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McLaren development gets planning approval

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Developers of a proposed new hotel on the site of the former McLaren Hotel on the Brodick seafront were given the green light at a full council planning meeting on Wednesday.

The development, which has been under consideration for more than two years, has now been given planning permission to demolish the existing rundown hotel which shut in 2015 and to replace it with a £9 million mid-market 'aparthotel'.

Dividing opinion since the idea was first mooted, developer Norfolk-based Abode Group has faced fierce opposition from individuals, community groups and organisations which have included Arran Community Council, VisitArran and the Arran Civic Trust.

Citing size, scale, parking provision and appearance as their main objections, the application was eventually withdrawn while the devel-

oper considered its options and consulted with planners.

In September this year, a revised application was submitted to planning officials which, taking into account opinions from a public consultation held in the summer, presented a reduction in scale and a reduction in room numbers.

The new plan was reduced to 88 rooms, down from 97 and reduced the scale and mass of the building by 10 per cent. It also significantly increased the number of parking spaces from 52 to 80. Unfortunately, the new proposal also removed a planned restaurant from their original plan which would have been available for the public to make use of.

Along with an extensive list of formal objections, comments and supporters, the application consists of more than 65 documents, totalling more than 100 pages which planning chiefs had to take into con-

Continued on page two

Jumping for joy



Children are in a boisterous and festive mood at the Whiting Bay Christmas tree lighting ceremony held last Saturday at the village green. See page 16 for a full report with pictures.

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McLaren development

Continued from page one
sideration. These includ-
ed supporting statements
from the developers, an
economic impact appraisal
suggesting that the hotel
could contribute an estimated
£1.5 million per annum
boost to the economy, and
a transport report.

Included among these
considerations was input
from the Scottish Environ-

ment Protection Agency
(SEPA), Scottish Water,
Environmental Health and
the Transport Department,
all of which, while hav-
ing no material objections,
provided comments and
conditions.

Opposition

Despite the amended pro-
posal, Arran Community
Council remained firm in
its opposition to the pro-

posal. Basing its objec-
tions on input from vari-
ous members and locals,
its view remained that
despite an amendment to
the plan the reduction in
size, design and amenity
was not significant enough
to change its opinion and
remained steadfast that
the application be refused.

Councillor Tom Marshall,
chairman of the Planning
Committee, said the com-
mittee weighed all factors
before reaching its decision.
He said: 'There has been
a great deal of interest
in this application, largely
because it is a prominent
site on Brodick's seafront.'

'The committee was keen
to strike a balance that
would enhance the coast-
line and encourage growth
that supports tourism busi-
nesses.'

'Through discussions
between our planning de-



McLaren Hotel site which has been given planning permission.

partment and the devel-
opers, a proposal was put
forward which will ulti-
mately bring benefits to
Arran and its economy as
well as addressing the con-

cerns raised by those who
objected.'

Conditions

Approval for the new hotel
was granted subject to a
number of conditions relat-

ing to matters such as ex-
ternal lighting, proposed
bin storage, cycle parking
spaces and storage, flood
management measures, car
parking, and landscaping.



The site of the previous McLaren Hotel as it is at present.



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The Lamlash few who look after loo

Volunteers who have rallied to keep the
toilets in Lamlash open after they were
shut by North Ayrshire Council have been
given a huge thank you.

Now run by Lamlash Improvements, the
volunteers operate a rota system to keep
the facilities clean. The frequency of this
rota had been reduced over the winter, but
the usual rota will resume next April in
time for Easter 2019.

The improvements group is also in the
process of taking ownership of the toilet
block, which comes with a small piece
of land. However, it has been decided to
keep the present building for another year
or two before rebuilding, when there is

the possibility of using the old gents as a
changing room. However, the committee
is also open to other ideas.

The group has also asked Arran Youth
Foundations to run an art competition to
decorate the inside of the building, and
hopes to see the designs over the winter.

It has also received more donations of
toilet rolls, and other cash donations have
met the costs of cleaning materials. Any-
one interested in helping with the toilet
rota can contact the committee.

North Ayrshire Council and Arran Es-
tates are in discussion about the land the
swings are on with a view to taking the
sites over.



Some of the happy band of volunteers who take their turn on the rota.

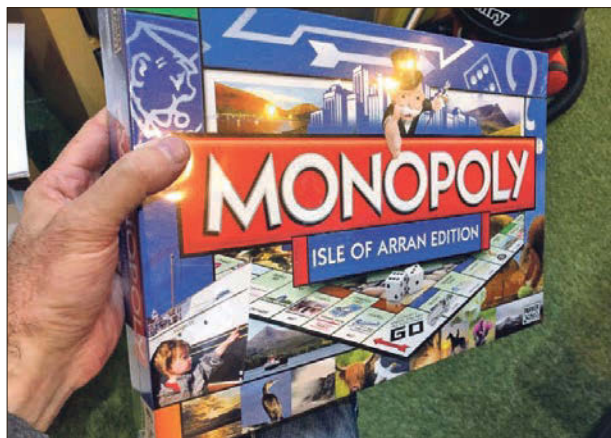
Monopoly game banks £270 for charity

A highly collectable Arran Monopoly game that originally sold for less than £30 when released in 2011 has been sold to a lucky bidder who purchased the rare and desirable board game for a record-breaking £270.

The previous record for the limited edition Arran-inspired game was £142 when a set sold on a popular online auction site after a fierce bidding war.

Graham Chappell, of Arran Graphics, who originally released the version of Monopoly which features Arran locations, managed to purchase a sealed copy of the game and put it up for auction on his Facebook page with all proceeds over £70 going to a charitable cause of the purchasers choosing.

Within minutes bids in excess of £200 were being made with Mrs Jane White of Lamlash being the eventual winner with her successful bid of £270.



The Isle of Arran Edition of Monopoly which recently sold for £270 during a silent auction.

It is understood that one of Arran's food banks will be the recipient of the £200 charitable donation.

Graham said: 'I am absolutely astonished at the value! We had several bids over £200 and another five or six over £100.'

'I am obviously delighted at the total and the charity that it will support.'

'It's clear this was a good time of year to run the

silent auction on our Facebook page.'

In total 3,000 copies of the officially licensed game were produced in 2011 in three runs of 1,000 and were quickly snapped up by buyers from all around the world. An attempt was made in 2015 to produce another run of the game but the licensing cost from licensee Hasbro became prohibitively expensive.

Winners celebrate with bumper prizes

Shoppers who took part in the Shop Arran initiative have further reason to celebrate their bountiful haul with the winners of the prize draw being announced.

The Shop Arran event, which took place over three days starting on the weekend of Friday November 16, saw visitors who shopped at six stores being entered into a prize draw for a VisitScotland hamper and vouchers.

This year, there were two draws, one for adults and, recently introduced, an Elf on a Shelf pebble treasure hunt for children, which was incredibly popular.

In the adult category, and winning a VisitScotland hamper, was Judy Cook. Laura Glassford, Mags Bulger, Laura Booth, Sarah Thomson, Karen Charmers and Ann Mack all won vouchers from participating shops.

In the children's category Isla McKinnon was the winner, with Ciara Convery and James Richard-



Judy Cook of Kildonan with her VisitScotland hamper which she won during the Shop Arran weekend.

son also winning prizes. The Shop Arran Christmas shopping weekend is held annually in an initiative aimed at encouraging shoppers to take advantage of shopping locally on Arran by offering a number of discounts, deals and special promotions.



Isla McKinnon of Brodick with her prize of candle and soap making at Arran Aromatics.

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Primary children a Scottish tune

Words and pictures
Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Pupils from all of Arran's seven primary schools took part in the annual Scottish Dance Festival at Whiting Bay Hall last week, attended by their families.

Now in its 20th year, the festival, which is also known as the Day of

Dance, is a celebration of Scottish dancing where pupils learn the steps and enjoy an afternoon of active fun with their friends.

Owing to the cancellation of ferries because of the stormy conditions, accordionist Ian Muir was unable to attend. However, teachers improvised with recorded music and

the children still enjoyed themselves immensely.

Piper Rory Currie provided some live music and the accompaniment for the standard bearers' parade.

Liz Kennedy was, as usual, the master of ceremonies and took the children through a number of jigs, Strathspeys and reels including the Gay Gordons,

The White Rabbit and The Flying Scotsman and The Old Man of Storr.

Organisers thanked Active Sports coordinator Andrew Brisco and all the teachers, pupils and parents who put so much effort into teaching and learning the dance steps and for contributing to an enjoyable afternoon of dancing.



Children form an arch during the Dashing White Sergeant. 01_B49dance08



Dancers eagerly await their turn to play their part in the dance. 01_B49dance03



Pupils learn some of the routines by watching their friends. 01_B49dance05



Brodick Primary School's Mandarin teacher enjoys learning the Scottish dances. 01_B49dance04



Children of all ages take part in the day of dance. 01_B49dance02

dancing to



Polite smiling and eye contact play a large part in some of the more formal dances. 01_B49dance07



Whiting Bay Hall is filled with pupils, teachers and parents during the day of dance. 01_B49dance09



Participants jump with delight at hearing their favourite dance is coming up. 01_B49dance06



Children form a long line in preparation for a dance. 01_B49dance01

Your cash back in your pocket



“ Great news! We've just received our quarterly electricity bill and can compare to the same quarter last year for the first time. Energy Usage is down a massive 44% ” AW, Brodick

“ Hi Norman Just to let you know our new direct debit is down from £180 per month to under £100 ” GM, Lamdash

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Apologies after three conse sailings are cancelled

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has apologised after the 8.20am Sunday sailing from Brodick to Ardrossan was cancelled three times in succession last month.

Taking place on Sunday November 11, 18 and 25, CalMac blamed the coincidental cancellations on the severe weather conditions and a problem with the passenger access system (PAS).

In response to a communication from Kenneth Gibson MSP, who was contacted by concerned constituents about the can-

cellations, a spokesman for CalMac said: 'On Friday November 9, the vessel berthed in Brodick, however the conditions were severe and we incurred some damage to the PAS. Temporary repairs were effected. Due to bad weather the following weekend, the vessel was forced to berth overnight in Ardrossan impacting on the 8.20 on Sunday.

Alternative

'Without disrupting service, other than a Saturday night we are unable to carry out any in-berth tests therefore after completion of

service on Saturday night we were attempting to test an alternative crew gangway which can be used to allow the crew to leave the vessel in an emergency.

'The gangway was hooked up to the gangway hoist and attempted to be brought on board. Unfortunately, we were unable to get the gangway connected due to issues with the fixed end of the PAS fouling the end of the gangway, preventing the gangway being angled enough.

'There was little leeway to move the vessel to accommodate this and in addition it was noted that the gangway was not engaging fully with the latch bar on the vessel. As a result, we were unable to carry out a weight test which is required for us to be able to use the gangway. Therefore, it was decided to abort the work.

'Given the amount of swell present, the option of staying in Brodick with the stern ramp down (to allow crew emergency exit) wasn't an option given the potential to damage either the ramp or the link-span. As such, the vessel

returned to Ardrossan for the night. This meant the 8.20am from Brodick was cancelled.

'We are very conscious of the need to provide timely and frequent service updates. Unfortunately, there was no advance warning of the issue that caused the cancelled sailing hence the lack of prior notice to customers on the 24th for the sailing on the 25th.

'Please accept our apologies for the disruption and inconvenience to our passengers. We are grateful for their continued patience.'

Mr Gibson said: 'Many islanders are sceptical that the same sailing was cancelled three weeks in a row. However, CalMac is aware of such concerns and is working to ensure no further Sunday morning cancellations.

Information

'What is also vitally important – and CalMac agrees – is that travellers are given up to date and consistent information when sailings are cancelled or disrupted if they are to maintain the confidence and trust of customers.'

Adding to the difficulties

with the PAS, there have also been concerns regarding the Irish berth – the back-up berth in Ardrossan which is used in certain wind conditions and which has been removed from service.

Updates

The CalMac website, which provides service updates and notices of cancellation and disruption, states: 'Due to technical issues, CalMac will not be using the Irish berth at Ardrossan with immediate effect. As a result, there may be disruption to the service in the event of adverse weather.'

Jamie Greene MSP, who has also been contacted by residents after strong easterly winds caused disruption to services last week, said: 'These reports raise some serious concerns as it appears that without the use of the Irish berth, the Ardrossan ferry can only dock under certain weather conditions, which massively impacts the reliability of the service.'

'The Ardrossan to Brodick route is a lifeline one for people to travel, work and access public services.



Three days of speculative cancellations because the ferry can no longer dock in harsh weather just isn't acceptable; it disrupts lives and impacts on local businesses.

Make clear

'The Scottish Government must make clear why neither vessel can dock in harsh weather without the Irish berth, why it is currently closed and what long-term contingen-

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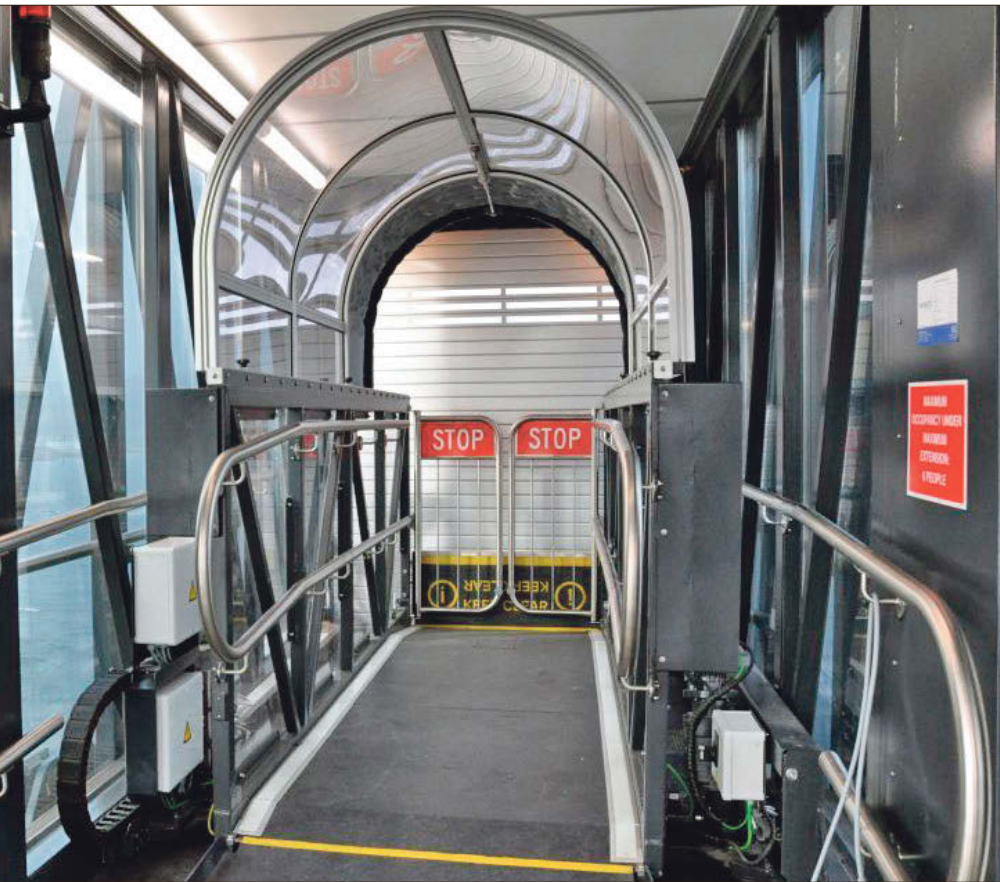
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cutive Sunday



Bid for second ferry at Easter refused



cy plans are in place if the berth is out of operation for long periods of time. I will be raising this matter in the Scottish Parliament at the next opportunity.'

In looking at resolving the issue with the PAS, CMAL – owner of the vessels and ports – and the PAS manufacturer have visited Brodick and have assessed the PAS to look at options available to them.

A spokesman for CalMac said: 'We are also discussing with them alternative short-term options to berth the vessel without the crew gangway to protect the weekend timetable.'

'In addition, we are also exploring sourcing a new crew gangway design as a back-up.'

The movable PAS entrance from the walkway to the ferry.

Arran will only have one ferry operating over the busy Easter weekend next year.

Easter is the traditional start of the holiday season on Arran and it is always an extremely busy period on the island.

But a bid to have two ferries operating for the full summer timetable, which starts on March 29, has been refused. It means that only the MV Caledonian Isles will be sailing over the Easter weekend which is on Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21 next year. The second boat will not come into service until May 2.

The two-ferry service also finishes on September 30, meaning the October school break will only be served by one ferry as well, although that could still change depending on when the much-delayed MV Glen Sannox comes into service.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee had asked for two boats for the full summer timetable which would have covered Easter and October vacation periods. They also looked to get the Sunday service to re-instate the 8.20am departure from Brodick, without success.

The committee also requested that the Lochranza service be extended to cover the full summer season, including an earlier Sunday departure, but this was also refused.

Meanwhile, passengers face a fares rise when the new summer timetable comes into force. A return journey from Brodick to Ardrossan will increase 20p to £8 while the price of a car goes up 80p to £31.90 and a motorcycle up 40p to £16.




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Editorial

Planning permission

The news that permission has been granted for the demolition of the old McLaren Hotel and the creation of a new hotel will receive a mixed reception this week. It is too big, it does not blend in, it is not suitable – these are just some of the reasons given by those who have firmly opposed the proposed development over the past few years. Supporters, who have been the silent minority so far, will welcome the additional provision of island accommodation and the regeneration of the Brodick seafront and some will even welcome the competition for current accommodation providers. Whatever your view, the one thing that we can all agree on is delight that this eyesore which has been allowed to blemish the centre of Brodick will soon be no more.

And the pertinent question we need to be asking ourselves is: have any lessons been learned? Why was the site allowed to fall into such a state of disrepair and neglect and have such a negative visual impact on the surrounding area? The carbuncle in such a prominent position was allowed to fester for an intolerable amount of time and, hopefully, any future proposals and planning considerations, will take this into account.

Thought for the week

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen Revelation 1:5-6

Cinema concerns

Sir,
While welcoming the proposed amenity offered by the proposed cinema at the former CalMac office, and not questioning its viability, I would register my fear that we may lose the Screen Machine which has served us faithfully for many years. Perhaps the Corrie and Sannox Film Club will have similar misgivings.

Yours,
**Elma Stevenson,
Corrie.**

Slipway sentiment

Sir,
We were very shocked and saddened to read of the proposal to build a road and slipway for wood along the foreshore at Imachar. (Arran Banner November 24)

This stretch of coastline is one of the most tranquil and beautiful short (or long) walks on Arran, suitable for both the elderly and children alike. Please don't let it be destroyed.

Yours,
**Merial Appleton
(and family),
East Yorks.**

Where are they now?

Sir,
Going through some old papers recently, I came across a letter from Miss M Argo, head teacher of Brodick Primary School at the time. That time was Thursday June 2, circa 1990 (there was no date on the letter). I had given a spinning demonstration and mini workshop to her class, consisting of around 20 pupils, in the Arran Heritage Museum where I was involved with the running

and displays over several years between 1985 and 1995.

Accompanying Miss Argo's letter was one from each of the pupils, thanking me for my input. But, and this is the point, those pupils were contemporaries of my own children (who attended Pirn-mill School), and are now around 40 years old. Presumably, many of those pupils will now have families of their own.

My children have gone on to follow careers in car-

ing for others quite independently. Amy, the eldest, co-ordinating housing requirements for those in need, Richard, now an academic and adviser to various agencies including the UN, specialising in the rehabilitation of ex-child combatants in former war zones around the world, including some where conflict is still on-going, and David, my youngest, caring for children, adolescents and adults with special needs and social problems.

David now works in Manchester; Amy is based in Cheshire and Richard in rural France, but is often out in the field – Nepal, Croatia and, on-going, Kabul in Afghanistan. They do what I would find difficult to do and I'm very proud of them.

For my part, I prefer to pass on enthusiasm and whatever knowledge I can to those who will benefit, thereby enriching their lives, my experience and qualifications in heritage studies enabling me to do

just that from my home in Oswestry, Shropshire.

As you can see from the above, my family and I have all moved on, but Arran still plays a vital part in our lives. Amy was married on Arran and her oldest child is called Arran.

David visits Arran, keeps in touch with former school friends and Richard likewise. I have fond memories of the people of Arran for the most part, few bad ones. Arran gave us a feeling of belonging, a local identity and a greater un-

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



This photograph of Brodick Village Hall bedecked in Christmas lights and decorations was taken by Arran Banner reporter Colin Smeeton.

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understanding of other people's needs. I wonder if the children, who enjoyed their day in the Arran Heritage Museum all those years ago, have similar feelings to us.

Do they still live in Arran? How many have moved away? I feel there's a dissertation there for someone, just how much influence does living on an island like Arran have over your outlook on life? Does it make you a greater lover of peace?

It's with these thoughts in mind, particularly as the year draws to a close and a new one begins, that I ask again, "Arran's children. Where are they now?"

Let me wish all in Arran of whatever political persuasion and faith, and those with none, like myself, a peaceful and happy new year to come.

Yours,
Clive Bowd,
Shropshire.

Give blood

Sir,
The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) requires 470 people to give blood every day during December. And with Christmas day falling on what is traditionally one of the strongest collection days of the week, we are asking donors to ensure they know their blood group and come forward now so that stocks continue to build in the run up to the festive season.

Anyone over the age of 17 in general good health and weighing more than 7st 12lbs, could potentially become a blood donor. To register as a blood donor or to find out where your nearest donation session is, call 0845 90 90 999, or visit www.scotblood.co.uk

Yours,
Jennifer Wilson,
SNBTS.

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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.

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Christmas Concert
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SC005030

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3 sizes available.
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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!



Food Hampers (Chutneys, Wholegrain Mustard, Shortbread and Oatcakes) on sale for £12, a sale on all of our Christmas decorations and Christmas ornaments and a free gift when you spend over £10 in our Kitchen Shop, running until 9th December.
Arran Fine Foods
T: 01770 600118



Slippers for all the family, Men's £15, women's £10, children's £10, infants £9.
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Shore Road, Brodick.
01770 303787



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01770 303698 or online:
www.arrangraphicsonline.com



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T: 01770 600201 www.chameleon.com
[facebook.com/chameleonarran](https://www.facebook.com/chameleonarran)



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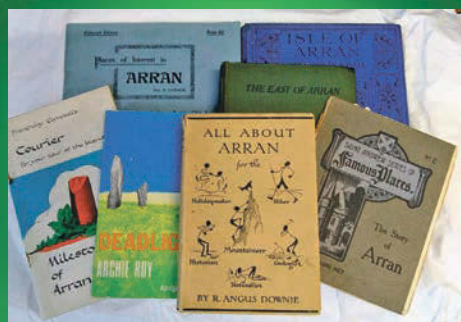
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Christmas gift guide



Janelle's
Gorgeous selection of homeware
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Chocolate gifts to suit even the most
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De-icer from £2.50.
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Arran Banner



Ladies Joules top £39.95
Joules clothing and loads of pocket money toys all available at The taste of Arran Shop and Mini Golf, Brodick.



A beautiful gift idea from The Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot. Made to order gift baskets, the ideal Christmas gift!
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Christmas gift guide



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Whiting Bay gets into the festive spirit

Residents and visitors to Whiting Bay started their festive celebrations on the first day of December last



Visitors at the Whiting Bay Primary Christmas fair listen to the bake-off winner announcement.

Saturday with a tree lighting ceremony, mulled wine and Christmas carols, all taking place on the village green.

Greta Litton did the honour, given her duty as Bay Queen, in illuminating the tree with a wave of her magic wand to the hearty applause of the gathering who ventured out despite the cold.

The annual event, which was well-attended, also saw visitors enjoying festive treats and taking part in the Christmas carol singing.

Visitors enjoyed burgers, shortbread and mince pies, and a celebratory atmosphere was in the air, particularly for the many children who enjoyed the occasion – being out after dark and getting excited about the imminent festive celebrations.

The event was accompanied by a Christmas market in the village hall and,



Residents gather at the village green waiting for the lights to be switched on.

the following day, Whiting Bay Primary School held its Christmas fair with a bake-off competition, tombola, coconut shy, activities and stalls and an enticing array of food, tea and cake.

With the village green illuminations and an impressive lights display at the southern entrance to the village, Whiting Bay initiated the tradition of villages changing into their festive attire in preparation for the ensuing celebrations.

All donations received from the event will go towards the Whiting Bay Children's Christmas party which will be held this year on Saturday December 15.



Bay Queen Greta Litton lights up the Whiting Bay Christmas tree with a wave of her magic wand.



Vivienne Crichton and Kirsty West make sure that visitors are well taken care of with mulled wine and mince pies.

Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Brodick, Auchrannie Hotel
Mon 10 to Thu 13 December

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (12A) 134 mins
"Old-school Potterheads will rejoice" USA Today
10/12 at 5pm, 11/12 at 8.30pm, 12/12 at 2pm

Widows (15) 129 mins With a short film before: Playback
"outstanding heist thriller" ***** Observer 10/12 at 8.30pm

First Man (12A) 141 mins
Biopic of Neil Armstrong, starring Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy
11/12 at 1.30pm

Bohemian Rhapsody (12A) 134 mins
Foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music, and extraordinary lead singer. "Rami Malek will Rock You" Rolling Stone
11/12 at 5pm, 13/12 at 8.30pm

Anna & The Apocalypse (15) 92 mins With a short film before: Ghost
"High School Musical' meets 'Dawn of the Dead' in a zippy zom-com musical set in Scotland during Christmas" Variety 12/12 at 5.30pm

A Star is Born (15) 136 mins
"in a class of its own" Marie Claire 12/12 at 8.30pm

Smallfoot (U) 109 mins
"thoughtful animated yeti musical" Guardian 13/12 at 5.30pm

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings - cash only, no cards. £7.50 adults/£5.50 concs. Fully accessible for wheelchair users.



Sunday 9th December
2pm Brodick Hall.



THE ARRAN SINGERS
& Friends

Winter Concert

Admission & refreshments

Adults £8 Children £3

In Aid of RNLI in honour of Dr Angus Campbell & Isle of Arran Music School.

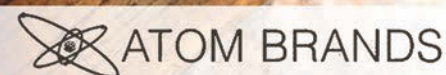
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If you own a cask of Scotch Whisky and are interested in selling it, we would love to hear from you.

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We will also give 3 bottles of any cask back to you free of charge to enjoy.

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What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Octopus Centre
 Octopus Centre – tennis
 Brodick Mini Golf
 Brodick Castle, garden only
 Soap making and candle dipping
 Arran Brewery

Old Pavilion, Lamlash, Centre Open 7 days, 11am - 3pm
 Old Pavilion, Lamlash Open 7 days, any time
 Open 7days, 9am - 5pm ish, ALL weather
 Open 9am-dusk
 Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
 Open - Mon, Friday & Saturday, 10am - 5pm
 Tuesday - Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Tours daily at 2pm

Saturday 8th December

RNLI Christmas shop
 Young Naturalists' Christmas party
 Bric-a-brac sale
 Corrie Christmas craft fair
 Winter rink bowls
 The Sound of Music
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 The Sound of Music
 Live music – Mike Edwards
 Christmas concert, with Peter Alexander Wilson & Friends
 Smokey Valley Band, bluegrass with a modern, 'funky-folk' bass line
 Over-21s disco

Lamlash Pier, 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Rangers Centre, Brodick Castle 10.30am
 Lamlash Church Hall, 11am - 3pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 12noon - 4pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
 Lamlash Community Theatre, Arran High School, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Lamlash Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7.30pm
 Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Parish Church, 8pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 9th December

Arran Skinnymalinks – Seek a Star
 Live music – Mike Edwards
 Arran Singers and friends winter concert
 CND Arran branch meeting
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Folk music session

Lamlash Church Hall, 12.30pm
 Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm
 Brodick Hall, 2pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 10th December

Arran Skinnymalinks – Seek a Star
 Arran Skinnymalinks – Seek a Star
 JogScotland mixed ability running group
 Adult tennis
 Circuit training
 Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome
 Tae Kwon Do, adults and over 10s,
 Live music – Tim Pomeroy

Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.15pm
 Whiting Bay 5.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm

Tuesday 11th December

Healthy Outdoors team
 Eco Savvy energy surgeries
 Winter rink bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Arran Pace Makers – Jog Scotland beginners' group
 Arran Hockey Club – juniors (five-14yrs)
 Trev's pop music quiz
 Traditional music sessions
 Body Blitz

Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
 Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Wednesday 12th December

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Gardens volunteers
 Knit and Blether
 Archives and Genealogy Service
 Dog classes
 Lochranza whist drive

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.30am
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm
 Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm



Arran Skinnymalinks – Seek a Star
 Arran Pace Makers running group
 Tae Kwon Do juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, advanced juniors and adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
 Arran Soul Choir
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Live music – Arran Dawn
 Family friendly pub quiz
 Rock'n'pop bingo

Lamlash Church Hall, 4.15pm
 Brodick, 5.30pm
 Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 13th December

Morning fitness
 Arran Skinnymalinks – Seek a Star
 Spin Off Meeting
 Arran Heritage Museum
 ACLI volunteer gardening day
 Whiting Bay Thursday Club lunch
 Quilt Arran
 Christmas craft club (five-12yrs) Christmas
 Messy church
 Steak night, includes two dinners and a bottle of wine
 Isle of Arran Bridge Club, All welcome
 Arran Hockey Club – seniors (12 yrs +)
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Arran High School Christmas Showcase
 Body Blitz
 Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Brodick Church Hall 10am - 10.30am
 Whiting Bay Church Hall, 11am - 3pm
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
 Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 11.30am - 3.30pm
 Brodick Bar, 12.30pm for 1pm
 Firestation, Lamlash, 2pm - 4.30pm
 Arran Library, Brodick, 3.30pm - 4.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 3.30pm - 5.45pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm
 Little Rock, Brodick, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Arran High School Theatre, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 14th December

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Tae Kwon Do Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
 Live music – The Sensational Biff Simpson Trio
 Friday night quiz
 Live music – Jeremy Moby Lavif - French singer/songwriter

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.30am
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 15th December

Corrie winter food festival
 Winter rink bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – Mike Bailey
 Live music – Heavy Traffic, Status Quo Tribute Band
 Live music – Scott MacDonald
 Over-21s disco

Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 12noon - 4pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



www.arranbrewery.com

Mountain art at library exhibition

Well-known Arran artist and philanthropist Gordon Davidson from Corrie will be the featured artist at the Arran Library in Brodick during December.

Since graduating from Glasgow School of Art, Gordon has exhibited all over the world, from Kathmandu to Canada. His work hangs in five continents in corporate headquarters, embassies, private homes and royal collections.

He developed a style of painting he calls his 'Blue Mountain' technique, which he has used to paint the Alps, the Himalayas, the Atlas Mountains and the Andes, among other ranges. He also produces paintings 'Alla Prima' on

the spot, capturing the image as he sees it instantaneously.

For the past few years Gordon has travelled to Nepal to be the 'artist in residence' among poor and under-privileged children, some who have never seen or made art before.

The exhibition will feature some of Gordon's new works and is on until Saturday December 22.

Artist Gordon Davidson with his World Mountains exhibition.



Corrie Film Club presents...

Dinner for One and Paddington 2

Some readers may have noticed an article in more than one leading national broadsheets about a certain film 'virtually unknown in Britain' called Dinner for One having its British premier at the Campbeltown Comedy Film Festival.

If you wish to see this humorous film, why not go along to Corrie Film Club this Sunday (December 9)? The evening begins at 7pm with the showing of Dinner for One accompanied by mulled wine. This is followed by a communal supper at 7.30pm. (Take something to share if you wish or if not there is bound to be plenty of food for everyone.) Then there is the main event – the heart warming, funny, feelgood and immensely entertaining film for all ages – Paddington 2. It is free of charge but a small donation to Corrie Hall funds is always appreciated.



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Lamlash SWI meetings round-up

With the September meeting of the Lamlash SWI taking longer than usual owing to an extended business meeting and the presentation of show trophies, a dinner provided additional time for members to catch up on relevant news since their last meeting during their outing to Dumfries House.

October saw the group transported to the very familiar sight of Ailsa Craig with David Napier, previously of Girvan, as their entertaining and informative guide.

Very few members have actually been there but David brought the island's story alive with anecdotes, reminiscences and a captivating video of life there in the times of the resident granite workers and the many visitors they catered for when they were joined by their families in summer.

In the accompanying video, they learned of a Kingscross-born lighthouse keeper who was manning the lighthouse when the video was shot. Sadly, notice of Sandy McConnell's death appeared in the Banner just a couple of weeks later.

In November, SWI members' thoughts were directed towards Christmas with Charlotte Karsemeijer of Charlotte's Flowers of Whiting Bay visiting the group with a great array of fresh flowers and foliage to discuss the creation of a variety of Christmas displays. She also encouraged them to plan ahead with many examples of flowers that could be dried for winter use and which seed

heads could be further enhanced by spraying.

After dinner, attendees returned home full of inspirational ideas and useful tips about wreaths and grasses to grow for flower arranging.

A spokeswoman from the Lamlash SWI said: 'Thanks again to David and Charlotte and all who have helped to make the new session of the Rural so enjoyable.'



Charlotte Karsemeijer of Charlotte's flowers talks the group through flower arranging and wreath making.

Arran MSP calls for Government action

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson is calling on the UK government to tackle what he describes as unfair delivery practices.

Joining the call to end 'excessive and discriminatory charges', Mr Gibson added his support to the Fairer Deliveries for All action plan which was launched on Fair Delivery Day, Monday November 26.

The action plan is designed to enable consumers to see whether they are paying over the odds for parcel deliveries and avoid traders profiting unfairly and is a result of a round-table event hosted by the SNP government in June, attended by parcel delivery companies, businesses, consumer groups and regulatory bodies.

A crowdsourcing website

Parcel Delivery Charges in Scotland – A fairer deal? will capture consumer experiences, helping regulators, consumers and retailers to pinpoint and target unjustified pricing. This will help to develop a fair delivery charges map where consumers will be able to compare and track delivery costs and it will improve the accuracy of postcode classification by the end of 2019 – to stop accessible locations being mistakenly categorised as rural or remote.

Mr Gibson said: 'Unfair delivery practices are not only frustrating and discriminatory for Arran consumers, they are a barrier to the operation of small businesses in island communities.'

'This action plan reinforces our commitment to

ensure deliveries work for people across Scotland irrespective of where they live, empowering online shoppers to recognise and act upon unfair or misleading delivery costs.

'It is time for companies to review their delivery surcharges to make them fair, transparent and consistent. Sadly, too many companies still advertise free delivery while in reality, they apply hefty delivery charges to island communities.'

'I don't want people on the Isle of Arran to fall prey to these ridiculous charges and this initiative will be very useful in helping to avoid this while we continue to call on the UK government to act, as only they have the power to regulate parcel deliveries and end unfair charging.'



Kenneth Gibson, MSP for Cunninghame North.

United Auctions market report

United Auctions had a catalogue entry of 7375 store lambs at their sale on Tuesday November 27.

Leading prices were: TexX Lambs - £77 Cnoc, £72 Auchenew, £69.50 Bellevue, £67.50 Craigdhu, £65 Kilpatrick, £63.50 Brodick HF, £63 Drumnaghiner, £60.50 Ardbheinn, £55 Balnacole. BTexX Lambs - £85 Bellevue. SuffX Lambs - £70 Auchenew, £67 Drumnaghiner, £64 Sheddock, £55.50 Balnacole. Mule Lambs - £55.50 Bellevue. Cross Ewes - £65 Bellevue, £46 Balnacole. BF Ewes - £33 Balgowan, £28.50 Bridge.

200 Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club November draw were: first prize Rachel Mercer and second prize Kate Hartley.

At-risk people urged to get flu vaccine before virus hits

People on Arran and across Ayrshire who are at risk of developing complications from flu are being advised there is still time to get the flu vaccine before the virus hits.

At-risk people include those aged 65 and over, those with medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart and lung disease, and pregnant women, among others.

The number of reported cases of flu more than doubled last winter, with flu-like illness at the highest rate for seven years.

Dr Elvira Garcia, immunisation co-ordinator for NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'Flu isn't circulating widely in Scotland as yet, so there's still time to get the flu vaccine and ensure you're properly prepared ahead of winter.'

'Last winter was a particularly bad year for flu, which is why it's so important those who are at-risk get the vaccine, even

if they feel fit and healthy. It only takes a few minutes and will provide you with the best protection this winter.'

This year's flu vaccination programme is already under way, offering free flu vaccination to over two million people across



At-risk people are being urged to get vaccinated against the flu virus this winter.

Scotland. This winter, the Scottish Government has bought more vaccine than last year in response to higher demand.

The deputy chief medical officer for Scotland echoed the benefits of those eligible getting the vaccine.

Deputy chief medical officer Gregor Smith said: 'As we approach Christmas, it's vital that people are aware of the steps they can take to protect themselves against flu.'

'With temperatures dropping and winter settling in, I'd encourage those who are eligible to prioritise getting the vaccine.'

'You can still make an appointment at your GP surgery even if they are no longer running dedicated clinics.'

'It's always worth getting vaccinated, as it's the best defence against a virus which can be unpredictable and serious.'

For further information visit readyforflu.scot or phone NHS Inform on 0800 22 44 88 or the Arran Medical Group can provide information by calling 01770 600 516.



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Captured Scottish soldier was cleared of any blame

A remarkable set of papers from the First World War has come to light on Arran. Retired businessman Bob Haddow discovered the documents while going through the possessions of his late father, Robert, who was captured fighting in France during the war. They include his capture report, together with the findings of a War Office inquiry clearing him of any blame. Here Bob Haddow tells the fascinating tale.

'My father, Robert, joined the army, it seems, as one of the many Glasgow Boys and was directed to the 17th HLI where basic training was given at Troon, probably Dundonald Camp, and where he formed a longstanding friendship with a certain Sandy McArthur, who then introduced him to his sister Helen, who many years later became my mother.

Both Robert and Sandy appear to have progressed together until in 1917/18 they were commissioned officers in an English regiment, the Hampshire Regiment 'attached to the Royal Berkshire Regiment'. It seems that they were to fight at Reims where Sandy received injuries and was repatriated to Britain and the history of Robert becomes quite horrid.

I wonder if anyone on Arran is familiar with a war office 'capture report' or, to give it its full title, 'Statement regarding circumstances which led to capture'. This document, a single page, describes in graphic detail the real horror of war right up to the front lines and my father clearly was extremely lucky twice, firstly in not being killed by a

stick bomb, but which left him seriously injured, and secondly escaping being clubbed by a German rifle when he was caught.

One wonders at the state of mind of a severely injured young man being passed to the enemy dressing station. Did this German clubbing the British soldiers know that my father had shot several of their colleagues? The 'capture report' is submitted to the War Office where it is clearly scrutinised and corroborated by no fewer than three generals, one of whom has a VC, and I have to assume that the purpose of these reports is to ensure that there is no suggestion of desertion by the officer – proven deserters were, of course, executed at that time.

With his papers is a German printed notebook which records that in September 1918 he had arrived at a POW camp on the Baltic called Kaserne V, Stralsund, Island of Danholm, which is approximately 500 miles from Reims. In this notebook, his handwriting seems to be normal and he records the correspondence he sent beginning on August 27, 1918, with a PC to the Red Cross Society in Copen-



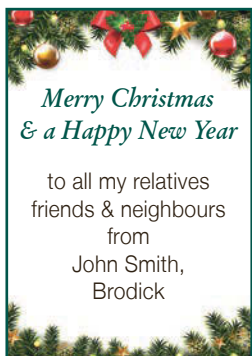
Second Lieutenant Robert B Haddow.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

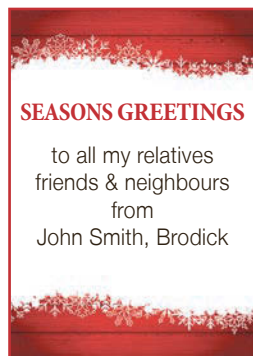
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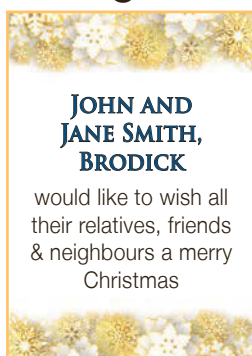
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Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.1,
and the above number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

10th July 1919.

H.A./1902 . A.G.3 .(P.W.)

The Secretary of the War Office presents his compliments
to 2nd Lieutenant R. B. Haddow
The Hampshire Regiment
and begs to state that he is commanded by the Army Council to inform him that his statement regarding the circumstances of his capture by the enemy having been investigated, the Council considers that no blame attaches to him in the matter.

The investigation was carried out by a Standing Committee of Enquiry composed as follows:—

Major-General L. A. E. PRICE-DAVIES, V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Brigadier-General C. R. J. GRIFFITH, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
Brevet-Lieut.-Col. E. L. CHALLENGER, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

E. L. Challenger

hagen asking them to 'wire address home and forward parcels'.

On September 30, 1918, he sends a PC to Red Cross Comm, London SW 'receipt for first capture parcel'. In all, he wrote 22 letters and PCs concluding his correspondence on November 15, 1918, with a PC to his brother described as 'general'.

From this notebook it would seem that from capture on May 27, 1918, until

The findings of the Army Council clearing him of any blame.

Mediterranean gull



that first PC of August 27, 1918, he would be recuperating and travelling to the prison camp, and from August 27 until he left Germany on December 13, 1918, he would be able to take exercise.

Thanks to the internet, there is now an accurate report on this POW camp filed by a Mr Jackson on behalf of the American Ambassador in Berlin and published in The Times of July 3, 1915 (three years before my father arrived). At that time it held 700 officer prisoners and presumably this number would increase as the war progressed; 17 of them were British. Letters and parcels were received promptly and no material complaints were made; a request was being considered by the camp commandant that in addition to a park with tennis courts, a cricket field be provided.

Following my father's capture, it would seem that he made good recovery and the last letter he wrote was on November 15, 1918, thereafter he left Germany on December 13, 1918, arriving in England on December 30.

I often wonder at his state of mind on returning to Scotland as he firstly worked for his old firm, then it seems he joined the Inland Revenue and the next that is known is that he was in Nigeria in the 1930s.

He did not marry Helen McArthur for 17 years after the capture; was he suffering from shell shock (PTSD) or was it just the depression? I was born in 1938, an only child. As with all those affected by the First World War, throughout his lifetime, neither my father nor Sandy, my uncle, would ever discuss or refer to their wartime service so I do not know much of the detail.

I am sure we will all hope that wars will only be a memory in the next 100 years.'

Gulls are familiar birds on Arran, the three most common species being herring, common and great black-backed gulls. Among the more unusual gulls to appear on Arran is the Mediterranean gull. One was recorded in May this year in Slidery. The last previous record was in June 2015 and before that there is a record from December 1992. Not many, but they could be being overlooked.

In UK terms, it used to be a rare bird. Formerly restricted to the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean, this species has now expanded over most of Europe as far as Great Britain and Ireland. A Mediterranean gull first bred in the UK in Hampshire in 1968.

There has been a slow and steady increase in the breeding population since then, the majority in southern England.

Events in Britain have mirrored those in Europe. For example, in France, the breeding population increased from over 100 pairs in 1991 to nearly 1,400 pairs by 1998. This expansion is continuing.

This is clearly demonstrated in a map which shows the changes in the winter distribution of Mediterranean gulls in Great Britain and Ireland between the atlas of 1981-84 and the most recent atlas of 2007-11

After the breeding season, Mediterranean gulls migrate towards the Atlantic coasts and are now annually being reported in numbers along the Ayrshire coast and in the Firth Clyde – for example, 14 on Barassie shore in July 2014.

From ringing information, these gulls are coming from a range of areas in

Europe including the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia.

Mediterranean gulls are likely to be around Arran in increasing numbers and it is certainly worth checking among our familiar gulls for this bird whose success may be down its feeding habits. It is an opportunistic omnivore, eating fish, worms, scraps, insects, offal and carrion.



Med gull moulting into non-breeding plumage.

What to look out for? In the breeding season, a gull with a big black head and a big bright red bill. The Mediterranean gull can be confused with the more common black-headed gull. A feature that can help separate the slightly larger Mediterranean gull from the black-headed gull is the extent of the black head in the breeding season.

In the Mediterranean gull, the black hood extends all the way down the back of the head and nape. The black-headed gull has a chocolate brown head and the colour does not go down the back of the head and nape. In addition, the black-headed gull has a white leading edge to the wing, often able to be seen from a great distance. A Mediterranean gull does not have this. Adult Mediterranean gull



Med gull with non breeding plumage.



Med gull underwing in non breeding plumage.

has a very pale grey mantle and upper-wings with white wing tips and white under-wings, and it has a large, slightly drooped bright red beak/bill. The non-breeding adult is similar but the hood is reduced to an extensive dusky 'bandit' mask through the eye. Dennis Morrison's photos capture these features.

Check your bird book for features of non-adult birds and for more information on identifying small gulls with black heads have a look at this British Trust for Ornithology website link <https://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/bto-bird-id-small-black-headed-gulls>

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or



Med gull breeding plumage black head and bright red beak.

All photos: Dennis Morrison

Bird
notes

by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER

e mail me at jim@arran-birding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase

the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk

Brodict Bar & Brasserie
Hogmanay Celebration Dinner
Monday 31 December 2018
5.30 & 8pm, £55

Amuse bouche - pork & sage bon bon
with roasted celeriac & white truffle with homemade
sourdough bread.
Served with a glass of Prosecco.

Salad of winter beets with Jerusalem artichoke & chicory
Ham hough & chicken terrine with tarragon mayonnaise
Winter spiced parsnip veloute.

Gin cured salmon with wasabi
Braised red onion tartlet with blue cheese mousse.

Tarragon gnocchi in a white wine and cream sauce
with roasted chestnuts & wild mushrooms

Cod with parsley mash and a ragout of chorizo,
black pudding & tomato

Venison with braised red cabbage,
celeriac & butternut puree.

Peppermint & lemon sorbet

Opera cake with cherry sorbet
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Chocolate torte with Black Forest compote
Cheese board (supplement £5.00)

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Tel 01770 302169 for bookings

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 5, 1998

Millennium Tower

As Arran searches for a way to mark the year 2000, Bob Haddow of Arran Transport has presented his idea of a Millennium Tower.

It may sound absurd and grandiose but it has been partially built already. We have all seen it and hardly given it a thought. It is the corrugated iron tower at Brodick Pier which was the nerve centre of the sand plant. Out of use for two years, he now has to pull this down. Close up, it looks like something from a deserted gold-mining town but hidden among the scrap is a robust steel skeleton.

The core of the tower was built by Mr Haddow and David Warwick in 1971. It is made of steel girders and is four storeys high. They used to be filtering stages for sand but, according to Mr Haddow, they could be four levels of an attractive modern building, and that is what he has in mind. He wants to dismantle the covers and transfer the main structure to the corner between Stagecoach and the chip shop. Here it could stand, possibly with a glass frontage and, while it may seem far-fetched now, it could be the Millennium project that Arran has been looking for.

Mussels farm

A planning application has been lodged

for a mussels farming site at Cordon, Lamlash. A long way from the existing fish farm, it would be located on the shore itself. Anticipated maximum production could be up to 100 tonnes a year and the enterprise goes under the name of Arran Shellfish.

The overall area would cover 300 metres by 300 metres and is planned for six mussel rafts, each 14 metres by 14.5 metres. From the surface, nothing would be seen of the farm except buoys as enclosed ropes hang down internally from the rafts, upon which the mussels grow. Since mussels are plankton feeders, there is no discharge from the farm and they can live side-by-side with the nearby fish farm.

Ferry to Tarbert

This is the first winter through which Arran will have a daily ferry service from Lochranza. It is not too frequent, but compared to the Tuesday and Wednesday service that ran for a few years, it is a tremendous advance.

It appears to be working well but is not well patronised. The Loch Riddon is doing the route, which takes one hour and 20 minutes. So this winter Arran is truly connected to the mainland on both sides and hopefully the traffic might increase for, even with subsidies, its future may not be assured.



Bob Haddow on the tower he hopes will be rebuilt to mark Arran's Millennium. 01_B49twe01



Bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Award achievers are: David Murchie, Colin Tinto, Katie Glew, Alison McNeice, Emma Kelly, Mark Taylor, Andrew Young, Alan Tinto and Shiona Murchie. 01_B49twe04



The Royal Highland Fusiliers were recruiting in Arran last week. Pictured on a windswept Brodick front are Fusilier Aaron Sloan, Corporal Harkiss and Fusilier Colin Lewis. 01_B49twe02



Some of the winners in the Arran Challenge trophy played at Shiskine and concluded last weekend. They are Raymond Taylor, Colin Greig, Peter Young, R Ferguson, Doris Corkindale, Wilma Robertson, Elaine Wood, Denise Sherwood, Liz Kerr and Louise McAlister.

01_B49twe05

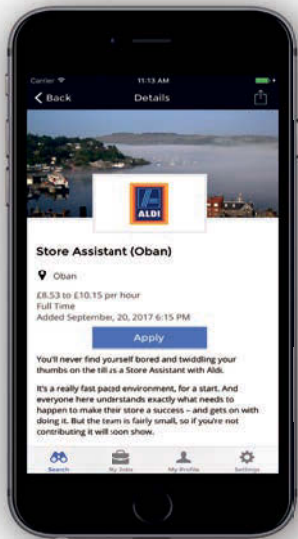


Arran music teacher Moira Starks has submitted a new song entitled Scotland Will Live Forever which has been entered into a competition as a contender for Scotland's national anthem. The winner will be announced on Burns' Day. 01_B49twe03

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Public Notices

AGM
Arran Angling Association
Thursday 13th December
7.45pm
Forestry Offices, Brodick

DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009

The above Act requires North Ayrshire Council to identify all existing advisory disabled car parking places located within the Council boundary, including those provided within private car parking areas.

The purpose of the Act is to assist local authorities to make all disabled bays within its boundary enforceable in law, thereby reducing the amount of misuse.

Owners of private car parking areas, who currently provide advisory disabled car parking places, are invited to indicate an interest in having any existing private advisory parking places included within a future Traffic Regulation Order, which would make the disabled parking places enforceable in law, by writing to:- Campbell Dempster, Senior Manager (Network), 3rd floor east, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE.

Commercial Services (Roads) intend to promote the next Traffic Regulation Order early in 2019 so to be guaranteed inclusion, please ensure we receive your response by 24 December 2018.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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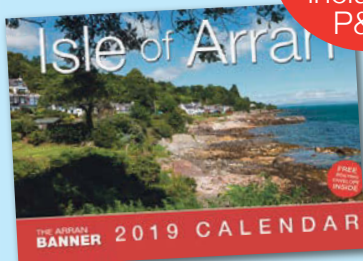
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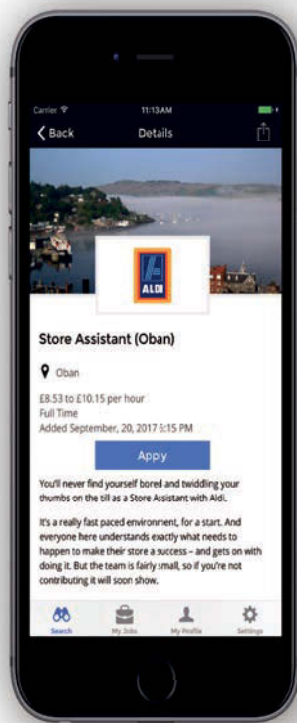
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 9th December

Second Sunday of Advent Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am

Morning Worship at Pirnmill Church.

Shiskine Church, 12 noon Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship, 3.30pm.

“Light up a life” Service. 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 9th December

Holy Communion – 11 am.

Rev Canon

Simon MacKenzie

Coffee after service

All Welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 9th 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 9th December

Rev Lily McKinnon

Kilmory - 10am

Lamlash - 11.30am

In Lamlash:

Service of Lessons and Carols with ARCO

All welcome, including families; children’s area Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 9th 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.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 9th December

Sunday Worship at 11am ‘Heather Lodge’, Brodick Telephone 700346

Everyone Warmly Invited

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 9th December

Service 11am, Ormidale

Pavilion, Brodick

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 9th December

Shiskine, 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 8th December

Advent Retreat led by

Fr. Michael Hutson

Parish Priest of

St Andrew, Rothesay.

10am Mass followed by

tea/coffee and talk

“Painting Theology”

2pm Holy Rosary followed

by talk “Our Lady” and

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 9th December

Sacrament of Reconciliation

10.30am

Mass 11am followed by

refreshments and meet

Fr. Michael

All Welcome

Sunday Morning Mass, 11am



All of the winners at the recent Whiting Bay prize-giving evening.



Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday December 3, Winter Stableford. 1 Alistair Crawford 36pts, 2 Lee Dutton 34pts. Magic twos, Alistair Crawford at 16th. Scratch, Ian Bremner 26pts.

Sunday December 2, AGA Winter League at Machrie. Lamlash 3, Whiting Bay 1.

Fixtures: Sunday December 9, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon.

Thursday December 13, Yellow Medal, 11am.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday December 1, 18-hole sweep. 1 A Napier 69-10=59, 2 D K Henderson 69-8=61. Monday December 3, 1 R Burke 67-11=56, best last six, 2 L Hartley 71-15=56. magic twos, I McMillan, L Hartley.

Fixtures: Saturday December 8, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 1pm.

Monday December 10, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Pennycott 29pts.

Tuesday December 4, Winter Cup. 1 Ron Woods 63, 2 Campbell Laing 64, 3 John Pennycott 65.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 11, Winter Cup, tee off at noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 2, Whiting Bay v Lamlash at Machrie Bay Golf Club. Lamlash 3, WBGC 1.

Fixtures: Sunday December 9, Winter Cup round three. One draw at 10am.



The clubhouse at Whiting Bay Golf Club.

DEATH

RAYMOND: Charles James. Laterly from Lundin Links. Suddenly on 24th November 2018 at Peacehaven Care Home, Charles James Raymond (church organist) aged 91 years. He was the beloved husband of Olive, a much loved dad to Allan and Caroline, an adored papa and great grandfather. Life long serving church organist at Doune Stirling and Dumfries Troqueer churches. Funeral service was held at Upper Largo Parish Church on Tuesday 4th December at 1pm and interment thereafter at Upper Largo Cemetery to which all family and friends were invited. Donations were made at the church for PDSA if desired.

Arran Golfers' Association

Sunday December 2, Winter League at Machrie Bay Golf Club. First game, Machrie Bay v Corrie, Machrie won all four games. Second game, Lamlash v Whiting Bay, Lamlash won 3-1. Final game, Shiskine v Brodick, Brodick won 3.5 to 0.5. Thanks to Machrie Club and the greenkeepers for the excellent condition of the course and also to Kate for the soup and sandwiches.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday December 1, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 33 pts, 2 Phil Betley 32pts, 3 John

Recent results from Arran Bridge Club

The results of the aggregate competition played on Monday November 26 are as follows: NS 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Jim Peacock and John Baraclough, 3 Alison Bilsland and Fiona Henderson; EW 1 Caroline and John Macmillan, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

The results of the Boyd Trophy played on Thursday November 29 are as follows: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Alison Bilsland and Margaret Macgill.

Congregation join choir in uplifting carol service



The uplifting and choral sounds of local singing groups and the congregation filled the nave of the Brodick Church earlier this week when the John Dick carol concert took place in a new venue.

Having taken place in Lamlash Church for over 30 years and at risk of being cancelled altogether this year owing to a number of circumstances, organisers Andrew Walsh, Susan Dobson and Katy

Diana Hamilton leads the Arran Singers in Comes the Light, a poem by Roger McGough which she set to music.

Penn rapidly arranged a plan to ensure that the concert continued, albeit in a new venue.

Continuing the tradition, Arran Brass and local string group Arco provided the music while singing groups Vivace, Ain't Misbehavin' and the Arran Singers provided rousing performances and added their voices to the multitude of hymns and carols that the congregation sang.

After a short welcome by Rev Angus Adamson, traditional carols, including Once in Royal David's City, O Come, O Come Emmanuel and O Little Town of Bethlehem and

While Shepherds Watched their Flocks, were sung by the congregation, interspersed by bible readings and performances by the singing groups.

The new venue lent itself to projecting the singers voices admirably and the melodic harmonies reverberated through the building, creating a moving and uplifting service.

At the end of the evening a collection was taken – with all proceeds going towards cancer charity CLIC Sargent – before the final benediction marked another successful and thoroughly enjoyable island carol service.



Arran Brass and string group Arco provided the music for the carol service.



Vivace perform a tradition carol Past Three O'Clock.



Ain't Misbehavin' perform the Polish carol Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.



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Hospitable island hosts win top Thistle Award

Helen and Andrew How of Carraig Mhor B&B in Lamlash have been awarded a Scottish Thistle Award for the Most Hospitable B&B in the Scotland west region.

Receiving the award at the impressive Òran Mór in Glasgow, the couple will now automatically be entered into the national finals in Edinburgh in March.

No strangers to receiving awards after many years in the hospitality industry, Helen and Andrew, before moving to Arran in 2014, successfully ran a B&B called Burn View which they elevated to a four-star B&B, winning both

a Breakfast Award and a Silver Award by the tourist board.

Carraig Mhor is located right on the coast of Lamlash in a distinctive and elegant building. The Waverly room, their premier room fitted with every luxury and mod-con available, looks out over the dramatic landscape of Holy Isle and Lamlash Bay and offers unrivalled privacy with its own private corridor.

On receiving the accolade, Helen said: 'We are obviously delighted and honoured to receive this unexpected award and we are thrilled to be bringing it back to Arran.'

'The service we provide

on Arran is not entirely of our own doing and we have to thank the community who all work together in unison to provide and enhance the visitor experience for guests who visit our beautiful island.'

Sheila Gilmore of Visit-Arran said: 'I am delighted to hear that Carraig Mhor won the Thistle regional finals in the Most Hospitable B&B category. Congratulations to Helen and Andy on this super accolade.'

'They were nominated by a guest, which reflects the offering they provide for their visitors. Well done Carraig Mhor!'

In addition to award-winning hospitality, Carraig

Mhor has made a strong commitment to environmental best practice and the promotion of environmentally friendly policies. They are also passionate about food and, along with their freshly prepared breakfasts, they also offer vegetarian and special requirement breakfasts, many using traditional Carraig Mhor recipes.



An unexpected but welcome surprise, Helen and Andrew How receive their award at the Thistle Award ceremony in Glasgow.

Social Care Partnership to offer 24-hour phone support on Arran

As part of ongoing plans to join Arran health and social care services together, the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership will introduce changes to the manner in which telephone calls are received at Arran War Memorial Hospital (AWM).

All phone calls made to the hospital, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, will be handled in the usual way by local health and social care staff. Outwith these hours, callers will hear a message directing them to call either 111 (NHS24) or 999 (emergency). If your

call is about a relative or friend who is in AWM hospital, staff will be able to assist you.

NHS24 111 is the national service for ensuring that you receive appropriate help with urgent medical issues when the GP practice or dentist is closed. All calls are recorded and supported by trained staff who can provide advice and support, and direct your call to services, such as ambulance and the local GP on call.

Making use of the NHS24 111 service will ensure that telephone advice is con-

sistent, accurately recorded and that AWM staff can focus on caring for people in AWM hospital.

A spokesperson from the HSCP said: 'This is a significant step forward and ensures the safety of people on Arran.'

'People with urgent medical issues who feel they do not need an ambulance can attend A&E at Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash. Remember, in an emergency call 999 immediately.'

This new way of responding to calls will begin in mid-December.



Arran War Memorial Hospital.



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SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Hospitable island hosts
win top Thistle Award

Arran children are encouraged to get cycling

Youngsters on Arran have been learning about the benefits of cycling recently.

Three instructors from Get Cycling have been going round the schools on the island giving children Bikeability training on their range of bikes designed for all ages.

Bikeability training is designed to give children the skills and confidence they need to cycle safely and

encourage them to carry on cycling into adulthood. And they held a final session for adults and children at Arran High School on the day of Santa's Sparkle.

Ian Fieldsend, from Get Cycling, said: 'We have had a great time on Arran and the kids have been really enthusiastic. They even gave us cards and letters of thanks at the end of the programme.'



Lewis Gregg tries out his pedalling skills on the fixed bike.



These three-wheeled contraptions gave a new slant to cycling.



The course was laid out in the Lamlash primary playground.

Hockey ladies hit by player shortages

The Arran Ladies hockey team, who were scheduled to play two games last weekend, one at home and one away, played neither game owing to being unable to field a team to compete on Saturday, as did their rivals, who also had to concede the Sunday game due to insufficient numbers.

Owing to these circumstances, the team has remained in the same position in the West District League, gaining no points or goals for conceding the game to Glasgow University 4s on Saturday but gaining three points and five goals from Stepps 2s conceding the following day.

The inability to gain additional points in the league has been particularly disappointing for many of the players as the variance in second, third and fourth place is differentiated by only a single point. With results still to be submitted, Arran are currently in third spot with 16 points, having played eight games, winning five, drawing one and losing two.

A spokeswoman for the club said: 'A very frustrating weekend but these things happen.'

The team will now take a break over the festive period and matches will resume on Saturday January 12 against Stepps 2s. Their next outing will be a social one where the team will get together tomorrow (Saturday) to enjoy their annual club Christmas dinner and dancing at the Ormidale Hotel.



LAMLASH GARAGE

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