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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER, 2016

No 2092 70p

# Petition lodged in demand for Montrose House probe

## Council say they will 'respond fully' to concerns raised

More than 750 people have signed a petition calling for an independent inquiry to be held at the Montrose House care home in Brodick.

A paper petition launched by the Church of Scotland collected 538 signatures in less than a month, while an online protest attracted 218 signatures before being sent to North Ayrshire Council chief executive Elma Murray, who is in overall charge of the home.

It follows a long-running saga surrounding the treatment of five long-serving members of staff which has been rumbling on for most of the year. Three have now been sacked, a fourth is appealing demotion and a fifth remains suspended. The petition calls for an inquiry into the dismissals, and why it has taken so long for the disciplinary process to be completed, to be independently investigated by a panel of councillors.

However, while the council says it will 'respond fully' to the petition there is no sign it will call for an inquiry.

The issue was raised at

**REPORT**  
 by HUGH BOAG  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

last week's meeting of Arran Community Council, where Shiskine representative Marilyn Woods urged the council to get involved. She said people had asked: 'What is the point of you?' So she said: 'Let's support people on the island.'

However, the community council voted two months ago to keep a 'watching brief' on the situation and, after a vote, this was upheld by nine votes to two.

### Disappointed

The Rev Angus Adamson, who started the petition with the support of kirk sessions around the island, said: 'I am disappointed at the reaction of the community council, given that all that was asked for was an independent inquiry into what went wrong that so many well-loved staff members had to be suspended.'

'I should also say that lots of folk phoned to see if they could still sign the petition after it was submitted. Perhaps in hindsight making the online petition availa-

ble earlier would have been good. Many more people have stopped me and praised me for speaking up for those affected and the interest in the wellbeing of Montrose House is huge, showing it is very, very important to the people of Arran and very dear to their hearts.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We respect the right of people to sign this petition and voice any concerns they may have. We are reviewing the letter and petition and will respond fully.'

'We expect the services delivered from Montrose House to be at least at the same standard as the mainland and it was clear that this was not the case. Arran is positioning itself as a world-class island and it is important our public services are also of the highest possible standard.'

'Our disciplinary procedures are robust and thorough and, while not discussing any individual specifically, we only take disciplinary action where it is absolutely required.'

Continued on page 2



The first performance by Music Matters. 01\_A50carol01

## A real church carol treat



Lois Ashley performs a trumpet concerto. 01\_A 50carol02

A very special Arran carol concert was held this week showing Christmas is just around the corner.

It brought together more than 100 singers and musicians around the island in celebration as they performed to a packed congregation in Lamlash Church.

A full orchestra had been set up to play for the carols with the island string group, Arco, joining with Arran Brass and woodwind players from Arran High School with the addition of the Lamlash Church pipe organ.

The concert also featured the first public performance by the Music Matters group, who provided entertainment along with the Arran Singers, Aint Misbehavin', Lois Ashley, Marsha Bain and the Band, Oisean Gold, the Trumpet Quartet and Vivace.

The collection held during the evening raised £681.59 which will go to CLIC Sargent, the charity that supports children with cancer. See also pages two and three.



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Aint Misbehavin' perform at the Arran Carol Concert. 01\_A50carol02

# 'Tis the season

The Christmas season on Arran got into full swing last weekend.

The Brodick Church Christmas Fayre did a roaring trade with all the usual stalls including home-baking, a raffle, tombola, teas and coffees.

All the money raised will go to church funds.

Meanwhile, crowds flocked to Whiting Bay village hall for the Christmas market.

Attractions included stalls selling candles,

clothes, toys, and arts and crafts, home-baking, and teas and coffees.

Arran Brass Band performed during the day and there were even massages on offer for those with tired shoulders.

**A large array of baking goods, donated by church patrons, was on sale.**

01\_B50fayre03



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## Montrose House petition

Continued from page 1

'As with all council operations and facilities, when changes are introduced, all members of staff are supported and kept fully informed throughout the process.

'We follow all the correct

HR and legal procedures and all employees affected are made aware that they have a right of appeal and of the process for pursuing any appeal.

'We would like to reassure local people that the needs of our service users are of paramount importance to us and that the best possible quality of care is provided to meet these needs. We always put our service users' interests first. They are at the heart of every decision we make.

'Our ambition for Mon-

trose House and Stronach Day Care Centre is to ensure our residents benefit from care and support targeted at and tailored to their specific needs and preferences.

'The Care Inspectorate visited the centre in October 2014 and again in September 2015 and it was clear from their detailed inspections that the high standards expected of us were not being met. We were not providing the level of service and care we should have.

'When we appointed our new management team to take over Montrose House earlier this year, we set out our priorities to allow the facility to fulfil its potential. It was clear that strong leadership and a fresh approach were needed if we wanted to transform the services offered within Montrose House, underpinned by modern, robust and up-to-date practices to match the high quality, fit-for-purpose accommodation the new facility offers.

'We believe we are now moving in the right direction and this would appear to be confirmed by the most recent Care Inspectorate report, following their unannounced inspection of Montrose House in September 2016.

'The report from that visit highlights the improvement in management and leadership at the facility. When they return in a few months' time, we are confident they will see further improvements that enhance the quality of life for residents.'

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# to be jolly



Volunteers provided tea, coffee and cakes to visitors. 01\_B50fayre01



Jean Bowden ran the raffle for the elaborately painted garden planter that she painted. 01\_B50fayre02



A bird's eye view of the Christmas market at Whiting Bay Village hall. 01\_B50market01



Barbara l'Anson was one of the many stall holders at the Christmas market. 01\_B50market03



Alfie assisted mum Kirsty and dad Gary Lewis with raffle tickets while dressed for the occasion. 01\_B50market02

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# Troon is right solution for no future, says ABP boss

The man in charge of the fight to take the ferry service to Troon has been on Arran to outline why it is the best option.

There can be little doubt to the commitment of Port of Troon manager Stuart Cresswell to the project: it is his passionate view that it would be the best solution for everyone.

Originally from Hampshire, he considers him-

self a naturalised Scotsman having come north when he was 10 and having lived in Prestwick for 33 years.

In a wide-ranging interview with the *Banner*, he told how he believed the switch to Troon was the best for the ferry service now and for the future.

He said the whole scheme was designed to dovetail with the arrival of the new Arran ferry in 2018 and in a

bold statement insisted the ferry journey with the new boat would take just seven minutes longer than the present crossing, helped by a better berthing time.

And, even with a shuttle bus service to the station, he has produced figures to show that the journey time from Arran to Glasgow by ferry and train would be quicker from Troon given that it is on the main line. He said the town also had superb access to the A77/M77 motorway and that Glasgow Prestwick Airport was only a short drive away.

He also criticised the political interference in the debate. He said: 'We are hugely disappointed this has become so politicised. We are port men trying to offer a solution to a technical issue and where Ardrossan are getting the fig-

ures for the number of job losses there would be, I just do not know.'

Associated British Ports, which has invested £4 million in the ports of Ayr and Troon in the past three years, does not deny it is looking for new work. Mr Cresswell said: 'Despite what anyone says, the Port of Troon is one of the most sheltered harbours on the West Coast of Scotland and was until recently home to the P&O's Irish Sea ferry service to Larne. The recent closure of this route by P&O means that Troon's all-weather East Pier ferry berth is now available for use by another operator. It is as simple as that.'

'Given the current operational challenges the Arran ferry service is facing at Ardrossan, and the fact that new larger vessels are already under construction

for this route, ABP believes that Troon can offer a genuine win/win solution for ferry users, CalMac and the Scottish Government.

'Furthermore, ABP believes this solution will not require any public sector capital funding. Indeed, ABP's offer to fully fund the construction of any required shoreside facilities is simply based on the operator paying a commercial rate for the use of the facility.'

Mr Cresswell also explained the East Pier was a 160m purpose-built RoRo ferry berth constructed in 2001. He said at present it could easily accommodate the new 120m Arran ferry being built but he also said allow future proofing the service for the future.

'It is entirely likely that in 20 years the next Arran ferry will be even bigger. Moving to Troon now not only makes perfect sense for the present, but offers safeguards now for the future.'

ABP will be holding two public consultation drop-in sessions at the Auchrannie Resort in Brodick on Monday December 12 from 7pm to 10pm and in the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot on Thursday December 15 from 7pm to 10pm.



Stuart Cresswell is hoping the f

## Petition tops 2,

The campaign to save the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route is gathering pace with more than 2,000 people officially pledging their support in just over a week.

A total of 2,299 people have signed a letter to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf backing the existing crossing between Arran and the mainland.

### Email

Most have signed up via the [www.saveourferry.co.uk](http://www.saveourferry.co.uk) website which allows people to sign the letter and email it straight to the transport minister.

Others signed paper copies of the letters at the recent #saveourferry campaign

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# w and for the



Ferry will soon be heading to Troon. 01\_A50troon01

## 000 mark as Keep it A to B fight gathers pace

event which was held at the Ardrossan Civic Centre and at a number of campaign stalls across North Ayrshire.

While the deluge of emails have already landed in the minister's inbox, the paper copy letters will be presented to Mr Yousaf when he visits North Ayrshire in the coming weeks.

Councillor Joe Cullinane, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled that so many people are backing this campaign. It has captured the hearts and minds of people across Ardrossan and North Ayrshire – as well as people further afield.

'There is a real recognition

that this valuable and crucial service belongs in Ardrossan. There is also a strong belief that keeping the Ardrossan to Brodick service is absolutely the right decision on so many levels.

'A move to Troon would increase passenger fares for Arran residents and visitors alike. It would also reduce the number of daily sailings to and from Arran and it would damage the Ardrossan economy and kill off regeneration plans for the town.

### Urge

'This level of support for preserving this route won't have gone unnoticed. But we need to keep it up. I

would urge people to visit the [www.saveourferry.co.uk](http://www.saveourferry.co.uk) website to sign the letter which can then be sent with the click of a button directly to the transport minister.

### Current route

'I hope that everyone – on both sides of the crossing – lets the minister know why we must retain the current route.'

As of Monday 5 this week, 1,985 people have signed the letter digitally and another 314 people have signed paper copies.

A campaign event was due to have been held on Arran last night (Thursday) in Brodick. See next week's *Banner* for a full report.

## Be on your guard

Police on Arran have issued a be on your guard warning in the run up to Christmas.

It follows an incident in Brodick last Sunday in which a prowler was reported in a walled garden between 2am and 3am.

Despite a police investigation, no one was apprehended. However, a spokesman said this week: 'It just shows that people should be careful about security, particularly at this time of year when they may have a lot of valuable presents in their homes.'

## Exhibition space

Calling all budding and established artists – your library needs you! Brodick Library has a free exhibition space for all your lovely art works, and has dates available next year.

Just contact Nickey at the library for the size and availability on 302835.

## Creelers have not gone yet

Creelers boss Tim James this week told the *Banner*: 'We're going but we have not gone yet.'

Creelers Restaurant and smokehouse have closed, with smoking moved to Kintyre, however Tim was keen to point out that the shop at Home Farm is still open for business on Friday and Saturday in the run up to Christmas and will be open from Tuesday December 20 until Christmas Eve for all your smoked needs.

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## Police probe complaint

Two Arran police officers have been taken off front-line duties while a probe is held into a complaint. Officers from the mainland have been drafted in to provide cover.

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: 'We can confirm that a complaint has been received regarding two Police Scotland officers, and we are currently carrying out inquiries into this matter.'

'At this time the officers are not suspended, however they are not carrying out frontline duties.'

## Be aware of bin changes over the festive season

Households across Arran are set to receive vital information about changes to their usual waste collection days over the festive period.

Collection days for blue and grey bins will alter for residents whose normal collection days would fall on December 26, 27 and 28.

### Two days later

Changes will also be made to collections scheduled to take place on January 2, 3 and 4. The re-scheduled collections will take place two days later instead.

Residents whose normal collec-

tion days fall outwith these dates will be unaffected.

People are also being asked to note that collection times may vary over the festive period and are therefore urged to ensure their bin is out for 7am on the morning of their collection.

### Adverse weather

If affected by adverse weather, the waste collection crews will return and uplift bins as soon as possible.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Brodick will also be closed on December 25, 26 and 27 and again on Janu-

ary 1, 2 and 3- but will be open as normal every other day.

Postcards outlining these changes along with other important information will be distributed to households next week.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said: 'We would like to thank residents for their continued support in our mission to reduce waste here in North Ayrshire. Through their great efforts to put the right stuff in the right bin, North Ayrshire is currently one of the leading local authority areas in Scotland when it comes to recycling.'

'This is something we are keen to maintain in 2017 and are therefore asking all households to keep up the good work over the festive period. And remember, if you have a real Christmas tree, you can recycle it at our HWRC once the celebrations are over.'

### Commercial waste

Changes to Arran's commercial waste service will also be two days later over the festive period on the Monday and Tuesday of both weeks only.

For more information, visit the council's website: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

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# Arran malt comes of age

To celebrate the end of its 21st anniversary celebrations, the Isle of Arran Distillery has released a limited edition anniversary bottling.

Master distiller James MacTaggart hand-picked a selection of finest ex-sherry hogsheads from the first three years of production at the distillery to create a complex spirit which epitomises the iconic flavours that have carried 'the Arran Waters' around the world.

James said of this special expression: 'I have cho-

sen a selection of our oldest ex-oloroso sherry hogsheads. Over the years, the fresh notes of citrus and malt in our delicate new spirit have integrated beautifully.

'The nose is rich and fruity with a luxurious palate leading to a long and satisfying finish. It has been a pleasure to nurture the maturation of this precious spirit and see it become the most fitting dram with which to toast our 21st anniversary.'

Managing director Euan Mitchell added: 'For this anniversary expression, we



### The limited edition 21st anniversary bottling.

wanted the bottling to be totally different from our core range. The decanter style adds a tactile and luxurious element to the pack and distinguishes it as landmark in the maturation of the Arran Malt.'

Bottled at 52.6 per cent, this exclusive expression

has no artificial colouring and is non-chill filtered. It will be released as a limited edition bottling of only 5,988 bottles worldwide.

It will be available from specialist whisky retailers and from the visitor centre shop at Lochranza with an RRP of £150.

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# Arran firm delivers first of three workboats to client

An Arran engineering company has delivered the first of three new workboats to The Scottish Salmon Company as part of a six-figure contract.

The state-of-the-art boats are being manufactured by Kiscadale Engineering of Whiting Bay and will soon be ready to work at sites around the Western Isles and West Coast of Scotland.

The first new boat will work at the company's site at Ardgadden in Argyll. The

two remaining boats will be delivered in January 2017 and will be in operation at the company's Uiskevagh and Maragay Mor sites in North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

Historically a general plastic and stainless steel fabricator, Kiscadale Engineering has transitioned in recent years to become a leading marine fabricator and is helping to provide secure employment on the island.

The business is run by husband and wife team Iain and Sandra Monteith.

Craig Anderson, managing director of The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'We are very pleased to have taken delivery of the first of these new workboats, particularly as we are working with a quality local business like Kiscadale Engineering to supply us with this new equipment. We are committed to using local suppliers wherever possible. It's just one way in which we aim to support the communities in which we operate.'

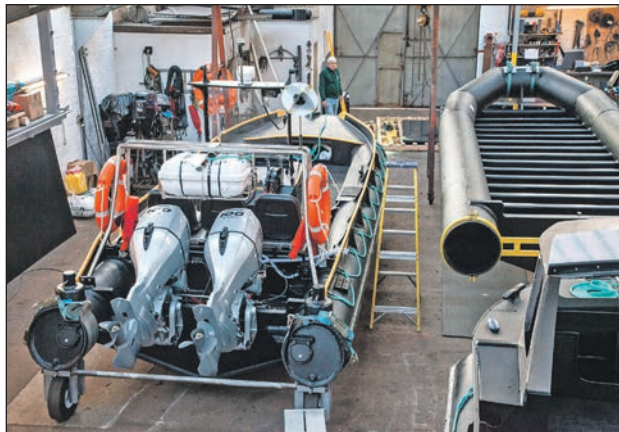
'We are looking forward to working with Iain, Gordon and their team to complete the order and get all three workboats on site.'

Gordon McInnes, sales manager at Kiscadale Engineering, said: 'As a small business with six employees, projects like this are very important to us.'

'We have devoted con-



Iain Monteith, owner of Kiscadale Engineering, far left, and his team.



The first of the three boats being built by Kiscadale Engineering.



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siderable time and resources to ensuring our business has been able to make the

transition into marine fabrication and the fact that The Scottish Salmon Compa-

ny chose us to build its new workboats is testament to our efforts.'

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Swept under the carpet

The people of Arran have spoken and made their voices very clear. They have put their names to paper to demand an inquiry at Montrose House.

But even with this weight of support we believe, sadly, that such an inquiry will never be held.

After months of saying virtually nothing, the council has this week issued a 430-word statement outlining their view of the situation at Montrose House. While the tone of it is, naturally, positive, it at least admits there have been problems at the home.

And while the council wants to move forward with assurances that things are getting better, it is 'what went wrong' that still needs to be addressed.

Families with parents and loved ones in Montrose House need more than glib assurances that they are getting the very best care possible.

Statements such as: 'We expect the services delivered from Montrose House to be at least at the same standard as the mainland and it was clear that this was not the case.' Why were they not and who was to blame?

The Care Inspectorate visited Montrose House in October 2014 and in September 2015 and the council says it was clear from its detailed inspections that the council was not providing the level of service and care it should have been. Eleven months is a long time for nothing to change.

So where do we go from here? The council says it respects the right of people to sign a petition and will 'respond fully'. But what will that response be? We believe it will be more of the same as it has said this week. There will be no inquiry offered. The council wants to sweep the past few months under the carpet with assurances about how 'HR and legal procedures' were followed to the letter during the disciplinary process.

What will be lacking is any sense of the personal trauma which has been caused to all those involved and which they must still be feeling. All the pledges that things are getting better don't take away the months of suffering some long-serving staff have endured.

A line may need to be drawn under this at some point for the home to settle back into its most important role of 'enhancing the quality of life of residents', but we don't think we've reached that point yet.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

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

## press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, 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](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk); telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# Letters to the Editor



## What about us?

Sir,  
May I use the *Banner* to answer a question which has been frequently asked by visitors to our shop at Brodick Pier. The question, and I know it has also raised fears with my neighbouring businesses, is 'What's going to happen to you?' It's clear that we have lost all visible line-of-sight with those who use us most – the departing tourists.

Stage 5 of this project has identified the fears we've had and the promises from CMAL that their intention was to 'ensure a swift flow of foot and car traffic from the main road (and footbridge) to the new terminal building', according to their local manager. This is all very well, but no consideration whatsoever has been given to the businesses affected by this re-routing of traffic. We have now endured months of traffic nightmares, excessive noise and frustrated customers who now don't even know how to get to us once they've managed to find the dark side of the moon on which to park.

As for the future, it's not looking good for any of us while priority for this end of Brodick is seemingly entirely based on getting people inside this new structure. I have, for the record, asked CMAL's asset director to consider our request to lease the 'old' building but no decision on that will be made for another year, we have been told and, to be honest, some of the alternative ideas proposed have astonished me.

Needless to say, and perhaps as many would expect from Arran Graphics, we have not been idle after being forced to look at alternative arrangements.

In the meantime, I think it's about time CMAL of-

fered some serious and permanent marketing aids to the four businesses which are now struggling because of the effect their works have had on us. And quit putting flower beds in while the rest of us need parking spaces!

Yours  
**Graham Chappell**  
Director  
Arran Graphics

## Harbour views

Sir,  
I am a resident of Arran and I am very disappointed by the lack of impartiality being shown by politicians of all parties in the discussion about the mainland terminal for the Arran ferry.

Mainland towns see it as a boost to their economies. We see it as the only way we can get on and off the island. I understand that the government is setting up an inquiry into the merits of Ardrossan and Troon and that members of the inquiry will ask the opinions of Arran people. Could I therefore say the following?

Ardrossan has always been a poor harbour in bad weather and cancellations for this reason have been a cross that Arran people have had to bear for many years. Thanks to the SNP, we are at the beginning of a new era: first with RET then with the Brodick terminal and, in two years, the new ferry.

The problem is with Ardrossan harbour, and it needs fixing. It seems a waste of a huge sum of taxpayers' money if Ardrossan remains so unreliable.

My local MSP has actually denied to me in writing the proven fact that Ardrossan harbour is prone to closure in bad weather due to its construction and lack of protection. I find this an amazing attitude and it smacks of disregard for the

truth in order to protect the economy of Ardrossan.

The Arran ferry is not and should not be about the economy of a mainland port – whether Ardrossan or Troon. It should be about the safety and reliability of a service which is for all the people of Arran, its business and tourism.

There seems to be some anecdotal evidence that Troon would be a more reliable haven in winter weather, but this could only be proven over a number of years of docking tests.

The question for Ardrossan, which has a proven record of unreliability over the years, is this: can the harbour be redesigned and protected so that large tall vessels can enter in adverse weather? If so, Peel Ports must step up and borrow money and, with government help, do it soon. If it is not possible, then Troon, or even Fairlie, which was a reliable harbour years ago, should be considered seriously.

The fact remains that a ferry is only good if it can sail and a terminal is only good if it can dock boats safely and reliably. To spend huge sums of money and have a beautiful ferry that cannot dock is simply mad.

Yours  
**John Cruickshank**  
Whiting Bay

## Working together

Sir,  
It seems to me that Arran, Ardrossan and Troon are all crying out for growth and continued development while endeavouring to retain political distinction and representation.

By all means have Troon become the trial port of refuge, so badly needed to ensure a lifeline service, but if this was going to work as an obvious long-term alternative, do you not think

that in all the years of deliberation by the ferry committee, community council, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Forestry Commission, Transport Scotland, Councillor Bruce and the rest, this option would have been recognised and promoted?

A multi-million-pound investment, including a brand new ferry, especially designed by James Anderson, to tackle the challenges faced at Ardrossan (mainly caused by lack of dredging) is not to be overlooked as suddenly insignificant.

There are some temporary benefits from forestry between Troon and Arran but has not the link between Arran and Ardrossan been strengthened for all other aspects of trade, tourism and transportation?

Surely there should be investment in all three, while a naval defence training programme set up between Ardrossan and Troon could prove advantageous.

Removal of Trident would free up oil extraction off Arran's shores.

Arran should be encouraged to become energy independent also, through a number of technologies, including wave technology, with a college at Ardrossan for sea captains and Brodick could have a marine museum for, among other things, Clyde steamer history, especially the Waverley. Thus each community could benefit from sustainable investment – remaining separate but working together.

Yours  
**Hazel Gardiner**  
Lochransa

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# OAP receives apology after row is raised in parliament

An Arran pensioner has received an apology from Scottish health secretary Shona Robison after he was given a 19-month waiting time to see a specialist. He has also now been given a hospital appointment for later this month.

Peter Randell, 78, who suffers from angina, had been told he couldn't be seen by a consultant sooner because of staff shortages.

Peter underwent surgery at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Glasgow earlier this year. Writing in *The Banner* last month, Peter explained: 'At the beginning of May I received a letter giving me an appointment to see the consultant in late September.'

At the beginning of August I received another let-

ter to say the appointment had been cancelled and that they would be in touch shortly. On making enquiries I was told the clinic had been cancelled due to staff shortages.

On October 23 I received a letter with my new appointment for 4.10pm on 25 July 2017 – yes, that is right, next July – some 14 months after the original appointment letter.

'To rub salt in, the last paragraph asked me to phone immediately if the appointment wasn't suitable. I phoned, pointed out that I lived on Arran and said that given ferry timetables a late afternoon appointment could pose travel problems and was then given an appointment for December 2017.'

Mr Randell, who lives in Whiting Bay has recently returned to active service with the Community Council.

His case was taken up by West of Scotland list Conservative MSP Jamie Greene who raised it recently at First Minister's Questions. During the exchange Mr Greene said: 'What does the first minister have to say to patients who, like Mr Randall, have to wait up to 19 months to see a consultant?'

**Brink**  
'At the moment we're seeing our NHS on the brink despite the extra funding that Scotland gets from the Barnett Formula. It falls on Shona Robison and the Scottish Government to take real steps

in getting our health service back up to an acceptable level,' he added.

Nicola Sturgeon replied that she would be happy to look into the case.

She said: 'The health secretary will liaise with the member once we have had a opportunity to do so. On the face of it, it is a completely unacceptable waiting time and one I would expect the health board to rectify.'

Mr Randall told *The Banner* this week that he has now received an apology from the health secretary as to how his complaint was handled and an appointment at Crosshouse Hospital later this month.

'It may be all's well that ends well, but the situation should never have arisen in the first place,' he said.



Peter Randell. 01\_A50wait01

## Talent showcase success at Sparkle

Four young singers were celebrating after winning at a talent showcase during Santa's Sparkle in Lamlash.

The competition was held at the Pierhead Tavern and attracted a good entry in each of the age groups. Youngsters competed throughout the day, with the final awards and presentations made to a packed audience after the firework display.

The winners of the three categories were: Young person aged five to 13, Sophie Green, who sang a solo piece from *The Little Mermaid* then a rock song by Blink 184 with full band. She won a trip to Bombshed recording studio to record a song of her choice, which will also be available to purchase from iTunes.

The teenage category, aged

13-19, was won by Marsha Bain and Iona Summer, who sang *Happy*. They also won a trip to Bombshed recording studio.

The adult category was won by Olivia Barker who sang a song from *Ghost The*

*Musical*. She won a festive meal for two at the PHT and will be perform at the venue on Boxing Day in the afternoon.

For more photos and videos see the PHT Facebook page.



Sophie Green who won a studio recording session.



Adult winner Olivia Barker.



Marsha Bain and Iona Summer perform *Happy*.

## KILMORY HALL

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In a busy Arran Active store, staff and dog posed with their gigantic Christmas tree. 01\_B50shop11



Louise Haggarty of the Boathouse delighted customers with her good humour and tasty mince pies. 01\_B50shop10



Jim, Laura and Merle Douglas of Buntys fed customers with an array of fine snacks and mulled wine. 01\_B50shop12

# Shop Arran early festive spending

Words and pictures by COLIN SMEETON

Christmas shopping got off to a flyer last weekend when more than 30 shops took part in the three-day Shop Arran event, which saw special offers, discounts and surprises available in stores across the island.

The Shop Arran event sees stores offering 10 per cent discounts and special offers on selected goods as well as many offering free gifts and lucky prizes. Besides the discounts on offer, participating

stores also welcomed customers with bubbly, mulled wine, festive snacks and chocolates, and mince pies. A large amount of shop staff also chose to dress up as elves or Santa, and decorating themselves and their shops with festive decorations.

While all shops offered a warm welcome and various shopping incentives, some took it further and offered extra attractions to welcome shoppers. At the Bay Kitchen and Stores in Whiting Bay customers were offered com-



Customers Robert and Lindsey Marr enjoy the charming hospitality of Lynn Raeburn at Arran Provisions. 01\_B50shop15



Chloe Shaw and Fiona Thorne of Jolly Molly take time out for a photograph during a busy Saturday morning. 01\_B50shop06



Customers Alison and Eugene Mitchell pick up a gift along with mulled wine and chocolates from Ann Hume of Ann Hume Jewellery. 01\_B50shop17



Ashley Young and Meagan Ashley offered Wooleys customers complimentary tea, coffee and mince pies. 01\_B50shop08



Lynn Walker reported a busy Saturday with shoppers at the new Chameleon ladies boutique in Lamlash. 01\_B50shop16

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# Arran sees festive shopping frenzy

complimentary beauty treatments while at Chameleon in Lam-lash customers received a free scarf or earrings with selected purchases. At Red Door, when spending over £10 Stacy Smith invited shoppers to take a free present from the mystery basket, a welcome initiative which shoppers also enjoyed at Arran Provisions. At Friday's Child in Brodick a lucky shopper was selected each day who won their entire shopping basket free of charge.

In addition to the discounts on offer, customers also took part in the loyalty card scheme where they received a stamp for every shop that they visited to be entered into a competition for a bumper Arran hamper filled with Arran products.

While some shops had a good weekend others felt trade over the weekend had not been as busy as last year, but that the festive cheer and spirit was alive and well and that many locals and visitors took advantage of the special deals on offer.



Jenna Campbell, Hazel Robertson and Mags Bulger brightened up the entire Arran shop with their festive cheer and elf outfits. 01\_B50shop03



Jessica Tetlow and Caitlin Smith from the Arran Cheese Shop did a roaring trade with cheese lovers. 01\_B50shop04



Stacey Smith and Lynne MacVicar of Red Door provided customers with tablet, free mystery gifts and plenty of good humoured laughs. 01\_B50shop05



Customer Louise Constable from Hamilton enjoyed a spot of shopping at the Curtain House while visiting her parents in Lam-lash. 01\_B50shop01



Katie Webster and Genevieve McMaster welcomed shoppers to Friday's Child which did a roaring trade over the weekend. 01\_B50shop02



Maria Szwalec and Pauline Reid-Adamson of Bewitching Beauty provided free treatments for customers at The Bay Kitchen and Stores.

01\_B50shop14



Linda Mullen, Rebecca Richmond and Mary Crawford of Inspirations assisted customers and enjoyed chatting to shoppers. 01\_B50shop07



At Belle's Boutique Elizabeth and Morgan Bell got into the festive spirit with their fun Elfie range of clothing. 01\_B50shop09



A well decorated Coast Restaurant in Whiting Bay lured customers in over the ShopArran weekend. 01\_B50shop13



Right: Eileen and Gareth Gregg were the lucky winners at Friday's Child where they won all of their shopping for free.

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# CalMac takes award for working together for tourism

Caledonian MacBrayne has picked up VisitScotland's west region Thistle Award for working together for tourism.

Presented at a ceremony in Glasgow, the award recognises the company's wide-ranging efforts and successes in support of many organisations, attractions, initiatives and businesses linked to tourism across its 200-mile network.

Working with the likes of both VisitScotland and the Scottish Tourism Alliance, CalMac's endeavours to both promote and support the growth of visitors within the area includes its

annual Go Days Out brochure, the innovative West Coast Whisky Pass and collaboration with ScotRail for the convenient, combined Rail and Sail tickets.

The company also works closely with the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland, producing the Islands Explorer Pass with the latter, and also runs an annual Travel and Tourism Conference, now in its third year.

These are just a few of the extensive initiatives which led to the judges considering CalMac as winners of the award and the company now goes forward to the national finals.



Maggie Maguire of CalMac, presenter Iris Fernie of Edinburgh Airport, and host Jennifer Reoch.

'I was delighted to collect this award on behalf of CalMac and for the recognition in the prestigious Scottish Thistle Awards,' said Maggie Maguire, CalMac's UK tourism development manager.

'Having worked in tourism in many countries for many years, it's great to have the opportunity to be part of Scotland's vibrant, exciting and vital tourism sector.

'CalMac recognises the

vital importance of tourism to the local west coast economies and communities which we serve as well as to the wider Scottish economy.

'Working as we do, in such stunning and inspiring regions and with innovative and forward looking partners and teams we are also looking forward to more innovation and exciting plans with new products and services in the coming years.

In addition to receiving an award, the company was also nominated in a second category for innovation in tourism, and sponsored the award for Best Cultural Event or Festival, which was won by NVA's Hinterland at St Peter's Seminary in Cardross.

## Island entries miss out

Two Arran entries narrowly missed out at the regional finals.

VisitArran, which was also a finalist last year, was again shortlisted in the working together for tourism category but was beaten by CalMac Ferries. In the most hospitable hotel category, the Glenisle Hotel, which won the category last year, was shortlisted once again, along with Glenapp Castle in Ballyntrae, South Ayrshire, which won the award.

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran said: 'Neither of us won, but I feel it's safe to say, we were the popular choice of the room, such was the cheering for both businesses. It was also lovely to see Janet Russell from Arran Sense of Scotland presenting an award, and again this was warmly received.'

# ABP

## SCOTLAND

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**December 15** – Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot,  
7-10pm

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# 69%

of the business community  
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# SNP celebrate St Andrews Night at the Kinloch Hotel

Scottish government finance secretary Derek Mackay MSP was the main guest speaker at the Isle of Arran SNP's annual St Andrews Night dinner on November 26. Around 75 SNP

members and friends enjoyed the hospitality of the Kinloch Hotel for the event, and entertaining commentary from husband and wife MCs Kenneth and Patricia Gibson, MSP and MP.

In a wide-ranging and witty speech, Mr Mackay reviewed the present political scene in Scotland and the opportunities currently presented to the nation.

A prize draw, featuring a bottle of whisky signed by first minister Nicola Sturgeon, raised £600, which will make a welcome contribution to the North Ayrshire Council election campaign in May 2017.

Isle of Arran SNP members wish to thank the Kinloch Hotel and their staff for spectacular food and service, the numerous donors of raffle prizes, Andy Surrudge for photography, all the musicians who contributed to the informal session after the dinner, and finally, Penny Brass and her team for making the night such a success.



Finance secretary Derek Mackay (second left) with other top table guests.



Councillor John Bruce, finance secretary Derek Mackay and Patricia and Kenneth Gibson at the dinner.

## Round the SWI meetings

### Corrie and Sannox

The Corrie and Sannox SWI held their November meeting in Corrie and Sannox village hall on Thursday November 10, when the meeting was opened by president Marion Melvin, who welcomed a small number of people who were looking forward to finishing some treasures.

Crochet, knitting and embroidery were attempted and much laughter arose as two ladies who had never crocheted before were shown how by a left handed tutor.

While working at their crafts the show schedule was discussed, which still has to be ratified at the December Federation meeting. The competition for a finished item was won by

Sandra Horrobin, with Gillian Currie in second place and Liz McCulloch third.

While members were enjoying their tea, three visitors arrived, the national president of the SWI, Janice Langley, accompanied by Jerry Arthur and Alison Burnett from Shiskine.

Corrie and Sannox members were honoured to entertain the SWI president who was to be the guest speaker at the rally that night. It is hoped that she found Scottish baking to be up to the standard of the other parts of the UK.

### Lamlash

Lamlash SWI were delighted to welcome Shiona McGarrigle as guest demonstrator to their November meeting. Shiona

had set up a beautiful display of her products from the Forever Living range, which are all made from aloe vera grown in Arizona and the Dominican Republic.

Also on the table was an aloe vera plant which may well be found on many a kitchen window sill. All the plants used are organically grown and cold pressed to store their goodness.

SWI members expected to see products for topical use but had not expected that mineral rich drinks and even household products could be made from it.

While explaining the vast range of uses of the product Shiona passed round each one to try. All members went home with a bag of sample sachets to test at their leisure.

Members thanked Shiona for sharing her wide knowledge and enthusiasm for her products. The winner of the competition was Kirsty and the exhibition, Alison.

The Lamlash village party for all babies and children up to and including P7 will take place on Saturday December 24.

Posters will be put up round the village with details at a later date.



Members of Corrie and Sannox SWI who enjoyed the November meeting.

## THE P.H.T. FESTIVE MENU



£25 for three courses or £20 for two including glass of wine, Braes o'Gowrie or beer

### Starters

- \* Traditional Cock a Leekie soup
- \* Celeriac and apple with hazelnut & crème fraiche soup
- \* Roast figs with melted brie, ham shavings, dressed leaves and toasted walnuts
- \* Roast squash, goats cheese & sage puff pastry parcel with dressed leaves
- \* Crayfish and melon cocktail with cucumber and seafood sauce.
- \* Smoked chicken, apricot & spinach terrine with apricot vinaigrette and oaties

### Mains

- \* Chorizo and lime crusted cod, potato fondant, green beans & red pepper coulis
- \* Glazed roast gammon with 'pigs in blankets' and all the trimmings
- \* Wild mushroom, chestnut and leek strudel with tarragon cream sauce
- \* Roast butterfly of turkey with 'pigs in blankets' and all the trimmings
- \* Lemon & thyme chicken with potato, leek & brioche bake & wild mushrooms
- \* Cauliflower, chickpea and spinach curry served with roast butternut squash and zesty pomegranate rice

### Desserts

- \* Spiced orange and chocolate trifle
- \* Sticky Christmas sponge pudding with brandy sauce and winter berry compôte
- \* Mango sorbet with fresh fruits
- \* After dinner mint cheesecake
- \* Trio of cheeses with chutney, oatcakes, celery & grapes

**LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY NIGHT & SUNDAY AFTERNOON**

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# First sightings of waxwings brings hope of many more this winter



Long-tailed tit with other tits at a feeder in Brodick. Photo Celia Sillars

Winter arrived in November with the first substantial snow on the mountains. The mean temperature was five degrees lower than October and there was almost four times as much rain than the previous month. Having said that, it was drier than last November with about a third less rain but it was colder by almost three degrees. The rain was mainly in the middle of the month with a cold spell to end the month.

In these conditions, it was no surprise that there were few records of lingering summer visitors. The only records were two reports of gannet on November 2, one

off Drumadoon Point and one off Lochranza.

Winter visitors were to the fore, among the highlights being two snow bunting flying over the top of Sail Chalmadale on 6th and reports of stunning waxwings, starting with two in Margnaeglish on 6th with the biggest group to date being around 100 on Corrie golf course on 22nd. These berry-loving, colourful birds from northern Europe sometimes venture into the UK during winter if there is a shortage of food in their Scandinavian breeding area. While they are not reported every winter in the UK, let's hope



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
FOR NOVEMBER

Waxwing, a colourful addition to a winter's day. Photo Malcolm Whitmore

there are plenty more Arran sightings this winter.

Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest group of fieldfare reported was 500 on Whiting Bay golf course on 1st and the largest group of tedwing was also on a golf course with 300 on Lamdash golf course on 3rd. Other records of wintering birds included: a brambling in Shiskine on 6th, two purple sandpiper at Porta Buidhe on 10th, 14 rook in Sliderry on 25th and 40 turnstone at Silver Sands on 26th.

Groups of wintering wildfowl included 60 wigeon in Cosyden on 1st, one tufted duck in Port na Lochan on 2nd, 72 pink-footed goose in Sliderry on 4th, four common scoter off Cosyden on 7th, a female scaup by the mouth of the Rosa burn on 14th, four goldeneye in Sannox Bay on 16th, 17 whooper swan over Knockenkelly on 21st and the largest group of greylag goose reported was 275 in Shiskine on 22nd.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months

with many people providing regular food and water for their feathered friends. These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: four blackbird in Lamdash on 4th, 12 house sparrow in Kilpat-



Snow bunting is a little winter gem.

Photo Angela Cassels

rick on 6th, five bullfinch in Kildonan also on 6th, four goldfinch in Whiting Bay on 7th, a great spotted woodpecker in Shiskine on 21st, a yellowhammer also in Shiskine on 26th, eight chaffinch in Kilpatrick on 28th, six long-tailed tit in Brodick on 29th, four coal tit on Margnaeglish on 30th and, unusually for a garden, a woodcock was photographed in a garden

in Glen Cloy on 9th. Other November highlights included nine great northern diver off Drumadoon Point on 2nd, a male gossander off Pirrmill on 6th, a male black grouse in High Whitefarland on 7th, eight black-throated diver off Cosyden also on 7th, 12 goldcrest in Brodick Country Park on 20th, a jack snipe in Hazelburn on 24th, five little grebe in Loch Ranza on 25th, two moorhen at Mossend Pond on 26th and a merlin in Kilpatrick on 28th.

Finally, there have been no reports yet of shelduck returning to Arran after their annual departure to moult. Look out for them in December.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.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 2015* and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk).

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 17th December

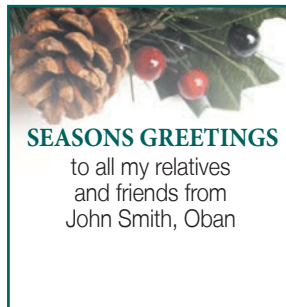
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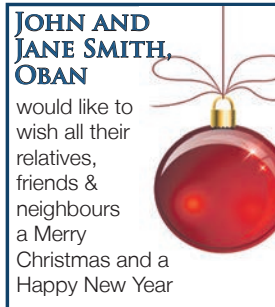
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SEASONS GREETINGS to all my relatives and friends from John Smith, Oban

C



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# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 14 December, 1996

## Church row

Members of Lamlash Church have been left bewildered by a decision of Ardrossan Presbytery not to allow vital repair work to go ahead.

The church has been raising money for more than two years to raise the £187,000 needed for repairs to the church and church hall.

They were proud of their achievement

in reaching their target, with the aid of a small grant, and are now ready to start work. However in a major blow Ardrossan Presbytery, who need to approve the work, have reject the proposal. Instead the congregation have been told: 'consider alternative premises for worship as the congregation are unable to put the church in good order'.

The kirk session are to appeal the decision.

## Factory shop

Arran Aromatics plan to change the use of a packing area to form a factory shop and exhibition area. The planning proposal went before the North Ayrshire Council planning committee a few days ago and the recommendation from the committee was that the application be granted. Objections were noted by the committee, citing parking issues, retail competition and the proliferation of shop signs.

The response from the committee was that retail competition was irrelevant in planning terms and that signs would need separate planning permission.

## Royal visit

Prince Rainier of Monaco and his daughter Princess Caroline were members of a party of guests staying at Machrie Water last weekend. The Royal party arrived on Arran on the Thursday and left on the Sunday.



All of the past masters of Lodge St Molios 774 since 1972 were present at a Masonic ceremony last Saturday with the exception of the late Forbes Johnston. They are back row: George McIver, George Lyle, Willie McConnell, Tom Ross Bain, Sandy Mutch, Eric Sillars, Peter McArthur, Donald Galbraith. Front row: Alf McMaster, Jack Logan, Angus Adamson RWM, Billy Burrows and Donald McNiven. B50twe03



Sheila Gilmore playing Sully Wully and Glaikit Gertie played by Eilidh Campbell delighted audiences at the Lamlash panto, *Babes in the Wood*.

B50twe01



Lamlash Church members have been raising funds for over two years to repair their church which was originally built in 1886. The A listed building was a gift to the village by the Duke of Hamilton and features a nine bell carillon, one of only five in Scotland. B50twe05



The Arran ladies hockey team played against Glasgow Accies last Sunday in the first official game on the new astroturf at the Ormidale Park. The heavy footfall will tamp the new turf down while the remainder of the field is still a bit on the muddy side. B50twe02



Six of the girls at the Arran ballet classes have now passed their Royal Academy of Dancing examinations. Pictured are current pupils Hazel McMaster, Eleanor Milesi and Gemma MacDonald with teacher Lynn Grasson. B50twe04

# What's on

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ISLE OF

# ARRAN

BREWERY

## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing  
Brodick Castle, Garden Open  
Arran Brewery  
Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green  
Soap making & Candle Dipping

## Saturday 10th December

Army Cadets  
Over 21s Disco  
Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
Live music  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
Flow Yoga  
Live Music - Meanbone  
Christmas Concert

## Sunday 11th December

Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'  
AA Meeting  
Taigi & Oigong  
Arran Singers Winter Concert  
Kilmory Christmas Market  
Christmas Tree Lighting  
Carol Singing  
Run Arran Santa Dash

## Monday 12th December

Over 50s Badminton  
Badminton  
Morning Fitness  
Badminton  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit Training  
Lamlash Aerobix  
RunArran  
Tae Kwondo  
Arran Bridge  
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau  
Live music  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
ABP Drop in session  
Arran Angling AGM

## Tuesday 13th December

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
Rotary club  
Healthy Outdoors  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
RunArran Run Coaching  
Bridge Class (beginners/improvers)  
Open Cricket Session  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
Flow Yoga  
Live Music  
Garden Walk  
Metafit  
Pilates  
Winter bowls

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
9am-Dusk  
Fri-Sat 10am-5pm Sun-Wed 12.30-5pm  
Open all day  
Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am-4pm

Auchrannie Road 11am-1 pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
9.30-11am  
9.30am-noon  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm  
Bowling Club, 1.15pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Corrie Parish Church, 7.30pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4-5pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30-5pm  
Brodick church Hall, 5-6.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 2.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, from 4.30pm  
Blackwaterfoot Play Park, 5pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm  
The Douglas Hotel, 2pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
9-10.30am & 4-6pm  
9am-2pm & 4-6pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7-8.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am-1.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30-10pm  
Lochranza Distillery, noon-12.30pm  
Arran Active, Brodick, 4-4.30pm  
Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15-5.45pm  
Auchrannie, Brodick, 7-10pm  
Forestry Offices, Brodick, 7.45pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9-10.30am & 4-6pm  
9am-2pm & 4-6pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-1pm  
Bowling Club, 1.15pm  
Lamlash, 5.30pm  
Brodick Golf Club, 2.30-4.30pm  
Brodick Astro Turf 7-9pm  
Arran High School, 6.30-9pm  
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30-10pm  
Brodick Castle, 2-3pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Kilmory Hall, 6-7pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm

## Wednesday 14th December

Rock & Pop Bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
RunArran  
Yoga-Arran  
Live music  
Drift Inn Quiz  
Mixed Hockey  
Dog classes  
Flow Yoga  
Knittnerly & Natterly  
Winter Warmers Snacks  
Bus Pass club meal  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Coffee Morning

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
9-10.30am & 4-6pm  
9-2pm & 4-6pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45-10.45am  
10.30-12.30pm & 1.30-3.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30-10pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Field Centre, 11am-2pm  
The PHT, noon-2.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 4-4.45pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am-noon

## Thursday 15th December

Morning Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
Live music  
Ladies Hockey  
RUNFIT  
Burger & Quiz night  
Winter Bowls  
Mixed Martial Arts/XFit  
Arran Bridge  
Quilt Arran  
Flow Yoga  
Chair Yoga  
10th Ayrshire Shiskine cub Scouts & Beavers  
RUNFIT  
Brodick Embroidery group  
ABP Drop in Session

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
9-10.30am & 4-6pm  
9am-2pm & 4-6pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30-10pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Front Green, 6.45am  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Balmichael Centre, 7pm  
Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30-11.30am  
Shiskine Hall, 6-7.30pm  
Lamlash Green, 6.45am  
Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm  
Kinloch Hotel, 7-10pm

## Friday 16th December

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Vets - Reception  
AA Meeting  
Live music  
Tae Kwondo

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45-10.45am  
Church Hall, Brodick 7-9pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
9-10.30am & 4-6pm  
9am-2pm & 4-6pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7-8.30pm





# Recruitment

**auchrannie resort** **auchrannie job vacancies**

## Maintenance Engineer

Auchrannie Resort are looking to recruit an experience Maintenance Engineer with clear M&E background. We are also looking for someone with painting and decorating experience to further enhance our team.

An excellent package is available for the right person including Leisure Club membership and a variety of resort discounts.

Further details can be found at [www.auchranniejobs.co.uk](http://www.auchranniejobs.co.uk) or contact [hr@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:hr@auchrannie.co.uk)

**auchrannie resort** **auchrannie job vacancies**

Auchrannie Resort is recruiting due to continuing growth of the business.

Positions are now available for:

- Leisure Assistant**
- Restaurant Floor Manager**
- F&B Assistants**  
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- Beauty Therapists**
- Kitchen Porter**
- Business Development Assistant**
- Playbarn Assistant**  
(flexible working hours available)

Further details can be found at [www.auchranniejobs.co.uk](http://www.auchranniejobs.co.uk) or contact [hr@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:hr@auchrannie.co.uk)

Benefits include family leisure club membership worth up to £800 and other discounts within the resort.

**auchrannie resort** **auchrannie job vacancies**

## Leisure Assistant

Auchrannie Resort are looking for someone with an interest and passion in the outdoors and leisure to join our existing team.

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## Public Notices

**Kenneth Gibson MSP**

**Kenneth Gibson MSP will hold advice surgeries on the following date:**

<b>Monday 12 December</b>	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15 - 12.15
Kildonan Village Hall	13.00 - 14.00
Lamlash Fire Station	15.00 - 16.00

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please do so at: 01294 833 687

15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687  
Email: [Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)  
Facebook: [kennethgibsonmsp](https://www.facebook.com/kennethgibsonmsp) website: [www.kennethgibson.org](http://www.kennethgibson.org)

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EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF HAYSHOLM SCHOOL, JAMES MCFARLANE SCHOOL, JAMES REID SCHOOL, STANECASTLE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS PROVISION AT ANNICK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Education and Youth Employment have consulted parents, carers and other interested parties on a proposal on the future of Haysholm School, James McFarlane School, James Reid School, Stanecastle School, and early years provision at Annick Primary School.

A report on the consultation will be published on the Council website, [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) on Monday 5 December 2016. Copies will also be available at all schools affected by the proposal, Education and Youth Employment HQ, local libraries and community centres.

**JOHN BUTCHER**  
Executive Director  
(Education and Youth Employment)



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[www.cottagesonarran.co.uk](http://www.cottagesonarran.co.uk)  
Penny Brass, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP

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# KA Leisure wins gold at diamond RoSPA awards

## CHURCH NOTICES

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 11th December**  
Holy Communion, 11 am.  
The Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie, Priest-in-Charge.  
Coffee after service.  
Carol Service, 2.30 pm.  
ALL WELCOME

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill 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 11th December**  
Lochranza Church and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am  
Morning Worship in 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.

### WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 11th December**  
Worship for 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

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 11th December**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 11th December  
Sunday Mass 11am

### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 11th December**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 11th December**  
Service 11am at Ormidale Pavilion  
Tea and Coffee after the service.  
Wednesday at 7.30pm  
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm in ORMIDALE PAVILION (due to renovations at church)  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

## DEATH

### MACGREGOR - IAN

Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Monday 28th November 2016. Ian, aged 85 years, husband of Helen, father of Calum, Graeme and Sheila, and grandfather of Katie, Fiona, Alastair and Jennifer. Funeral service at Lamlash Church on Friday, 9th December at 11:30 am and thereafter to Lamlash Cemetery. All welcome. No flowers please.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### LAMONT - KENNY

Mai Tanton & Kenny Lamont would like to thank friends, neighbours and carers for the love and support they have given Kenny over the past months. A special thank you to Grace, Clair and Stuart at the village shop for taking in Kennys shopping and chatting to him. To Jill for her soups and popping in, Rachael and Sturan Armitage for always being ready to help and for looking after Mai at this difficult time. Thank you to Rev Jean Hunter for the lovely service and to David and Clair Hendry for their guidance and efficiency. Our hearts will never forget the love and dedication of the nurses and doctors at the Arran War Memorial Hospital in Kennys words 'you are amazing'. Kenny will be missed by all 'A real gentleman' Thank you all so much.

KA Leisure has been successful in the 60th year of the RoSPA occupational health and safety awards 2016. The organisation, which runs all leisure-based facilities on behalf of North Ayrshire Council, including the Arran Campus in Lamlash, achieved the gold award in the prestigious annual scheme run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Alex Murray, KA Leisure's health and safety co-ordinator, was presented with the award during a recent ceremony at the Hilton Hotel, Glasgow, as

the event marked its diamond anniversary.

The RoSPA awards are celebrating 60 years of presenting highly-regarded and sought-after accolades to businesses and organisations which have shown commitment to accident and ill-health prevention.

Through the scheme, which is open to businesses and organisations of all types and sizes from across the UK and overseas, judges consider entrants' overarching occupational health and safety management systems, including practices such as leadership and

workforce involvement.

Julia Small, RoSPA's head of awards and events, said: 'To win an award at such a highly-regarded event as the RoSPA awards is a great achievement for

our winners.

'It recognises their commitment to maintaining an excellent health and safety record and raises the bar for other organisations to aspire to.'

## Aldi gives support to Arran High School mountain bike club

Arran High School mountain bike club is one of the six sports clubs across Ayrshire to receive support from Aldi as part of the supermarket's first Scottish Sport Fund.

The clubs will benefit from £2,985 of support with each club receiving up to £500.

The Aldi sport fund was launched this year following their national sponsorship of Team GB. It is designed to support charity sports clubs across Scotland and build a legacy from the Olympic Games by helping young people take part in physical activity within their local communities.

Hundreds of applications were submitted from all over Scotland and a judging panel from Aldi was given the tough job of reviewing all applications and selecting beneficiaries.

Richard Holloway, managing director at Aldi, said: 'As an official long-term partner of Team GB, encouraging fit and healthy active lifestyles is important to Aldi.'

'Launching the sport fund in Scotland is our way of giving clubs and organisations a helping hand to continue their great work in the local area and we are delighted to announce that the fund will reopen for applications in 2017.'

Olympic gold and silver medallist Callum Skinner said: 'Aldi's support of sports clubs in Scotland is hugely important. I started training at the City of Edinburgh Racing Club in Meadowbank so know first-hand that this type of funding will make a considerable difference to clubs and charities throughout the country.'

## Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows: aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday November 28. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Alison Bilsland and Eendy McNiven, 3 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure. E/W 1 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming, 2 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay.

Aggregate competition held at Brodick on Thursday December 1. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Morag Gardner and Eendy McNiven. E/W 1 John Baracrough and Jennifer Wales, 2 Jessmay Peacock and Margaret McGill, 3 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur.

Aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday December 5. N/S 1 Doug Chase and Jennifer Wales, 2. Margaret McGill and Pat Adamson, 3. Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay. E/W 1 Alison Bilsland and Eendy McNiven, 2. Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner.

## 18TH & 21ST BIRTHDAY



## THANK YOU

### THANK YOU

*To my wonderful family and friends for their good wishes, cards and gifts I received last weekend. Your kindnesses overwhelmed me.*

**Jenni x**

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# Sport

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## Memorial Quaich win for Sherwood



Brian Sherwood won the Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich and Lochranza match out of a field of 13 who played in wet conditions on the links at Shiskine Golf Club on Saturday November 19.

Allan Napier won the sweep with 26 points, and nearest the pins were

Brian Sherwood at the fourth and Jack McNally at the 10th.

There were magic twos from B Sherwood, A Napier and Gator. A Napier, G Andrew, B Sherwood and Gator fought it out at the dominoes and Brian Sherwood won the quaich. Congratulations!

**Brian Sherwood who won the with the Alan C Bannatyne Memorial Quaich at Shiskine.**



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**  
 Sunday December 4, Whiting Bay v Brodick at Shiskine.

Well, it had to happen some time, but after three and a bit Winter League campaigns undefeated, Whiting Bay lost narrowly to Brodick at Shiskine on Sunday - 2 and 1/2 to 1 and 1/2. Hard luck, lads, and well played Brodick.

On to round three and our next opponents Shiskine at Machrie. All to play for.

Sunday December 4, Santa's Christmas tree party. Thanks to all who came to our Christmas tree party. It was nice to see the excitement of Christmas on the faces and to hear so many talk of their letters to Santa and his elves. And the children seemed to enjoy it all as well.

Thanks to Lily and Gege for running the event with their usual aplomb and to John at the bar for the nibbles and refreshments.

Fixtures: Saturday December 10, Christmas social and prize-giving in the clubhouse. Full range of curries available, from 7pm, all welcome. Sunday December 11, Winter Cup round 3.

**Brodick Golf Club**  
 Wednesday November 10, Wednesday Cup. John Beattie, Derek Roxburgh and Charles O'Neill all had net 66s. On a better inward half count-back, John was the winner with Derek runner-up.

**Lamlash Golf Club**  
 Thursday December 1, yellow medal, 16 played, CSS 60, par 6. 1 Allan Winship 73-14=59, 2 Mark Wren 70-10=60. Magic twos Ian Bremner and Billy O'Connor @7th, best scratch Mark Wren 70.

Fixtures: Sunday December 11, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday December 15, yellow medal, 11am draw.

**Lochranza Golf Club**  
 Fixture: Sunday December 18, the Buddy Bowl. Would all members note that the competition for the Buddy Bowl, in memory of one of the club's great supporters Robert Kerr, will be played for over Corrie Golf Club. Draw to take place at noon.

The prize-giving will be held at the Lochranza Hotel. All welcome.

**Corrie Golf Club**  
 Fixtures: Saturday December 10, the Joe McKenzie Memorial Trophy, 18-hole stableford, ballots at 8.30am and noon.

**Arran Golfers' Association**  
 Sunday December 4, Win-

ter League/Duncan Trophy Shiskine Golf Club.

A lovely dry day although cold to start. Thanks to Stewart and staff for the condition of the course, which was great, also to Dougie for starting and the girls in the clubhouse for soup and sandwiches.

Shiskine had a convincing win over Corrie in the first

match by 3.5 to 0.5. Lamlash and Machrie fought out a draw with three of the four games going to the last. Final game saw Brodick defeat Whiting Bay by 2.5 to 1.5

The third round is at Machrie on Sunday January 8: Draw - Machrie v Brodick 8.30am, Whiting Bay v Shiskine 9.20am, Corrie v Lamlash 11.50am.

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