherever we went: they haven't tried to ban motorhomes in these countries recognising they brought custom and trade. There were no, No after No notices that glare at you in Argyll and Bute. For a modest outlay, villages and towns provided a hard-standing area for a modest number of vans, sometimes in an existing car park or by a swimming pool, where they could stay

the night, explore, eat out and shop. It was a win-win for everyone; even for Gasthofs.

There was a VisitScotland campaign some years ago to encourage more tourism and clearly the RET has boosted numbers, albeit with unexpected side-effects, but unlike the magnificent port terminal on Arran, there has been no investment to meet the expected surge in numbers. On Arran, in particular, the roads are narrow, often broken-edged and dangerous; there are few stopping or passing places: no new ones have been built.

And perhaps your letter writer John Wilson should recognise that even for some overseas visitors, staying in hotels isn't affordable. Only this past week we met a young Italian couple on the Islay ferry: they were only going over for the day, they said, because they couldn't afford to stay there. There is clearly a gap in the hospitality sector, an opportunity missed here to offer lower-end accommodation such as glamps or wooden tents - sadly now youth hostels close in the winter.

We shouldn't invite people here if we don't want them or disappoint them if our infrastructure can't cope with them - we have to deal with it, put it right. The Scottish islands may be on the outer fringes of Europe, but they deserve the same excellent facilities and roads that are seen in Scandinavia and much of northern Europe.

Yours,  
**David MacGregor,  
West Yorkshire.**

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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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We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks are available daily to collect all your goods from Arran.

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Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.



# White Ribbon campaign visits Arran

The annual White Ribbon 16 Days of Action campaign came to Arran this week.

The initiative, which promotes an end to violence against women, saw Police Scotland and women's support organisations spend a day at the Co-op in Brodick spreading the word and inviting shoppers to sign 'The Pledge'.

The White Ribbon campaign is a worldwide movement set up and co-ordinated by men who

know there is never an excuse for violence against women. They pledge never to condone it, or to stand by when they know it's happening.

Sandra Logan, of North Ayrshire Women's Aid, said: 'This campaign is about raising awareness that all of us – men, women, employers and communities – have a responsibility to make sure we prevent it from happening and to support those that have suffered from it.'

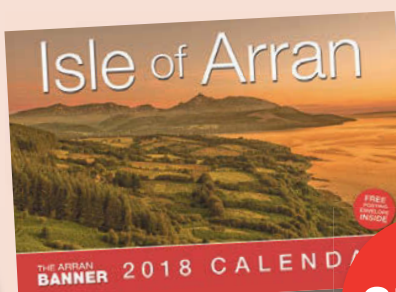


Spreading the word are, left to right, Sergeant Tony Harkin, Co-op employee Laura Shaw, Sandra Logan of North Ayrshire Women's Aid, Alison Smith of Break the Silence and PC Colin Johnson. 01\_B49violence01

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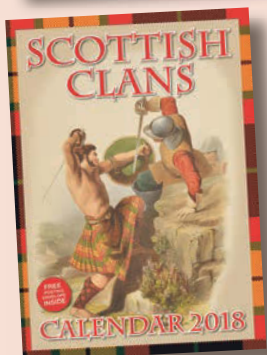
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	Quantity			
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### Corrie Film Club's Christmas treat

The December meeting of the Corrie Film Club on Sunday will be a festive treat for regulars and visitors who are invited to enjoy an evening of film, food and fun in Corrie and Sannox village hall.

The evening begins at 6.30pm with the traditional short comedy, *Dinner for One*, followed at 7pm by the delightful Japanese film from the Ghibli studios, *The Red Turtle*.

After this film, around 8.30pm, everyone can enjoy a Christmas supper which people are invited to bring along to share with others – sweet or savoury and a drink of your choice.

After dinner a second heart-warming film, *My Life as a Courgette*, will be screened.

The Corrie Film Club's Christmas treat takes place on Sunday December 10 and should finish around 10.30pm. All films are certificated PG and suitable for young viewers.

# Bishop visits his Arran parishioners

The Right Reverend Brian McGee, Bishop of the RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, recently visited Arran during the feast of St Margaret of Scotland.

The Bishop concelebrated mass with Father Noel Colford at Holy Cross church in Brodick. In his homily, Bishop Brian said although Margaret lived nearly 1,000 years ago we should be encouraged to follow her example of placing Christ at the centre of all that we do. Following mass and refreshments Bishop Brian met with parishioners, listening to their views and concerns on the Church and Catholicism today.

In the afternoon the Bishop and Father Noel made a number of house visits, including meeting children who have just begun preparations for their first Holy Communion. They were delighted to end the day sharing a meal with families from the island's Indian community.



Bishop Brian McGee and Father Noel Colford join parishioners and children from the Arran community.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

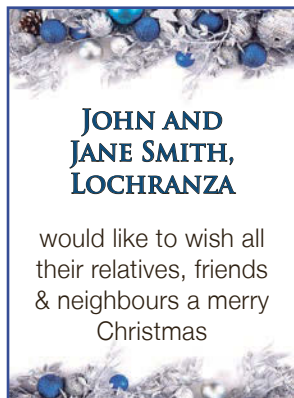
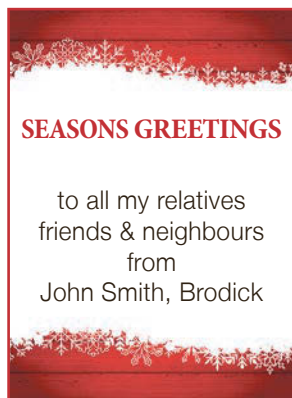
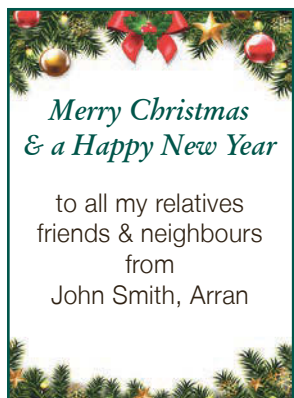
**EXTENDED DEADLINE** Published on 16th December

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## Arran is of special interest to national DNA project

Arran residents whose grandparents were born before 1935 are being urged to take part in a national DNA project to map out Scotland's genetic history. The island has been listed as a region of particular interest owing to its diversity of settlers who spoke Norse, Gaelic and Scots.

Living DNA's One Family Scottish research project, in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde and Scottish Association of Family History Societies, has launched a nationwide appeal to collect DNA samples from 3,000 Scottish people whose grandparents were born before 1935 and all lived within 50 miles (80km) of each other.

### Diverse

The more diverse regions are of particular interest, with the team mostly keen to explore areas such as Arran and the county of Caithness in northern Scotland which is known to have been home to some very early inhabitants.

Scotland has a rich history of immigration and a

diverse genetic structure, which will be explored during the project. The country has had multiple waves of immigration since the first hunter gatherers arrived more than 12,000 years ago. In recent times, there have been more focused settlement in particular areas of Scotland from Scandinavia and the Baltic, France and the Low Countries; with some areas of Scotland being more diverse than others.

David Nicholson, founder and managing director at Living DNA, said: 'Our DNA is hugely powerful, and it can show incredible stories about our past and our families – specifically, that we are all truly connected to one another. Whilst we already have a good outline of Scotland's history, through analysing the DNA of 3,000 Scottish people we can add much more colour to the story and pull together an incredibly detailed picture of the country's rich genetic history.'

'The data gathered here

will help us identify exactly where in Scotland a person's ancestors are from. It's really important that participants have all four grandparents born within 50 miles of one another. They must be born before 1935 too to help us get the results we need.'

Those who qualify to take part in the project will receive a significant discount and over time will be able to see a highly-detailed view of their Scottish ancestry.

### Research

Living DNA combines the latest testing-technology with robust academic research, to provide its customers with over the twice the detail of other ancestry DNA companies. It gives customers an unrivalled picture of their past, allowing them to narrow their ancestry down to 80 worldwide regions including 21 in the UK.

To find out more information and join the project, interested participants should visit [www.livingdna.com/one-family/research](http://www.livingdna.com/one-family/research)



Brodick Hall is full of festive goodies. 01\_B49ArCa504

## First festive fair is a cracking success

THE ARRAN Cancer Support Trust's (ArCaS) Christmas Cracker event went off with a bang with more than £1,500 raised at the inaugural fair in Brodick Hall last Saturday.

The festive-themed fair featured a wealth of stallholders, a tombola, raffle and an array of homebaking, along with tea and cakes. Run by cheerful and festively dressed volunteers, visitors were treated to a number of stocking filler bargains and a wide range of items ranging from decorations and trees to candles, cards and Christmas jumpers.

Proving to be almost as popular as the sweet treats on offer, visitors also bought tickets for the raffle, which included donations from Isle of Arran Distillery, Arran Graphics, The Cheese Shop, Patersons, Red Door, Jolly Molly, the Book and Card Centre, the Douglas Hotel and the Old Byre.

ArCaS shop manager Lisa Remington said: 'I would like to thank the

community for all their continuing support and our wonderful volunteers who week in, week out come and work to raise funds. We not only have a committed group of volunteers but also regular support from our local customers.

'The Cracker was truly full of not only Christmas spirit but community spirit. Thanks also go to our unsung heroes on the day who rose to the challenge in helping in transporting all of our sparkling treasures to the hall and helping at the close of the event.'

### Adopt a box for Christmas

ArCaS are looking for help to store donations of Christmas decorations which they get throughout the year. 'Strangely, tinsel is not so much a big seller in July,' joked shop manager Lisa. If you have an empty corner in your garage or space in your attic, why not adopt a box for ArCaS? Sign up at the ArCaS shop.



Shoppers enjoy a sociable chat with volunteers while picking out bargains. 01\_B49ArCa501



Visitors browse the wide variety of goods on offer before enjoying a cup of tea and cake. 01\_B49ArCa503



ArCaS supporters snap up a huge amount of Christmas decorations and baubles. 01\_B49ArCa502



Stacey Smith tempted people into Red Door with her unique products and tasty tablet. 01\_B49shop02



Hazel Robertson, Jenna Campbell and Gillian McCrae provided shoppers with a warm welcome at Arran Aromatics. 01\_B49shop03

# Bargains aplenty at S

Words and pictures by  
Colin Smeeton

Bargain hunters enjoyed a weekend of discounts, deals and special surprises as shops across the island got into the festive spirit and offered enticing deals during the Shop Arran weekend.

### Initiative

Shop Arran, which saw more than 25 stores taking part, is an island-wide initiative aimed at encouraging shoppers to buy

local and support local businesses by offering discounted goods and special offers.

Taking place over the entire weekend, participating stores offered discounts, specials and free gifts, while others also offered visitors festive nibbles and tasty treats.

With many larger organisations taking part, shoppers could also take advantage of craft and handmade deals at a Shop Arran market at the Lochranza Field Centre, where stallholders offered a wide variety of



Tracy Gibson welcomed children and adults to the Boathouse which offered a 10 per cent discount off their toy purchases. 01\_B49shop01



Margaret Galloway, Lisa Morris 01\_B49shop10

## 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 January 2018. 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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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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Sunday 10th - 3pm  
All welcome to play and sing  
Christmas Carols



Gordon Kinniburgh and Lauryn good humour and cheese at the 01\_B49shop04



Tastes of both young and old, where visitors enjoyed various



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# Shop Arran weekend

goods, along with coffee, tea and snacks. At the old Byre Showroom, where shoppers were offered a 10 per cent discount on their purchases, visitors enjoyed their meals Cafe Thyme while being treated to live music by local young artistes.

### Opportunity

Shoppers who took advantage of the specials on offer also had the opportunity to take part in the Christmas prize draw which comprised a first prize of £200, a

second prize of £100 and a third prize of £50, pre-loaded onto an Arran Card which can be used in a number of shops on Arran.

Participating shops included jewellery makers, clothing and toys stores and homeware, stationery and cheese suppliers, and a host of other businesses from all round the island.

The winners of the prize draw will be announced as soon as all of the entries are received and the lucky winners selected.



on and Marion Logan provided festive cheer and generous discounts at Arran Active.



Customers enjoyed a 10 per cent discount on purchases from Lorna Mansfield at the Old Byre Visitor Centre in Machrie. 01\_B49shop07



The Lochranza Field Centre hosted a variety of craft, food and homeware stalls in the decorated hall. 01\_B49shop05



Fleming did a roaring trade in Arran Cheese Shop.



Kerri Traill of the Lochranza Field Centre supplied Ray Evans and visitors with warm drinks and hot mince pies with cream while shopping. 01\_B49shop06



ere catered for at Cafe Thyme Shop Arran specials. 01\_B49shop09



Beth McCarthy and Kayleigh Easton provided diners at Cafe Thyme with a musical accompaniment to their lunches. 01\_B49shop08

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[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

Trout fly fishing  
Brodict Castle  
Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics  
Arran Brewery

## Saturday 9th December

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

## Sunday 10th December

Arran Singers and guests winter concert (in aid of Arran Foodbank)  
Carol singing – all welcome to play and sing  
Family games  
Kilmory Christmas market and lights switch-on  
Fun in the pool  
AA meeting

## Monday 11th December

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

## Tuesday 12th 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  
Scottish country dancing  
Pop quiz

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
Garden only open 9am-dusk  
Brodict, 10am - 4pm  
Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm  
Friday & Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, Sun - Closed

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, noon - 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

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  
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  
Brodict Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

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  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Wednesday 13th December

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee morning  
Chair yoga  
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
Knittery and Natterry  
Zumba Gold  
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)  
RUNclub – mixed ability  
Flow yoga  
Tae Kwondo  
Yoga-Arran  
Mixed hockey  
Burger and quiz night  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Rock an pop bingo

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  
Brodict Hall, 4pm - 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  
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Thursday 14th December

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

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Auchrannie Gym 9.30-10.30am  
Brodict Church Hall 10:30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am  
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 Soul Choir, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Friday 15th December

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 party night

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 16th December

Flow yoga  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Army Cadets  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live music – Scotch, The Band from Holland  
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2017

<p><b>CATE AND DOUGLAS TEMPLETON</b> Seviewcroft, Whiting Bay would like to wish all our friends on Arran a Merry Christmas.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Wishing all family and friends a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018. Ali, Tina, Emma, Ryan NZ</p>	<p><b>HELEN MACFARLANE</b> would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Seasons greetings to all friends, family and neighbours on Arran. Donation made to Sleep in the Park, from all at Auchenhew.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Allan Currie and Family would like to wish all friends and family a happy Christmas and a good New Year.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> To all our friends and neighbours from Ian and Nancy MacLeod, Corrie (donation made to charity, World Vision)</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> from Pat and David, Lamlash, to all our friends</p>
<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all our Friends and Neighbours from Archie and Sheila Nicol</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> John and Jean Lammie wish all their family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a happy New year.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all our friends, relatives and neighbours from Donald and Mary McNiven</p>	<p><b>JULIE GRAHAM, LOCHRANZA</b> would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and huge thanks for help last 6 weeks.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all my relatives and friends from Bessie Sillars, Montrose House, Brodick</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Margaret Hamilton, Shiskine</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all my relatives, friends and neighbours. Love and best wishes, Stewart Lambie (Senior)</p>

## 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.

\*The amount of assistance you will get is calculated from the figures shown in an Energy Performance Certificate for your property and based on 10.13p per kilowatt of heat produced by the heat pump

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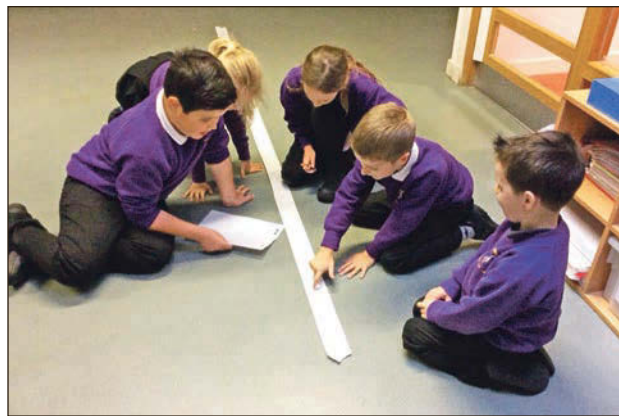




<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Mary Tod and Family wish all relatives and neighbours Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.</p>	<p><b>GRAHAM, BARBARA AND MARK TINTO</b> relocated to Perthshire would like to wish all friends on the island seasons greetings. Donation to the Tearfund.</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> Mary Morrison would like to wish all her friends a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.</p>
<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all my friends, relatives and neighbours from Sandy Kerr, Ashbank, Whiting Bay</p>	<p><i>Merry Christmas &amp; a Happy New Year</i> to all friends and neighbours from Ina, Gillian and Andy, Torbeg</p>	<p><b>J MCHARG, LAMLASH</b> Seasons greetings to relatives, friends, neighbours and carers.</p>



# Pupils reach for the stars



Kilmory pupils take part in an educational exercise.



Pupils at Whiting Bay and Kilmory primary schools enjoyed an out-of-this-world experience when two astronomers visited the schools and delivered a stellar programme on astronomy for remote and island schools.

Providing children with engaging and captivating discussions, the education tasks and games taught pupils about the sun, moon and stars, and about the planets in our solar system.

Older pupils enjoyed learning how to analyse data from images taken by a robotic telescope and how to hunt for asteroids in our solar system. All the pupils were captivated by the topic and they, along with staff, are looking forward

Working models help to illustrate and describe principles of astronomy.

to a return visit in February. The project involves a mobile science-outreach team who deliver astronomy-related workshops and activities to schools located in some of the UK's more remote and island communities.

### Remote

The team are making 40 trips to remote and island locations, working with at least 80 schools, both primary and secondary.

Through the National Schools' Observatory, they aim to establish an active online community for students and teachers participating in the project, in order to support those interested in pursuing science through to university and as a career.

Pupils listen intently to learn about what the sun is made of.



Children enjoy using the tactile models that teach the basics of astronomy.



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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff and Specsavers founder Dame Mary Perkins at the opening of the 800th Specsavers store

## DON'T DELAY, BOOK AN EYE TEST TODAY

With opticians on every high street and a growing number of out of town locations, keeping on top of your eye health has never been more convenient.

But despite that, a survey\* has revealed that a quarter of UK adults are still risking sight loss by not having an eye test every two years, as recommended.

The research carried out by Specsavers and Royal National Institute of Blind People also identified that 250 people nationally start losing their sight every day despite half of all cases being avoidable. Routine eye tests are key in detecting and managing issues early.

Specsavers has just opened its 800th UK and Irish store in Sainsbury's in Preston – part of its ongoing drive to make eye care more accessible. It is the fifth outlet Specsavers has opened within a supermarket this year, with more to follow.

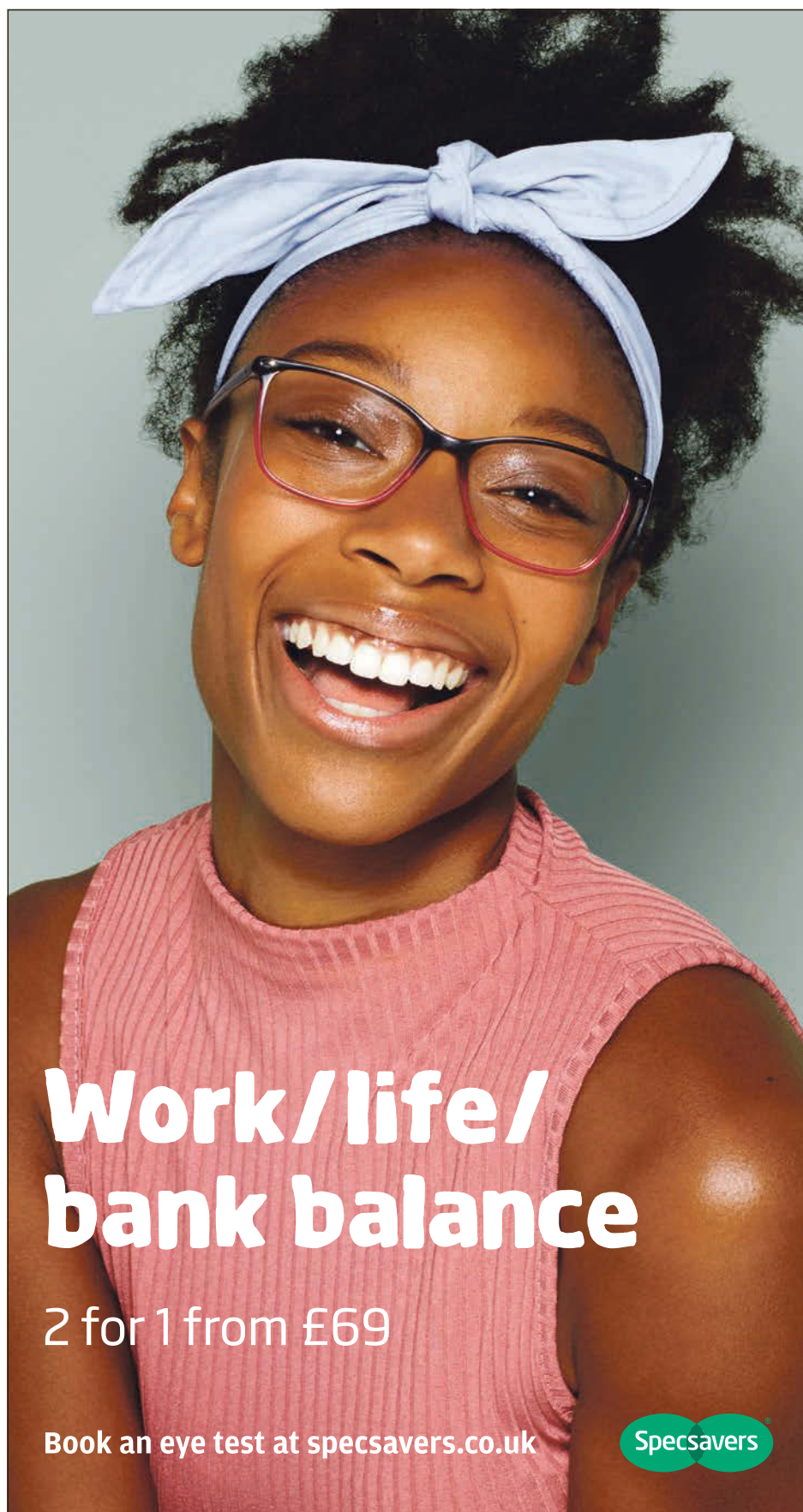
Andrew 'Freddie' Flintoff cut the

ribbon to the 800th store and popped in for an eye test. The cricketer turned broadcaster said: 'So many of us take our sight for granted. To see how far eye care has developed since Specsavers opened its first store is incredible.'

Specsavers features the latest clinical technology and highly qualified and professional teams. Complete glasses start at £25 with two for one available from £69. A variety of designer styles, including Kylie Minogue Eyewear, BOSS Orange and the new Balmain range are also available.

Eye tests can be booked online. Customers that have undergone an eye test elsewhere are welcome to bring in a valid prescription. Specsavers offers home eye care to those who cannot visit a store unaided. Free hearing tests are also available at Specsavers.

\* The State of the Nation Eye Health Report 2017: A Year in Review



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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 13, 1997

## Electric shock

Just before 9am on Thursday morning an explosion shook the area around Brodick Pier, blew the doors off the Hydro Electric switchgear building and lights went off all around the island.

Brodick, Lamash and Blackwaterfoot units of the fire brigade rushed to the scene although, on arrival, there was no fire and there was little they could do except wait for the experts who were called from the mainland.

Whiting Bay and Kilmory had not been affected but elsewhere rumours quickly spread – probably due to the force of the explosion – that this was a major fault and villages could be without power for days.

Engineers were assembled on the mainland and arrangements were made to bring several generators to Arran to supply power, but it turned out they were not required.

Ian Adamson of Hydro Electric said that the power cut in Brodick lasted from 8am to 1.35pm and that was about as long as Arran would ever be without electricity.

## Century of golf

Several Arran golf clubs have been celebrating their centenaries these past few years. This year it is has been Brodick's turn. Celebrations began early in the year

and peaked with the gala dinner dance in July.

Now as the year ends a book has been released which is as much about Brodick as it is the golf club. Jean Glen has been working on it for two years and her extensive research shows. It has snippets of all manner of people, history, buildings, places and happenings in Brodick over the past 100 years.

There are professional comments on each of the holes, but the pictures and stories and documents give it an authority as a book on a historical subject.

It begins with two people, Robert Hamilton the first captain and Willie Innes the centenary captain. Throughout the book there are beaming faces playing golf in groups and in cameos. It also mentions the only lady honorary member, and screen star Jack Buchanan.

## The Full Monty

The Full Monty, which packed Brodick Hall two weeks ago as it has packed cinemas across the country, is to return to Brodick next week. Not only is this North Ayrshire responding directly to its popularity on Arran, it is the first time they have had a late showing, the film being slotted in after the programme had already been arranged.



Midwives Moira Miller and Jackie Reed held a gathering at the outpatients bungalow at the hospital to relaunch the mums and babies group. Joining them were Wilma Birch and Caitlin, Louise Hanlon and Michael, Janet Logan and Iain, Midge McAllister and David and Jackie Rankin and Kerr. 01\_B49twe01



Helen Macfarlane as the Wicked Witch and Eilidh Campbell as Snow White in the pantomime production currently being performed in Lamash. 01\_B49twe02



The Arran High School choir sing festive songs to the Contact the Elderly Group in the music room at the school. 01\_B49twe04



Shiskine Primary School have used a donation from Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club, the PTA and the Shiskine Junior Drama Club to purchase a bench at the school. Testing the new seat are Sheila Gilmore (drama), Liz Kerr from the PTA, with head teacher Irene Markham surrounded by cheery faces and Neil Arthur representing the golf club.

01\_B49twe05



Alan and Janice Miller of Brodick hand over a cheque to Sandy MacLeod of the Hospital Supporters League in memory of their sister Ann who died of meningitis in 1987. Earlier in the year both ran the Goatfell race and raised £615 for the League. 01\_B49twe03

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Location - Cunninghame House Irvine  
Closing Date 11th December 2017

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## Public Notices

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) \*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to [eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 29 December 2017. Any representations received will be open to public view.

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

17/01105/PP; Bellford Mill, Silverhill, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Part change of use of existing retail unit to include coffee roasting facility.

17/01213/PP; Site To South East Of Avondale, Sandbraes Road, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Change of use of field to private equestrian use and erection of stables.

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

Applications for Listed Building Consent.

17/01229/LBC; Seafield, Clachlands Road, Lamlash, Brodick; Erection of extension to side of detached dwelling house.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



### NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TAXI FARE SCALES CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 (AS AMENDED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010)

These Scales were fixed by the Council on 1 November 2017 and will come into force on Monday 11 December 2017.

#### Tariff 1 (Day) (Tariff 5 if more than 4 passengers carried)

All journeys starting or ending in the period 0700 hours to 2400 hours (midnight) (except where Tariffs 2 or 3 apply):

Initial Charge (Flagfall) - For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (3/4 of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £2.80.

Additional Charge (Mileage): Each additional 1/18 of a mile (about 98 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

#### Tariff 2 (Nights and Sundays and during day across Zones) (Tariff 6 if more than 4 passengers carried)

All journeys (except where Tariff 3 applies):

- starting or ending in the period 2400 hours (midnight) to 0700 hours.

- starting or ending at any time on Sundays

- starting or ending at any time on these Public Holidays:

- 2 January
- Good Friday
- Early May Bank Holiday
- Spring Bank Holiday
- Summer Bank Holiday
- 30 November (St Andrew's Day)
- 26 December (Boxing Day)

If a Bank Holiday is on a weekend, the following Monday is treated for this Tariff as a Bank Holiday

- From the Zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another Zone in North Ayrshire - if the journey starts or ends in the period 0700 hours to 2400 hours (midnight)
- On Christmas Eve and Hogmanay from 1900 hours until 2400 hours (midnight)

#### Fares:

Initial Charge - For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (3/4 of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £3.20.

Additional Charge: Each additional 1/19 of a mile (about 93 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

#### Tariff 3 (during night across Zones) (Tariff 7 if more than 4 passengers carried)

From the Zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another Zone in North Ayrshire - if the journey starts or ends in the period 2400 hours (midnight) to 0700 hours.

Tariff 1 charges (Initial and Additional) plus 50%.

#### Tariff 4 (Festive Periods) (Tariff 8 if more than 4 passengers carried)

All journeys starting or ending at any time on 25 December or 1 January:

Double Tariff 1 Charges (Initial and Additional).

#### Extra Charges

- If the vehicle starts by carrying more than 4 passengers, the fare is charged as Tariff 1 to 4 (as appropriate) but with 50% added (Tariffs 4 to 8). The higher Tariff applies until the hire ends, whether or not any of the passengers leave the vehicle earlier.
- Soiling Charge - £50.

#### Notes

- The fare scale applies only to journeys which end within North Ayrshire. Fares for journeys beyond the Council area are not set by the Council. They should be agreed between the passenger and the driver before the start of the journey.
- Luggage shall be carried free if it is of a size which can reasonably be accommodated in the car.
- The metered charge is the maximum which can be charged. The driver can always charge less.
- The Tariff 2 and 3 charges apply as soon as the journey starts, and do not change if part of the journey is inside the Night Period, Sunday, Public Holiday, or Zone and part outside.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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Informal enquiries to: Robert McLaughlin, Catering Services Manager, on 01563 577050.

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You can apply using the online application form on the SHOW website - [www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk). Alternatively, to request an Application Form please contact the Department of O&HRD on 01563 825711. Your completed application can be returned to HRACCSS@aapct.scot.nhs.uk or to the Department of O&HRD, 63A Lister Street, University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, KA2 0BE.

All correspondence will be sent by email. We have experienced some issues with personal email addresses and there is no guarantee correspondence will be sent to your inbox. It is therefore your responsibility to check all email folders, including your junk folder, as we have no control over which folder the correspondence will be sent to.


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To find out more about NHS Ayrshire & Arran and services visit [www.nhsaaa.net](http://www.nhsaaa.net)



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Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in the churches at the following times to which all are invited.

**Sunday 10th December**

Pirmill, and Lochranza Churches Together - 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirmill Church

Shiskine Church - 12noon,

Morning Worship

Brodick Church - 10.30am,

Morning Worship

Corrie Church - 11.30am,

Prayer meeting, 12noon,

Morning Worship.

There will also be a

Service of Worship in

Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**Sunday 10th December**

11am Holy Communion.

Rev Canon Simon

Mackenzie, Priest-in-Charge.

Bring and share lunch after

service, followed by Vestry

Meeting.

ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)

**Sunday 10th December**

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

All welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

**Sunday 10th December**

Rev Lily McKinnon

Kilmory - 10 am,

Lamlash - 11.30 am.

In Lamlash ARCO will play.

Sunday:

Carols at the PHT 3pm.

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakes meet every Sunday

at 11am

For meeting venue ring -

830622 or 820223

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005)

**Sunday 10th December**

Worship for the Second

Sunday of Advent 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.

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

**Sunday 10th December**

Service 11am

Ormidale Pavilion

Tea and coffee after the

service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

fellowship group for bible

study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 10th December**

Shiskine 11am (church on

road between Blackwaterfoot

and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday 10th December**

Sunday Mass 11am

**DEATH**

**HAMILTON:** Catherine Currie Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Tuesday, 28th November 2017. Catherine, aged 89 years, much loved wife of the late Tony, mother of Robert and James, proud grandmother of Jennifer and Sarah and great grandmother of Lauren. Funeral service at Kilmory Church on Friday, 8th December at 12 noon to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Arran Hospital Supporters League.

**MITCHELL:** Carol Mitchell passed away at Ayr University Hospital on 29th November. Her funeral will be held in Lamlash on Friday 15th December at 11.30. No flowers, but if you would like please make a donation to the Ayrshire Hospice, where Carol's husband Neil passed away in 2014.



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Saturday December 2, prize-giving evening. A big thank you to all who turned up for our 2017 prize-giving in the clubhouse. It was nice to see the clubhouse and bar busy at a time when there are so many competing social events going on. We had a great evening and club captain Wolfi Kroner proved a more than able master of ceremonies, entertaining and educational. Who among us would have guessed there are so many different ways to pronounce 'quaich'?

Unfortunately, not all prize-winners could join us in person, but in this digital age we were fortunate in having a video link direct to Hollywood (should read Bolton) from where David Hackett (plasterer to the gentry) was able to virtually receive the McNicol Cup, graciously accepted on his behalf in the clubhouse by his nominee Gege Kroner.

Sunday December 3, AGA Winter League vs Brodick at Whiting Bay. Whiting Bay won 3-1 to maintain their 100 per cent record in the winter league campaign.

Fixtures: Sunday December 10, Winter Cup round three. One draw at 10am. If



Prize-winners and their trophies at the Whiting Bay prize-giving evening.

playing outwith the draw, cards to be in by 3pm. Sunday January 7, AGA Winter League vs Lamlash at Shiskine.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Monday December 4, Monday Cup. 1 A MacDonald 60, 2 R Burke 64 BIH, 3 L Hartley 64. Revised Monday Cup handicaps, L Hartley 13, A Smith 8, R Burke 10, A MacDonald 12, I McMillan 13. If name not mentioned, then no overall change since start.

Fixtures: Saturday December 9, Sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday December 11, Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Saturday December 2, 12-hole medal and Winter Cup. 1 R Betley 53-16=37, 2 C Rutterford 53-11=42, 3 J McNally 48-5=43. Scratch J McNally 48.

Fixture: Saturday December 9, 18-hole medal at noon.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Wednesday November 29,



Club champion Danny Head with the championship trophy and some of the others he has won during the year at Whiting Bay.

Twelve-hole Stableford. 1 R McCrae 23pts. Magic two R McCrae. Sunday December 3, Sweep. 1 David Hendry 39pts.

Fixture: Sunday December 10, Brandon Qualifier and Winter Cup.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday November 28, Winter Cup. 1 P Betley 75-10=65, 2 B Sherwood 82-14=68, 3 J Pennycott 83-13=70.

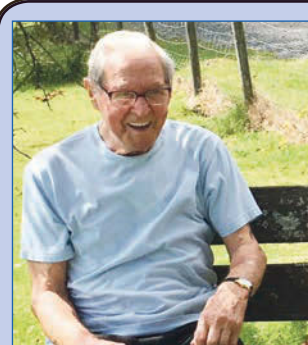
Fixture: Tuesday December 12, Winter Cup.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank You**

Thanks and much appreciation for the numerous cards and messages to Rosemary and the Walker Family.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



**Happy 90th Birthday Ted Scott**

Have a wonderful day

Love from all the family xxxx

**Arran Bridge Club results**

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are: Thursday November 30, the Boyd Trophy, round 2 at Brodick. 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2= Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 2= Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 4 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

Monday December 4, aggregate competition at Lamlash. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3. John and Jan Beattie. E/W 1 Sheila Logan and Sue Thurogood, 2. Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson, 3 Ellie and Mel Jones.

# Santa run is just for fun



Little Tia and mum Michelle Williamson are all smiles on the run. Photos: Christopher Hogge

Christmas came early to the streets on Brodick on Sunday when the annual Santa Dash 5k run was held.

Organised by Arran Run coach Laura Aitcheson and Jean McInnes, organiser of the Whiting Bay run group, 15 runners donned their Santa, elf, snowman, fairy and other assorted costumes to run through Brodick, getting supporting cheers from passers-by and the sounding of car horns. The course was carefully marshalled by Gordon McInnes, Chris Hogge and Jessica Mcguire.

The runners then retired to the Douglas Hotel for a prize-giving and quiz. Although a fun event, there was, as always, an element of competition and the men's winner was George Doubleday, back from university to claim the prize. The female winner was Sue from Whiting Bay.

The next mixed ability six-week block by the Arran Run coach starts on Wednesday January 17 at 5.30pm at the Invercloy Co-op car park.



Lorna Logan, Amanda Hogge and Hugh Boag on the boardwalk.



Sue was the fastest female to complete the course.



Men's winner George Doubleday.



Clair Reeves and Emma Campbell pound the course.



The Santa Dash runners head back along the boardwalk towards Brodick.



Marion Logan and Mau Uy wave for the camera.

## Ladies defeat Ayr to win last game of the year

**Ayr Ladies 2s** 0  
**Arran Ladies** 4

The Arran Ladies hockey club ended the year on a high note with a 4-0 away victory over Ayr Ladies 2s last Saturday.

After a comfortable win, with goals scored by Lorraine Hewie and Anne Watts, Arran now sit third in the West District Women's hockey league, division 3 and go into the new year with 21 points.

Ayr Ladies, who currently sit at the bottom of the league, concentrated their

efforts on playing a defensive game which prevented an even higher scoreline. Ayr voted Lorraine Hewie as dame of the game.

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

**Elyse Aitken outmanoeuvres an Ayr challenge to drive the ball into her opponents half.**



# Children enjoy a day of dance

Continued from page 24  
 been instrumental in establishing the highly popular after-school club held on a Monday which has seen more than 90 per cent of pupils attending at least one session.

Thanks largely to the hard work of Archie and a network of other sporting figures, the Lamlash campus comprising Arran High School and Lamlash Primary School achieved the North Ayrshire Council community sport award for school sport two years in a row.

Island head teacher Shirley MacLachlan said at the presentation: 'Archie has played such a large role in school activities,

he will be sorely missed.' Archie, speaking to the *Banner* before he left to start at his new school the next morning, said: 'I have loved every minute of my time working on Arran. My thanks go to all of the young people, young leaders, teachers and especially the administrative staff who have been so helpful and supportive. I wish my successor the best of luck in what is the best job in the world, working with a great team of people and lovely, enthusiastic children.'

Archie has moved to St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats, where he will continue his career in the same capacity as its active schools coordinator.



Volunteers take children through their paces during Scottish country dancing lessons. 01\_B49dance02



Children from all of Arran's seven primary schools took part in the Day of Dance. 01\_B49dance03



Whiting Bay girls prepare for their turn to join up their dance partners. 01\_B49dance05



Rory Currie provided the piping at the Day of Dance.



Head teacher Shirley MacLachlan thanks Archie for all his work with the Arran schools. 01\_B49dance07



Shiskine pupils enjoy the Scottish country dancing. 01\_B49dance04

# SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Santa run is just for fun



Head teacher Shirley MacLachlan and a representative from each of Arran's seven primary schools wish Archie McNicol a fond farewell. 01\_B49dance01

# Arran pupils bid a fond farewell to active Archie

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

Arran's popular active schools coordinator Archie McNicol has left the island for pastures new. However, his departure did not go unmarked. At the Day of Dance festival attended by all seven primary schools on Arran, children, parents and

teachers used the opportunity to wish Archie a fond farewell on his last day in the position.

Archie received cards and gifts from a representative from each of the primary schools in recognition of all of the work he has undertaken for school children across the island – many of the children

looked up to Archie as a mentor.

The day of dance which is now in its 19th year is an annual event where primary school children gather at Whiting Bay hall and enjoy lessons in Scottish country dancing.

At the conclusion of the event Archie was showered with praise and good wish-

es by the teachers and pupils who lined up to say goodbye and to thank him for the help and guidance and many laughs during his three years of being involved in sporting activities on Arran.

Archie, himself a keen footballer, has been involved in some way or another with almost every

junior sporting event on Arran and has played an active role in developing sporting opportunities and encouraging young people to take part in sport.

Playing an invaluable role in setting up networks of volunteers, coaches and teachers, he has paved the way for motivating and inspired children to take part


in a wide range of sports throughout the schools.

Fostering relationships between community groups and other sporting organisations, his involvement has seen Arran children being able to compete and take part in events held throughout the country and locally. He has also

**Continued on page 23**

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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.